**Discovery Of Dwarka: Myths and Facts**

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**Abstract**

Dwarka has commanded much attraction because the site is one of the four Dhamas (sacred place for pilgrimage) of the Hindu religion. Dwarka is situated 32 km from the iconic Shiva temple, Somnath, in Gujarat – earlier known as Saurashtra. As the legend goes, Krishna established the city in Gujarat’s west coast. The advanced city of Dwarka, which in Sanskrit signifies ‘Gateway to Heaven’, is found north-west of the state. Dwarka is mentioned in a number of texts, including the Mahabharata, the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, the Harivamsha as well as the Skanda Purana, and the Vishnu Purana1.

The city was also extremely well planned: separated into six areas which were thusly partitioned into residential, commercial regions. The city was home to beautiful huge streets, gardens and counterfeit lakes. It is said that it was lowered in the enormous flood 9,000 years prior.

The Dwarka Temple isn’t simply antiquated yet its design holds an emblematic significance. The principle access to the strict site is known as Moksha Dwara (Door to Salvation). The south entry of the sanctuary is called Swarga Dwara (Gate to Heaven). The banner raised on top of the sanctuary shows the sun and moon. It is said that these banners portray Lord Krishna’s quality till the time both the heavenly bodies exist on the planet.

This research paper is an attempt to understand the glory of Dwarka and explore more about the lost mythical city of Krishna. The advanced Dwarka is today one of the seven sacrosanct towns of Hinduism, visited every year by pioneers loving Krishna. The quest for its lowered part started during the 1930s, and the primary archeological exhuming occurred in 1963. Various old relics were found, just as the lowered remaining parts of the old Dwarka during the following removal drove by a submerged prehistorian.

**Introduction**

As indicated by the epic of Mahabharata, Krishna set up his mighty realm off the shore of Gujarat to get away from unlimited battled and fights among him and Jarasandh (in Mathura). The city had 900,000 illustrious royal palaces made of silver, inserted with emeralds and numerous precious stones2. Associated by an intricate organization of lanes, markets and sanctuaries, Dwarka was advanced in its plan and engineering not at all like some other development of the age. As per ancient texts Dwarka is considered to be the first capital of Gujarat. It is a city that is said to have been established by Lord Krishna after he killed his uncle Kansa in Mathura. The antiquated Indian city of Dwarka is known in Hindu culture to have been the incredible and wonderful city of Krishna. The Hindu compositions say that when Krishna passed on the Earth to join the otherworldly world, the period of Kali started and Dwarka and its occupants were lowered by the ocean. The stories of the submersion can likewise summon a tidal wave like the one that struck India in 20043.

In the Mahabharata, Dwarka is depicted as an idealistic city with lavish design. It has set very still the questions communicated by students of history about the accuracy of Mahabharata and the actual presence of Dwarka city. The sighting has also shed welcome light on second urbanization in the so-called ‘Dark age’, on the resuscitation of dharma, on the recommencement of maritime trade, and use of Sanskrit language and modulated Indus script. Incidentally, scientific data useful for a study of sea level changes and effects of marine environment on metals and wood over long periods has also been generated by underwater exploration. This was conceivable as a result of the committed and challenging endeavours of marine archaeologists, researchers and specialists of the Marine Archaeology Centre of the National Institute of Oceanography. The principal clear chronicled record of the lost city is dated 574 A.D. also, happens in the Palitana Plates of Samanta Simhaditya. This engraving alludes to Dwarka as the capital of the western bank of Saurashtra and even more significant, states that Sri Krishna lived here.

Dwarka: Built 10,000 Years Ago, The Holiest City Of India Lies Submerged Underwater, Flynote.net, April 28, 2020

Dwarka, Silk Road Programmes, UNESCO.Org

**Dwarka: The Mythical City**

The Epic describes Dwarka as a utopian city with opulent architecture. Sea life researchers say archaeological remaining parts found 36 m (120 ft) submerged in the Gulf of Cambay off the western shoreline of India could be more than 9,000 years of age4. It is believed to predate the oldest known remains in the subcontinent by more than 5,000 years. Carbon dating on debris recovered from the site, including construction material, pottery, sections of walls, beads, sculpture and human bones and teeth, put it at nearly 9,500 years old, making it more seasoned than the Sumerian civilisation by a few thousand years. It is likewise more older than the Egyptian and Chinese civilisations5. The city is believed to be even more older than the antiquated Harappan civilisation. Some 70-feet beneath ocean level they found sandstone walls, matrices of roads, very enormous bits of rock once part of designs and copper coins tracing all the way back to 9,500 years prior.

Somewhere in the range of 1983 and 1990 the archaeologists found a strengthened establishment on which the antiquated city walls probably worked along the waterway banks. Stone squares utilized for the development, columns and water system frameworks were found however a discussion is as yet continuous with respect to the dating of the residue, either from 3,000 to 1,500 years BC or from the Middle Ages.

Various stone anchors have additionally been recuperated on the site at a similar profundity, which recommends, alongside the size of the lowered piece of the antiquated city, that Dwarka more likely than not had a spot in the exchanging relations among Indian and Arabic regions during the fifteenth to eighteenth century and probably been a significant exchange port the past. The world ‘dwarka’ signifies ‘entryway’ or ‘door’ in Sanskrit, so this old port city might have been a door for unfamiliar mariners who showed up in India.

**What Happened To Krishna’s City Of Dwarka?**

As per research, a disaster gulped down the entire city roughly 3,500 years prior. Accordingly, sinking it to the lower part of the sea. Archaeologists gave 3 potential explanations behind its annihilation:

A change in the level of the seabed

A tremor or tidal wave

Unexpected rise in the sea level

It was uncovered that given the condition wherein structures were found, it couldn’t have been a tidal wave/tremor. On account of the rise of ocean level, it is possible since a comparable peculiarity had happened in Bahrain simultaneously. This is upheld by the way that there was a bustling organization of exchange between the waterfront town of Lothal (close to Dwarka) and Bahrain6.

By Mahabharat, the city got submerged due to Queen Gandhari’s revile on Lord Krishna. At the closure of Kurukshetra war, conceivably, on the sixteenth or seventeenth day evening of the conflict, Queen Gandhari went to the combat zone and was very miserable and crushed to have her 99 children (aside from Duryodhan) killed by Bheem. At the point when Lord Krishna went to give his sympathies, Gandhari in anger asked Lord Krishna for what reason he didn’t end the conflict in a second’s notification however he has the power, and let it continue. It was King Dhritarastra’s destiny to be conceived blind and having his 100 children killed in this life time (There is a story behind this with respect to a despot lord, a swan and it’s 100 cygnets7.) But Gandhari didn’t do anything in her previous existences nor in her present life to get such merciless anguish. Gandhari, in her franticness and fury, gave an infamous revile to Lord Krishna: To feel the aggravation she is looking of having her children being killed, Krishna will see the whole of his Yadava group, bite the dust in front of his eyes and his realm will consume to the cinders. He and his sibling will be left with no heredity to run the show. Every one of Krishna’s children will die a death in a monstrous battle that will occur in Dwarka. Krishna then again will have no ability to stop this conflict and will escape to the backwoods with practically no weapons. There in the backwoods, unarmed, he will be killed by a tracker and later, the whole city of Dwarka will sink into the ocean. The excess Yadavas, who endure the conflict will be enduring a great deal as a result of bedlam and confronting all the above wretchedness. Master Krishna, however he had the ability to invalidate the revile, sincerely acknowledged the revile.

According to the revile, A little quarrel began among the Yadavas and it developed into a huge battle. This battle killed every one of the children of Lord Krishna and his senior sibling. Practically all of the Yadavas were killed and the city was singed to remains. Krishna and his sibling escaped to the woods ceaselessly the battle. Later in the woods Krishna was struck by a bolt, confused with a deer, by a tracker who was really King Bali of Ramayana period in his resurrection. Afterward, the city lowered into the ocean.

**Excavation On Site Of Dwarka**

The findings completed during 1979 in the Dwarkadhish Temple Complex uncovered three sanctuary remains. Altogether, eight settlements can be recognized at Dwarka. The primary settlement made in the fifteenth century B.C. washed away, thus additionally the subsequent one made in the tenth century B.C. After a long hole the third settlement was made in the first century B.C./A.D. as proposed by the Red Polished Ware and copper coins known as Karshapanas8. It is during this stage that Temple I, was assembled. The lime-put surface of its stone workmanship actually holding a couple of lines of red ochre composition proposes that the plinth was available to see over the then working level. After the primary sanctuary was obliterated the subsequent sanctuary came to be based on the remains of the first. At the point when the subsequent sanctuary was likewise obliterated, the third sanctuary was implicit the ninth century. It was maybe in the twelfth century a tempest wave blew away the rooftop leaving just the dividers and plinth. The fourth sanctuary appeared before long. The current sanctuary of Dwarkadhish is the fifth in the series. Sanctuaries I to V address separately settlements III to VII and the advanced town is the eighth settlement at Dwarka. It is this arrangement finding of which prompted present investigations at Dwarka. During 1983-1992 submerged archeological investigations have been completed pretty much consistently in Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Somnath waters. The progressive submerged examinations off Dwarka in around 4 to 12 m water profundity have uncovered the presence of various lowered stone structure squares like remaining parts of divider, column and stronghold and furthermore stone anchors of different sorts like three-holed, kaleidoscopic and three-sided were seen in different spots. The overview boats were sanctioned and were outfitted with submerged camera, submerged TV framework and carrier hardware for investigation and removal. At Dwarka roughly 9,80,000 sq. m region was investigated between the water profundity of 3 to 12 m off Samudranarayana Temple. Plunging activities were embraced in different areas covering 8 zones of definite examinations. The significant discoveries were recorded essentially with still photography, submerged video shooting and submerged drawings. The situation of the items were fixed with the assistance of sextants. The Geophysical overview gear additionally utilized in Dwarka waters for study purposes. The inland investigations close by Bet Dwarka uncovered the presence of Late Indus seal portraying 3 headed creature, earthen vessel engraved in the characters of Indus-Brahmi progress period of around 1500 B.C. furthermore, the huge amount of stoneware like Lustrous Red Ware bowl and the Red Ware dishes, dish-on-stand, punctured container and incurved dishes which are datable to 1600-1500

B.C. in Dwarka, Rangpur and Prabhas. Among artifacts which are vital to dating and deciding the social succession of lowered urban communities of Dwarka and Bet Dwarka are the Late Indus type seal, chert edges, a recorded votive container, 3-holed stone anchors, a stone-shape, an Olpin with circle handle and a sprinkler-neck in stoneware are significant. The sequential arrangement proposed based on the relics can be supported by particular fired products.

CONCLUSION

Dwarka is a popular Hindu pilgrimage destination and is significant in Hindu mythology as the place where Lord Krishna, one of the major Hindu Gods, established his kingdom. Dwarka is one of the significant Dham of the four (Char) Dhams and is regarded as one of the Sapta Puris

– the 7 holy pilgrimage spots for Hindus.

Prior to the revelation of the incredible city of Dwarka, a few researchers were of view that the Hindu Epic Mahabharata is just a fantasy and that it would be vain to look for the remaining parts of the antiquated city and that too in the ocean.

Few scholars also believe that the Mahabharata battle was a family feud which was exaggerated into a war. Not many researchers likewise accept that the Mahabharata fight was a family quarrel which was overstated into a conflict. Unearthings of Dr S. R. Rao at Dwarka demonstrate that the depictions viewed in the texts are not as disposed of as extravagant stories however are to be treated as in light of rationale and thinking.

In this way the outcomes have demonstrated that the record in Mahabharata with respect to the presence of a delightful capital city of Dwarka of Sri Krishna was not a simple invention of creative mind but rather it existed.