HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF PALWAL

Harvansh
Research Scholar, Department of History, M.D.U. Rohtak

Abstract: Palwal is a heritage city, due to 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 became an independent district with Hodal and hathin Tehsil. 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 Parguna was bestowed upon Mr. Murtaza Khan\(^2\) on a yearly lease. The Khan couldn’t avail the Jageer for longer time and Parguna 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 reinforcement 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 traceable, only a ruined front gateway of the Sarai is still remaining. Iqah of Shihad-ul-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 brackets. 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 impost\(^6\) 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 tomb. 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 147x89m. 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. The Sarai, according to J.D. Beglar, was built during Shah Jahan’s period [1627-1658 AD]\(^8\)

**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 was 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 Jaysaur 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 Kachahr. 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 Kachahr. Balram was brother of Rani Kishori and son of Kansiram. Maharaja Surajmal of Bharatpur Captured\(^9\) 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. 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 chandara on top” at every nine kos, all along the distance from Agra to Kabul. 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. 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. Kos Minars are made with brick and covered with plaster. A kos minar is a solid structure with no stairs, or any other opening inside. 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. In our Region, fortunately twelve minars still exist on the Palwal to Hodal route in their awaters, same 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.

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, Chandigarh circle.

Kos Minar of Banchari – It is presently not in good condition. It is protected monument of the ASI. 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.

Kos Minar of Auranagbad – The Minar is situated near Auranagbad village. Its rise 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.

Kos Minar of Phulwari[Khara Sarai] – The name Khara 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.

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.

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.

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 protector monument.

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.

Kos Minar of Gadhpuri – It is situated in village. The upper portion of the minar has been broken. It is a protected monument of the ASI. 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 Chiragh’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.

**Reference**

[18] Declared Protected vide letter No. 6798, dated-11.03.1919
[19] Declare protected vide letter No. 6798, date-11.03.1919
[22] Ibid

[23] Ibid, Inventory, 5
[24] Ibid, Inventory, 13
[25] Ibid, Inventory, 14
[26] Ibid, Inventory, 20
[27] Ibid, Inventory, 3
[28] Ibid, Inventory, 10
[29] Ibid, Inventory, 9