

## Ganjgoli of Latur is a Historical Monument

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### Historical Background-

**L**atur is the only village name in Maharashtra<sup>1</sup>.

Latur has a rich heritage of ancient history. Latur is situated in the valley of Manjra and Tawarja rivers. Evidence of Latur's antiquity dates from the sixth to the fourteenth centuries AD<sup>2</sup>. The city of Latur has been well known since the Satvahana period. During the Rashtrakuta period, the name of Ratnaur<sup>3</sup> is mentioned in copperplate inscriptions of Rashtrakuta. In the ancient inscription of Kanegaon, Latur is mentioned as Latnaur<sup>4</sup>. Researcher from Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) Dr. B. N. Moondy mentions that the village name of Latur is Latnur<sup>5</sup>. In the inscription at Mantur, the ancient name of Latur is recorded as Lattalur<sup>6</sup>. Latur is mentioned in the inscription of Latur as follows,

अस्ती दिव्य पुरस्त्रेष्ठ लत्तलौरभिधनाकं I

महाजनैः पंचशतैव्वेदविभ्दीरनिवेवितं II<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Fleet is of the opinion that Lattalur and Latur must have been formed from Lattalur. Latur Graminama has been mentioned once in Marathi, three times in Sanskrit and six times in Kannada<sup>8</sup>.

### Characteristic design of Ganjgolai architecture-

There is a big difference between the present day Latur and the Latur of fifty years ago. Most of the people here should be aware that the city of Latur will expand in the future. Therefore, with a view to the future development and expansion of the city of Latur, the then Subhedar Nizami Raja Indrakarna of Gulbarga in the Nizam dynasty initiated the creation of the Azamjung division comprising the Latur market. The feature of Ganjgolai was prepared by the town planner Mr. Fayazuddin Saheb in the year 1946 AD<sup>10</sup>.

Arrangements were made for sixteen roads to coincide with the entire market<sup>11</sup>. The Ganjgolai building and the roads that come around it from all directions look like the sun and the rays of the sun coming out of it.

Although the old Ganjgolai building is currently being modernized and beautified, the specific urban structure around it and the expansion of the building make it difficult to build. In the year 1968, Shri Jay Jagdamba Navratra Festival Board started the first public Navratra festival<sup>12</sup>.

Ganjgolai was formerly a tower and Nanded Wes. In later times there was a small idol of the octagonal goddess. A circular temple was built at the same place in October 1989 and the goddess was installed in it. This temple is facing west. This temple has only sanctum sanctorum. It has a 90 cm high black octagonal statue of Jagdamba. The idol has a gold crown on its head. The idol is housed in a four-pillar crafted and spectacular makhra. The wooden door frame of the sanctum sanctorum is crafted. There is a circular orbit around the sanctum sanctorum. It has twelve pillars and is artistically connected to each other by handicraft arches. There is a lion in Nandi's place in front of the sanctum sanctorum. On the outer wall of the sanctum sanctorum, there are several chambers in the circumambulation, in which various idols have been erected. The entire building of Ganjgolai has a three-tiered dome minus the peak and on it are carved temples and idols. The temple is surrounded by a fortified one-storied building with entrances on the east, west, south and north sides. There are various types of shops on the outside and inside of the building<sup>13</sup>.

The sixteen roads that extend around this Ganjgolai building. Each of those streets is lined with several shops selling the same items. Therefore, these roads have different names like cloth line,

bhusar line, saraf line, iron line, bhande galli, main road<sup>14</sup>. Since all kinds of goods are available in the market in Ganjgolai, every citizen of the city tends to go to the market in Ganjgolai to buy goods. Also, due to the temple of Goddess Jagdamba, this area has got a religious look. Citybus and auto facilities are available for all roundabouts in Latur city (for example - Rajiv Gandhi Chowk, Five Number, Twelve Number, Railway Station, Medical College, Nanded Naka etc.). If a newcomer loses in Latur, his search is on. Because after wandering in Latur, he finally comes to Golai from somewhere. The characteristic structure of such a method appears to be roundness.

### Conclusion-

A unique feature like Ganjgolai, which adds an unprecedented beauty to the beauty of Latur city, is rarely found in Maharashtra. The Ganjgolai market in Latur is one of the leading markets in Maharashtra. The highest peak of the Jagdamba temple at Ganjgolai is also visible from the end of the sixteenth road. Due to the religiosity of the Jagdamba temple and the characteristic structure of the market, Ganjgolai is very famous in and around Latur city. No need to wander far away to shop. The Ganjgolai market can be compared to the big malls, one stop shops, shoppers stops, big bazzars, supermarkets built in big cities today. That's why Ganjgolai seems to be a constant pilgrimage in the area. The vision of moving forward with time is reflected in the characteristic structure of Ganjgolai.

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