



**THE MONUMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF VIJAYAPURA OF DEVANAHALLI
TALUK-AN OVERVIEW**

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Abstract:

Vijayapura is a mercantile town in Devanahalli Taluk of Bangalore Rural District previously known as Vadigenahalli is famous for Trade and Silk production. The present study aims to depict a historical understanding of the place encompassing its cultural heritage by exploring its monuments like temples, forts, trade and commerce activities, culture and traditional celebrations like, fairs, festivals and so on.

Key Words: Historical place, historical background, monuments, trade and commerce, culture and traditions.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study aims to;

1. To understand the historical background of Vijayapura town
2. To study the heritage of the place through its temples, forts, monuments etc
3. To explore the cultural heritage of the place with regard to its social, economic, religious and cultural activities

Methodology:

The present study is based on the review of literature available in the form of books, journals, newspapers and other documents and internet resources. The same has been reviewed and discussed in this article.

Introduction:

Vijayapura is a mercantile town in Devanahalli Taluk of Bangalore Rural District. It is located 10 Km north-west to Devanahalli and 47 Km away from Bangalore. It is near to Devanahalli and also to the Bangalore International Airport too. Vijayapura's old name is Vadigenahalli, local people still refer Vijayapura as Vadigenahalli. The town is famous for Trade and Silk. Hence, it is called silk city of Bangalore Rural District. It is fast growing commercial centre in the district. Vijayapura is a hobli headquarter and Municipality. It is also known as "Harihara Sangama Kshetra".

Vijayapura mentioned in the inscriptions as vadigehalli (*DV-15, Dv-33, SDL-56*) Vadigenehalli (*DV-16, 30, 34, 37, 70, 71 SDL-53, HT-95*) Vadigeyahalli (*DV-29*) Vadigihalli (*SDL-18*) Vadigehalli and adjacent places were under Anjadunadu (*DV-29, 32*) Vadigenahalli (Vijayapura) was a part of Gangawadi and later came under the control of Rashtrakutas, Nolamba, Pallavas, Cholas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagara Empire and Wodeyar's of Mysore. The Monuments and cultural heritage of Vijayapura have been discussed as below.

Temples:

The place has temples dedicated to Nagareshwara, Channakeshava, Someshwara, Veerabhadra, Yellamma, Gangamma etc., The Nagareshwara temple is the striking monument of the town. It is a huge temple with a spacious inner prakara and the entrance to the south having a tall brick and mortar



Rayagopura having beautiful stucco figures in typical Mysore style. The temple is facing east and has a Mukhamantapa having a hara over its frontal roof with mortar niches having fine floral ornamentation and inside them are placed varieties of stucco images. There is Navaranga having pillars in Mysore style. The Nageshwara Linga inside the Garbhagriha is said to have been installed by one Basappa son of Kallanna around 1845 A.D. Beside this, in a separate cell, is the image of Adinarayana swamy, said to have been installed by one Appe Shamappa son of Kallanna in 1859 A.D. Outside the temple, adjacent to the gateway on the right side is a small temple of Kodandarama built inside the outer wall.

The Channakeshava temple, a huge structure also built in Mysore style has two Mukhamantapas. The inner Mukhamantapas has Vijayanagara pillars engraved with beautiful relief sculptures. The outer Mukhamantapa, perhaps added by the Mysore rulers has Dashavatars images carved on the pillars. The main deity enshrined in garbhagriha, Channakeshava is having Vijayanagara features and is accompanied by his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi. There is a spacious linear prakara having four shrines enshrining Subramanya, Andal, Lakshmi and Kalinga Mardhana with Sudarshan Alwar. The Garbhagriha has Vijayanagara Shikhara and its outer wall has beautiful relief sculptures depicting episodes from Bhagavata. Inside the compound is an inscription dated 1729. A.D (*DV-30*) by Dodda Bairapa Gaudaraya grandson of Immadi Sonna Baire Gauda of Avatinada Prabhu granting two villages Settihalli and Angatta for the services of God Channakeshava in Vadigenahalli belonging to Devanapura (Devanahalli).

The Someshwara temple in Vijayanagara style has square as well as octagonal pillars in the Navaranga engraved with relief sculptures. The ceiling of the Navaranga has an image of Uma-Maheshwara surrounded by Ashtadikpalas in relief. The outer Mantpa is perhaps, added in 1795 as there is an inscription in the ceiling on the outer walls of the Garbhagriha are fine relief sculptures.

The Omkareshwara temple situated in the precincts of a Matha locally called Gurappawamy Matha. The temple must have been the Gavareshwara of the inscription with a big stone tank in the front, an inscription stone to the west of the Anjaneya temple (now lost) is dated 1352 A.D. It is of Vira Pratapa of Vijayanagara and announces several grants made to god Gavareshwara in the days of Naganna Dannayaka in Vadigenahalli, said to be Anjadunadu. The Gavreshwara is perhaps the present Omkareshwara of the place. The Garbhagriha is surrounded by small cells, each enshrining a Linga. Inside the temple are beautiful images of Surya (ancient), Trimukha Saraswati, Veerabhadra, etc. Beside the temple Omkareshwara, on the right is the Matha building having a Gadduge of the saint Gurappaswamy, who hailed from Pattanayakanahalli (Tumkur Dist), described as having lived here about 250 years ago. He was a disciple of Nilagiri swamy, whose Gadduge is also found beside the former. The car festival of the God Omkareshwara is held on Phalguna Poorna day.

The Dharmaraya temple, a modern structure, now being renovated. There are wooden images of Draupadi and Arjuna (Utsavamurtis) inside the central sanctum are stone images of Dharmaraya and Krishna. The annual karaga is held on phalguna poornima day when thousands of people assemble. There are separate shrines of Kumaraswamy (Mysore style), Sangameshwara, Anjaneya, Gangamma etc.

Outside the Vijayapura is a Veeragararagudi of the Kuruba community. There are more than 30 hero-stones (some enshrined) in the area and some of them have figures of a man, women and a child, Vijayapura also has mosque with prominently visible Minars, on the Devanahalli Road (2 Km from Vijayapura) is a Dargah ascribed to Jangli Peer Baba. One more Dargah in the outskirts of the town ascribed to Adaviswamy, a Muslim Peer, and Urus is held here.

Conclusions:

The Vijayapura town, though a small place has lot of historical significance as a place of political power and religious activities. Besides, it is also a noted trade and commerce centre which has flourished with silk business and market activities as well. As a place of culture and traditions, it has



kept supporting lot of religious and cultural activities that are kept alive even today. Hence, it can be concluded that the place is of great importance in understanding our history and cultural heritage. Like I want to have many more

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