

HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF PALWAL

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Abstract: Palwal is a heritage city, due its monumental aspects. A demon Palwasur ruled here. And later this word became ,Palwal. The city of palwal faced many ruler from ancient to modern era. Here is a temple of Balram .During medieval period ,it was a smallest Ekta. Railway station of palwal is a place from where Mahatama Gandhi was arrested.

Key-words: Palwasur ,Heritage, Pandwas, Tomb, Sarai, Hodal , Kos min

On 15 August 1979, Gurgaon district was Reconfigured to form the new Faridabad district and Palwal became a part of it. In 2008, Palwal become an independent district with Hodal and hathin Tehsils. Palwal district is located south of Faridabad District. It is bound by Uttar Pradesh on the East, Gurgaon district on the North West and Mewat district on the East. The district is located on national highway no. 2 from Delhi to Mathura.¹

The traditionally District acquired its name from the city of Palwal ,Which got its name from a Demon, "PALWASUR" who ruled this place during the region of the Pandavas. He was killed by Balarama, the elder Brother of Shri Krishan. A festival is organized in Palwal in his memory annually, which is known as "Beldev Chhat ka Mela". The town exists on a very old mound, where various cultures of different eras are lying buried. The Authentic historic significance of the town starts with the date, when it was gifted to the French general De Boigne as Jageer during Maratha Supremacy in Delhi area. After the British conquest over Delhi Area in 1803, Palwal Pargana was bestowed upon Mr. Murtaza Khan² on a yearly lease . The Khan couldn't avail the Jageer for longer time and Pargana lapsed to the British Administration on his death in 1817 AD. Like every other part of present state of Haryana, Palwal area badly affected during the historic rebel of 1857 AD. The pathans of seoli and chirklot tribe meos fought with a group of Rawat Jats continuously for two Months, Bahin and Kot Village were the main assembling places for the miscreants. After the recapture of Delhi by the British, a small contingent of their force eventually arrived in this area. The trend of British during mutiny was against Mohamadans, so that force sided with Rawat Jats. But still the combined party could not suppress the meos due to timely rein forcement of hostile mutineers arriving there.³ Before mutiny, this area was under North-West provinces with Agra head quarters. But in 1858 AD, whole of this region was placed under Punjab, including Delhi as a District. As per historical documents, the town of Palwal had a fort in older times and a large Sarai on its Southern end. Though no signs of that fort are tracable, only a ruined front gateway of the Sarai is still remaining, Idgah of Shihad-ud-din was built around 1211 AD has now completely disappeared and Occupy.

So Palwal is a historical and Significance town and many structure are available in its surrounding area. There is Sheikh Shah Baz's Tomb from 13-14th Century,⁴ Located on a raised stone platform. The tomb is an octagonal structure . Each side of the octagon has recessed arches niches, some of which form the opening of the inside. A chajja runs along the periphery of the tomb supported by brakets. The interior chamber is spanned by a dome resting on a high octagonal base. Stone is employed to construct the structure which is them plastered and painted.

Tomb of Shah Roshan Chirag

Now an elegant Tomb of Saint Roshan Chirag is Surviving as a main monument of Palwal. This Tomb was built in 1661 by saint Roshan Chirag,⁵ Who levied a tax of one slab of stone from every cart-load that passed Agra to Delhi for building the fort of Salimgarh. That saint levied an impost⁶ of one slab on every cart load of stones passing thereby. The tomb was thus constructed using the stones from the levy. The tomb is a square structure built brick and covered with red sandstone. It is spanned by a dome on a circular base. All the four corners of the structure have vertical parts at the roof level. The surface of the exterior is profusely carved. Tomb of Shah Roshan Chirag is standing in the middle of the town. The tomb is in fair preservation on a slab of red sandstone 1`6`` by 6`` is four lines in Persian verses. The first line is almost entirely obliterated. The inscription records the date of erection of Sayyad Chirag Tomb, viz. 1072 A.H./1661 AD.⁷

Sarai

There is a Sarai in the middle of the town. The Sarai enclosure measure 147×89m. It had a long, broad passage way but now 3.6 m. broad and 6.8m deep passage way of it survives. It had several rooms. It is fronted by a Verandha. The rooms in each corner of the Sarai are of the same size but are attached at the rear to a square chamber. Which is further attached to an octagonal chamber.⁸The Sarai, according to J.D. Beglar, was built during Shah Jahan's period [1627-1658 AD]⁹.

Hodal - The last town of Haryana on Delhi-Agra road is Hodal. Centuries ago a Nomadic tribe called ODE used to reside in this area, hence named as ODAL and corrupted as Hodal with the time passing. ODAL occurred by sorot Jats from the region. In 18th century Maharani Kishori daughter of kansiram sorot was a famous lady in the history of Haryana .She was from hodal and was married to Maharaja of Bharatpur in 1750 AD. Maharani played an important role in the administration of bharatpur and Maharaja always consulted to her on matters. Due to relation Maharaja authorised Kansiram to collect the revenue of this area. All the monumental Remains at Hodal belonged to that royal family. Kansiram died in Bharatpur where his wife Jaskaur performed Sati custom. The mortal remains of the pair were brought to Hodal for performing rituals etc. on that site, a vast and 20 feet deep brick masonry tank was built. The tanks has broad sloping Ghats with flights of steps in all four direction. On its western end, a double storeyed place was added which is now in ruins.

Another structure of some importance is Balram ki Kachahri. The building was built by Ch. Kansiram for hearing double grievances and was named as IZLASS-KHAS. But now a day it is known as Balram ki Kachahri. Balram was brother of Rani Kishori and son of Kansiram. Maharaja Surajmal of Bharatpur Captured¹⁰ the surrounding territories of Delhi around 1760 AD, which is now a part of Haryana. To occupy the encircling tract around Delhi was a part Maharaja's strategy to conquer, the old Indian capital city, Delhi. He started his planned mission to invade into Delhi in Dec. 1763, but couldn't succeed due to his unguarded patrolling and was slain in the battlefield of sahadra. In the following years, his successor son Jawahar Singh again attacked Delhi but returned to Bharatpur with some compromising terms, even

after tasting a victory over Delhi. That was the battle in which his maternal uncle *balram* died in fighting. His body was brought to *Hodal* with great honour and was assigned to flames on the bank of *Sati-ka-Talab*.

Kos Minar

Sher Shah Suri Paid great attention to the development of road during his region. They functioned as the arteries to the empire.¹¹ But we get *Mughal Kos Minars* from our region. The first *Mughal* Emperor *Babur* ordered to raise distance Markers not strictly speaking *Kos Minars*, each 'twelve yards high with a *chardara* on top' at every nine *kos*, all along the distance from *Agra* to *Kabul*.¹² *Akbar* made some change in the system. He issued an order that at every *kos* of the way on the route a minars should be set up.¹³ *Jahangir* also carried his father's Activities in 1619 AD, he ordered to a noble to put up a pillar (*Kos Minar*) at every two *kos* and well at every three *kos*, between *Agra* and *Lahore*.¹⁴ *Kos Minars* are made with brick and covered with plaster.¹⁵ A *kos minar* is a solid structure with no stairs, or any other opening inside.¹⁶ Generally, the features of the *kos minars* commonly matched with one another, however, sometimes these features were slightly different at different places. *Catherine Asher* opines that the *Kos Minars* were, ordinarily covered with information giving distance and popular slogans.¹⁷ In our Region, fortunately twelve *minars* still exist on the *Palwal* to *Hodal* route in their awaters, some partially repaired some plastered and some in badly wounded site. These *minars* are as follows :-

kos minar of Bhulwana – It is first *kos minar* in Haryana state on *Agra-Delhi* Route at Village *Bhulwana*. It stands on a square platform. A stone inscription has been affixed along with the fencing, which gives full details of the *kos minar*. At present its condition is good. It is a protected monument of Archaeological survey of India.¹⁸

Kos Minar of Hodal – Its cylindrical portion's height is more then its octagonal portion. At present its upper portion has been broken. It is a protected monument of the ASI,¹⁹ Chandigarh circle.

Kos Minar of banchari – It is presently not in good condition. It is protected monument of the ASI.²⁰ Another *kos minar* is situated in *Banchari* village. Its rise on a square platform and Its octagonal base is in tapering. It is a protected monument of the ASI. 21

Kos Minar of khaitaila – It is situated North-West of the village . The *Minar* rises on a square platform and in a good condition. It is a protected monument of ASI.²²

Kos Minar of Aurangabad – The *Minar* is situated near *Aurangabad* village . Its rises on a square platform . The *minar* is presently not in good shape. It is in dilapidated condition. It is a protected monument of the ASI.²³

Kos Minar of phulwari[khera sarai] – The name *Khera Sarai* as indicates the former existence of the *sarai* at this *Phulwari* village . The octagonal height of the *minar* is approximately 10` and each side of octagonal measures 3`9`` it rises on a square platform. It is a protector monument of ASI.²⁴

Kos Minar of khusropur – It is situated on the South of the *Khusropur* Village . Its stand on a 21` by 21` square platform. The plaster of the octagonal portion is mostly chipped off and its lower portion has been damaged. It is protected monument of the ASI.²⁵

Kos Minar of palwal – Due to this *minar* the *chowk* is named *minar chowk*. In 1995-96 ASI has done its repair work, plaster to protect water, but encroachment did not remove from here. it is a protected monument.²⁶

Kos Minar of Alhapur – This *minar* is situated in middle of the Village. The *minar* stands on a platform but it platform is not visible. It is in the list of protect monument.²⁷

Kos Minar of Mirapur – It is situated near village *mirapur*. The square platform of the *minar* is missing here. Each side of the octagon, measures 3`9``. It is protected monument of ASI.²⁸

Kos Minar of Gadhuri – It is situated in village. The upper portion of the *minar* has been broken. It is a protected monument of the ASI.²⁹ In 2008, Palwal become separate district. But this city is important form Ancient time. In Medieval period this city was under the Mughal Supremacy. In medieval period many structures built by rulers like as *Shah Roshan Chirag's Tomb*, a *Sarai* and many *Mughal Kos Minar*. *Kos Minars* and *Sarai* is the mark of trade route. 18th Century is the witnessed of *Mughal Disintegration*. In these circumstances, *Hodal* under the *Bharatpur King*, became a main land. Local king of *hodal* built many structure with the help of *Bharatpur* dynasty. *Balram ki Kachari*, *Sati-Ka-Talab* etc. are main monuments of *Hodal*.

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