



चांगु काना ठाकूर महाविद्यालय, नवीन पनवेल येथे झालेल्या ४ थ्या अधिवेशनाचे उद्घाटन व्यासपीठावर प्रमुख पाहुणे डॉ. मीना तालीम, डॉ. जे.व्ही. नाईक, को.इ. परिषदेचे अध्यक्ष डॉ. अश्वक्ष डॉ. दाऊद दळवी, कार्यवाह श्री. सदाशिव टेटविलकर, डॉ. कुरुश दलाल आणि डॉ. शशिकांत रॉय



कोकण इतिहास परिषदेचा जीवन गौरव पुरस्कार स्वीकारताना डॉ. जे.व्ही. नाईकसर व त्यांच्या पत्नी

कोकण इतिहास परिषद

शोध निबंध संग्रह
(खंड ४)

सी.के. ठाकूर महाविद्यालय, नवीन पनवेल येथे संपन्न झालेल्या कोकण इतिहास परिषदेच्या वतुर्थ अधिवेशनात सादर झालेल्या निवडक शोधनिबंधांचा संग्रह

प्रमुख संपादक
डॉ. विजय अनंत कुलकर्णी
इतिहास विभाग,
सोनुभाऊ बसवंत महाविद्यालय,
वहलूर, जि. ठाणे

संपादन मंडळ
प्रा. गोतम गोविंद सोनवणे
प्रा. रमिला गायकवाड
प्रा. संतोष गायकवाड
प्रा. भालचंद्र शिंदे



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Elephanta island also shows that the increase in the sea-level in the first sixth or seven centuries after Christ were perhaps responsible for the submergence of the wharf-cum jetty.

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Multi-religious Heritages of Thane

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Thane city is the abode of multi-religious faiths. Strategically important Thane always remained the centre of attraction for foreigners as well as many indigenous dynasties..Thane was earlier known as Shri-sthanak. It has been situated on western banks of Thane Creek, surrounded by Parsik hills in the East and Yeoor hills on the West. The Creek and hilly surroundings provided natural protection to the land. It also facilitated transport of ships thereby developing trade and commerce. Suitable geographical conditions, easy navigation and rich natural beauty enhanced the importance of the land. Continuous trading connections and rule of foreigners as well as indigenous rulers left traces of different religious monuments. For centuries, the harmonious spirit of Thane has been patronising all heritages which represent different religious faiths of the world.

Prosperity of thane attracted many invaders. In 636 AD, Thane was plundered by Usman bin Asi Sakifi, the Governor of Baharin and Oman. (1) In 660 AD Thane was sacked by Arabs. (2) According to Shilahara copper-plate of 1018 AD. Thane was the chief town of Shilahara dynasty. [3] Two Shilahara inscriptions of 1026 AD and 1094 AD mentioned that Shri-sthanak was a chief port. [4]. In 1153 AD, Idrisi mentions the city as pretty town[5]. Thane city became well known port city in 13th centuryAD. In 1273, Ab-ul-Fida called Thane as the best city [6]. Popular historian Ibn Batuta in 1344, mentions Thane as chief port city from where ships of large burden went to Aden.[7].All references shows that Thane was an important city during ancient and medieval time.

From 9th to 15th century AD the city was ruled by Shilahara and Bimb Hindu dynastyies and Muslim rulers of Gujarat. From 16th to 18th century AD, it experienced the rule of Portuguese, Maratha and British. Due to presence of different religious communities as a ruler, as a traveller and as a subject, Thane became the Centre of multi-religious monuments.

Thane city is the land of temples. Among them some temples are old temples. Shilahara dynasty ruled Thane from 810 to 1260 AD. They were worshipper of Lord Shiva. Many temples of Lord Shiva were constructed during their period. Among them the Kopineshwer temple is most popular. it was destructed by Portuguese and later re-constructed by Sur subedhar Ramji Mahadeo Bivalkar in about 1760 When Salsette had captured by Marathas [8]. It formerly enjoyed an yearly government allowances of Rs.105 and was repaired in 1879 by the Hindu community, at the cost of Rs 8000. [9] The principal deity of this temple is Shiva Linga Which is of 5 feet diameter and 5 feet tall. This is the biggest Shiva-linga in Maharashtra [10] Within the holy enclosure of the Kopineshwer temple, there are several small shrines dedicated to Brahmadeva , Ramamaruti, Shitala devi, uttareshwar and kalika Devi, Ganpati, Maruti, Dkhnimukhi anuman, Kalpabriksha vashisth kamdhenu, Shri Dutt temple, Das maruti, Garuda, gayatri etc. Opposite to the shrine of kalika devi, there is another shrine dedicated to Gayatri Devi in front of which there are two lamp posts. Kalika devi temple formally enjoyed government allowance of Rs.42 and Rs.60 per annum, [11]. At the main entrance of the temple , there is Shiva's bullock or Nandi. Above which is constructed

Nagarkhana drum chamber. By the side of the entrance to the main shrine are two lamp posts the Shalankha or the Pindi which are made of white marble. The shrine dedicated to Shri Rama and Shri Hanuman has been renovated recently. It has been maintained by Kopineshwar Trust from 1952 to till date. Different activities are organised as public activities such as Shri Ramjanmotsav, Shri Hanuman Jayanti, Shankara charya Jayanti, Sarvajanic Ganesh utsav, Shri Dhanantri Jayanti Tripuri Purnima Gita jayanti, Duttjayanti Mahashiva ratri, Maharudrabhishek etc [12]. It established a Library in 1977. It is known as Gyan Kendra. Here there are 8378 books in Hindi, Marathi, Gujrat and English From 19th years Gyan Kendra has been organising Sammelan on Religion and philosophy [13]

Another old Hindu temple is Ghantali temple. According to Rajayaptra, this temple got financial grant of Rs.4 during Peshwa period. Dutt temple near Chendani- Koliwada was constructed in 1880.

The John Baptist church is the oldest church of Thane. It was constructed by Portuguese in 1663. It is situated in the north side of

Masunda Lake which was earlier known as Saint Anthony Lake. The building is originally dedicated to St. Antony of Padua by Franciscan friars about 1540. [13] When the original church of Saint John the Baptist was destroyed .Saint Anthony church was made the Parish church and dedicated to St. the Baptist .It is said that in order to build the church and convent of St. Anthony, Antonio do Porto pulled down 12 Pagodas Which were round a great lake. [14] The Church bears the date 1609, at a side door way of the south end of the has 1663 and the main entrance has 1725.

St.James church is located near jail Talao and Thane post office. It is a protestant church popularly known as English Church. It was built in 1825 at the cost of Rs.48, 089. This ancient church is beautifully constructed in Gothic architectural style. The length is 90 feet, width is 60 feet and height from the top of the steeple is 70 feet. At the main entrance of the church there are 6 pillars measuring height of 15 feet which is surrounding a magnificent 350 square feet and 24 feet high porch made of Greek stone. The main centre of the church is adorned with wooden ceiling and it is 55 feet wide with a height of 24 feet.

There were British soldiers and officers in charge of prison inside Thane Fort. They had additional duty to safeguard the mercantile ships from sea pirates. The need for a protestant church arose for these British soldiers and their families. [15] It was constructed by Governor of Bombay, Mount Stuart Elphinstone with the help of Captain Tetean Architect in the army [16]. During that time Rev.Reginold Heber came to Pune to consecrate the church. He travelled to Thane through dense forest of sahyadri mountain. He consecrated and named it as St.James church in the memory of James a disciple of Jesus Christ on 25th July 1825 [17]. After independence most of the British soldier left for England and Australia thus the church membership reduced to a handful of 4-6 families. After 1962, Thane was industrialised and the parsonage of church compound was taken up by the Mulund cement company. In the church yard, there is an oldest cemetery. There are some old tombs inside it such as John Vaugan dated 1780, of Charles Driffeld dated 1784 and of STEPHEN Babington dated 1822 [18]. The church which was managed by the government until the dawn of independence is now under the administration of Bombay Diocesan trust association. The chief priest of the church is Rev.Vishwas P. Ingle, the secretary is Adv.Sunil Bhakre and the treasure is Shri Sandesh Hiwale.

Thane has an old Synagogue Worship place of Jews. It is known as Shaar Hashamaim-Gate of Heaven" and it is an important centre of Jewish activities. Jews in Thane are called Bene-Israel, a historic community in India who live in harmony with other religious communities. Today 40% of Jewish Population in India is residing in and around Thane. The foundation stone of this Synagogue Which was led on 26th March 1878 and completed on 29th Dec. 1879 and consecrated on 30th Dec.1879.The synagogue was renovated in 1999.[19]

Thane was a fort city having military head quarters and also the Maratha rulers ruled from this fort city. Most of the Jews held high position in military regime like Subedar, Major, Mukadam and Surdar Bahadur and so on. The Jews had contribution in constructing the famous Parsik Tunnel land also in laying the first railway track between Bombay and Thane in 1853.

Parsi Agiyari of Thane was constructed by Cawsji Rousmji Patell in 1780.The Parsi settlements of Thane and chaul in the north Konkan existed much before the coming of the Muslim invaders to Gujrat. Arab traveller Misar Bin Mukhalihal noted that in Saimur or Chaul ,there were Mussalmans, Christians, Jews and Fire worshipers and in the city there were mosques, Chirstain churches,Synagogues and fire temples.[20] Kanehri inscription of 1009 and 1021 also indicate Parsi presence in konkan. It may be one of the reason that due to invasion and rule of Muslim ruler in 14th century they migrated from Gujrat to Thane.Till the 17th century the population of Thane increased in Thane. Some of the Shilahara inscription mentioned about Parsi settlement in Thane.One grant was made in 1081 to Khorasan

Mandli.Three grants were were made in 1018,1026 and in 1094AD to Hanjaman a possible corruption of Anjuman, a term used by Zoroastrians to mean society or Community. Three decades ago there only handful Zoroastrian families domiciled in the four century old Thane The burden of Keeping alive along with the regular performing of religious ceremonies which was managed by one Modeb Saheb .[21]Later Agiyari was constructed by the efforts of Community members. At present Mr.Besania and some other trustees are managing the Agiyari.

There are two Jain temples are in Thane at near Tembhi Naka.The new temple took about 20 years to complete and the construction started before First World War. The temple had two majestic elephant in marble at the entrance. It has an inner

chamber. The entire wall of inner chamber depicts pictorial form. [22] The colourful ornamented walls look majestic. This temple is open for all It is maintained by Shri Rishabh ji Maharaj Jain Dharma and Jati trust,Thane .The chief trustee is Mr.Narmalji .

There are old settlements of Muslim in Mahagiri, Tembhi, Hazuri, Rabodi and Kalwa. There is an 350 years old mosque in Mahagiri that is known as Jama masjid.[23] It was repaired during the seventies of the last century by the widow of Jusab Menu of a cost of 10,000.It formally received an allowance of Rs.20.[24]In Rabodi there are two 300 years old masjids Jumma Masjid and Nur Masjid.[25]

Multi —Religious thane city is growing and expanding fast because all these communities are living peacefully. Harmonious spirit of Thane city is giving patronage to every religious community and religious monument. It can be said, "Thane is a mini India".

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