

No. 1(59)/HVC/2023-24/Archaeology  
Department of Archaeology,  
Ourem Road, Mala, Panaji-Goa.  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

***Sub: Preparation of Master plan for Chandor: A Heritage Village.***

Village Chandor, located in Salcete Taluka, on the banks of river Kushavti, has a great historical and archaeological significance.

Chandor in ancient times was known as Chandrapur. As suggested by several inscriptions, Chandrapur was a place of administrative headquarters and of religious importance.

As stated above, the village Chandor, has played a significant role as 1<sup>st</sup> known capital city of ancient Goa since 03<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> C.E to 10<sup>th</sup> Century C.E. Copper plate inscriptions of Devaraja Bhoja of Bhoja dynasty and Shastha deva of Kadamba dynasty are testimony to this.

As per available records, due to siltation in the Kushavati River, rulers of Kadamba dynasty shifted capital / headquarters from Chandor and formed a new city called Govapuri and a port named Gopakattanam (present day Pilar and Goa Velha in Tiswadi Taluka).

As per prevalent folk belief, during Islamic invasion, a king ruling over Chandrapur was defeated and the city was burnt. This led to destruction of the city of Chandrapur, and a Queen of Kadamba dynasty jumped into Kushavati River, in order to save her dignity.

As per popular belief, the queen cursed the village that women for our Chandor will have to face the fate of a widow.

In the year 2000 Archaeological Survey of India conducted a series of excavations at Chandor in remains of Shiva temple were unearthed. Fortification wall was brought to light. It was noticed that the area which is locally known as 'Kot' was an ancient fortified settlement.

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Excavation was also carried out behind famous Fernandes Heritage House wherein a number of antiquities were found which includes an inscription in Brahmi Script, sculpture of Bhairava, structural remains etc to name a few.

In 1930's Fr. Henri Heras explored this historic village of Chandor and documented some important findings in the form of Nandi Sapta matrika sculpture, and Jain sculpture etc. These are preserved and displayed at Xavier's College in Mumbai. An article was published, mentioning this in Journal of Bombay Historical Society in 1932 by Fr. Heras Olivinho.

Gomes in 1987 has elaborated on socio-cultural conditions, life style and ethnographic character of Chandor village. His book titled as 'Village Goa: A study of Goan Social Structure and Change' is considered as an important academic resource for study of Goa's Socio-Cultural study with special reference to village Chandor.

Chandor village is well known for its intangible heritage in the form of folk dances, songs stories and belief system. Academic works such as Lok Sarita by Padmashree Vinayak Khedekar and Kalaeidoscopic Goa: A cultural Atlas by Shri. Pandurang Phal Dessai has documented and studied Mussol khel dance, performance as well as song wherein Kshatriya clan from Christian Community takes part in ritualistic performance of Mussol khel.

George Moraes in his monumental publication titled as 'Kadamba Kula' has presented a detailed research on History of Kadamba dynasty and its rule. In this substantial information regarding Kadamba rule in Goa is mentioned. This book elaborates on archaeological significance of Chandrapur (Chandor) as an important city and administrative headquarters in ancient time.

Village Chandor has significant place in the liberation struggle of Goa. Important leaders such as Menezes Braganza, T. B. Cunha who inspired the sense of nationalism in Goan heart and mind have great connection with Chandor village. Berta and Biatres Menezes who were Freedom Fighters from Menezes Braganza family contributed for modern education for Goan women folk in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century were from Chandor.

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'Who's who of Freedom Fighters' a notable publication from Goa Gazetteer lists several Freedom fighters from Chandor village.

Chandor village is also known for artists of various kinds which include artists from performing arts, paintings, folk art etc.

Heritage Homes in Chandor are well known throughout the State. Menezes Braganza House, Sara Fernandes House, and other Old Portuguese period houses are noteworthy.

Religious structure which are of heritage value archaeological ruins of ancient Shiva temple, Nossa Senhora de Belem Church, Monte Church, St. James Chapel etc.

In view of the above, it is crystal clear that village Chandor due to its significant archaeological, historical and cultural and heritage, needs an independent and standardized policy to preserve, protect, promote and portray its composite heritage and culture.

As announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister during his Budget Speech of 2023-24, it is proposed to develop Chandor as Heritage village.

In this regard, it is proposed to appoint a Consultant for preparation of Master Plan inclusive of following scope:

1. Policy document for preservation of tangible and intangible heritage in Chandor village.
2. Preparation of Maps and publicity materials depicting various heritage precincts.
3. Plans and design for beautification on aesthetically presentable heritage.
4. Preparation of signages and information boards.
5. Preparation of Heritage circuits considering heritage walks, cycle tracks, treasure hunt, streetscapes etc.
6. Preservation & conservation of Heritage Homes.
7. Art Galleries / interpretation centres / Museums on heritage (tangible, intangible, liberation struggle).

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- 8. Memorial gallery of prominent personalities.
- 9. Preparation of strategy for branding and commercial benefits by ensuring heritage value to be kept intact.
- 10. Any other innovative ideas to preserve and promote heritage / culture of Chandor village.

If approved, we may invite Expression of Interest from specialized agencies, having experience in similar works.

Submitted.

*Carad* 20.10.2023

Assistant Superintending Archaeologist

Minister for Archives & Archaeology  
 Inward No.: 125  
 Dated: 20/10/2023

Director, Department of Archaeology  
 Submitted for approval pl.  
*dlm*  
 20/10/23

Secretary of Archaeology  
 Pl. discuss.  
*J*  
 28/10/23

Hon'ble Minister for Archaeology  
 Discussed, submitted for approval please.  
*Director*  
*dlm*  
 30/10/23

Secretary (Archaeology)  
*J*  
 30/10/23

Hon. Minister (Archaeology)  
*M. S. G.*  
 20/10/23

Dir. Archaeology  
 The proposal is a budget Assurance 2023-24 of Hon. C.M take up quickly pl.  
*J*  
 20/10/23

Secretary (Arch)  
 Inward No.: 26271F  
 Dated: 25/10/23

Secretary (Archaeology)  
 Inward No.: 26711F  
 Date: 20/10/23

536  
01/10/23

152  
01/10/23

341  
5/10/23

Minister for Archives & Archaeology  
 Inward No.: 83  
 Dated: 20/10/2023

527  
01/10/2023

*A.S.A.*  
*Carad*