

## **Material for Indian Archaeology- A Review 2003-04**

### **Dharwad Circle, Dharwad**

#### **(a) Scientific Debris Clearance at Pattadakal (Bachinagudda) (2003-2004):**

As per the approval of the Directorate for the Scientific Debris Clearance at Pattadakal for the year 2003-04, the work has been taken up under the direction of Sri. S.V. Venkateshaiah, assisted by J. Varaprasada Rao, M. Kasturi Bai, M. Kalimuthu, A.V. Naganoor, Kishore Raghubans, Praveen Singh, Ramesh. S Athani, Basavaraj Byadagi, Lingaraj, Basavaraj Maregauda, Basavaraj Mayachari, and Arun of Dharwad Circle in the following number of localities at Pattadakal (Bachinagudda).

#### **Introduction**

The Malaprabha River valley especially confining to the geographical area in which Aihole, Badami, Pattadakal are situated was considered to be very rich in archaeological remains. Number of scholars have carried out explorations in this region and brought to light evidences for many prehistoric and isolated Neolithic, good number of Megalithic burials and a very vague references of Early historical sites. However from the early Medieval especially from the times of Chalukyas of Badami, this region was flooded with the construction of stone temples and rock cut caves. These sites nurtured into cultural centers for art, architecture and trade and flourished as socio-religious and political strong holds. Badami served as a

capital for the Chalukyas of Badami while Pattadakal as a coronation place for the kings while Aihole experienced the experimentation of temple constructions, which continued in Badami and culminated in Pattadakal. However the history of this region before the Chalukyas was shrouded in darkness. There were no convincing evidences for pre Chalukyan Era coming from either archaeological or epigraphical sources. Therefore it has become imperative for the scholars to look in to this dim period of history in this region. On hearing from the locals about the finding of some bricks in the vicinity of the Bachinagudda hill near Pattadakal, the team of archaeologists carried out exploration and amazed to see typical early historical pottery of black, black-and-red ware, russet coated painted ware in immense quantities spread over the cultivable fields, besides bricks and tiles. The discovery of this ancient site has become crucial to this area, if excavated, may throw invaluable light on the dark period of the history of this region. It may likely to bring out the cultural sequence right from the Megalithic or Early historical to the Chalukyan times and also may be known whether this area was under the rule of Imperial Satavahanas or any other feudatories. The presence of abundant russet coated ware from the site as found in Brahmagiri, Maski and other sites in the Krishna valley may also reveal the trade links with the other regions during early Historical times. Hence it is proposed for Scientific Debris Clearance during 2003-04 season, in order to unravel the hidden part of the history and bridge the gap of history with authenticated archaeological evidence.

## **Site and its environs**

Bachinagudda ( $15^{\circ} 56' 42''$  N:  $75^{\circ} 47' 38''$  E) is a small village, 3km south west of Pattadakal, located on the left bank of river Malaprabha (Fig.1). The exploration has brought to light four ancient mounds located contiguously at the foot of Bachinagudda hill (Plate.1), which lies 2km away from Pattadakal. Of the four mounds, three belongs to early Historical and one to early Medieval based on the surface evidences. There are also evidences for Megalithic period in the form of Dolmens here.

The Bachinagudda hillock is an offshoot of the younger Kaladgi formations of Bagalkot group, known as Badami group. This local hillock is a quartzite ridge traversing in north east and south west direction raised to a height of 634 m AMSL and 114 m from the surroundings with sloping colluvial fans in turn merged by the alluvial flats on its western side where river Malaprabha flows while eastern side with peneplains. The peneplains are raised to a height of 520 m AMSL and merged by the alluvial fans towards the river on south. The ancient site occupies the sloping colluvial fans to the east of the quartzite ridge at the height ranges 522 m and 530 m AMSL. The gently sloping flanks are occupied with sparse acacia species around the hill while the peneplains are under the cultivation including the ancient mound at the foothills.

The cultivators modified the ancient mound as terraces to facilitate cultivation which are not of fluvial origin. For the sake of convenience, these are named as Lower Terrace (Early Medieval), Middle and Upper Terraces (early Historical mound) and Reserved Forest localities (Early Historical mound).

### **Previous explorations and discoveries**

The place has cultural vestiges ranging in date from the very pre-historic period and is mentioned as '*Petirgal*' by Ptolemy in his '*Geography*' (2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D.). Artefact bearing localities were first recorded in the Kaladgi Basin during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After seventy years hiatus, a survey in the 1950s was conducted along a 160 km stretch of the Malaprabha River, where 20 Acheulean sites were identified by Joshi in 1955. One of these localities, the Khyad site, contained several hundred bifaces, indicating the substantial nature of the archaeological assemblages. Additional surface surveys in the Basin showed that Lower and Middle Palaeolithic sites in the region were present as reported by Malwad and Sankalia, 1956 Banerjee, 1957 and Joshi, 1987. The most intensive survey in the Kaladgi Basin was undertaken between the 1960s and 1980s by R.S.Pappu, who recorded 74 Acheulean and 191 Middle Palaeolithic sites along the margins of the Malaprabha and Ghataprabha rivers. Panchamukhi, A.Sundara and many other scholars have done investigations in this area and brought to light many Megalithic burial sites.

## **Excavation**

### Site selection and laying of grids

The entire site was brought under 5.00 x 5.00m grid and assigned numerical numbers with intersecting easting by nothing. The grids are laid in north south axis on selected localities at different heights of the mounds for digging based on the surface indications and other circumstantial evidences like local digs. The mound was under cultivation with undulating surface in different terraces. The terraces are made by the cultivators to suit the agricultural activities in such course of action the upper deposits were deliberately removed.

### Harris single context aerial excavation

Harris single context aerial excavation technique is adopted assigning one context number to the each single action (Any single action, whether it leaves a positive or negative record within the sequence, is known as a 'context'). and dug the selected

localities horizontally combined with some vertical soundings wherever required on the site. Horizontal stratigraphy is recorded along with vertical sections.

### Lower Terrace (LT)

The excavation in lower terrace has yielded evidence for a brick structure mainly built of half broken bricks. It has on plan a Cell, a 16-pillared mandapa with an entrance platform on the east. The brick structure is facing east and preserved with foundation courses only. There is a distinct evidence for an early phase, which has yet to be excavated. The Cell measures 3.58 m in east west x 4.47 m in north south with a projecting entrance. The Cell's western wall (419) was completely missing except two bottom most courses which was covered by a thick sandy silty clay belonging to the later floor. This gives an indication that the western wall might have been built further west during renovation phase as also indicated by the extent of clay floor in the west section. This has to be ascertained in the future excavation. Half portion of the southern wall (418) of the Cell was robbed off with clear robber's pit, while the eastern wall (415) was also subjected by robbing at its middle at least twice. It survived with 8 extant courses. The eastern wall was abutted by a small brick projection (465) on its eastern side, located at the center of the wall, which might have served as an entrance to the Cell. The foundation courses of northern wall (419) was exposed on plan only and

preserved fairly in good condition without any cut and fill feature. Abutting the Cell towards north another annexure room was provided at a later time, which was partly uncovered during the present season.

The 16-pillared mandapa was built abutting the Cell on its eastern face. It is squarish in shape and measures 11.54 m in east west x 11.38 m in north south. Pillar bases/pads are only preserved which are arranged in four rows having four pillars in each row (Plate.2) confining to the four corners and leaving mandapa with open central bays (ankana) in north south and east west axis. The southern side mandapa wall (410) running in east to west direction was preserved with foundation courses, which was noticed to have been robbed after the disuse phase. Similarly the northern mandapa wall (423) was also robbed through out the length and filled up with clayey deposit. The western side mandapa wall was built against the cell on the northern (466) and southern side (421). The southern sidewall was rebuilt with another wall at a later date perhaps after its collapse. After the disuse of the mandapa, it was robbed at several places up to the foundation and sometimes till lower courses. It is preserved with 8 extant foundation courses built of half broken bricks. Full bricks (35x21x6cm) are used for the lower most two courses while for the rest of wall half broken bricks of different sizes are used.

During renovation time buttress walls were added to the mandapa wall on its exterior towards north (472), east (425) and south. The components of the brick structure were built independently with out having inter bonding to each other indicating planned to build in phased manner. There are no evidences of any adhistana mouldings, however moulded and chamfered bricks are used during renovation time at random here and there found in secondary context.

To the eastern side of Mandapa, in the central axis, a brick platform measuring 5.40 m in north south and 2.40 in east west axis was noticed abutting to the mandapa, which must have served as an entrance. This entrance feature was subsequently converted in to small cells on either end, leaving narrow space as a passage in the middle. The two cells each on either side are accommodated perhaps to enshrine some minor deities. Since the original entrance was converted in to minor shrines, another makeshift brick platform was added to it towards further east extending the entry point to the temple to further east. This platform was built with small brickbats and got exposed partly during this season. Further digging is required in this area to have clear picture of the entrance feature of the temple.

The structure was not fully exposed during the present season and found still extending on west, north and east sides. Until the entire plan of the structure is exposed, it is not possible at this juncture to ascertain its nature. However, the



plan of the present brick structure seems to be a pre-runner plan of stone temples built during Chalukyan times in this region. The entire structure was built with half broken bricks brought from some original earlier structure and reused for the construction of this brick structure. Thereby it can be surmised that there should have been some earlier constructions in the vicinity.

The outstanding find from this locality includes sandstone Chaturmukha Shiva head. It was recovered from a pit belonging to the disuse phase of temple located outside the Cell on the southeast corner. This sculpture displays typical early Chalukyan times art features.

There are lot of roof tiles found from the dig in different shapes like pointed, 'U'shaped, heart shaped and double pointed at one end and a bent hook at the other end with flat surface indicating a roof over the temple.

Middle Terrace (MT)

Locality 1

15x15m trench has been opened and noticed number of cut and fill features on the surface at different levels, which are underlain by thick deposit of scree. There is

no regular habitational deposit here. The deposits are subjected for ploughing and thereby not much can be discerned except pottery, bones and small finds. Since the hill is comparatively nearby, the scree has spread in this area, which may give clue to the land use pattern by the ancient inhabitants. Another 5.00x5.00m grid is taken up to the north of the above trench towards edge of the terrace to assess the nature of deposit which was also ended with washed off material got deposited.

#### Locality 2

15.00x15.00 m area was taken up for excavation and noticed different deposits, cuts and fills belonging to a pre coin phase habitation with black—and –red ware and black ware of highly burnished fabric belonging to Megalithic phase. The floors are well prepared with sandy clayey silt and extensively used for cooking purposes with fireplaces. There are lots of bones recovered from the floors with charred and cut marks. The floors are found with burnt action spread with ash and charcoal (Plate.3). Some of the potsherds also bear graffiti marks, which ascertain the levels as Megalithic.

### Locality 3

5.00x5.00m grid is taken up extreme northern edge of the ancient mound to know the nature of occupation and the extent of the mound. Three early historical floor levels are noticed so far with fireplaces and post holes and yielding good pottery and a few lead and copper coins of inscribed and uninscribed variety belonging to Maharathis and Satavahanas. This grid has given the clue on the extension of the mound towards northern side.

### Upper Terrace (UT)

### Locality 1

This is an intact mound where initially 5.00x5.00m grid was taken up which is the highest point of the mound and noticed rammed floor and fire places with ash pits belonging to early historical period along with lead, copper coins and russet coated ware. The grid was extended to 13.00x13.00 m so as to expose the early historical house plan and smith's activities. There are series of rammed and plastered floors

noticed with regular postholes giving an idea of the house plans mainly raised on wooden posts. There is no structure noticed in this grid.

There are series of rammed and plastered floors noticed (Plate.4) in this trench with good postholes. Outside the house, the area was utilized for smelting activity and dumping of waste products and of household. There are also regular squarish pits cut in to the floors where pure ash is deposited. The floors are very systematically laid with floor make up material like sandy silt which was well rammed and in turn plastered with lime, sandy silt mixed with small potsherd, stone chips and organic material. The plaster is applied in 2 to 4 cm thick, which is hard to dig. It flakes off like chips while digging. The either margins of the floor should have been arranged with some reeds fencing taking the support of pillars. This fencing was affected with fire as evidenced on the floor in the form of a regular burnt alignment on either margin of the house plan. The fire places with ash pits and charcoal along with iron slags especially lie outside the living floor indicate some sort of smelting and preparation of iron tools in this area. This area has yielded evidences for early historical habitation yielding coins along with Russet coated painted ware, Rouletted ware and Red Polished ware. There are number of lead and copper inscribed and uninscribed coins belonging to Maharathis and Satavahanas recovered from the floor levels apart from beads of semi precious stones and glass, iron and copper alloy implements.

## Locality 2

5.00x5.00m grid has yielded exclusively scree along with a few pottery and bones and was not occupied by the inhabitants. However a pit was exposed in the section yielding some early historical pottery and bones used for dumping the waste, which was cut in to the scree.

## **Reserve Forest (RF)**

The surface indications at the foot of the hill in the form of bricks and pottery lead to take up the area for digging. A grid measuring 5.00x5.00m has yielded evidence for a brick wall built of full size bricks, coursed in English bond i.e. a course of alternate headers and stretchers. These bricks are slightly bigger in size measuring 44x20x7.5 cm, 40x20x7 cm in size. The structure is extending towards south where the trench is extended for further probing. The structure belongs to early historic times. Due to limited time and staff this locality could not be tapped much and reserved for the next season.

## **Pottery**

Pottery was found profusely scattered on the surface due to cultivation and deliberate digging operation of the mound for loose soil by the locals. They used

to carry the soil only leaving behind the pottery on the surface. Even during excavation also quite a lot of pottery is recovered. The ceramic evidence reveals that the site was under continuous occupation from Megalithic to Early historical period especially on the Middle and Upper terraces and early Medieval period on the Lower terrace. The occupation on the hill flanks in the Reserved Forest has also yielded pottery belonging to the Early Historical period.

### **Antiquities**

There are varieties of antiquities recovered from all the levels so far excavated. The Megalithic levels yielded a few iron tools, beads of semi precious stones and shell and bangles of shell. The early Historical levels yielded bangles of shell, glass, beads on variety of semi precious stones including etched carnelian, glass, terracotta, paste etc., iron and copper alloy tools, lead and copper alloy coins. However very less frequency of glass made antiquities are noticed from the site when compared with the other sites and equally in case of terracottas. A very few fragments of terracottas are recovered from the site. The reason for their less frequency has to be explained basing on the further digging. The variety and the quantity of coins recovered is more significant feature of the site indicating brisk circulation of money as exchange. There is lead and copper alloy uninscribed and inscribed coins of different sizes bearing different devices assignable to Maharathi

and Satavahana dynasties of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. The finds from the early medieval locality include a few beads of glass and terracotta, iron nails and two copper alloy coins. The finds are comparatively less from these levels.

## **Dating**

The excavation is limited to one season and incomplete. Hence precise dating is not possible to assign, unless further excavation is carried out. The evidences from Megalithic levels can be quoted basing on the pottery and graffiti marks found on them and also non-finding of coins. The absolute date cannot be ascribable to these levels. Future excavation of some more deposits may give answer for this. As regards the dating of the early historical levels, the evidences like coins belong to Maharathis and Satavahanas and the ceramics like rouletted, russet coated painted and red polished wares, etched carnelian beads may be considered. The place has cultural vestiges ranging in date from the very pre-historic period and is mentioned as '*Petirgal*' by Ptolemy in his '*Geography*' (2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D.). These deposits can be safely dated to 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The early Medieval locality has yielded brick structures may be a temple with a 16-pillared mandapa. Though two coins have been found from this locality, until these are cleaned, it is difficult to assign any date. The brick structures are encountered below the stone temples at Pattadakal and Aihole, which can be safely pre-datable to the Chalukyan stone temples. The group of temples built during the period of Chalukyas of Badami

(6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.) is the landmarks of this place. The early Medieval activity from the present excavation can be assigned to the Prechalukyan times for the time being as the excavation is incomplete at this locality.



## CONSERVATION

01. AMBIGERGUDI GROUP, AIHOLE, DISTRICT BAGALKOT.- A compound wall has constructed using dressed veneering stones on the southern side. Copingstones are also fixed over it.

02. BOYAR GUDI, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.- The dislodged and out of plumb portion of the mandapa portion was dismantled and reconstructed as per the original is in progress.

03. CHAKRAGUDI, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.- The missing portions of the ceiling and the side walls of the mukha mandapa are provided with new dressed stone members wherever necessary is in progress.

04. FORT WALL, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.-The fallen portion of the fort wall was dismantled and reconstruction of the same as per the original is in progress.

05. CHARANTIMATH, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.-Reconstruction of the uneven platform portion of the sub shrine in the northern side is in progress.

06. HUCHIMALLIGUDI, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.- The dislodged and out of plumb portion of the ancient well was dismantled and reconstructed as per the original.

**07. MALLIKARJUNA TEMPLE, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** Dismantling the dislodged and out of plumb portion of the main temple is in progress.

**08. RAMALINGA GROUP OF TEMPLES, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** A compound wall has constructed using dressed veneering sand stone blocks.

**09. VENIYARGUDI COMPLEX, AIHOLE, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** The thick jungle growth around the temple was removed. After dismantling and consolidating the foundation, to enclose the area a Compound wall has reconstructed using dry stone masonry on eastern and southern sides.

**10. AGASTHYA TIRTHA TANK, BADAMI, DIST: BAGALKOT.-**

A Compound wall has constructed on sand stone blocks in dry masonry to enclose the protected area on the north side of the Agasthya Tirtha tank. The Joints are pointed. A crimped wire mesh frame is also fixed over the compound wall. A gate has been provided to avoid unauthorised entry.

**11. JAINA AND VAISNAVA CAVE, BADAMI, DIST: BAGALKOT.-**The retaining wall in front of the cave No.3 was reconstructed as per the original.

**12. NORTH FORT, BADAMI, DIST: BAGALKOT.-.** The bulged out and fallen portions of the fortification wall and bastions near to the Mallikarjuna temple is in progress.

**13. NORTH BHUTANATHA TEMPLE, BADAMI, DIST: BAGALKOT.-**The damaged compound wall is fixing crimped wire mesh frame and steps are also provided after paving in front of the temple.

**14. JAINA AND VAISHNAVA CAVES, BADAMI, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** The retaining wall in front of the cave No.3 is strengthened.

**15. PAPANATHA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** A stone veneering was provided to the existing wall in the western side of the temple.

**16. KASIVISVESWARA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** Stone pavement was provided over the C.C bed after earth work excavation and leveling the area undulated area.

**17. VIRUPAKSHA AND MALLIKARJUNA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DIST: BAGALKOT.-** Dismantling the sunken portion of the prakara wall and reconstruction of the same using the old and new stones wherever necessary is in progress.

18. JAINA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL, DIST: BAGALKOT.- The reconstruction work of the garbhagriha, mukhamandapa and sabhamandapa are completed and resetting work of the garbhagriha is in progress.

19. BASTI GUDI, DEVAGON, DIST. BELGAUM.-Electrification was provided for the aesthetic look.

20. BHUVARAHA NARASIMHA TEMPLE, HALASI, DIST.BELGAUM.-car shed has been constructed using fabricated M.S angle frame covering with fiber sheet is completed.

21. CHIKKADEVA TEMPLE, KONNUR, DIST. BELGAUM

The modern construction of the size stone wall of the sabha mandapa was removed besides the dead cement mortar is in progress.

22. SUVARNESWARA TEMPLE, HALSI, DISTRICT: BELGAUM.- Dismantling the dislodged and out of plumb portions of the temple after proper documentation is taken up for reconstruction in to the plumb line is in progress.

23. JAINA TEMPLE, VAKKUND, DISTRICT: BELGAUM.- The construction of the dwarf compound wall and veneering using with lime mortar and laying concrete stone slab flooring inside the monument is in progress.

24. SOLA KHAMBHA, MOSQUE, BIDAR DIST: BIDAR.- A garden is developed in front of the mosque providing with pipe lines and sprinklers. A path ways are also provided using with curb stones.

25. FENCING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA AROUND INNER FORT, BIDAR, DIST: BIDAR.- earth excavation was completed for the construction of compound wall.

26.FORT, BIDAR, DIST: BIDAR.- The rank vegetation grown inside the fort and the triple moat is removed.

27. GROUP OF MONUMENTS, ASTHUR, BIDAR, DIST: BIDAR.- the damaged barbed wire fencing and the M.S angle were removed. Earth work excavation and procurement of required materials for construction of compound wall is completed.

28. MADARSA MAHMUD GAWAN, BIDAR, DIST: BIDAR.- Thick vegetation growth and thorny bushes have removed to keep the area clean and develop a garden.

29. AVVAL TALUK NIZAM ADALAT, BIDAR, DIST: BIDAR.-Shahabad stone flooring is provided over a proper base. The construction of masonry pillar for fixing M.S. grill, applying oil paint to the doors and windows and filling the cracks of the walls are completed.

30. SHANKARLINGA TEMPLE, NIMBAL, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.- The sub shrines have been reconstructed providing with new stone members and replacing the broken stone members wherever necessary as per the original. Electrification was provided for the aesthetic look. Teak wood door frame was provided for the safety purpose. M.S grill has also fixed over the dwarf compound wall to avoid entering the stray cattle.

31. WATER PAVILLIONS, KUMATAGI, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.- A dwarf compound wall is constructed with fixing M.S grill over it.

32. GAGAN MAHAL, BIJAPUR, DISTRICT BIJAPUR.- The dislodged and out of plumb portion of the wall was removed and reconstructed as per the original in to the plumb. M.S grill is provided for the safety purpose.

33. IBRAHIM-ROUZA, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- New electrification was done for the aesthetic look.

34. GOL-GUMBAZ, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- The car parking is provided with M.S grill for the safety purpose.

35. KARIMUDDIN MOSQUE, BIJAPUR, DIST BIJAPUR.- The dead and decayed material laid over the roof of the mosque has been removed to bring down the damaged heavy roof members for re-fixing after proper consolidation.

36. MEHATARI MAHAL, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- The leaky roof of *dalan* is rendered water tight by grouting the cracks and the arched openings are provided with security grill.

37. ABDUL RAZAQ DARGAH OF JOD GUMBAZ, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- A security grill is provided on the northern side of the mosque and an ornamental grill is fixed over the dwarf un coursed rubble masonry wall on the eastern side as a security measure. The area around the well is enclosed with un coursed rubble masonry wall as a security measure.

38. JOD GUMBAZ, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- A compound wall was constructed after proper earth work excavation. M.S grill was also fixed over it for safety and security.

39. MALIK-E-MAIDAN GUN, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- A dwarf compound wall in un coursed rubble masonry has constructed and M.S grill is fixed over. Hand railing is provided to the steps for easy ascending, descending and to avoid accidents. A collapsible gate has provided and fixed. M.S. Grill gate is also provided to prevent the unauthorized entry.

40. SANGEET AND NARIMAHAL, BIJAPUR, DIST: BIJAPUR.- The missing and fallen portion of the coping stones of the fort wall have have pointed with lime mortar. A

compound wall has constructed using U.C.R masonry and M.S grill is also fixed over it for safety purpose.

41. MAHADEVA TEMPLE, ITTAGI, DISTRICT GADAG.- Construction of compound wall on the northern side of the temple is in progress.

42. FORT, GULBARGA, DISTRICT GADAG.- The out of plumb and bulged out portions of the fort wall in the eastern side is dismantled and reconstructed using new trap stone in lime mortar. Thick vegetation growth in and around of the fort gate was also removed.

43. GREAT MOSQUE, GULBARGA, DISTRICT GADAG.- The dead plaster from the inner surface of the domes is removed and re-plastered with fresh lime plaster.

44. CHATURMUKHA BASTI, GERSOPPA, DIST: UTTARA KANNADA.-steps were constructed using dressed granite stone blocks. The lining wall also constructed using laterite stone masonry on either side of the approach road for drainage are completed.

45. FORT MIRJAN, DISTRICT UTTARKANNADA.- The dislodged and out of plumb portion of the fort wall is dismantled and the reconstruction of the same in to the plumb is taken up.



### **III. Archaeological Museums at Aihole, Badami and Bijapur**

#### **Archaeological Museum, Aihole.**

The damaged and ugly looking main door of the museum is replaced by a newly designed first quality teakwood door incorporating select designs and art motifs of the temple doorways of the Chalukyan period. The sunken, damaged and undulated mosaic tiles of the floor of the galleries were removed and quality glazed tiles were laid over a P.C.C. bed of requisite thickness. The reserve collection room is vacated and newly designed wall showcase is prepared for exhibiting the Pre-historic artifacts. Newly designed trilingual visitor's instruction board and visitor's benches are provided. The valley model in the closed verandah of the museum is provided with a brass pipe railing to avoid stepping of visitors. sheet gable roof over precast. G.I. pipe / angle support to protect the model from sun and rain. Digital documentation of the antiquities is in progress.

#### **Archaeological Museum, Badami.**

Specially designed Bakelite polychrome translite boxes displaying reconstructed life and activities of the Prehistoric times are installed wall showcases are prepared for displaying Prehistoric implements, photographs of Prehistoric paintings etc.

The sunken, damaged and ugly looking mosaic tiles provided to the floor of the galleries were removed and quality-glazed tiles were laid over a bed of P.C.C. of requisite thickness. Office room was shifted to the newly constructed extension building and a well-furnished VIP lounge is set up. The mud pathway leading to the museum is paved with dressed sandstone slabs over a bed of P.C.C. to avoid accumulation of dust and dirt over the antiquities displayed in the open-air gallery and inside the museum. The damaged and old plywood door of reserve collection housed below the model of the Sidlaphadi\_cave is removed and aluminum framed B.S.L. sheet doors matching in colour with the wall showcase are provided for safety and security of the antiquities and to enhance the visitors experience. Extended descriptive bilingual labels were provided for outstanding specimen of the museum. Newly designed trilingual visitor's instruction board and visitors benches were provided in the galleries. The work of digital documentation of museum antiquities and preparation of C.D. Rom is in progress. The line drawing outlining the remnants of the painting in cave-III of Badami was remounted and fixed in the new gallery.

### **Archaeological Museum, Bijapur**

The damaged and ugly looking mounting and frames of the displayed toilets, firmans, manuscripts, painting etc., were carefully removed and good quality mounting and frames were provided for maintaining uniformity and to enhance the aesthetic quality of the display. The multicoloured bases provided earlier to the ceramics, porcelain, bidri ware etc., were removed and specially designed acrylic sheet bases were provided for

maintaining uniformity and enhancing of the aesthetic quality of the display. The showcases and pedestals etc., damaged due to weathering, wood borers and insects were given with anti wood boring treatment to avoid probable damages to the exhibits of cellulose materials. Newly designed trilingual visitor's instruction boards and visitor's benches etc., were provided in the galleries. Photo enlargements of outstanding specimen of paintings of the Adilshahi period were prepared and suitably framed for displaying.

Close circuit television cameras and monitors are installed at vantage points in the galleries for scrutinizing the antiquities, visitors and staff on duty as special security measures. The work of digital documentation of museum antiquities and preparation of CD Rom is in progress.