

# **YOJANA SUMMARY**

## **FORTS OF INDIA**

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## **ROLE OF FORTS IN INDIAN HISTORY**

A fort is a strong protective structure often surrounded by walls, palisades, or moats, and guarded by warriors. It adds defensive features to a town, city, or kingdom, influenced by the terrain. India has historically had many large forts, often accompanied by smaller ancillary forts, fortified posts, and garrison points across the subcontinent.

### **Origin of Forts**

Urban settlements, particularly agriculture-based socio-economic-political units and kingdoms, often emerged with fortifications such as forts, city walls, guarded gates, watchtowers, and bastions. These features provided protection and security.

### **Methods of Fortification**

- Early fortifications in India used three major methods:
  - Earthen ramparts from soil dug from protective moats or ditches.
  - Tall ramparts made of rubble and earth.
  - Stone and masonry constructions, which became predominant.
- Hill passes leading to forts were often fortified using roughly thrown-together walls of local rocks, as was the case with Rajgriha, the capital of the kingdom of Magadha in the 4th century BCE.

### **Archaeological Evidence of Forts**

- **Earliest Forts during Proto-Historic Harappan Culture**
  - The Proto-Historic Harappan Culture, dated from about 3000 to 1500 BCE, is represented by over 1,050 known sites and settlements, with over 416 in Pakistan and over 625 in India.
  - Major urban sites include Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Harappa, Banawali, Mitathal, Surkotda, Mohenjodaro, Kot Diji, Ganeriwala, and Kuntasi.
  - Larger sites typically had a citadel area with defensive walls, although Chanudaro did not have a citadel.
  - Harappa's citadel was enclosed by a large brick wall, while Dholavira had a unique fortification of stone rubble set in mud mortar, along with stone pillar remains in the citadel, unlike other sites.
- **Forts during 4th century BCE**
  - Fortified settlements, or urban centres and cities of a different sort came up across India by the 4th century BCE.
  - Such fortified cities include sites mentioned as the capitals of the 'Solasa Maha-Janapadas' (or Sixteen Great Kingdoms and Republics) like Pataliputra, Kosambi, Ujjain (Ujjayani), Kashi, Mathura, Takshashila (Taxila), etc.
  - The **Ganga-Yamuna doab area**, in particular, saw a number of urban settlements extending from present-day Mathura (on the Yamuna River) to present-day Patna (on the Ganga River).
  - Similar fortified cities extended further northwards to ancient Purushpura (Peshawar), Gandhara, Taxila, etc. along what came to be called India's '**Uttara- Patha**' (or route connecting the north with other directions).
  - Another series of fortified cities came up along India's '**Dakshina-Patha**' or the route connecting the south to the north, west, and east, including sites like Ujjain (on the Narmada) towards the Deccan.
- **Forts in Magadh**
  - Archaeological evidence of fortifications can be seen at various ancient sites, such as Rajgriha in Magadha, which predates Pataliputra, and Kausambhi, known for its walls of burnt brick.

- Chandraketugarh is another site with notable fortifications. The capital of Magadha under King Chandragupta Maurya, Pataliputra, was described by Megasthenes as protected by a ditch and wooden walls around 321 BCE.
- Other forts, like Tanot in Rajasthan and those along the Punjab Salt Ranges, likely date from around 600 CE onwards.
- These fortifications served as defense against attacks from Central Asia and areas to India's west and northwest.
- **Forts during 7th century CE**
  - Until the 7th century CE, the Indian subcontinent primarily featured fortified citadels, cities, or lines of fortification garrison encampments, rather than the hill-top fortresses now commonly associated with Indian forts.
  - Dynasties like the Mauryan, Gupta, Pratihara, Vakataka, Cholas, and Pandya had more fortified cities than massive defensive forts.
  - The style of large, instantly recognizable forts like Chittorgarh, Ranthambore, and others, located on hilltops but not exclusively so, emerged around the 7th-8th centuries CE.
  - Fortified settlements and cities existed before and continued to do so in later centuries alongside these large forts.
- In all of these, the local geography has played an important role in the placement of forts and related lines of defence and defence features.
- At present, there are nearly 7,000 formally documented and listed forts of note across the Indian Subcontinent. Only 1,064 forts and fortifications are protected.

### Historical Reference

- Texts (or shilpa-shastras) on architecture like the Mansar, Maymtam, Shilpa-Ratna, Samarangana Sutradhara, etc., provide insights into forts and fortifications across different time periods and regions.
- These texts, along with sculpted Buddhist reliefs at sites like Sanchi and paintings at Ajanta, indicate that early fortified sites in India featured sloping enclosing walls, gates, crenellations, and embrasures.
- Kautilya's 'Arthashastra,' from the 3rd century, mentions six major types of forts classified by their primary modes of defense.
  - **Jal-Durga**, or Water Fort
    - Antardvipa-Durga (island fortress): surrounded by natural (sea or river) water bodies (like Murud-Janjira).
    - Sthala-Durga (plain fortress): surrounded by artificial moats or irrigated by a river (like Gagron, Deeg, Lohagarh, and Shergarh- all in Rajasthan).
  - **Dhanvana**, or **Maru-Durga** or Desert Fort, like Jaisalmer, Lodrava, and Bhatner (Hanumangarh).
  - **Giri-Durga**, or Hill Fort, with the following sub-types:
    - Prantara-Durga: Located on a flat hill summit (like Chittorgarh, Gwalior).
    - Giri-parshva-Durga: The fortifications and civilian structures extend down to the hill slope, not just the summit (like Bundi's Taragarh and Ajmer's Taragarh forts).
    - Guha-Durga: Located in a valley surrounded by hills, where the outposts and the signal towers are located.
  - **Vana-Durga** (Forest Fort); Surrounded by a dense forest over a distance of at least 4 koshas (14.6 km), like Ranthambore, with the following sub-types:
    - Khanjana-Durga is built on a marsh and surrounded by thorny forests.

- Sthambha-Durga, built in the forest among tall trees, lacks sufficient water sources.
- **Mahi-Durga** (Earthen Fort), with the following sub-types:
  - Mrid-Durga: surrounded by earthen walls.
  - Parigha-Durga: Surrounded by earthen walls as well as stone or brick walls.
  - Panka-Durga: Surrounded by marshy land or quicksand.
- **Nri-Durga** (Human Fort), as exemplified by forts like Nagaur, which were defended by experienced warriors.

### Forts during Medieval Era

#### • Forts during 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> centuries

- From the 10th-11th centuries onwards, Indian capitals began to adopt the form of defensive forts rather than fortified cities.
- Fortified citadels became central, around which cities and towns developed, seen in places like Delhi, Agra, Lahore, Orchha, and Pune.
- One of the oldest surviving forts in India lies beneath the Qila Mubarak part of Bhatinda fort, with origins dating back to c. 100 CE.

#### • Sultanate Forts

- Sultanate forts in the Deccan region, like Daulatabad, Gulbarga, Bidar, Bijapur, and Golconda, exemplify Islamic fort architecture.
- The introduction of artillery in the 16th century influenced fort construction, leading to thicker walls and strategic placement of bastions, similar to European forts.

#### • Mughal Forts

- Mughal forts, such as Agra Fort and Delhi Red Fort, are notable for their grandeur and architectural innovation.
- Agra Fort, made of red sandstone, features extensive walls protecting the imperial city, with structures like Jahangir Palace and Diwan-i-Khas inside.
- The Red Fort's planning and architectural style influenced later structures in the subcontinent.

#### • Maratha Forts

- Maratha forts, Sikh forts like Qila Mubarak Patiala, Ahom Hill Forts, and coastal forts from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh also contribute to India's fortified heritage.

#### • European Forts

- Of the European and Colonial Forts, those at Diu, Surat, Daman, Bassein, Bombay, Goa, Hughli, Chinsura, Fort William, Chandranagar, Serampore, Visakhapatnam, Masulipatam are fine examples of India's fortified heritage.
- The British established trading posts along the coast and put-up protective forts at each post, as in the Fort at Mumbai, Kolkata's Fort William, Chennai's Fort St George, etc.
- The vulnerability of these earlier forts, hostilities with the French, and the growing might of the Company resulted in stronger and more complex designs for the second round of construction, with the design of Fort St George reflecting the influences of the French engineer Vauban.

### Conclusion

- India has continued to have many fortified cities like Orchha, Amber, etc. from the early historical period onwards, as well as walled sacred enclosures within cities (like at Trivandrum, Puri, Kanchipuram, etc.).

- Similarly, there are numerous pre-modern period cities with protective enclosing walls and gates, as exemplified by different capital cities like Agra, Delhi, Ahmedabad (another World Heritage Site), and Jaipur. In addition to these, there have also been several hundred forts.
- All in all, India has a rich and variegated history when it comes to its forts and fortified heritage, of which we are justly proud.

### **DEFENCE ARCHITECTURE OF FORTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA**

- The term 'fort' signifies a stronghold providing protection and security. The antiquity of fortifications in India dates back to the Indus Valley civilization, where lower and upper citadels had massive defense ramparts.
- During the Janapada period, cities were not prevalent, but literature mentions fortified places like Ujjain, Dwaraka, and Indraprastha protected by earth or mud walls.
- References to forts and fortified towns are found in the accounts of Megasthenes and Pliny, who mentioned 30 walled towns and numerous villages in Andhra Desa.
  - Some notable ones include Dhanyakataka, Dhanapura, and Satanikota in Andhra Pradesh, and Peddabankuru, Dhulikatta, Kotilingala, and Kondapur.
- In the medieval period (11th to 17th centuries CE), defense architecture played a crucial role, leading to the construction of new forts in Andhra and Telangana.
  - Stone replaced mud and brick in fort construction for enhanced security.
- These forts were traditionally classified as Sthala (land), Giri (hill), Jala (water), and Vana (forest) Durgas based on their locations.

#### **Forts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

- **Kondapalli Fort** is located in NTR district of AP. This fort of sizable extent is built on the hills of eastern ghats. It can be accessed through two entry gates known as Durga Darwaza and Golconda Darwaza. The remnants include a palace complex built in Indo-Saracenic style.
- **Kondaveedu and Addanki Forts**, located in Bapatla and Palnadu districts of Andhra Pradesh, served as headquarters of the Reddy kingdom in the early 15th century.
  - Initially, the Reddy kings ruled from Addanki but later shifted to Kondaveedu Fort.
- **Udayagiri Fort, located in PSR Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh**, was strategically built on a hill.
  - Initially under Vijayanagara rule, it was briefly held by the Gajapatis before Krishnadeva Raya re-annexed it to the Vijayanagara empire in 1513 AD.
  - Udayagiri controlled the eastern frontier of the Vijayanagara empire and was a contested territory among the Vijayanagar, Bahamanis of Gulbarga, and Gajapatis of Odisha.
- **Gooty Fort**, located in the Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh, is the largest fortification in the region, covering 11 km in circumference.
  - Inscriptions from the Kalyana Chalukyans dating from the late 10th to early 12th centuries were found at the fort, with one mentioning the repulsion of a Chola attack.
  - After the fall of Vijayanagara in 1665 AD, the fort faced attacks from the Adil Shahis of Bijapur and Qutb Shahis of Golconda, eventually being annexed to the Qutb Shahi kingdom by the Mughals by the end of the 17th century.
  - In 1754, Morari Rao, a Maratha chief, occupied the fort. In 1776, Haider Ali took control of the fort, which was later annexed to the East India Company in 1799 AD.
- **Penugonda Fort** is located in the Satya Sai district of AP. The architecture of bastions is similar to that at Hampi and Chandragiri forts.

- The historical significance of this fort was that it became the capital of the IV dynasty of Vijayanagara kings after the fall of Vijayanagara in the Tallikota War in 1565 AD
- **Chandragiri Fort** is located in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh. Except for strong stone ramparts and the remains of Vishnu temple and Krishna temple, no significant structures were intact on the upper fort.
  - During the late 16th-century, the capital of Vijayanagara was shifted from Penukonda to Chandragiri.
- **Gandikota Fort** is located in the YSR Kadapa district of AP. After the Vijayanagara and Qutb Shahi dynasties, the Nizam ceded it to the East India Company under a treaty in 1800 AD.
- **Warangal Fort**, located in the Warangal district of Telangana, stands testimony to the glorious Kakatiya legacy.
  - It rose to prominence after shifting capital from Hanamkonda and became the capital of the Kakatiya kingdom during the Ganapatideva Maharajas regime (1199-1261 AD).
  - After the fall of the Kakatiya Empire (1323 AD) the fort was ruled by several governors, local chieftains, Bahamanis, Qutb Shahis, and Nizams.
- **Bhongir Fort** located in the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana, was initially under the Kakatiya supremacy.
  - Once it was devastated by Allauddin Khilji in 1355 AD and during the Velama kings, it became an administrative division on par with Warangal and Rachakonda forts.
  - In 1433, Ahmed Shah Bahamani gifted Bhongir as a jagir to one of his governors. It was one of the earliest forts in Telangana, controlled by the Qutb Shahis.
- **Koilkonda Fort** is located in the Mahbubnagar district of Telangana, due to its geographical location served as border fort between the Vijayanagara and Qutb Shahi kingdoms.
- **The Elgandal Fort** is located in the Karimnagar district of Telangana. The fort was said to be built during Kakatiyas and served as one of the strong hods during Musunuri Nayakas rule.

### Conclusion

All these forts, once centres of power, polity, and might, engulfed in the annals of time, yet they remain a source of information about those bygone societies.

### **GOLCONDA FORT: THE IMPENETRABLE FORTRESS**

- Golconda Fort, initially ruled by the Kakatiyas, was taken over by the Bahamanis in 1363 AD.
- **Sultan Quli**, who founded the Qutb Shah Kingdom in 1518 AD, made it the capital after overthrowing the Bahamanis.
  - Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, a patron of literature, established Hyderabad and built the Charminar. The last Sultan, Abul Hasan Tana Shah, supported the dance-drama Kuchipudi.
  - The kingdom was annexed by Aurangzeb in 1687, and Asif Jah, who declared independence in 1713, was named Nizam-ul-Mulk. T
  - The Nizams ruled Hyderabad until 17 September 1948.

### Features

- The colossal fortress, featuring a moat- protected three-tiered fortification and eight entrance gates, held a noteworthy position during the medieval Deccan.
- Along with its unbreakable citadel, the Golconda Fort is distinguished by its well-planned township, mosques, magazines, granaries, armouries, and, most importantly, a spotless water supply system.

## **FORTS OF GUJARAT GUARDIANS OF LEGACY AND LORE**

- **Uparkot Fort, Junagadh**

- Uparkot Fort, located in the heart of Junagadh, is believed to have been built in 319 BC by the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta.
- Carved out of the rocky terrain, this fort served as a stronghold for various dynasties, including the Mauryas, Guptas, and Chudasamas.
- The circular, 41 metres deep **Adi Kadi Vav** was cut in the 15th century during the times of the Chudasama rulers and named after two slave girls who used to fetch water from it.
- Navghan Kuvo, 52 metres deep and designed to help withstand sieges, is almost 1000 years old, and its magnificent staircase spirals around the well shaft.

- **Pavagadh Champaner Fort**

- Pavagadh Champaner Fort, situated atop a volcanic hill near the town of Champaner, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Its origin dates back to the 8th century, when it served as a fortified outpost for the Chavda dynasty.
- The fort reached its zenith during the reign of Sultan Mahmud Begada in the 15th century, who extensively fortified the hill and constructed palaces, mosques, and other structures that turned Champaner into a splendid new capital.
- But its glory was brief: when it was captured by Mughal Emperor Humayun in 1535, the Gujarat capital reverted to Ahmedabad, and Champaner fell into ruin.
- Architecturally, the Pavagadh Champaner Fort is a marvel of engineering and craftsmanship.
  - The stepped citadel, strategically positioned atop the hill, offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding plains.
- In July 2004, UNESCO inscribed the **Pavagadh Champaner Archaeological Park** on the World Heritage List, recognizing its significance as a living Hindu pilgrimage center, its cluster of Jain temples, well-preserved medieval urban fabric, exquisite sandstone-carved mosques and tombs, and its intangible heritage values.

- **Diu Fort**

- Diu Fort, situated on the serene island of Diu off the coast of Gujarat. Today, it is a landmark of Diu and one of the Seven Wonders of Portuguese Origin in the World.
- The fort was a product of a strategic alliance between Bahadur Shah, the Sultan of Gujarat, and the Portuguese against the Mughals.
- It was built in the year 1535 by D Nuno da Cunha and rebuilt in the year 1546 by D Joao de Castro.
- The Portuguese influence is evident in the fort's layout itself, designed according to Renaissance military principles.
  - Today, it houses a museum showcasing artefacts that tell the story of Diu's inhabitants, from the Portuguese to the local Damania community.
- Diu Fort is a masterpiece crafted from warm red sandstone.
- In 1960, there were only 350 Portuguese soldiers garrisoned in the fort. 'Operation Vijay' was launched by India on 19 December 1961, to end Portuguese colonial rule in Goa, Daman, and Diu.

- **Bhujjiya Fort**

- The historic Bhujjiya Fort is located on the top of Bhujjiya Hill on the outskirts of the town of Bhuj in the district of Kutch. Construction began in 1715 under Rao Godji I, the ruler of the Kutch Kingdom.

- Built primarily from red sandstone, the fort's imposing walls snake around the contours of the hill and cover around 6.5 square kilometres of area.
- Bhujiya Fort stood strong during six major battles fought between 1700 and 1800 AD. This legacy of defence makes Bhujiya Fort a cornerstone of Kutch's military history and a symbol of Kutchi identity.
- **Bhadra Fort**
  - Bhadra Fort is situated in the walled city area of Ahmedabad. It was built by Ahmad Shah I in 1411.
  - The fort adopted the name Bhadra after a temple of Bhadra Kali, a form of Laxmi, which was established during Maratha rule.
  - The British captured the fort in 1817 and used it as a prison until independence.

## **FORTS IN DELHI**

Delhi is believed to comprise 7-11 cities according to various historians. Its ancient history traces back to the Mahabharata, where the Pandavas built Indraprastha on the western bank of the Yamuna River. Some believe this ancient city existed at the site of Purana Qila (Old Fort) in Delhi.

### **Early Forts of Delhi**

- **Qila Rai Pithora**
  - The earliest fort in Delhi dates to the 11th century when Tomar ruler Anangpal built **Lal Kot**. Prithviraj Chauhan later expanded it with massive ramparts, renaming it **Qila Rai Pithora**, considered the first of Delhi's Seven Cities.
  - According to Timur, the rubble-built ramparts had 13 gates, with Hauz Rani, Barka, and Badaun gates still extant. Ibn Batuta described Badaun gate as the main entrance.
  - Prithviraj lost the fort to Muhammad of Ghor in 1192 CE.
  - Ghurid commander Aibek developed the fort further, building the **Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque** and the **Qutub Minar** within its premises.
  - Many forts were built during the Delhi Sultanate, which also introduced the Indo- Islamic architectural style in India.
- **Tughlaqabad**
  - A notable fort of the time was built in the 14th century by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. The fort was part of a new city built in Delhi by the Tughlaqs called Tughlaqabad.
  - It was essentially built to serve a dual purpose: to resist the threat of Mongol attacks and to serve as the capital of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.
  - A part of the third city of Delhi called Tughlaqabad was built in 1321 AD.
  - Tughlaqabad consists of remarkable, massive stone fortifications. The fortified city contained seven rainwater tanks. South of Tughlaqabad was a vast artificial water reservoir within the fortified outpost of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq's Tomb.
  - However, the fort was shortly abandoned in 1327.
- **Adilabad Fort**
  - Another fort in the same vicinity is Adilabad Fort. It was built in 1327-28 AD, soon after the death of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, by his son Muhammad- bin-Tughlaq.
  - Perched over a hillock, the fort seems to be an extension of the Tughlaqabad Fort.



## Forts during Mughal Era

### • Purana Qila

- The Mughals were next to follow, and two forts in particular continued to charm the visitors. The first one, **Qila-e-Kohna**, popularly called **Purana Qila**, was built in the 1530s.
  - Some believe that it was the site of Indraprastha, the legendary capital of the Pandavas.
  - Excavations have revealed definite settlements dating from the 4th-3rd centuries BC and some pottery fragments that might date from as far back as 1000 BC.
- The visible built structures are from Mughal emperor Humayun's city of **Dinpanah** ('asylum of the faith'), constructed between 1530 and 1538.
  - Sher Shah, who ousted Humayun from the throne in 1540, demolished the city of Dinpanah and, on the same site, raised this citadel.
  - The city built by Sher Shah is named **Sher Garh**. It is believed that Sher Shah left Purana Qila incomplete, and Humayun completed it.
- The fort is dotted with many significant structures. A mosque, **Qal'a-i-Kuhna Masjid**, was built by Sher Shah in 1541 AD.
  - Its prayer hall is rectangular, pierced by five horseshoe-shaped arches in the front.
  - The central arch, higher than the others and framed within the projection, is flanked by narrow fluted pilasters.
  - It is beautifully embellished with bands of calligraphy of verses from the Quran.
  - The architectural and symbolic focal points of the mosque are the Mihrabs that face west and indicate the direction of the prayer.
- This mosque occupies an important position in the development of Mughal mosque architecture.
  - The mosque presents a harmonious blend of Islamic architecture and indigenous Hindu stylistic motifs such as the Kalash and the lotus.
- Another important structure inside the Purana Qila is the **Sher Mandal**. It is a double-storeyed octagonal tower of red sandstone relieved by marble, surmounted by an octagonal pavilion, or chhatri.
  - The purpose of the building is not certain, but it was probably used by Humayun as his library.
  - It is believed that he fell and ultimately died while rushing in response to the Muazzin's call for prayer.

### • Lal Darwaza

- Two other outlying structures that are often perceived as part of the Purana Qila are the Lal Darwaza and the Khairul Manazil.
- Lal Darwaza is an imposing gateway built of red sandstone and grey quartzite believed to be the southern entry to the city of Sher Garh.
- The Khairul Manazil was commissioned by Maham Anga, Akbar's wet nurse, around 1561-62 to house a mosque and madrasa.

### • After the shifting of the Mughal capital to Agra, the fort was abandoned.

- The fate of modern Delhi is closely linked with Purana Qila.
- Sir Edwin Lutyens, who designed the modern imperial capital for the British, aligned the central vista, now called Kartavya Path, with the Humayun Darwaza of Purana Qila.

### • Red Fort

- The Red Fort, commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1638 and designed by Ustad Ahmad Lahauri, served as the main residence of the Mughal emperors for nearly 200 years.

- Built on the banks of the Yamuna, the red sandstone fort took nine years to construct (1639-1648) and is adjacent to the earlier Salimgarh Fort.
  - Salimgarh Fort was constructed during the reign of Islam Shah Suri in 1546.
- The Red Fort blends Mughal, Persian, Timurid, and Hindu styles seamlessly.
- It is replete with beautiful pavilions connected through *Nahr-e- Behist* (water channels) and structures such as the *Diwan-i-Aam* (Hall of Public Audience), *Diwan- i-Khas* (Hall of Private Audience), Rang Mahal, and the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque).
- Every year on Independence Day, the Prime Minister hoists the national flag at the fort.
- In 2007, it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List for its outstanding universal value.

### **BEKAL: A FUSION OF CULTURE AND HISTORY ECHOING THROUGH TIME**

- Bekal Fort is constructed from laterite stone, a material abundantly found in the Kasaragod district.
  - Often called the 'Land of Seven Languages, Kasaragod boasts a unique heritage reflected in its people's use of over ten languages, including Malayalam, Tulu, Kannada, Konkani, Urdu, Marathi, and the fascinating script-less language Byari.
- Bekal Fort, a majestic structure with a dramatic past, was once part of the Mahodayapuram kingdom before becoming a crucial port town under Kolathunadu rule in the 12th century.
- In the 16th century, the Keladi Nayakas (Ikkeri Nayakas) conquered the region. Hiriya Venkatappa initiated the construction of Bekal Fort, completed during Sivappa Nayak's reign, to defend against attacks and aid campaigns in Malabar.
- The Nayakas also built Chandragiri Fort nearby. Bekal later became a vital military outpost for Tipu Sultan's Malabar campaign.
- After Tipu Sultan's fall in 1799, the British East India Company took over, making Bekal the headquarters of the newly formed Bekal Taluk.

### **VELLORE FORT - THE GREAT GARRISON OF SOUTH INDIA**

- The Vellore Fort is a 16th century fortress built by the Vijayanagar Empire that served as its headquarters for many decades.
- The fort was built by Chinna Bommi Nayak and Timma Nayak, subordinate chieftains under Emperor Sadasiva Raya of the Vijayanagar Empire.

#### **Battle of Talikotta and Vellore Fort**

- The fort gained strategic prominence following the reestablishment of Vijayanagar rule with Chandragiri as their fourth capital after the **battle of Talikotta**.
- The Aravidu Dynasty, which held the title of Rayas in the 17th-century resided in this fort, using it as a military base in the war of Toppur in the 1620s.
  - The Rayas had ongoing conflicts with their rivals, the Turko-Persian Bijapur Sultans, and their subordinates, the Nayaks of Madurai and Gingee, over unpaid tributes.
  - In 1614 AD, during Sriranga Raya's reign, a coup erupted within the royal family, resulting in the murder of Emperor Sriranga Raya and his family.
  - The younger son, Rama Deva Raya, was smuggled out of the fort by loyal supporters. These events led to the **Battle of Toppur in 1616 AD**.

### Vellore Fort and the Control of Sultan of Bijapur

- In 1639 AD, Francis Day of the East India Company acquired land on the Coramandel Coast from the Nayaks of Vellore-Chandragiri, establishing present-day Chennai.
- In 1650, Sriranga Raya allied with the Mysore and Tanjore Nayaks to attack Gingee and Madurai.
- After capturing Gingee Fort, Thirumalai Nayak of Madurai sought help from the Sultan of Bijapur, who attacked Vellore from the north, capturing Vellore Fort.
- Consequently, both Vellore and Gingee forts fell to the Sultan, marking the end of the last direct line of the Vijayanagar Empire.

### Fort under the Control of Marathas

- In 1676 AD, the Mavalas under the Great Maratha King Shivaji captured Tanjore first and appointed Ekaji, the brother of Shivaji, as its ruler. Later, he captured Gingee Fort in 1677 AD, but left the task of attacking Vellore to his subordinates.
- In 1678 AD, after a prolonged siege, Vellore passed into the hands of Marathas.

### Under Control of the Mughals (1707-1760 AD)

- In 1707 AD, the year that the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb died, the Delhi army under Daud Khan captured Vellore Fort after defeating the Marathas.

### Under Control of the English (1799-1947 AD)

- The British East India Company took possession of Vellore Fort with relative ease and used the fort as a major garrison until Indian Independence in 1947. In 1780, the Vellore Fort was designed by Haider Ali during the Second-Anglo Mysore War.

### Vellore Mutiny (1806-1807 AD)

- The Vellore Mutiny, the first large-scale mutiny by Indian soldiers against the British, occurred on 10 July 1806.
- Despite lasting only one day, it was violent, with rebels killing and wounding around 200 British soldiers, and resulting in around 100 mutineers being executed.
- The mutiny was triggered by the implementation of General Order by **General Agnew**, which prohibited native soldiers from wearing caste marks, earrings, or whiskers, and introduced new turbans made of leather, offending both Hindu and Muslim sentiments.
- The sepoys, claiming the new headgear resembled that of lowly drummers, revolted and proclaimed Futeh Hyder, son of Tipu Sultan, as their ruler, hoisting Tipu's flag.
- The rebellion was swiftly crushed by Col Gillespie, and Tipu's son was sent to Calcutta. The British government recalled General Craddock and Governor William Bentick.
- Vellore Fort, where the mutiny took place, is entirely made of granite from Arcot and Chittoor.

### MEDIEVAL PORTS AND FORTS

- Twenty-eight rivers from the Sahyadri mountain range flow into the Arabian Sea, forming creeks in the coastal region.
  - A coastal plain is a narrow strip of land along the coast, while a headland juts into the sea.
- Forts like Revdanda and Korlai were constructed at the mouth of these river creeks. Janjira fort is on a fortified island within the Danda Rajapuri creek.
- Twenty-one out of the twenty-eight creeks have forts at their mouth and upstream regions.

- Forts situated more than two kilometers from the coast are called inland or hinterland forts, with hinterland referring to the land beyond a coast or creek used for exporting materials.

### Trade and Ports on the West Coast of Maharashtra

- The chief ancient ports on the north Konkan coast were Sopara, Sanjan, Chaul, Thana, and Kalyan, known for trade and commerce with the west.
- Chaul is mentioned in the fifth-century **Kanheri inscriptions** which mention that the excavation of the cave was funded by a merchant from Chaul.
- In a copper plate grant of the Silahara king Anantdev (1094), the status of the port at Chaul was equated with that of Shurparaka (Sopara) and Shrishthanaka (Thana).
- Ibn Batuta noted Muslim trader colonies on the west coast, and Marco Polo (1290) observed that while a Hindu king ruled Malabar, Arab merchants controlled trade.
- The medieval period saw internal and external trade by the Nizam Shahi, Adil Shahi, and Bahamani dynasties.
- Barbosa described Chaul as a bustling trade hub, especially from December to March, exporting various goods.
- In the 15th century, the Portuguese challenged and overtook Arab trade dominance due to their superior ships, technology, military power, and strong will, leading to the rise of Portuguese, British, and Dutch control.

### Kundalika Creek: Port and Fort of Chaul

- Chaul and Revdanda are two separate forts located close to each other.
  - Chaul Fort, historically known as Rajkot, is also called Agarkot, though this name is not found in literature.
- Chaul and Revdanda are the modern names for Upper and Lower Chaul, respectively.
- Excavations at Chaul have revealed it was an active port from the 3rd century BC to the 18th century, with a habitation area spread over approximately two kilometers along the north bank of the Kundalika River.
- Rajkot Fort was built to protect trade operations at the port. However, as Mumbai rose as a major port and the Kundalika River silted and changed course, Chaul and other smaller ports like Dabhol lost their importance. Now, a large mud flat lies between Chaul and the river.

### Fort Construction in Maharashtra Gained Momentum after the Attack by Malik Kafur

- **Attack by Malik Kafur**
  - Until the 14th century, local rulers showed little interest in the coastal region of Maharashtra, resulting in the absence of forts along the coast.
  - This changed when Malik Kafur attacked Dabhol in 1312. The Konkan coast then fell under King Bimb of the Mahikavati dynasty and later the Yadavas of Devgiri.
  - The dense forests made it difficult for the Mughals and Yadavas to control the region, leading them to build roads and control routes connecting trading ports.
- **Advent of Portuguese**
  - Arab merchants faced no threats from the Mughals or Bahamanis until the Portuguese entered the Arabian Sea in 1498.
  - The Portuguese, with their superior warships, challenged the Arab monopoly on trade.
  - This prompted the construction of forts in Konkan to protect commercial interests by the Gujarat Sultans, Bahamanis, and Portuguese.

- The Portuguese established control over north Konkan, while the south was divided between the Adil Shahi and Nizam Shahi rulers.
- They built factories and forts in Revdanda and Chaul, leading to conflicts with the Nizam.
- The Portuguese and Nizam Shahi conflicts led to the construction of forts like Korlai, Revdanda, and Rajkot.
- The Marathas emerged in the mid-17th century, capturing forts from the Adil Shahs and Nizam Shahs and building new ones like Khanderi, Kolaba, and Padmadurga.
- **Fort Construction by Marathas**
  - Marathas built forts at strategic locations to control trade, including one at the mouth of the creek and another inland.
  - This system allowed them to control internal and international trade. Over time, urbanization and the construction of roads have replaced the need for forts with check posts and coast guards to protect trade routes.

## **INDIA ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

### **UNESCO World Heritage List**

- The UNESCO World Heritage List includes over 750 cultural, natural, and mixed sites that showcase the diversity and beauty of our planet.
- The 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage aims to identify and protect these exceptional places, which are considered part of the common heritage of humanity.
- Countries that join the Convention work together to safeguard these valuable sites.
- Despite recognizing national sovereignty, the Convention emphasizes that protecting World Heritage is a global responsibility. **India has 42 properties listed as World Heritage Sites.**

### **World Heritage Sites of India**

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)** - Built by British architect F.W. Stevens, this Gothic Revival structure in Mumbai combines British and Indian architectural elements. It was constructed over 10 years starting in 1878 and symbolizes Bombay's role as a major international port.
- **Churches and Convents of Goa** - Notably the Church of Bom Jesus, which contains the tomb of St Francis-Xavier, these structures illustrate the evangelization of Asia and feature Manueline, Mannerist, and Baroque art.
- **Dholavira: A Harappan City** - Occupied between ca. 3000-1500 BCE, this archaeological site in Gujarat includes a fortified city and a sophisticated water management system. Artifacts found here indicate trade with Mesopotamia and Oman.
- **Elephanta Caves** - Located near Mumbai, these caves contain rock art linked to Lord Shiva, showcasing high reliefs from ancient Indian art.
- **Agra Fort** - This 16th-century Mughal fortress near the Taj Mahal features 2.5 km-long enclosure walls and several palaces and mosques built by Shah Jahan.
- **Ajanta Caves** - Buddhist cave monuments dating from the 2nd century BCE to the 6th century AD, known for their paintings and sculptures, are considered masterpieces of Buddhist religious art.
- **Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar** - Dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE, this site in Bihar was a major center for Buddhist learning, featuring stupas, shrines, and educational buildings.

- **Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi** - Located near Bhopal, these monuments from the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE include stupas and temples, representing the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in India.
- **Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park** - This site in Gujarat includes prehistoric sites, fortifications, palaces, and the Kalikamata Temple, attracting pilgrims throughout the year.
- **Ellora Caves** Consisting of 34 monasteries and temples in Maharashtra, these caves were built between AD 600 and 1000, showcasing a sequence of monuments and illustrating the spirit of tolerance in ancient India.
- **Fatehpur Sikri** - Built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century, this city served as the Mughal Empire's capital for around 10 years and includes the Jama Masjid, one of India's largest mosques.
- **Great Living Chola Temples** - These temples, built by the Chola Empire in the 11th and 12th centuries, include the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram, and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram. They showcase Chola architecture, sculpture, painting, and bronze casting.
- **Group of Monuments at Hampi** - The capital of the Vijayanagar kingdom, these 14th- to 16th-century structures include rich palaces and Dravidian temples, abandoned after being pillaged by the Deccan Muslim confederacy in 1565.
- **Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram** - Carved from rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries, these sanctuaries were founded by the Pallava kings and are known for their rathas and open-air reliefs.
- **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary** - Situated in the Himalayan foothills, this sanctuary features alluvial grasslands and tropical forests, home to diverse wildlife including tigers, pygmy hogs, and Indian rhinoceroses.
- **Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks** - Located in the West Himalayas, these parks are known for their alpine flowers and rare animals like the Asiatic black bear and snow leopard, covering a unique transition zone between the Zaskar and Great Himalayas.
- **Sundarbans National Park** - This park in the Ganges delta covers 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has the world's largest mangrove forest, home to tigers and various aquatic species.
- **Western Ghats** - Older than the Himalayas, this mountain range moderates the tropical climate and contains high biodiversity, with 325 globally threatened species.
- **Khangchendzonga National Park** - In the Himalayan range of Sikkim, this park includes diverse landscapes and Mount Khangchendzonga, the world's third-highest peak, significant in local mythology.
- **The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur** - An 18th-century astronomical site in Jaipur with 20 masonry instruments designed for naked-eye observations, representing significant historic observatories in India.
- **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai** - Built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these architectural ensembles blend Indian elements with European styles, representing Mumbai's modernization phases.
- **Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA)** - Located in Himachal Pradesh, GHNPCA protects diverse alpine meadows and high peaks, forming part of the Himalaya biodiversity hotspot.
- **Kaziranga National Park** - This park in Assam is home to the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, tigers, and various bird species, with minimal human disturbance.
- **Keoladeo National Park** - A major wintering area for birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China, and Siberia, this park hosts 364 bird species, including the rare Siberian crane.
- **Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka** - Located in the Vindhyan Mountains, these shelters contain rock paintings from the Mesolithic period, depicting cultural traditions of ancient inhabitants.
- **Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas** - These 12th- to 13th-century temple complexes in southern India feature distinct temple features and sculptures, representing significant stages in Hindu temple architecture.

- **Santiniketan** - Founded by Rabindranath Tagore in West Bengal in 1901, this art school and cultural center aimed to transcend religious and cultural boundaries, later becoming a 'World University.'
- **Sun Temple, Konark** - Built in the 13th century on the Bay of Bengal, this temple is designed as a chariot of the Sun god, featuring intricately decorated wheels.
- **Taj Mahal** - Constructed between 1631 and 1648 in Agra by Emperor Shah Jahan, this white marble mausoleum is a masterpiece of world heritage.
- **Qutub Minar and its Monuments, Delhi** - The 13th-century Qutub Minar in Delhi, surrounded by ancient mosques and tombs, represents the peak of Indo-Muslim art.
- **Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat** - Built in the 11th century on the Saraswati River, this stepwell showcases Maru-Gurjara architecture with over 500 sculptures and panels.
- **Red Fort Complex** - Built by Shah Jahan as the palace fort of Shahjahanabad in Delhi, the Red Fort is an example of Mughal architecture, featuring extensive enclosing walls and elaborate pavilions.
- **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana** - Located in Palampet and built in the 13th century, this temple features lightweight porous bricks and intricate carvings, illustrating Kakatiyan culture.
- **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** - Built between 950 and 1050, these temples in Madhya Pradesh blend Hinduism and Jainism, showcasing detailed sculptures and architectural finesse.
- **Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya** - Dating from the 3rd century BC, this temple in Bihar is one of the earliest Buddhist temples in India, representing significant religious heritage.
- **Mountain Railways of India** - Including the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, these 19th-century mountain railways showcase engineering marvels in difficult terrains.
- **Group of Monuments at Pattadakal** - These 7th- and 8th-century temples in Karnataka blend architectural styles from northern and southern India, featuring the notable Virupaksha Temple.
- **Hill Forts of Rajasthan** - These six forts, built from the 8th to 18th centuries, illustrate the region's Rajput architecture and history, featuring defensive walls, urban centers, and temples.
- **Historic City of Ahmedabad** - Founded in the 15th century, Ahmedabad features rich architectural heritage from the sultanate period, including mosques, tombs, and densely packed traditional houses.
- **Humayun's Tomb, Delhi** - Built in 1570, this tomb was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and inspired later Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal.
- **Jaipur City, Rajasthan** - Founded in 1727, Jaipur is known for its grid plan and Vedic architecture, featuring colonnaded streets and large public squares called chowparks.