CHANDRAGIRI – RELICS OF A FALLEN EMPIRE

DR. P BHASKAR
LECTURER IN HISTORY,
S V ARTS COLLEGE, TIRUPATI,
ANDHIRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

The study discusses historical places Chandragiri, Raja Mahal, Chandragiri palace, a unique monument in its own right is made even more interesting due to its role during the last days of the Vijayanagara Empire. One of the first things that we can identify about the Chandragiri palaces (The ‘Raja mahal’ & the ‘Rani mahal’) is that there is a striking similarity in architecture between these monuments and some of the surviving royal buildings at Hampi, such as the Lotus mahal. Eventually the archeological survey of India took over the place, renovated it and the Raja mahal is currently used as a museum and administrative office. The fort also has some small Siva and Vishnu temples, mostly in a dilapidated condition. Some of them may predate the Vijayanagara period, but the shrines near the palace area do show design and workmanship that was contemporary to the monuments of Hampi. The roof lining is carefully done with stucco work depicting rich art, like different postures of dancing women. There is no timber used in the structure, the Mahal is entirely built with stones and mortar. The Rani Mahal is near to the Raja Mahal, however there is no residing proof if it were used exclusively for Rani’s, the first floor is something more looks like a stable. The fort has been built by the Vijayanagar rulers after the defeat of Vijayanagara kings in the battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi near Talikota (1565 AD), this can be treated as an significant importance indicating an end to the rulers of Raya’s period. After that the remaining ancestry has left Hampi to build a fort at Chandragiri. There are a couple of pictures from the Archeological Survey of India archives, which show the state of the palace in 1894.

KEY WORDS: Chandigiri, relics, Vijayanagara Empire.
REFERENCES:
