PREFACE

The present thesis entitled "Forts in Ancient and Medieval Andhra - a study" embodies the result of my study based on literary data contained in Sanskrit and Telugu texts and contemporary epigraphs and the field work done by me, of some select forts.

A study of forts and fortifications is a desideratum in order to understand the system of defence and military architecture of India. Yet this aspect is the most neglected one, and it received quite scanty attention at the hands of scholars in historical studies. The only accounts of forts that are available today are in the volumes of Gazetteers, both Imperial and Provincial series, district manuals and District Gazetteers. But these are mostly general in nature, giving a brief historical account of the fort rather than making any study of its architecture or military aspect. The same is the case with several archaeological reports of Archaeological survey of India, which confined themselves more to the conservation works done here and there. However, pioneering studies in this direction were first made by late Sri G. Yazdani, Henry Cousens and Syed Mehdi Ali, available in their accounts published in the volumes of Hyderabad Archaeological Reports, Antiquarian Remains in the Nizam's dominions, and Hyderabad Affairs, respectively. Besides, Yazdani also wrote his monumental treatise on Bidar, which stands as a model till this date.
Other works that appeared on the subject in recent years are the *Strong Holds of India* by Sidney Toy, *History of Fortification*, from the earliest times upto 1700 A.D. also by the same author, and *Deccan Forts*, a small essay by Kamalpur J.N. But these works make a study of a large number of forts, situated in North and Western India alone, although some important forts in Andhra Pradesh as Golconda and Warangal do find a place. In the case of Andhra Pradesh they deal mostly with a large number of forts situated in Telangana region only. So far no single work has appeared describing the forts of Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema region, but for a few descriptive accounts found in the Volumes of District manuals, District Gazetteers, and Archaeological survey of India Reports. Extant remains of forts are many in Andhra Pradesh spread throughout the different corners of the State, which call for a detailed study. Hence realising this need, and prompted by a desire to study this untrodden field, the present author ventures to make a systematic and comprehensive study of the system of forts in Andhra Pradesh based on their architectural data from the view point of their functional aspect of defence, coupled with literary material embodied in different texts on the subject in Sanskrit, Telugu and English. In doing this, an attempt is made to study the system of forts and fortifications from theoretical aspect and emphasis is laid on the forts of medieval period, for, it was during this period that forts played a major role in the field of warfare, and were the chief targets of attack,
frequently. However, forts of the early or ancient period also have been dealt with in order to give a continuous picture of the system of fortification in Andhra Pradesh through a survey made of them dynasty-wise.

Broadly, the present thesis divides itself into two parts. Part I has 7 chapters dealing with the theoretical aspect of forts and fortifications in general, and Part II, makes a special study of some selected forts.

Part I:

Chapter I: Gives an account of the Physiographical features of Andhra Pradesh like its general features, mountains, river systems, geography, geology, climate, rainfall and finally their influence upon history.

Chapter II: is devoted for a brief political history of Andhra Pradesh from the earliest times down to the 16th century A.D. i.e. till the fall of the great Hindu empire of Vijayanagar dealing with, in the process, the various dynasties that once exercised their sway over different regions in Andhra Pradesh.

Chapter III: In this is given an account of the various sources available for study on the subject, indicating the relative value of each class for our purpose, embodied in various literary texts, Sanskrit and Telugu. Alongside, is also drawn material from the accounts of Foreign travellers, and tradition available in the form of kaifiyats or village records, which have been carefully examined, sifted and made use of, whenever necessary.
Chapter IV: deals with the subject matter proper. That is, it makes a detailed study of the definition, concept, and evolution of the forts and fortifications in India through different periods, beginning from the earliest period i.e. pre and proto historic times upto 4th Century B.C. i.e. the Mauryan period, when appears for the first time, Kautilya's concept of the fort. In this, is also made a study of the classification of forts made by several works on polity and architecture, and the criteria adopted by them.

Chapter V: This makes a study of the antiquity of fortification in Andhra in particular, and the several forts obtaining in different periods beginning from the earliest i.e. Satavahanas upto 10th century A.D. mainly based on the information available from archaeological excavations, epigraphical references and literary texts.

Chapter VI: This makes a study of the antiquity of fortification in Andhra in particular, and the several forts obtaining in different periods beginning from the earliest i.e. Satavahanas upto 10th century A.D. mainly based on the information available from archaeological excavations, epigraphical references and literary texts.

Chapter VII: forms the crux of the present thesis, as it makes a thorough study of the character and nature of forts, in Medieval Andhra Pradesh. In this is made a study of the concept of forts as viewed by the several contemporary writers in Telugu, the main principles that govern their construction,
their different parts, their utility from functional aspect of
defence, the process of theirevolution, the methods of attack
and defence, the various weapons and implements of warfare,
their enumeration and classification, their architecture and
methods of dating.

Chapter VII: In this is made a study of the system of
administration and maintenance of forts in Andhra i.e. the
various officers appointed, their qualifications, pay etc.

Part II

This deals with some select forts, mainly chosen for
making a model study based on the field work done by the author,
keeping in view the in-tact nature of the forts, from the view
point of different structural parts of the fort, their architec-
tural features, besides their historical aspect i.e. role and
importance played by them in contemporary warfare. In
describing these forts, first its locus is given and the
historical account, mainly based on epigraphs and kaifiyats,
besides the accounts of foreign travellers, wherever available.
Then comes the descriptive account of fort, as seen and
followed by the author, during his field work, and duly
substantiated by illustrations like plans, sketches and
photographs. Golconda has not been included for detailed
study for the obvious reason that it has already been studied
by a number of scholars during the recent years:

[Signature]

(N.S. RAMACHANDRA MURTHY)