

## **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF MAHABALIPURAM HERITAGE CITY**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The objective of this paper is to portray the historical importance attached with Mahabalipuram rich heritage town. Numerous evidences speak volume about our cultural and heritage town near Chennai, Tamilnadu which symbolises our nation's pride. It is our duty to preserve and protect rich monuments, arts, music and our lifestyle of our people. It highlights the existence of our past history and its glory and need for maintenance for our future generations. It outlines the ruling, administration and devotion and commitment towards the religion and cultural ethos. It is necessary to retain and to uphold our national resources and face the challenges in the conservation of the historical places.

**Keywords:** Culture, religion, heritage, Shore temple, conservation

### **1.1. INTRODUCTION:**

Mahabalipuram declared as a historic city by UNESCO World Heritage site from Tamil Nadu, India. During the reign of the and much popular Pallava dynasty, between the third century CE and 7th century CE, it became an significant centre of art, structural design and literature. This paper attempt to explain the following the link which are related trade, business, ruling methods shore temple, Culture, religion, heritage, conservation.

### **1.2. TRACING THE HISTORY OF MAHAPALIPURAM: LINKING WITH CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TRADE**

Mahabalipuram got its name after the demon king Mahabali. The history of the city goes beyond the Pallava dynasty. It was a seaport city since the 1st century and was used by traders for travelling abroad. The city flourished and was brought to limelight in the 7th to 9th century under the Pallava rule. It is believed that **the King Narsimha Varman I who went by the name Mamallan because of his immense brawl skills. Pallava ruling made Mahabalipuram as their head capital, now it has become world heritage site.** The city takes pride in the stone carved sculptures, temples, and man-made curvings, and white sandy beaches.

This place situated on the outskirts of Chennai 55km away. UNESCO declared World Heritage site along the Bay of Bengal. The name of this place came in to existence by 'mamallan' that is the great fighter which is bestow on Pallava king Narasimhavarman.

World popular rock-cut caves and art significant for this heritage site. It very oldest ancient port city. It is well for silk and Sea trade from this port. This site is protected by the [ASI] Archaeological Survey of India. Recent visit by China president also adds the value to this city. It is available by Hiuen Tsang famous in his travel history.

There is strong evidence and we are having evidence for the trade relationships our neighbouring country China. The so called architecture in developed by Narasimhavarman I and II. This place for best known for the caves and artistic work and the five monolithic

rathas, credit to the special carvings and their drawing pandavas. The Shore Temple rock carving are, are the main attractions. Arjuna's Penance is the largest sculpture in the world. It is evident that the trade route from Mahabalipuram to China marks the importance of historical place. Natural catastrophe and with changing time Mamallapuram. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Tamil Nadu that surprises everyone with its intricately carved temples, rock-cut caves and monolithic structures. Mahabalipuram also flourish as a momentous centre of art, architecture and literature during their reign. The places of unearthing happen to be a seaport like rock city. The palaeography matching confirms the stone inscriptions belong to the 13th century. Historically affluent Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly. Mahabalipuram in place showcase centuries of rich and cultural city in Indian history.

### **1.3. SAGA OF TEMPLE, ARCHITECTURE DESIGN AND RELIGION**

The so called "Temple City of India" near Chennai Tamil Nadu, exposes you to some of the excellent pieces of architecture. The architectural awesome sight created history by Pallavas, Cholas, Pandya, Vijayanagar and the Nayaks who left with great memory which is exciting many with tradition and heritage site. It is rare king monuments, art, cultural, beauty, techniques, knowledge, design skills of planning and execution, intellectual presentation are even today it attraction world tourists. This historical pace bring the time of ancient time dates back, including the Sangam Age that is the credit. It is great learn people are involved trade and able to travel across sea route and created port city in the name of Kanchipuram as headquarters. The plentiful archaeological glimpse remains seen even today. It is culminations our ancient skill sets speaks that is capable wonder in the design of sophisticated and attaching religion. It is evidence how people lived in the past and maintain human habitation during the period of 15,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE.

The name Mamallapuram or otherwise called Mahabalipuram the term derived from the great king who ruled this place is called by the name of "Mamallan" or "great warrior". The title by which the Pallava King Narasimhavarman I (630-668 AD) was well known based on his successor and his lot of achievement for the development of his ruling. During his supremacy the enough evidence speaks that Hiuen Tsang, the familiar Chinese Buddhist monk-traveller who visited the Kanchipuram town which are known as "Temple city", in Tamilnadu.

Narasimhavarman II (c.700-728 AD), also called as Rajasimhan, continues to built and develop the work of Pallava kings. Their involvement in the form merchant links with southeast Asia are evident in the history. The famous historian in the name of Tansen Sen who recorded in his 2003 (work about Buddhism), on diplomacy and trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian relationships during the period of 600-1400. The king Narasimhavarman-2 sent a task to the Tang court in 720 with a ask for that would seem extraordinary in the circumstance of India-China relations even in the present day.

According to Archeological Survey of India (ASI), it was a sea-port during the time of Periplus (AD 1) and Ptolemy (AD 140), and many Indian colonist sailed to South-East Asia through this port town. While there is some evidence of architectural activity going back to the period of Mahendravarman-I (AD 600-30).

Another interesting observation in the history of Pallava history is said to be nowhere to be found as compared to the great Mughals, who came to India later. The history of Pallavas is mostly in dedication and scrappy, making it tricky to bring back to life facts.

#### **1.4. SHORE TEMPLE: HISTORY**

Marco Polo and the European trader who came to South Asia after him called the site “Seven Pagodas” which is great monuments and more of artistic skills. The seven Pagodas are called “Shore Temple”, that is rock-cut temple. The place of worship probably came as a familiar sight for map-reading of their ships. The so called Pagoda, the name became recognizable as the seafarers. Shore Temple (The 8th century AD), is one of the ancient rock cut temples which represent the symbol of ancient designs, carving art and structure. Seven Pagodas by the legends and is one of the finest places of port city Mahabalipuram. It can be witnessed with the ornamental top of the temple covered with monument and statuette which describes the beauty of the word. For long time the temple is footing strong by design and support that resists it from wearing down. Ideally it is located at the shore of Bay of Bengal which adds a beautiful view of gigantic ocean. This temple has 3 shrines where 2 of them are devoted to Lord Shiva (destroyer by Hindu religion) and the other one is for Lord Vishnu (The protector). The place is very clean and display the array of its beauty and advantages and favoured with existing location attracted many tourists both Indian national and foreign tourists.

#### **1.5. PALLAVA DYNASTY**

The city of Mamallapuram (7th century AD), was bring into being by the Pallava king (Narasimhavarman-1) in the pavilions and shrines shaped as temple chariots, which are standing height and from stone carving from the granite rock-face. Here are the for the most part renowned tourist appeals in Mahabalipuram:

- Arjuna's Penance
- Cave Temples
- Crocodile Farm
- India Seashell Museum
- Krishna's Butterball
- Mahabalipuram (Mammallapuram) Dance Festival and
- Shore Temple
- Thirukadalmallai or Sthalasayana Perumal Temple

#### **1.6. DEVELOPMENT OF CHOLA REGIME**

- The trade link among china and India burgeon during Cholas kingdom.
- It spread over beyond Mahabalipuram and rich tapestry of civilization, ethnicity, art and structural design and reaches up to modern day and times.
- Indo-China meet at Mahabalipuram is the evidence history of the past.
- It noteworthy to see both Muslim and Hindu lived together as neighbors for centuries.

- When Islam started arriving during in India's east coast by 9th century, trading with China by maritime routes flourished.
- It is evident that business of Cholas and with Muslims is found that it is long time journey.
- These Muslims were associate of the Tamil-speaking Muslim neighborhood, called Ilappai on the Coast.
- Even today, the ancient port of (Marakanam) is a fishing community, known for its Muslim boat-makers.

#### **1.8. BEAUTY OF SHORE TEMPLE AND ITS FEATURES**

- Shore temples are, located on the coastline in Tamil Nadu.
- There is a unique combination of three pilgrimages.
- The Shore Temple is one of the historical and fine-looking temples.
- Temple is built at Mahabalipuram is 50 km away from south of Madras city (currently renamed as Chennai) , a coastal village.
- The excellence and credit goes to Rajasimha who made and took lot of strain during.
- Pictures of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu with their beautiful polygonal dome are made on a rock in the temple.
- Temple is a spectacular specimen of its architectural artistic skills of the past.
- Temple has been acknowledged a world inheritance by UNESCO devastated by wind and sea.
- It is built by adopting pyramid style resting on a 60 feet high and 50 feet square platform.

#### **1.9. CONCLUSION:**

It is good to recall the work of our great scholars for their work, and their involvement in arts, culture, religion and faith of God. The existence of port confirms our cultural and tradition with our ancestors who brilliant in creation and masters in architecture, sculpture and wonder the learning. One must embrace these entire things to maintain to preserve the natures beauty and manmade sculpture and national monuments which are maintained by the Govt of India and Tamilnadu. Let us unite all by any means to keep our rich tradition and our earlier mammoth lifestyle of our wonder land. One must feel happy to take in to the next generations together...

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