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Under Water Dwarka Is Not A Myth, It's A Reality

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Abstract-

The specification of Dwarka and its glory and its ending are described in the Hindu religious scriptures like *Mahabharata*, *Skanda Purana*, *Hari Vamsha*, *Bhagvat Purana*, and *Vishnu Purana*, etc. The name Dwarka derived from Sanskrit. It means 'gateway to heaven' or 'the gated city'. Lord Krishna built this city at the western coast of India. It is said that Krishna invoked Vishwakarma, deity of construction, to build his new city. Vishwakarma agreed to it only if 'Samudra Deva' provided some land. He gave Krishna 12 *Yojanas* (773 square Kilometer) to build this city.

Scientific evidence for the ancient underwater city of Dwarka includes the discovery of numerous stone structures, anchors, and amphorae, along with pottery and other artifacts, dating back to the protohistoric and historic periods. These findings from marine archaeological surveys, led by archaeologists like S.R. Rao and the Archaeological Survey of India, support the existence of a significant port city, aligning with the ancient Hindu texts describing Lord Krishna's Dwarka, though the city's dating and precise cultural sequence continue to be explored.

Keywords -

Dwarka, Krishna, Hindu, Submerge, archaeology, Excavation, Seabed, Yadava.

Introduction-

There has been a lot of interest in the archaeology of the west coast of Gujarat. The urge to unfold the mystery of the ancient town Dwarka. The observation of this city closely matches with a date around 1500-1400 BC according to many Hindu religious scriptures. The above-mentioned date is also controversial. It is said that Dwarka has submerged six times, over a period of centuries. The certification of archaeological science highlights an enormous proof about mythology and the reality of this city.

Dwarka's narrative is totally embedded in India's cultural and traditional image. The has been mentioned in ancient texts and continues to be a central point of modern archaeological research. Its ongoing exploration by the archaeological survey of India has solidified its status as a site of immense historical and cultural significance.

This article is a broad and detailed enquiry into the subject of the existence of the underwater Dwarka. Some authors wrote in such research papers related with this theme. I have taken a lot of help from internet to complete the research paper.

The Historical Significance of Dwarka-

Dwarka was an organized city. It consisted of six sectors.

In Harivamsha, Dwarka is highlighted as a city. Here it was said that this city was like a sporting campus for the king 'Raivataka'. The city was called as 'Dwaravati' at that time. Brahmins measured the city. The bases of the houses were laid by the Brahmins. Yadavas¹ also made some houses. The walls of the fort of the city were shining like the sun. The linear arrangement of houses in Dwarka was great. Skyreach houses had also existed in this city. The doors of the houses were cloud colored.

Narada described the city in a beautiful way² –

Alot of birds had existed in the sky. Its lakes were fulfilled by various Lotuses like *Indivara*, *Kumuda* and *Utpala*, etc. Beautiful swans and cranes were also found in the lakes. A lot of beautiful royal palaces were also found in this city. All were lavishly

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decorated with huge emeralds. Gold and Jewells were engraved inside the palaces. Traffic system was systematically managed. Roads, market places many assembly houses and temple of demigods charmed the city like heaven. The roads, courtyards, commercial streets, and residential patios were all sprinkled with water and shaded from the sun's heat by banner and waving flagpoles. Vishwakarma deeply focused on the residential area of Lord Krishna. He used his greatest divine skills to make it adorable. The pillars of the poles were made of coral. The pillars were decorated with Vaidurya gems. The floors were very smooth and shiny. The walls were ornamented with Sapphires.

Discussion-

Gandhari opined that Krishna was responsible for the war. She said that Krishna willingly did not stop the war. Due to the war her 99 sons were killed. She cursed Krishna that Krishna and his descendants would be destroyed in the same way.

Once the Yadavas had gone for a picnic. On that day Yadavas started to fight among themselves. The war was due to a very silly reason. Very soon the war turned into a massive fight and all the sons and grandsons of Krishna had died. Krishna knew everything before the fight. So, he went into the forest. His brother Balaram (the incarnation of Sheshnag) went into the ocean. In the forest a hunter followed a deer. Krishna was killed by an arrow that hunter mistook Krishna's foot for a deer. After that the city was submerged into the sea. In the *Mausala Parv* of the Mahabharata, the submerging of the city of Dwarka is mentioned, according to Arjuna:

“The sea, which has been beating against the shores, suddenly crossed the periphery which was imposed on it by nature. It collapsed the city streets and grabbed everything in the city. I saw the beautiful buildings submerged one by one. In a matter of a few moments, it was all over. The sea has now become placid as a lake. The city had vanished.”

This had occurred almost 36 years after the great war of the *Kurukshetra* – the Mahabharata.

In the Vishnu Purana it was mentioned as- “On the same day that Krishna departed from the earth, the powerful dark bodied *Kali Yug* descended.

The ocean rose and submerged the whole of the Dwarka.”

Dr.S.R.Rao (Indian archaeologist) rediscovered the city of Dwarka. Historical geography assured the existing cities in the areas mentioned in the biographies of Krishna. In the first Indian conference of Marine archaeology (in Jamnagar, Gujarat from 12th to 14th October, 1987) conducted by the National institute of Oceanography of Goa, where scientists of Indian and other nations joined, like Dr.Rober L. Kelly of USA, Dr.Flinder of International society of nautical archaeology. They agreed with the scientific rigor achievements of Dwarka finds.

It is exceptionally great to remember the first archaeological excavation at Dwarka was done by the Decan college of Pune and the department of archaeology, Government of Gujarat, in 1963 under the direction of Dr.H.D.Sankalia. Over 12 expeditions were conducted in the period between 1983-1990. UAW began excavation at Dwarka again from January 2007. Alok Tripathi (super intending archaeologist, UAW) said:

“To study the antiquity of the site in a holistic manner, excavations are begin conducted both on land (close to the Dwarka temple) and undersea, so that finds from both the places can be corelated and analyzed scientifically.”

Some television Channels have telecasted some scientific documentaries. Some of these channels are like ‘Discovery Channel’, ‘Discovery Civilization’, ‘The History Channel’, etc.

In Oxford's Doctoral researcher work by Samira Sheik, it is verified:

“The descendants of Zafar Khan ruled Gujarat for the next century and a half and..... Princely state histories based on local documentation and clan genealogists..... The history and ethnography of Gujarat were among the chief interests of genealogy of the Bhatti's has a similar claim to Yadu or Yadava descent from Krishna”³.

In 1916, R.V. Russel highlighted-

Yadava was a popular dynasty. Colonel Tod said that the Yadu was illustrious of all the tribes of India, and became the patronymic of the descendants of Buddha, progenitor of the Lunar race. But the picture of the connection between Buddha and The *Yadus* is very much vague.

Colonel Tod states that the *Yadus* after the death of Krishna, and their expulsion from Dwarka and Delhi, the stronghold of their power, retired by Multan across the Indus, founded Ghazni in Afghanistan, and peopled these countries even to Samarkand. Again, driven back on the Indus they obtained Possession of the Punjab. Thence expelled they retired across the Sutlej and Gara into the Indian deserts, where they founded³ Tannate, Derawal and Jaisalmer, the last in A.D. 1157.

As per *Taittiriya Samhita*, *Taittiriya Brahma* and the *Satapatha Brahmana*, Vrishni dynasty is part of the Yadu clan, to which Krishna belonged and achieved in Dwarka is also found in these scriptures. In the following Samhitas⁴- Vajasana, Katha, Taittiriya and Madhya Dina,

The epithet of '*Krsna Dhrtti*' is adjective of *Satyaki*, the Yadava hero, friend and relative of Krishna. Another reference highlighted the relation with Krishna in which the *Vrisnis* and *Andhakas*, Krishna's family streaming from the Yadava clan, are included in the same text. '*Kausika Brahmana*'⁵, highlighted Krishna in relation to the sage *Angirasa*. The *Vajasaneysi Samhita*⁶ and the *Satapatha Brahmana*⁷ referred Krishna as Gopala. The Puranic verses highlighted this name for Krishna in his boyhood activities in the circle of Gopis in *Vrindavana*. The Vasudeva Upanishad is the part of *Sama Veda*. It gives

description on *Urdhva Pundra* (religious relevance of Vaishnavas), There is said: “*Oh, Achyuta who is staying in Dwarka, Oh Govinda, Oh Lotus eyed one*”.

Krishna Das Kaviraja Had shown indications of Dwarka (*Yadu-Pura-Sangamaya Rangam*) and Ranga found in an old 16th century manuscript ‘*Maho-upanishada*’⁸.

It is Mentioned as- “*aklesam kamala-bhuvya pravishya gosthim, kurvamantah sruti-sirasam srutim sruta-jnah, utlungam Yadu-pura-sangamaya rangam, yogindrah pulaka-bhrto-na vapy avapuh*”

It means-

“The nine *Yogendras* entered Brahma’s association and heard from him the real meaning of the topmost Vedic literatures and the Upanishads. Although the *Yogendras* were already conversant in Vedic knowledge, they became very jubilant in Krishna consciousness just by listening to Brahma. Thus, they wanted to enter Dwarka, the abode of Lord Krishna. In this way they finally achieved the place known as *Ranga- Ksetra*”.

Buddhist scriptures like ‘*Kunala-Jataka*’ reference *Krishnaa* (i.e.; *Draupadi*) in addition to Bhimasena, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva, and Yudhittila (Pali form of Yudhisthira). Dhananjaya of the Kuru clan (Arjuna) and Draupadi *Svayambara* are mentioned in ‘*Dhumakari Jataka*’. The famous Buddhist works like ‘*Sutra Pitaka*’ and ‘*Lalit Vistara*’ mentioned Krishna.

Any neutral researcher can see objectively, what Puranic Dwarka narrative is geographically very correct. Every site on Krishna’s Dwarka route is still identifiable and has continuing ethnological traditions or temples to commemorate to Krishna’s travel. Around 3000 years and more later 1000 years, no writer had the power and means to visit around all India with an inventing tale, fitting it into local folklore and building temples for greater credibility.

Panini's grammar texts ‘*Asthadhayi*’ mentioned ‘*Chakragirti*’. It is approached with ‘*Chakra tirtha*’ at the mouth of the river *Gomati*. Here Dwarka is located.

The ‘*Durga Vidhana*’ and ‘*Durganivesa Prakarana*’ of the *Artha shastra* of Kautilya, described the structure of the city. It also mentions Krishna and Kamsa, the birth history of Krishna, his family ancestors Vrisnis Dwarka residents and vital events that lead to Yadu clan Dwarka’s decline, like Dwaipayana Vyasa curse, Balarama and devotees of Krishna with shaved head and tuft of hair.

According to ‘*Mahavasya Grammar*’ of Patanjali Krishna is not a normal king like others.

As per old Tamil Sangam texts people from Dwarka settled in the south which was under the Chera empire. The philosophical of the *Alawars* is the ‘*Ubhaya-Vedanta*’, explained in his Sanskrit and Tamil treaties where appear mention to Krishna like Lord of Dwarka.

Eivind Heldaas Seland reported-

“.....evidence of commercial contacts with the Red sea and the Persian Gulf had been recorded from 36 sites in the

form of roman and late Roman amphorae and Mesopotamian torpedo jars⁹. Sites are disturbed all over South Asia, with clusters on the coasts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, South India, Srilanka, and Andhra Pradesh. Such early historical ports of Dwarka¹⁰, Kamrej¹¹, and Elephanta island¹², as well as the inland center of Nevasa¹³.

References in the Muslim Sailor ship’s log, Elizabeth Lambour wrote: -

“As with the rest of western India, Tna and its satellite settlements are linked to the main inland centers of the period, here via Kalyani to the main trade route up onto Decan plateau and the Yadava capital of Devagiri, the Duwayjir of the list. Devagiri represents an obvious terminus for this network but the information that a Friday Mosque existed there before the Khalji conquest is entirely new. Yemen may well have functioned as a source of much needed horses for the Yadava cavalry, and the structure of the network seen here, coupled with evidence in the Yemeni sources for the close contacts..... The evidence suggests that we should perhaps recast Marcopolo’s account of the prevalence of went to the Yadava capital of Duwayjir(Devagiri)”¹⁴

Epigraphical evidence -

An absolute evident epigraphical information of Dwarka is dated 574 AD occurs in the ‘*Palitana Plates*’ of Samanta Simha Ditya. This plate mentioned Dwarka as the capital of the western coast of Saurashtra. It is very importantly said here that Sri Krishna lived here.

Before in the 3rd BC (approx. 2200 years old) Heliodorus’s column stated about Krishna: -

“Vasudeva like the God of gods.”

There are many others BC epigraphical records like Gho Sundi inscription, Hathi Bada inscription, another column of Garuda in Besnagar of a Bhagavata king dedicated to Krishna, etc. The cave of queen Naganika in Decan inscription or Mora inscription, from Mathura UP, that said: *Bhagavatam vrisninam panchaviranam* referring to five Vrishni heroes.

The underwater archaeology wing (UAW) of the archaeological survey of India (ASI) began excavations at Dwarka again in January 2007 (Fig.1).

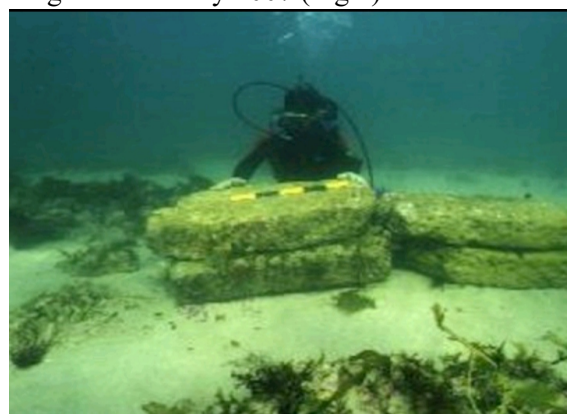


Fig.1- Under Water archaeological scene

The superintending archaeologist of UAW said that the ancient, submerged structures found in the Arabian sea were yet to be identified (Fig.2).

Special Scientific evidence-

I) Excavations by the archaeological Survey of India at sites such as Bet Dwarka, Beyt-Dwarka, and adjacent coastal mounds have yielded pottery, structural remains, beads, shell objects, and seals dated from the Late Harappan/post Harappan period. These show a long-occupied coastal settlement with maritime activity.

II) Multiple underwater surveys since the 1980s (specially by the National Institute of Oceanography-NIO- And other teams) have recorded submerged structural remains, stone blocks, walls, anchors, pottery sherds, and marine encrustations off the present day Dwarka and Bet Dwarka coasts. Sonar Mapping and sub-bottom profiling reveal anomalous hard features and possible man-made alignments.

III) Radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dates from onshore trenches and some associated materials put human activity in the region in the broad timeframe from the 2nd millennium BCE through the early centuries BCE/CE. Some submerged materials have limited direct dating because of encrustation, but contextual dating and associated finds point to antiquity rather than a purely medieval origin.

IV) Holocene sea-level rise, regional subsidence, and coastal erosion are well documented along the Saurashtra coast. Tectonics, sedimentation, and episodes of storm surge/marine transgression can explain partial submergence of low-lying settlements in the last several thousand years.



Fig.2-Various submerged structures of Dwarka

We must find out what they are. They are fragments. I would not like to call them a wall or a temple. They are part of some structures.

conclusion-

The rise in the sea level line Dwarka is a logical truth. Various surveys and studies proved that the sea considerably and abruptly rose to submerge the city. As per opinions of the experts, there may be three reasons for the submerging of the land -

- 1) A change in the level of seabed.
- 2) Devastating earthquake.
- 3) Abrupt rise in the sea level (Fig.3).

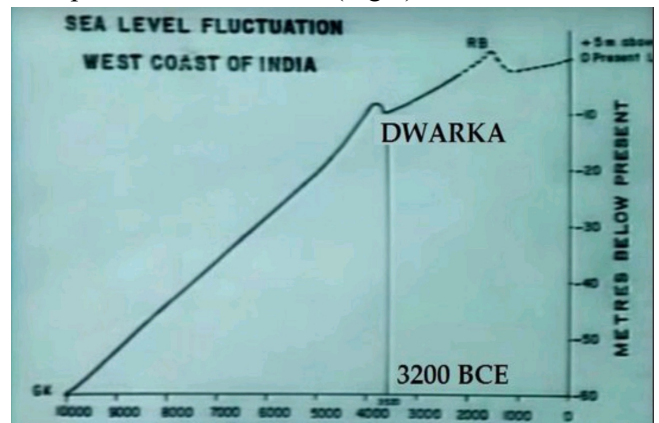


Fig.3- Sea level rise

Among the above mentioned three reasons the last one is very much feasible. If it was a change in the level of seabed, some remains of the “tearing of action” on the shore would be visible, which is absent. As the structures have not collapsed, the earthquake is also not possible. The last reason is almost possible because a similar event had occurred in Bahrain, around the same period. This is very much evident by some recent findings. A lot of work has been done onshore and offshore underwater excavations in Bahrain. These experiments highlighted a deep and regular trade and other connections between the western coast and coast of the present-day Bahrain region.

“Some researchers think that the date 1700-1800 BC (almost 3600 years old) that we have remarked is not consonance with the traditional date of 3102 BC (almost 5000 years ago). Till now the archaeological proofs from onshore and offshore experiments Thermoluminescence dating is concerned Kushastali with its late Harappan relics, where the earliest Dwarka was structured may be assigned to 1700 BC and the town on the mainland may be slightly later,” Rao said. “Although traditional date of 3102 BC cannot be confirmed by available evidence, it is better to explore deeper water of Bet Dwarka”¹⁵.

In this research some Biases may not be excluded from various analysis of various records, narratives, translations, etc. Ultimately it can be said that any fault in analysis and incitation is unintentional. It is true that a lot of research are still necessary to support the present analysis.

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Footnotes

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- ² Shrimad-Bhagavatam- (10.69.1-12)
- ³ Samira Sheikh, 2003.
- ⁴ Sambidananda, 1991
- ⁵ Kaushika Brahmana-(30.9)
- ⁶ Vajasaneyi Samhita-(32.11)
- ⁷ Satapatha Brahmana- (2.1.5)
- ⁸ CC.Madhya- (24.24)
- ⁹ Tomber- (2007b,2008, pp.126-127 &176)
- ¹⁰ Gaur,2006.
- ¹¹ Gupta, 2004.
- ¹² Tripathi, 2004.
- ¹³ Heldaas, 2014
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