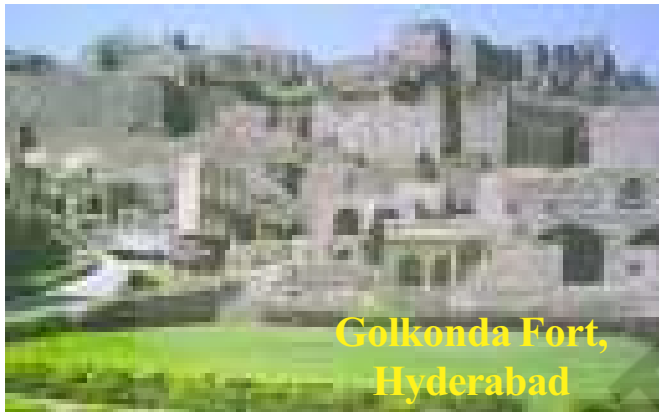


12



HISTORICAL SITES - CHANDRAGIRI FORT

12.1. Observe the picture and say



- Do you know any of the above forts and where they are? Do you have any such forts in your district?
- How do you feel, when you see the above pictures? Did you ever visit any such place?
- What information do we get on either seeing them or studying about them?
- Identify the above forts / sites on the map of our state.

12.2. Chandragiri fort

There are many forts like Golkonda, Penugonda, Gadwal, Orugallu, Chandragiri etc. in our state. They were constructed by the kings for protection from the enemies and also as a mark of victory and glory. Today they remain as evidences for the hundreds of years of history. Shall we learn more about those rulers and their constructions?



What, you see above is the Chandragiri Fort. It is located in the Chittoor district of our state. It is 14 km. away from Tirupati. Are you interested to know, how the fort got its name? The local myth says that once, the moon (Chandra) did penance on this hill. Lord Shiva was pleased and gave him boons. Hence the name, Chandragiri.

Collect...



- ◆ Enquire, how your village got its name, from the elders.
- ◆ List the historical places near your place.

12.3. Gateways of the Chandragiri fort

The fort has two gateways.



Gateway - 1



Gateway - 2

The two gateways are 1km apart from each other. The way leading to these gateways is in the shape of the letter 'Z'. Huge fort walls, exist on either side of both the gates.

We can reach Chandragiri Fort after crossing these two gateways. Would you like to know about the ruler, who built this fort? He was, Immadi Yadava Narasimha Rayalu and the fort was built in 1000 A.D. He used to rule over Narayanavanam, near the city of Chandragiri.

Think and say

- ◆ Can you guess, why the way leading to the main gateways is in the 'Z' shape?
- ◆ How old is the fort?

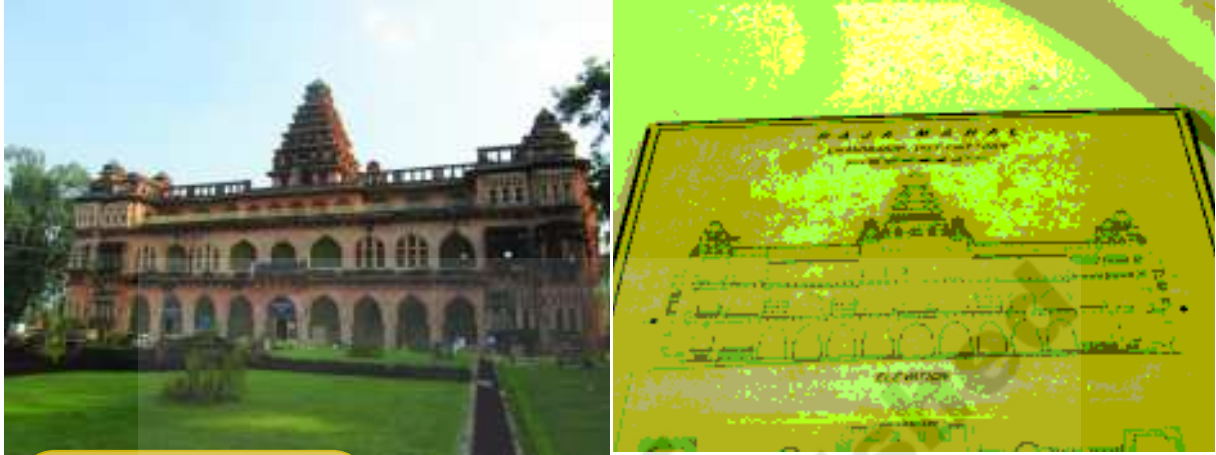
Around, 500 years back, the Saluva Kings of the Vijayanagara Empire, took over this fort. King Narasimha Raya of Saluva dynasty ruled Chandragiri and stayed in this fort. During his period, the city developed rapidly. Chandragiri served as the capital city for the Vijayanagara Empire, till they were defeated in the war of Tallikota (Rakshasa Tangadi). Initially, Hampi was the capital city. It was shifted to penugonda and from there to Chandragiri.

Later, the Araveti dynasty ruled the Vijayaagara Empire, with Chandragiri as their permanent capital city. Further, during the reign of Sri Venkatapathi Deva Raya of Araveeti dynasty, this fort became famous.

Think of the reasons for these forts being ruined which were the much glorified places of the past.

12.4. Raj mahal

The Chandragiri Fort has several huge buildings. The most important among them is the Raj Mahal. Look at the pictures below.



Think and say

- ◆ How many stories does the Raj Mahal have and how many arches does it have?



There are three Gopurams on the Raj Mahal. The middle one is taller than the other two.

The base of every Gopuram is broader and they become thinner towards the apex. This is called the Dravida style. The walls are made up of stones while the roof is built with brick and lime. There are verandhas and rooms in the mahal. This resembles the Indo-Turk style of architecture.

Do you know?

- Sri Krishna Devaraya and a part of Manucharitra by Allasani Peddana were scripted during their stay, here.
- This is the birth place of Tenali Ramakrishna, the court poet of Vijayanagara Kings.

Do this



- ◆ Observe the picture of the building carefully and try to draw it.
- ◆ Draw the plan of your house.

Tenali Ramakrishna has written many stories on wit and humour.

12.5. Rani mahal

Now that you know about Raj Mahal, lets know about Rani Mahal also!

Observe the picture, below, carefully.



Group work



- ◆ How many floors does the Rani Mahal have?
- ◆ How many arches are there?
- ◆ Write the similarities of both the mahals.

The top floor of Rani Mahal was used when the King and the Queen wanted to address their people and for the meetings with the soldiers. Soldiers used to stay there.

12.6. Architechtrual skills

You have learnt about, both the buildings - the Raja Mahal & the Rani Mahal. Now, lets recall, is their roof similar to that of your house? Its different. In the Raja Mahal, the roof is divided into many squares. In each square, there is a design. This design is called stucco. Stuccos remains as an example of the engineering skills of these people of those days.



Think and say

- ◆ Observe the roof in the picture say the differences between these and the roof of our houses.
- ◆ See the picture given beside. Comment on the style of construction.
- ◆ Which material is used more?
- ◆ Why did they use it?



Stone is the basic material used for the construction. The windows on the four sides, the stair case and the arches of the Raj Mahal were built with the stone.

Group work



- ◆ Can you tell what was the time taken for the construction of these buildings?
- ◆ How many people might have built this?
- ◆ Presently what materials are used to build the houses?
- ◆ How many workers are involved in it?

12.7. Fort walls



The Fort wall surrounds the entire fort. This wall is huge and wide. In between there are watch towers. Adjacent to the fort wall, is there a hill, on which there is a mandapam. Today, during the month of karthika people light lamps in this mandap.

Think and say

- ◆ Why the was watch tower built on the fort?
- ◆ Why does the watch towers have holes?
- ◆ In the second picture why did they build them on fort walls?
- ◆ The mandapam is seen the picture below. What might be the purpose of the mandapam?



Sri Krishna Devaraya used to visit Chandragiri fort to worship Lord Venkateswara. Then he used to reside in the Raj Mahal. During the rituals while worshipping the diety the bell was rung at the temple shrine of Tirumala. This was followed by the ringing of the bell in the Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple, at the foot hills, in Tirupati. When this bell was heard at Chandragiri, then they would ring the bell at the mandapam. Then Sri Krishna Devaraya would perform puja in the Raj Mahal and would take his meal as prasadam.

There is another legend to it.

The punishments, in those days, were severe. The accused were hanged. For this a mandapam was built on the hill on one side in the fort, so that it was seen by everyone in the city.

Think and say

- ◆ The punishments were severe. The culprits were hanged! It is right to do so?
- ◆ What do you suggest, how the culprits could be made to accept the crime and change their conduct?
- ◆ What else could we learn from the study of the Chandarigi fort and its buildings?

12.8. A rich heritage and culture

The then rulers constructed great buildings, temples, etc., These constructions reveal the rich heritage and culture of our country. They provide us best of the workmanship and the architechtural skills of those people. They guide us. In addition, they also tell us about the life style of the king and his people, their festivals and their rituals; the customs and the traditions; the mode of entertainment; the clothing of the pople etc., Hence we have to protect these historical sites.

12.9. Temples

The Chandragiri Kings built the temples of Lord Shiva and Lord Rama in the fort. The temple of Rama is in ruins whereas that of Shiva is in better shape and is visited by people even today. Here also, they used huge stones for the construction, except for Gopurams, which were built with bricks.



Lord Shiva Temple

The forts and the temples are huge and were built with the materials available locally. The workers were also local. Think of its significance.

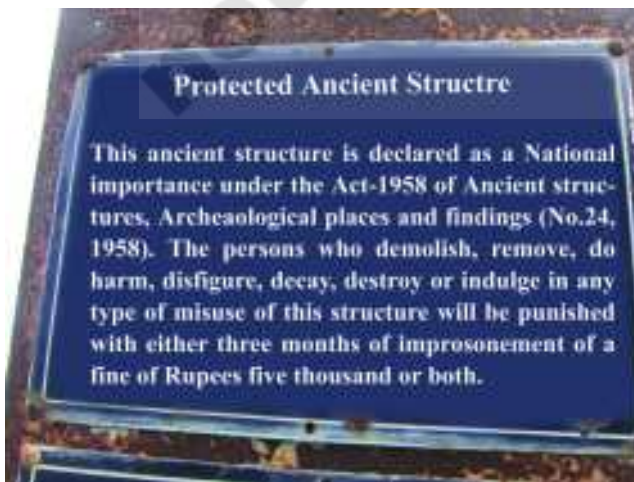
Think and say

- ◆ What is the importance of the old and ancient temples?
- ◆ What are the differences between those and the present day temples?
- ◆ A few old temples are in ruins. How to protect them?

12.10. Save the forts from getting ruined

The relics of the Vijayanagara Empire and the sculptures in stone and metal from the temples were preserved in the museum. This museum is maintained by the Archeological survey of India (ASI).

It is our responsibility to protect the old structures as they reveal our culture and its greatness. Stop harming. Start saving!! Share with the future!!! Its our rich hertiage, it should be safely passed on as legacy to the next generation of people.



Think and say

- ◆ List the 'Don'ts' when we visit the important places and the heritage sites / buildings.
- ◆ What is the significance of those buildings?

Keywords

Fort	Gateway	Arches	Storey
Empire	Gopuram	Watch towers	Architecture
Defeated	Rajmahal	Mandapam	Wit & honour
Glory	Ranimahal	Ruins	Workmanship



What we have learnt?



1. Conceptual understanding

- How did the Chandragiri fort get its name?
- What information do we get from the old / ancient buildings and the forts?
- Describe the construction of the Raj Mahal.
- Write are the differences between the Raj Mahal & the Rani Mahal.
- Why were the forts built?

2. Questioning and hypothesis

- Latha visited the Golconda Fort with her uncle. What questions she might have asked to know about the fort?

3. Experiments - field observations

- Visit any building or an ancient temple nearby, observe and write a note on it.
- Archeological department displays a board near the historical sites and temples. Read it and explain it to your friends.

4. Information skills, projects

- Gather information about the historical buildings or the old temples of our state, in detail and tabulate it.

5. Communication through mapping skills, drawing pictures and making models

- Sketch the structure of the Raj Mahal.
- Point out the places - Tirupati and Chandragiri on the map of Andhra Pradesh.
- Prepare a model of a dome.
- Mark the districts where the forts, you have seen in the beginning of the unit, are located on the map of Andhra Pradesh.

6. Appreciation, values and creating awareness towards bio-diversity

- What are the important aspects of the Chandragiri Fort.
- The construction of the fort involved the labour of many people. Write a note appreciating their hard work.
- Is it necessary to protect the historical buildings? Give reasons.
- State, what precautions you take when you would visit the historical places?
- How can we protect these places?
- Name the materials used in buildings the forts. Where do they get these from?

Can I do this?

- I can explain the importance of the ancient buildings and forts. Yes / No
- I can pose questions to know more about the ancient buildings. Yes / No
- I can tabulate the information about these buildings, after seeking it. Yes / No
- I can mark the places of these historical sites on the A.P. map. Yes / No
- I can prepare sketch of these places and can prepare their models too. Yes / No
- I can explain the necessity of protecting the historical buildings. Yes / No

