



STUDIES ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES, SCULPTURES ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES AND GEOMORPHIC CONDITIONS OF MEDIEVAL HINDU HINGLAJ FORT, NAVALI PLATEAU, BHANPURA, MANDSAUR DIST. M.P. INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Hinglajgarh is known for its Ancient Hinglaj fort Situated near village Navali (Bhanpura), of mandsaour district M.P. The Hinglajgarh gets name after the Goddess Hinglaj Devi. The Mauri Rulers (Marwari - Khatri) founded the temple of Hinglaj Mata (Kuldevi) in Navali Previously known as Hinglaj Tekari, afterward, the Fort had been built by Rulers. The Hinglajgarh was the Centre of Excellence in Craftsmanship of sculptures. The statues found in the Fort from Gupta period to Parmar Period (4th Century AD to 13th Century AD). In this study, under methodology, the Satellite Remote Sensing imagery data has been utilized for demarcation of Geologic units and Geomorphic features of the region. The Fort is surrounded by Hilly Tract of dense forested, plateau Scarps, High slopes at border of M.P. and Rajasthan State. The fort precincts is nearly rectangular Shape in plan with double fortified walls and eight dozen Bastions made intact Fort premises. The Four Gateways for entry to Fort had been made named as Patan Pol, Suraj Pol, Katra Pol (East facing) and Mandleshwar Pol (West facing). The historical monument and Temples Occupies in The Southern part of Fort. Hinglajmata temple, Ram- Hanuman temple, Rani Palace, Shiva Temple are major historical monuments The Burj in big size known as Fateh Burj is Located in the precincts. Two Tirtham Towers were used as Communication Signal through light made from a distance place. A big water Tank was constructed for Storage of water known as Suraj Kund, a permanent source of water supply to the Fort. It is evident from the historical fact that the Fort had been always

with the possession of Hindu Rulers and no attacks were made or tried by the Non Hindu Invaders (NHI). Under AMSAR ACT, 1958 and Rules 1959, 2010, the conservation and mitigative measure of fort is necessary to survive the Ancient Hindu Culture and Art Heritage Centre of Central India.

KEY WORDS : MALWA PLATEAU, HINGLAJ FORT, ARCHITECTURE GEOMORPHIC – GEOLOGIC, MAURI RULER, MARWARI, MANDSAUR.

A. INTRODUCTION -

The Hinglaj gets its name after the Goddess Hinglaj Devi. The Hinglajgarh is known for its ancient Hinglaj Fort, situated near Village Navali (Bhanupura Tehsil) of Mandsaur district. The Mandsaur district is enriched with Historical - Archaeological Heritages of Temples, forts, and monuments. Also the district Head Quarter Mandsaur City is famous for Temple of Lord Pashupatinath located on the Bank of Shivana River. It resembles the Temple of Kathmandu in Nepal. The Hinglajgarh Fort lies in the Eastern North top of the district near the border of Rajasthan State, where Achaean of Rajasthan and Vindhyan Sandstones occurs in juxtaposition. The mounds of hard quartzite sand stone of Kaimur formations exist. Regionally, the Mandsaur district/region is included in the Ganga basin with Chambal, subbasin. The Chambal river is with broad, flat, shallow valley and low gradient. Since the Chambal has reached the base level of Erosion. Vertical erosion is stopped and lateral erosion taking place. The tributaries of Chambal in the region includes Retam, Shivana and Chhoti Kali Sindh. The major part of the region is covered by Malwa Plateau, shows Gentle slope towards North-East. Ground elevation ranges between 445 m to 518 m AMSL. Chambal Master river flows in NE-SW direction & dammed with reservoir Gandhi Sagar situated at the south west of Hinglaj Fort. The prominent isolated residual Hills (IRH) exist towards North of Bhanupura Town. The Hillocks are formed by the Deccan Trap Basalt and these plateau areas, consisting the Surroundings Hinglajgarh and it shows highly undulating topography constitutes Escarpment (510 m AMSL) Kotri Village formed by Vindhyan Supergroup of rocks, Kaimur S/St./Rewa S/St. The trend of escarpment follows NW-SE direction.

B. LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY –

The Hinglaj fort lies in geographical co-ordinates of Longitude 75°47'E and Latitude 24°40'N. It is situated about 165 kms. from Mandsaur city and 26 kms. from Bhanpura Town.

C. METHODOLOGY –

Under methodology, the S.O.I. Topo sheets have been utilized as base map and various features of Physical Domain have been delineated and demarcated through standard interpretation keys criteria using the Satellite Remote Sensing imagery data. The literature regarding Mandsaur and Ancient History of Mauri Rulers have been consulted, analyzed and correlated with existing Physical evidences of structures, monuments etc.

D. HISTORY -

(a) GENERAL –

The Mauri Khattri Rulers founded the Temple of Hinglaj mata (kuldevi) in Mounds of Bhanpura region. Previously it was known as Hinglaj Tekari. In Ancient period (2nd Century AD), the Mauri or Marwari Khattri had moved from Baluchistan to Central India and established the Capital City Hinglajgarh and the Fort. Since the original Temple located at Hinglaj, Baluchistan, the name of Fort and capital named as Hinglajgarh by the rulers. The statues found in this fort aged from Gupta period to Parmar Dynasty period. The most ancient Sculptures have aged from 4th – 5th century AD. The Ruler Halu of Parmar Dynasty occupied the Reign in 1281 AD. Later it came Under Chandrawat Ruler. A Patnama of Chandrawat was found in Haveli of Gopal Singh. In 1773, the Holkar Queen Ahilya Devi defeated the Laxman Singh Chandrawat and occupied the kingdom & fort. During Holkar rulings the Temples of Hinglajmata, Rama - Hanuman Temple of Fort was renovated. At present, the fort precincts needs protective measures and conservation.

(b) Mauri Rulers (Marwari Khattri- Diaspora) –

Marwari are Indian Ethnic Groups originated from Rajasthan. A successful business community belonging to Jodhpur Region (SW Rajasthan). They refers Rajasthani language Zone of Indo - Aryan language very near to Old Gujarati Gurjar Bhakha. During Rajput Kingdom Era they were Inland Traders. Also they had concentrate in Metropolitan Cities and Nagpur, Pune in M.H., Hinter lands of Central and Eastern India. For many centuries the Khattri clan had been Hindu military order who as rulers had been protecting the Hindu Dharma, Considering the Natural Moral law and includes the Caste law, Religions Obligations & justice etc. At present the Khattri have continued to rule administration in Govt. but have also expanded in Merchant occupations. They are the India's most educated groups and known for their wealth influence and charity. Since Ancient period they had settled in different parts of India, some came from Baluchistan, Hinglaj Mountainous Tract, (Table) Even during partition of India many khattri families suffer as they were forced to abandon ancient family land and assets and flee to India. Today they are scattered throughout India, mostly in Central India and metropolitan cities. The term Marwari was used by the Traders only when they were outside from their home region i.e. by the diaspora Marwari identity exists only in context of diaspora i.e. who came from some where and until they migrated they had no such designation. Early Origin Started migrating in historically nature or habit and they finance with preference to Rulers of North India.

E. LANDSCAPE AND DRAINAGE, TERRAIN CONDITIONS-GEOMORPHIC UNITS –

The fort is surrounded by Deep Forest and Dense Vegetation. The landscape comprises plateaue, Hillslopes, Scarps & undulating plains in low lying zones. The major geomorphic units includes plateaue, steep slope, gentle slope, scarp, weathered pediments, buried pediments coeval with soil mantle. The lobate shaped outcrops of Lava flows of different composition leads the terraced, Structures or sloping and scarped areas, followed the pre existing Vindhyan

Valley. It route the river valley in lineament produced fracture added elevated areas. The area is included in subtropical zone and the av. annual rainfall of the district Mandsaur is 657 mm. The temperature vary during winter 7°C where as during Summer it reaches to 39-40°C. The wind velocity av. annual gives 9.2 km/ hr., max. wind velocity 16.7 km/hr. observed during the month of June and minimum 4.7 km/hr. during the month of November. Physiographically, the area is a part of Malwa plateau, having gentle slope towards North-East direction. The major Rivers Shivna and Chambal follow as NE-SW Trend in South western part. The highest elevation of ground surface shows 560m AMSL in village Rewas Dewads at NW corner of the district, which represents the sedimentary Vindhyan rocks quartzitic Sand stones. The prominent isolated Residual Hillocks formed of Basaltic covers on vindhyan basement zones in Bhanpura Town & its vicinity. The Fort region is occupied by Vindhyan Formations of quartzitic sanstone belonging to Kaimur and Rewa Group of Rock. It shows the undulating topography and escarpments Lineaged in North East-South West (NE-SW) directions. The Geomorphic condition of Bhanpura region comprises features like Residual Hills, pediments or rock cut Surfaces, without soil or weathered product , Buried pediments have soil and weathered mantle covered thin layers, deep buried pediments, alluvial zones near streams etc. Deccan trap basalts produces black cotton soil & lateritic soils after weathering where as the Red loamy soil generated by Vidhyans S/St.

F. STABILITY OF THE FORT - GEOTECTONIC CONDITION –

The Geotectonic Condition of the fort site region in terms of Stability very sound since it has been Stabilized zone. The earlier tectonic movements have been settled and occurrence of stable basement belonging to Archaean Cratonic rocks are exposed in nearby Rajasthan border, Where as the Fort region is occupied by Vindhyan Supergroup of Rocks. The lineament and fractures found in the regional scale have been in passive stage and not harmful for huge structures. After Cretaceous eruption of Deccan Lava flows , the basaltic activities ceased , it get stabilized , hard , compact and Strong intact zone in regional Scale. The fort area is represented by Vindhyan Kaimur and Rewa sandstones, mounds and scarps with intact ground surface.

G. ROCK MATERIALS UTILIZED –

The Local rock blocks of hard and compact Vindhyan rocks were utilized for fortification - with Slurry and mud for joint fillings. The basement , foundation shows hard, intact and sound in nature contains Upper Vindhyan rocks sand stone. It bears to the load of huge structure easily. Double Fortified wall construction and a large number of Bastions require a large quantity of rock materials. The local stone quarry fulfill the rock blocks for fortification .

H. LAYOUT PLAN / DESIGN –

The layout plan of the fort construction largely depends on the ground Surface elevation, slope , flatness , and even topographical conditions . The flat topped plateaus have been found Suitable and layout plan also based on the ground level conditions. The outline of

fort precincts resembles a rectangular shape with lower Southern part is shortened due to southern topography. The overall dimension shows 475 meters in three sides western, southern and eastern limbs whereas the northern wall measured max. length of 700 meters covers the perimeter of $475 \times 3 + 700$ meters i.e. 2175 meter more than 2km. and extended in area of about 3 sq.kms. Dimension.

I. DOORS, GATES, GATEWAYS –

In Hinglajgarh Fort, four Gates , for entry , had been constructed. These are mostly east face Gates , only one Gate facing West direction . The main buildings are located near by Southern Border of Fort precincts . The four Gates are named as 1. Patan Pol, 2. Suraj Pol, 3. Katra Pol, 4. Mandleshwar Pol. The Mandleshwar Pol is west facing where as others are East Facing Gateways. Apart from these, the Burj known as Fateh Burj is another structure in dilapidated condition. constructed on the occasion of victory over other kingdoms . Two towers used for communication of distance place through light is known as Tirtham tower. For judiciary system a Darbar or Kaksha had been constructed where minister/ruler took their kaksha (kachhery) and Darbar.

J. ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC STYLE -

The Hinglaj Fort has the Classical Architecture of medieval period generated by the residing Artists in the Fort. The Hinglaj Fort was the stone sculpture and art centre during Parmars Dynasty. Also it had been Trade Center in Central India. Mainly Hindu Artistic style and Malwa Architecture pattern embodies in the sculptures carved out during Parmar period and afterwards Holkar Dynasty rulings.

K. SITE SELECTION –

The strategic position of Fort had been considered on priority in the strong and favourable site selection. All criteria suitable for fort site confers in Hinglaj fortification. The remoteness, Hilly tract, Forest covered, availability of water, route for communication (Trade route), High Security, healthy environmental conditions made the Hinglaj Fort strong and unconquerable during invaders attack. The precincts & structures fortified with stone blocks and intact - Compact rocks protect from invader attacks. only entrance through Gates can be possible. It is surrounded by Dense Forest cover and for attackers enemy difficult to siege the Fort for long time Also it is evident from the fact that in history of this fort, It had been always with the possession of Hindu Rulers and no attacks were made or tried by the Non Hindu Invaders (NHI), unlike the other Hindu forts of the region.

L. MONUMENTS / PALACES / TEMPLES - ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENT -

In the southern part of the Fort precincts the Hinglaj mata Temple is situated, previously before Fort construction it had been known as Hinglaj Tekari, as the establishment of this Ancient Temple had been performed many centuries before the built of fort, by Mauri Khatri came from Original place of Hinglaj. The major temples inside the Fort precincts includes

Rama - Hanuman Temple, and Shiva Temple. Under important monuments and palaces are 1. Suraj Kund, 2. Rani Mahal, 3. Darbar Structure Hall, 4. Fateh Burj 5. Deep Jyoti stambh. Most of these are in dilapaediated conditions and becoming ruined due to lack of conservation & protective measures.

M. WATER SUPPLY –

The Storage of water in a surface water tank known as Suraj Kund supplies water to inhabitants of fort. The permanent water supply had been made through this Huge Water Tank Due to internal source through percolation of water table of ground water in this deep water Tank provide sufficient quantity of water to fulfil the demand of water, constantaly.

N. CONSERVATION AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES –

The Hinglaj Fort is surrounded by Deep forested hilly tract . The cleaning of inside weeds and ground of Fortified precincts and outer 200 meters protective zone is necessary under protective and mitigative measures, under Archaeological Sites and Ancient monuments, AMASR, Act, 1958 and Rules 1959, 2010. Since fort lies in dense forest cover region the many kinds of erodibility occurs due to environmental factors eg. the root zones of Plant Growth weakens the strong joints of structures. These causes the detereoration of decorative sculptures as well as the structure strength at a large, preservation of monuments of Archeological importance is necessary to keep Good conditions physically, particularly renovation is required in Fort Walls Gates, Palaces, Rani ka mahal and Burj to survive the Historical and cultural heritages of Central India.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION -

The Hinglaj Fort was the Center of Excellence, in Craftmanship of Sculptures (For 800 years). This Fort was peak grandeur during Parmar Rulings of the state (10th to 13th Century AD). The monuments and sculptures found very ancient belonging to 4th-5th Century AD. The fort was constructed as strategic and defensive purposes and Strengthened by Parmar rulers . During Holkar rule the Temples of Hindu dieties were renovated. It is peculiar that the fort was never used as a permanent Capital by any dynasty and it was only utilized as Trade Centre and accomodation Shelter for time being. The Ancient Hindu Culture and Art Centre, Hinglajgarh needs Conservation and Renovation of the structures of Fort and Historical Heritages of Central India.

TABLE - I**HINGLAJGARH FORT REGION - GEOLOGIC SUCCESSION (Generalized)**

Group / Age	Major Litho Units/Rock Types
Recent to Pleistocene (Quaternary)	Alluvium and Soils Laterites
unconformity (conglomerate)	
Rewa Group	Upper Rewa Sandstone Jhiri Shales Lower Rewa Sandstone Shales
Kaimur Group (Upper Vindhyan)	Upper - Dhandraul Quartzite Scarp Sandstone and conglomerate Lower - Bijaygarh Shales upper Quartzite, S/St Susnai Breccia Lr. Quartzites and Shales
unconformity	
Archean	Basement - Granite & Gneisses

(Based on Various Sources)

TABLE - II**HINGLAJ FORT : CHRONOLOGICAL POSSESSION OF RULER**

S.No.	Ruler/King	Period	Duration	Events/Activities/ Construction/ Cultural/Social/Strategic
I.	Mauri Rulers (Marwari Khatri)	2 nd Century AD to 10 th Century AD	800 yrs.	Founder of Hinglaj Temple at Tekari and Fort, came from Baluchistan mainly Traders
II.	Parmars	10 th Century AD to 1281 AD	281 yrs.	Strengthen the fort and raise Strategic Importance
III.	Rajputana Hada Ruler (Halu)	1281 AD to 1560 AD	279 yrs.	A Pattanama of Chandravats Found
IV.	Rajputana Chandrawat Ruler	1560 AD to 1773 AD	113 yrs.	A Pattanama of Chandrawats Found Haveli of Gopal Singh
V.	Holkar Dynasty Ruler (Ahilya Devi and Successors)	1773 AD to 1947	174 yrs.	Ahilya Devi defeated the king Laxman Singh Chandrawat Renovated Hinglaj Mata Temple, Rama Temple and Shiva Temples

*Based on various sources, Literatures.

TABLE - III**HINGLAJ FORT : MAJOR STRUCTURES OF FORT**

S.No.	Structure	Designation/Name	Direction/Location Utilization
I.	GATEWAYS (4)	1. Patan Pol 2. Suraj Pol 3. Katra Pol 4. Mandaleshwar Pol	East facing East facing East facing West facing
II.	Big Burj	Fateh Burj	Located at Fort
III.	Towers (2)	Tirtham	Located at Fort
IV.	Darbar Kaksha	Kachheri (court)	Separate Building
V.	Rani Ka Mahal	Palace	Southern Part
VI.	Water Storage	Reservoir-Surajkund	Western Part

TABLE - IV**HINGLAJ FORT : HINDU CULTURE & ART HERITAGES**

S.No.	Temple/Sculptures	Built yrs/Age	Ruler/Kings	Description of Artistic/cultural/Social
I.	Hinglaj Mata Temple and Fort	Originally Hinglaj Tekari 2000 yrs. Ago	Temple founded by Mauri Rulers & built the fort	About 800 yrs. Centre of Excellence Craftmanship of Sculptures
II.	Rama Temple	Ancient	Mauri Ruler	Renovated by Ahilya Devi – Holkar Dynasty in 1773 AD
III.	Shiva Temple	Ancient	Mauri Rulers	Renovated by Ahilya Devi – Holkar Dynasty
IV.	Nandi Sculpture	Ancient 4-5 th Century AD	Mauri Craftman of Sculpture Artist	Sculpture represented in Display-India Festival at Washington
V.	Uma-Maheshawar	Ancient 4-5 th Century AD	Mauri Craftman of Sculpture Artist	Sculpture represented in Display-India Festival at Washington
VI.	Lord Ganesha	12 th Century AD	Parmar Rulers	Special Artistic Sculpture

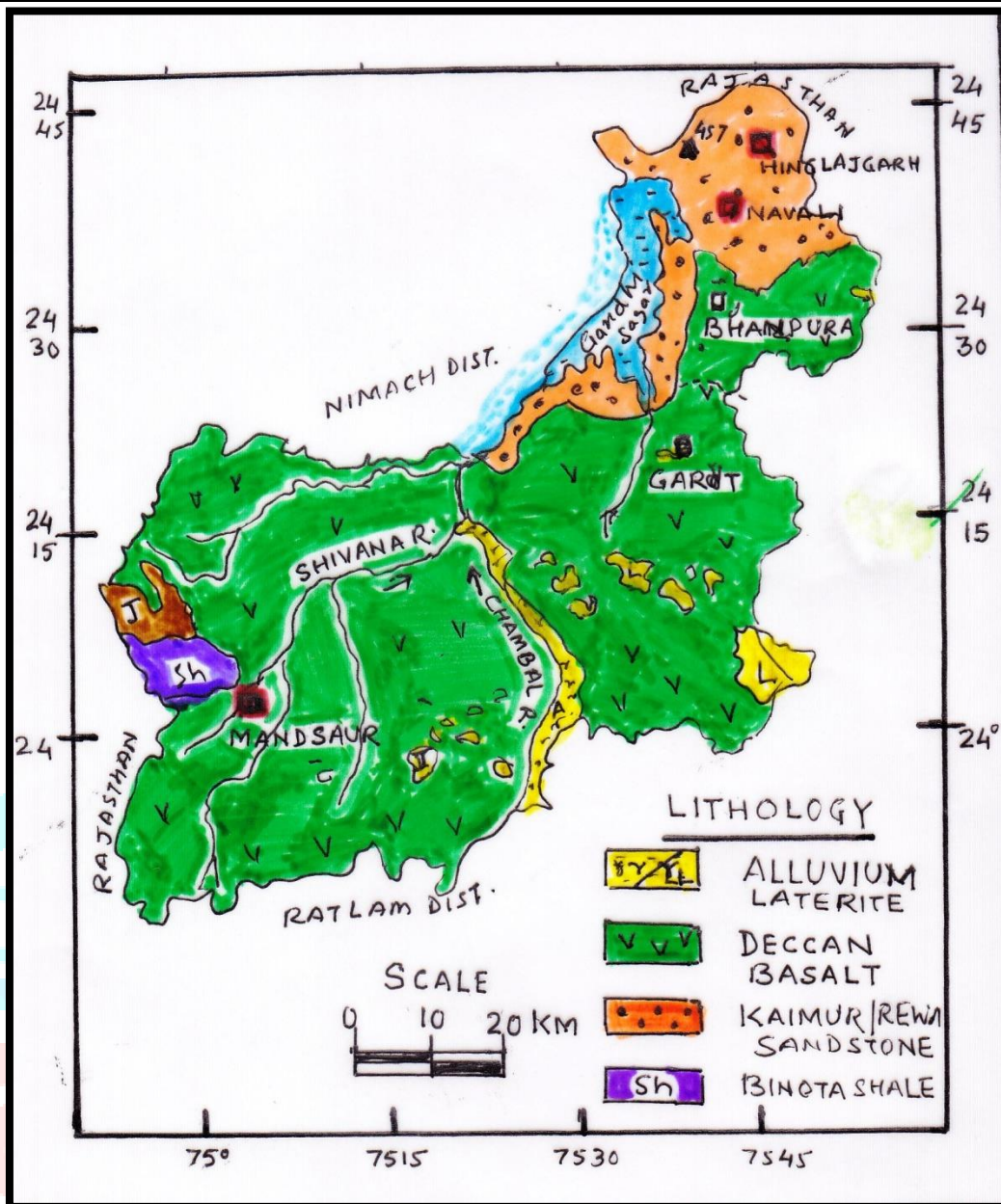
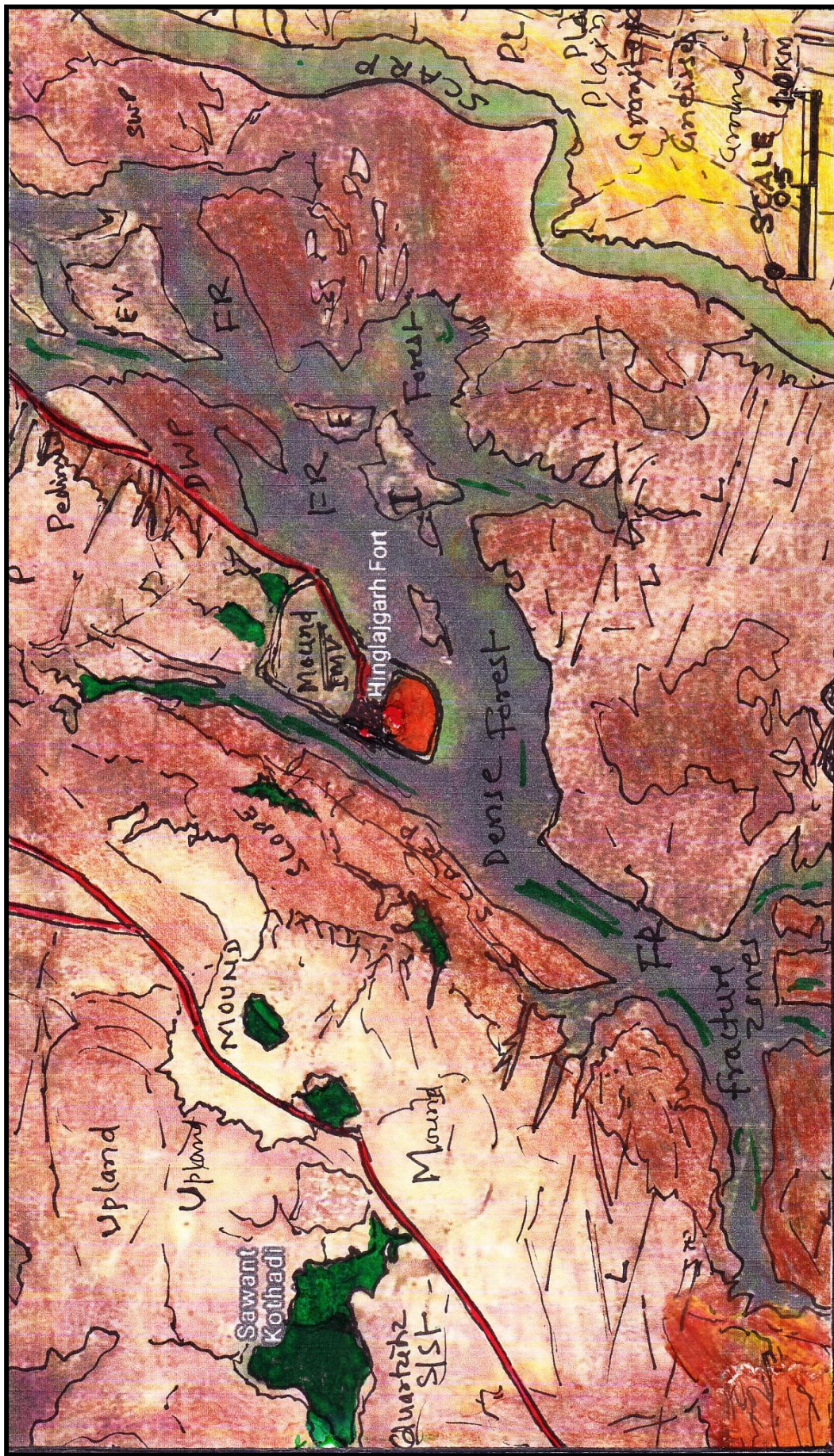


FIG. I HINGLAJGARH – LITHOLOGY – ROCK TYPES
(MANDSAUR DIST. M.P.) Source-CGWB (2013)



IMV- Intermountain Valley DWP- Deep Weathered Pediment L- Lineament FR- FOREST
 P- Pediment PL- Plains U- Upland M- Mound F- Fracture Zone

FIG. II HINGLAJ FORT – GEOLOGIC-GEOMORPHIC SET-UP

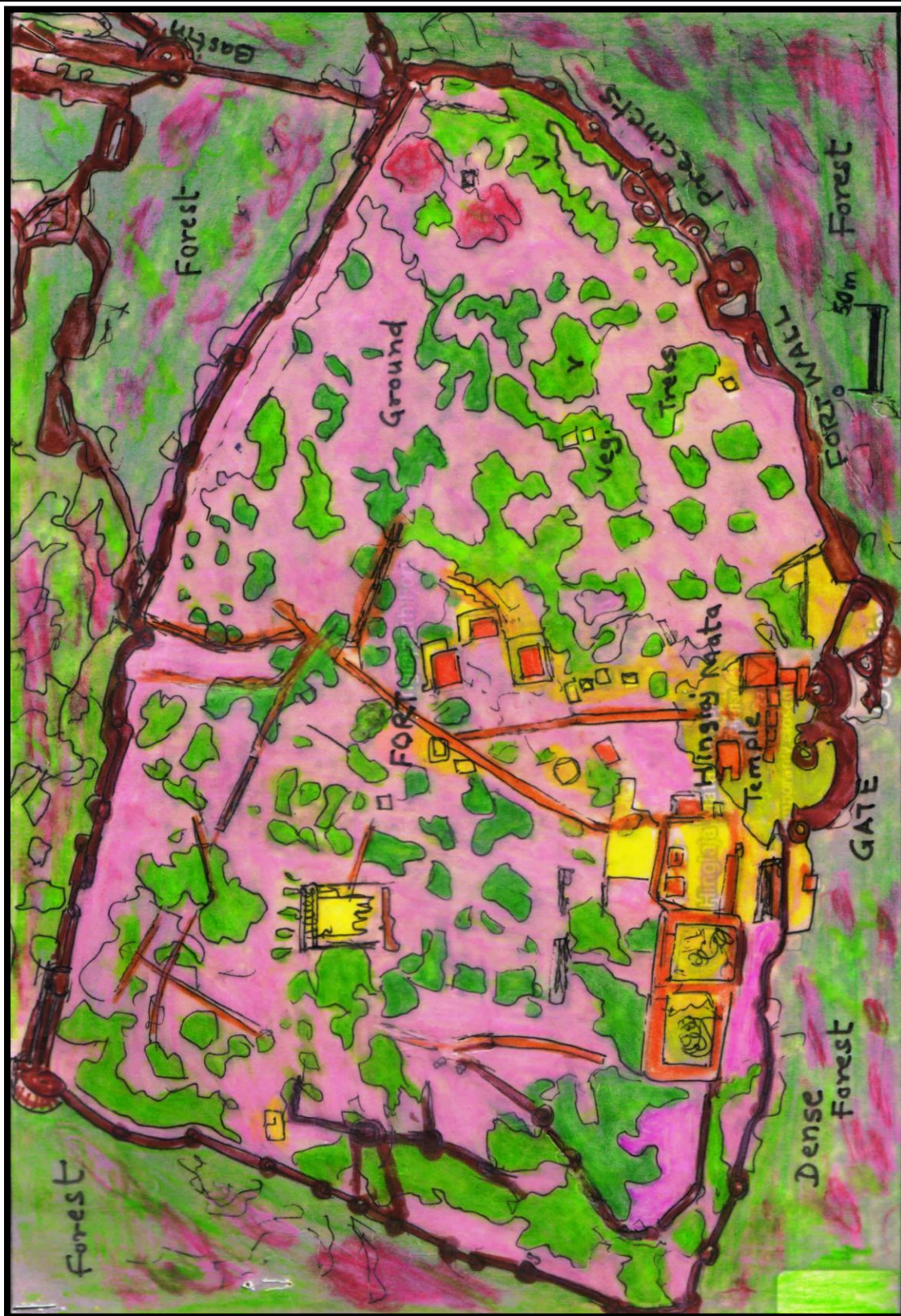
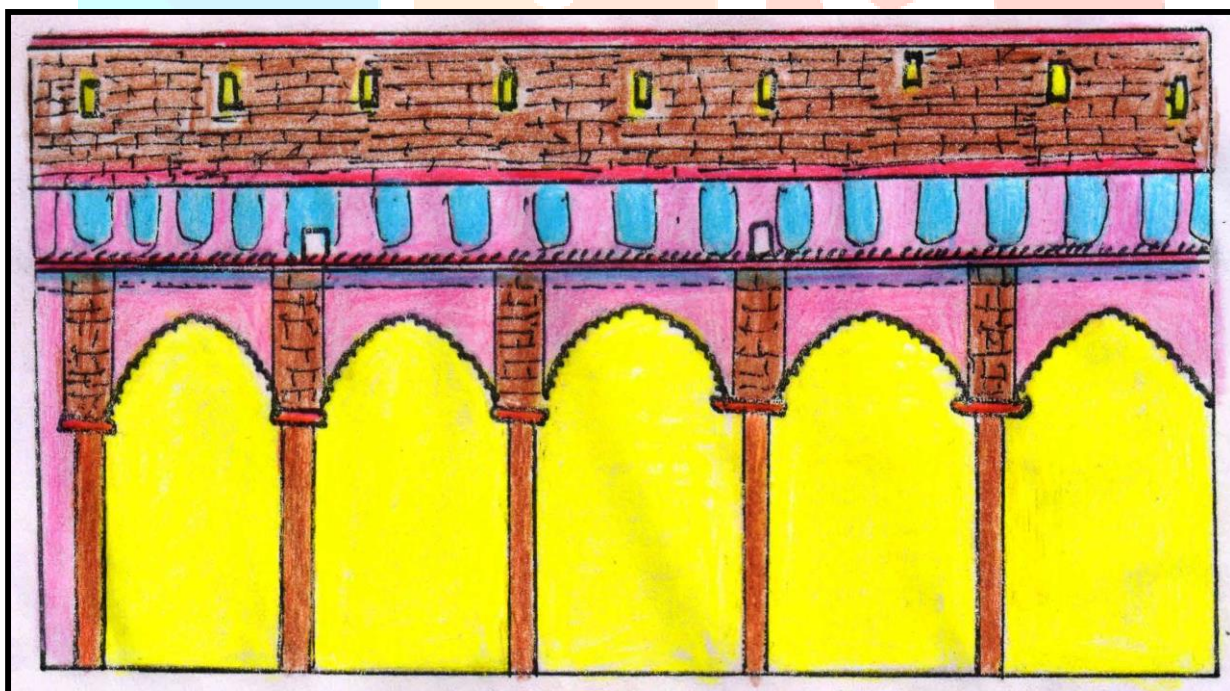


FIG. III ANCIENT HINDU FORT - HINGLAJGARH CONFIGURATION

Based on Satellite Image © Dr. H.D. DIWAN, 2020



**FIG. IV HINGLAJGARH FORT – SURAJ KUND
(WATER RESERVOIR)**



**FIG. V HINGLAJGARH FORT – DARBAR HALL
(Architecture)**



FIG. VI HINGLAJGARH FORT – FATEH BURJ (BASTION)
(Dilapaedic Condition)

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