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PALACE ARCHITECTURE IN WESTERN ODISHA:

“A CASE STUDY ON BORASAMBAR RAJBATI” PADAMPUR”

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ABSTRACT

In Odisha, where the princely states acquired a key place in Indian history and its freedom movement, palace architecture tourism was late to take off. Now the royal descendants have begun to showcase the glory of their ancestral palaces as a tourist place. Though a new concept in the state, palace tourism would not only help local communities, it could bring in the resources required to maintain such royal heritage that hold such immense historic and cultural value. Royal palaces have always acted as the perfect gateway into the rich past of the country. These sprawling and living monumental structures which stand testimony to country's immeasurable treasure of history have now emerged as the nerve centers of heritage tourism. A taste of royalty apart, these palaces offer a peek into the great Indian cultural spectrum. The study highlight on Palace Architecture in Western Odisha, A Case Study on Borasambar, Borasambar' a part of ancient South-Kosala, situated in western Odisha, cover the area of 841 square miles included 476 villages comprising modern day Padampur, Paikmal, Gaislet, Jharbandh & four panchayat of Sohela block. Towards the eastern boundary of Borasambar Agalpur, in western side Nuapada district is located & towards the northern boundary Phuljhar of Chhatishgarh & towards of south Patanagarh of Bolangir distract is located. From the passage of time many thing has been changed of this Gadjata or Rajships but till today the palace (Rajbati) of Borasambar is standing & it is the true witness of history, which attract many tourist from across the country.

Borasambar's palace(Rajbati) is a magnificent work stand in the heart of Padampur, It was built during the time of Rajendra Singh Bariha (1899-1937) Rajabati coverage with an area of 6acre land comprising several building named as Anta Pura, Bhandar(store) Darbar(court), Hati Sal(elephant shelter), Ghoda Sal(stable), Raj Ghat, Rani

Bandh, Akhada Sal, Gambuj or tower was built near the pond, where lions & cheetah were kept. The main gate known as Singh Dwar of the Rajbati is about 40 feet height, the building having 3 stairs. Magar Jor Ghat (Raj Ghat) specially used for bathing for the royal family is still exist. King also built an artificial hill similar to Gandhmardan hill also a zoo to make the palace attractive.

Key Words: - Rajbati, Akhada, Hati Sal, Ghoda Sal, Rani Bandh, Singh Dwar, Anta Pura, Bhandar, Raj Ghat

Introduction

History is the mirror of our past & it gives us our true identity. However it has been found that regional history is a neglected aspect in historical writing. National history is not completed without a light to regional history. Regional history always speaks the history of the masses. To make our future generation awake about their region, the study of local and regional history is highly essential. The present study is based on Palace Architecture in Western Odisha. Western Odisha, India, extending from the Kalahandi district in the south to the Sundargarh district in the north. This region comprises Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Sundargarh and Athamallick Sub-division of Angul district. It is a transitional zone lying between the Chhatishgarh Plains on the west and the deltaic plains of coastal Odisha on the southeast. This region not only known for its socio-cultural richness, but also it famous for its art, architecture, sculpture, monument, building, fort & royal palaces, out of which Borasambar is one of the unique example of its royal building. Although many research works have been done on the history of Odisha, Borasambar region of West Odisha is a neglected field of research. The Borasambar region has its own significance in the field of art, architecture, which enriched the life and culture of the people.

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Amount of Light on (Rajabati)

Raj Borasambar royal building famous for its mega structural attractive work, located in the heart of Padampur & bear the witness of history of Borasambar. On the honour of Raja, especially this area is known as Raja Pada. This palace (Rajbati) was constructed in the reign of Rajendra Singh Bariha in 1899. Rjendra Singh Bariha, shifted its capital from Borasambar to Padampur for better communication of transport & well governing of administration. This geographical location is the best location to connect with Patnagarh - Bolangir Rajship in south - west, Ghensh Rajship in East, Phuljher Rajship.

Architectural Design

Borasambar Palace or Rajbati coverage 6 acre of land & it is well fortified by wall. The wall is standing with a height of 15 feet & the wide of the wall is 2.5feet, made of burnt bricks, in exchange of cement the material like Gur, Chuna, Harida & Bela has been used for its construction The roof of the royal palace has been supported

by beam made of wood & not a single piece of iron rod used for its construction. It consists of two blocks. Block one comprises Singh Dwar, Darbari & Vatika, where as Rajmahal that is the residence of royal family.

Singh Dwar

Singh Dwar, as it is represent by two lions at the entry of main gate is a three stairs building & the gate way of Rajbati built in an Indo-Islamic style of architecture. Main gate posses a height of 25 feet with dome structure & the door of the main gate was made up of wood (Sal) tree. It is comprises 13 rooms, specially used for the purpose of security & both external & internal connection with the royal family.

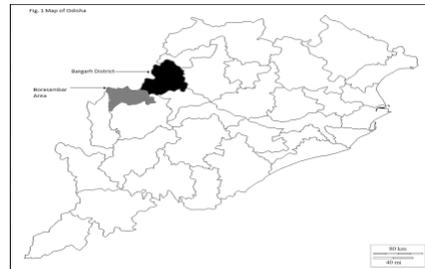


Fig1.Singh Dwa

Raj Darbari

This tower shape structure sands on 12 pillars & it was specially used by the king for justice & other administrative works, when people coming from different places of Borasambar Rajship & others Gadjat regions with their official work respectively.



Fig2.Darbar Hall

(Map)



ajbati Skecth

Rajmahal- Outdoor & Interior Design.

Palace or Rajmahal it coverage 4 acres that is the residential building for royal family divided into two broad blocks and each an every block is sub divided into 6 rooms that is called locally (Chha Bakhara). Each room is inter connected, so that no member of royal family need to come outside to enter other room .All rooms constructed in a parallel manner and named as Devi room, Bhandar Ghar, Majha Ghar & Batar Ghar, but there is a differencess of the room on the basis of seniority of the royal family. From the survey, it has found that the top most building was specially meant for Maharaja & Maharani (Chief King & Queen), the middle floor meant for Yubraj & YubRani & third floor is meant for family members & servants. The another feature of Rajmahal building is that each an every stair is connected by 16 steps & each step is 1feet.The length & wide of each an every room is 20 sq feet, decorated with horn of sambar that justify the name Borasambar.



Fig3. Rajmahal Gate



Fig4. Devi Pitaha



Fig5. Rajmahal Back site



Fig6. Raj Mahal Front



Fig7. View Inside



Fig8. Wall Rajbati

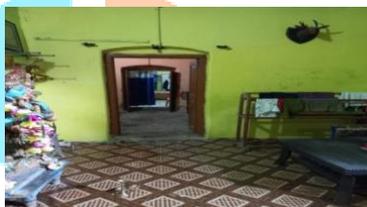


Fig9. Antapura



Fig10. Bhandar Ghar

Fig.3 shown the the main gate to Rajmahal, the height of the main gate is 15feet and the wide also 15 feet. The wide of the wall is 2.5feet made up of burnt bricks.This gate is connected between the Rajmahal & Singh Dwar.

Fig.4. It shown that , the Ista Devi of the royal family called Pat –Maheswari a form of Durga. All the weapons of that time used by the Raja has kept here.

Fig.5,6,7,9 & 10 shown the front & back site image of Rajmahal, as it is a 3 stories building, having 80feet length & 60 feet.The interior design is parallel and gentle.The royal building contain Antapura, Batar Ghar, Majha Ghar, Pooja Ghar, Bhandar Ghar & Kitchen.

Fig.8. shown about the wall of the Rajbati. It is a height of of 15feet and wide is 2.5feet. The wall surrounded the land area of 6 acres including Singh Dwar & Rajmahahl.

Rani Bandh

It is also a part of royal family & witness the history of Borasambar. It is located with a distance of 25 meter from the royal building towards west. From the royal building to Rani Bandh it is connected by a tunnel, so that nobody can see while the royal female members go for bath. The area of Rani Bandh is 2 acres in a square manner. There is a barricade which is made up of bricks to maintain the privacy of the royal ladies.



Fig11.Rani Bandh



Fig12. Raj Ghat



Fig13.Mar Ghati



Fig14.Magar Ghat

Fig.12. indicate the Raj Ghat, located 100 meter distance from the Rajbati This was used for the royal male members rituals work for the purpose of bathing & washing clothes. still many architectural work has exist .

Fig.13. shown the graveyard known as (Mar Ghati) only the dead body of the royal family has buried here. In burial ground the burial image has constructed on the basis of seniority and rank of the royal family.

Fig.14. shown that, there are 4 towers or (Gambuj) & each an every tower is 10feet height, specially used to keep cheetah, lion and crocodile (Magar).It is located near the Raj Ghat.

Objective of the Study:

The objectives of the present study are

- To highlight the regional history in a broad sense i.e. history of west Odisha in general & Borasanbar region in particular.
- To study the architectural site of Borasambar region.
- To highlight the rich cultural heritage of Borasambar region that found in palace architecture & sculptures etc.
- To give a comprehensive idea about the area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present work data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data are collected through field survey; interview and questionnaire where as published literature in the form of books and journals' article represent the secondary sources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

As this work is going to explore the palace architecture & tourism of Borasambar, the study will be of great interest to readers especially to the student of history. I hope this work will stimulate further studies on architectural history which is rarely conducted and will be helpful to the students in future. I hope the study also act as the frame of reference for similar study

Conclusion

It has been found that regional history is a neglected aspect in historical writing. National history is not completed without a light to regional history. Regional history always speaks the history of the people. To make our future generation awake about their region, the study of local and regional history is highly essential. Although many research works have been done on history of Odisha, Work on Borasambar of West Odisha is a neglected field of research. Borasambar has its own historical significance, which enriched the life and culture of the people.

Though many architecture has been study and at present we known about rock architecture, temple architecture, stone architecture, but the study of palace architecture of Borasambar is something different in western Odisha as a historical monument. No doubt the present study will help the researcher and history loving people for further research and study.

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