

City, Landscape and Defence; A Case Study of Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park

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The term 'Fort' in its entire facet epitomizes the intricacy of human psychology. It is a manifestation of human behaviour, which incorporates their resultant thoughts and strivings. However, the judgmental choice of establishing a fortified settlement is always a hypercritical process that encompasses the susceptibility of catchment exploitation in terms of natural resources as well as its interactions with other associated locale. The present study thus aims to comprehend this kind of parallels by studying one of the old cities historical Gujarat, Champaner – Pavagadh (73°27' E - 73°36' E and 22°25' N - 22°32' N). A city which emerged as the capital of Sultanate Gujarat state (1484 AD) by means of constant political upsurges in the surrounding region of modern day Guajrat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The study based on topographical attributes around the region, points out that the capital city is placed upon a unique landscape. Part of the Aravalli hill range (Patel 1972) the Pavagadh hill is one of the few hills that covers the entire region. Thus, for a better understanding, the paper will attempt to answer how the architectural settings around the region were used to protect the city from the surroundings.

The results suggests that the Pavagadh hill holds a unique position around the locale and the five plateaues of the hill were actually in use for construction activities. This testifies to the uniqueness of landscape and it's relation with the development of the city. It can be identified as a multilayer defense model was created to protect the city from the surrounding. The entire paper will be divided in two sections. One section will describe a detail of the architectural settings and the other section will analyse the same with the help of GIS technologies based on detail topographic data of the surroundings.

Keywords: champaner – pavagadh, defense architectures, GIS, topography