

## Historical And Archaeological Study Of The Hisar City

Dr. Amit Kumar S/O Shri Diwan Singh<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Our historical monuments and artworks tell stories of our culture, why and how we have honoured and celebrated our ancestors throughout the decades via public expressions of gratitude. This study focuses on Hisar's rich architectural history. It seems to be focus of the research to study the history of sculpture and monuments. Since the monuments and artworks that I have chosen to focus on have such historical value, I think that raising awareness about the monuments and sculptures' history would be beneficial.

**Keywords:** Haryana, Hisar, Monuments, History, city.

### Introduction

Hisar, a city in the state of Haryana, has a rich history. One of the country's fastest-growing cities, Hisar is located in the north-western region and serves as the district's administrative centre. Historic monuments, parks, trade and business units, and most notably, the historical significance of numerous monuments that are milestones for the explorers of the region's past make this city a popular destination for tourists.

Firozshah Tughlaq, a Muslim monarch, constructed the city of Hisar in 1354. "Hisar" is an Arabic term for "fort." and it has been used since ancient times. Hisar Firoz (also known as Hisar-e-Firoza) or the 'Fort of Firoz' was the original name of the city presently known as 'Hisar.' Though its name was originally "Firoza," over time the word was lost.

Agroha, Banwari, and Kunal were all discovered in these regions, where the earliest traces of human habitation was found. Pre-Harappan settlements such as this have provided us with the earliest representations of prehistoric periods. For example, the discovery of Kushana coins and an Ashoka-era pillar in Hisar fort (234 A.D.) provide evidence of India's ancient past.

During the reign of Firozshah, the construction of the city of Hisar began in the year 1354 A.D. under his direct supervision. The stones used to construct Hisar Firoza's boundary wall came from the Narsai hills. Additionally, a large ditch had been excavated around the fort's perimeter. Inside the fort, a massive and deep water tank was built, and the water was utilised to refill the ditch. Inside the fort, a magnificent palace with a plethora of structures was constructed. The palace's grounds were especially well-designed. After two and a half years of nonstop construction, the city's first phase was said to be complete.

Amirs and nobles were also ordered to build their homes here by the Sultan. Bricks made of lime and charred lime was used to build the structures. The Delhi and Mori Gates in the east, the Nagori Gate in the south, and the Talaqi Gate in the west were among the fort's four entrances.

Firozshah expanded the city while he erected the palace, which came to be known as 'Gujari Mahal' after his lover. Even now, the Gujari Mahal stands proudly in its austere splendour. The Firozshah Darwaza, Shahi Darwaza, Diwan-e-Aam, Baradari with three tehkhanas, a Hamam, a Mosque, and a Pillar are all part of this palace complex. The Gujari Mahal features a stately design. The stone pillars of the palace are exquisitely sculpted.

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<sup>1</sup>Address - H No - 451 ,VPO Dhanana , Tehsil & Distt - Bhiwani ( Haryana)

As far as I know, invaders often used Hindu or Jain temples as the building materials for their conquered territories, and the Gujari Mahal complex is no exception. This has been a common occurrence throughout history.

Mahmud Tughlaq personally rescued Hisar from the rebels in 1408 after the city had fallen into their hands. Khizar Khan gained control of the Hansi region in 1411 and was crowned Sultan of Delhi in 1414 as the first ruler of the Sayyad Dynasty. Mahmud Hassan received the kingdom of Hisar in 1420 as a reward for his service. Bahlol Lodi handed Muhabbat Khan the fief of Hisar rather than Haryana as part of Haryana during the Lodhis' weak dynasty (1451-1526).

Ibrahim Lodi's dominion relied heavily on Hisar as a strategic hub when Babur invaded India in 1524-26. Babur learned of Hamid Khan's advance on the Ghaggar before the battle of Panipat in 1526, when he arrived at the river. He then sent prince Humayun, who led a large army to victory over the invading force. Hisar was given to Humayun as a reward for his first successful military campaign by Babur. India was ruled by Humayun two times, the first time in 1530-1540 and the second time in 1555-1556. Amir Muhammad built a mosque here in 1535, known as Jama Masjid, during his first reign.

Akbar's reign (1556-1605) saw resurgence in Hisar's importance as a strategic hub. It was renamed sirkar and designated as the revenue division's headquarters. They later became Emperors because some of the Mughal Princes who were loyal to Hisar became Emperors. Hisar was then renowned as the Mughal Era's Duke of Wellington in History.

George Thomas was the final notable figure in the history of the Hisar region before British rule (1756-1802). From 1797 until 1802, he ruled the territory of Haryana, which included Hisar, as an independent ruler. Located just east of Hisar, the Jahaz Pul and Jahaz Kothi are reminders of the great Irish explorer. Thomas stayed at the Jahaz Kothi, a former Jain temple that was later transformed into a mosque.

## OBJECTIVES

The study's main purpose is to demonstrate how ancient historical monuments in Hisar keep their historicity while also examining the influence of current time on historical and cultural heritage sites.

## THE DATABASES AND THE METHODOLOGIES

Primary and secondary sources of historical data and available studies were acquired and analysed in order to achieve the objectives of this study. The old historical information was compiled using India's Gazettes. Additionally, the data on historical monuments was culled from a range of ASI books and reports. While inspecting ancient sculptures and interesting monuments, physical observations have been made including the degradation of terrain, unlawful land invasion and shrinkage of open spaces around them, and occupation of land, among other things. This study focuses on the five most well-known monuments in Hisar.

## ANALYSIS

The findings of the study about the specific selected monuments are as follows-

### 1. Lat ki Masjid

Lat ki Masjid is the name of the major mosque of Hisar's Firoz Shah Palace complex. Just outside the main entrance gate, it is situated on the complex's south side and is freely reachable. In the north-east corner of the courtyard is a re-erected antique column known as the Lat. The mosque is one of the district's best-known landmarks, and its column has drawn the attention of scholars. As far as I can tell, the mosque's walls and roof are made from sandstone blocks up to and including the vault springings. Only a few of Firoz Shahi structures use brick, and this one is one of those rare

examples. With an L-shape ablution tank and gatehouse, this mosque is a hybrid structure (pillar). It stands on a platform and has sustained damage from the elements. Building materials include red and buff sandstone and rubble with thick plaster applied over it. On the western side of the courtyard, there is a prayer hall with nine bays.



Captain Bird discovered the Lat in the mosque for the first time in 1838. This finial-shaped column rises to a total height of 13.75 metres thanks to the addition of an iron rod at the very top. Shaft: 10 feet 4 inches in height and 8 feet 7 inches in circumference at the base of a single piece of yellow stone. At the moment, the stone's surface lacks any kind of inscription several short inscriptions were reportedly left by visitors to the original site of the column in the first century, according to research.

The mosque's pillars and arches may be made from repurposed materials from the ancient Agroha temples in India. It is separated into four sections: square, octagonal, sixteen-sided, and spherical. They have fluted upper members. In low relief, floral and geometric patterns adorn each of the columns, which are all of the same type. It's interesting to note that the mosque uses a double row of columns as well. Both the Hauz-i-Khas Masjid in Delhi and the Firoz Shahi Mosque in the capital city of the country' use this design.

There is a modest mezzanine in the northern corner of the mosque that is supported by eight square columns and eight pilasters. The outer arch of the mihrab in this gallery is adorned with spearheads. There are candle niches on either side of the mihrab. In Indian mosques, these kinds of rooms are called Zanana, or the place for women's use. A separate area for women to pray is mandated by Islam, however not all mosques provide this kind of secluded area. In Indian mosques, the name muluk khana (the chamber of the monarch) is used. There is clear doubt that the Lat ki Masjid's mezzanine gallery was intended to be utilised by the Sultan or the governor during public prayers, as the royal chamber. To access the gallery, a set of steps may be found on the eastern side of the prayer hall. The mosque's northern wall has a tiny passageway cut into it that connects the north colonnade to the bay in front of the gallery, as well as the mosque's roof.

Gatehouses like Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's tomb and the top structures of Lai Bangla and Bijaymandal, as well as many more with plaster covers, can be found in Hisar, including the Jahaj Mahal's inner gatehouse.

The gatehouse, on the other hand, does not include a burial. There is a possibility that this structure is the same as Delhi's Ala'i-Darwaza near the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. According to the local lore it's linked to an underground tube that leads to Hansi. According to another legend, the palace was built to house imperial riches and be guarded at all times by warriors. It appears to have been a detached gatehouse.

## 2. Mosque of Dana Sher

The Dana Sher Tomb is located to the west of mosque. Three arched doorways to the courtyard can be found on the mosque's eastern side. The central entry is the widest and is framed by cusped arches, as opposed to the rest (engrailed). Cusped (or engrailed) arches of the same sort may be found at the top of each side door. The white stucco on the exterior of this mosque is exquisite. The central room of the mosque has a single mihrab in the centre of the Qila wall, which connects the mosque's three square domed chambers.

The third and largest chamber is located in the centre recess. Additionally, the dome of this area is significantly larger than the domes on either side. Squinches can be found at the corners of the chamber's upper half. Each of the side chambers has an arched window in the centre of the Qila wall, where a supplementary mihrab would normally be. As part of the temple conversion, these windows were covered over. The dome's finial has a series of copper vessels rising out of the top of the dome. Located in the middle of the central arch, above the entrance, was the historical inscription of this mosque. Although it may be seen in the photos, the inscription has vanished. Although it was written in a good nasta'liq script and contained a record of a mosque's construction, according to Blochmann and Horn, it was written in an unreadable script. As a result, the structure is relatively recent in Hisar's architectural history, having been constructed during Aurangzcb's reign. The inscription's translation can be found here. As describes:



"The chosen one, Abd-unnabi. whose gaze brightens the mirror of the heart, is a follower of the Prophet's law. A large mosque has been built in front of Shah Buhlul's mausoleum courtyard to serve as a place of worship for pilgrims. A voice from heaven announced without difficulty the final hemistich, 'this building was completed in 1106 A. H. (1694-95 A.D.).'"

### 3. Pranpir badshah Tomb

A Tughlaq nobleman known as Sher Bahlol or Dana Sher was under the spiritual guidance of Pranpir badshah. Ghulam Ali was an esteemed Sufi Saint who foretold the rise to power of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. Near the Government College, in the Panchayat Ghar complex, to the south of town, lies the mausoleum. Located in Hisar's most populous area, this tomb has a square plan. The bottom half of the arches of the entrances is attached to a rubble core and coated with stone (kankars). Bricks are used in the upper portion of the structure. At least one aperture may be found in the middle of each of the four walls. South of the tomb's main entrance lies a passageway. Smaller doors are installed on the southern and northern entrances, and bricks are used to close the remaining two entranceways. The arches of the entrances are bordered on the exterior by arched niches, each of which is topped by three smaller niches. There are two additional niches on the piers of the entry' at this level, resulting in a row of eight small niches on each side, at the same level as these niches. An outward facing bay can be seen on each of the building's four walls.



In this tomb, the mortuary' hall is square in plan. No one knows where the body was buried: there was once a marker that pointed to the spot. This may have been demolished after it was taken over by the locals. There are lovely arches in the comers of the chamber to make it look like an octagonal room instead of just a square one. First, wooden beams were positioned across the corners of the room to test the concept. There are two rows of sixteen fiat niches in the transitional zones interior.' There are nooks in the masonry, but they have all been covered with bricks. The structure was originally plastered on the outside and the inside, too. The ceiling's plaster is nearly completely peeled away and gone. It's a total disaster.

To get to the tomb's rooftop, you'll need a set of steps from the southeast. It is currently impossible to see the roofs original crenulations. A large octagonal drum sits in the middle of the rooftop. An eight- merlons-per-side pattern was used on the neck. Rips were used to embellish the dome. Only a few petals of the inverted lotus remain on top of the dome, from which the missing finial would have been erected. These petals are formed of a mixture of rubble and mortar.

#### **4. Firoz Shah Fort**

The majority of the fort has now been destroyed by the invaders. When Sultan Firoz Shah arrived in 1354, he personally oversaw the construction of a fort that would serve as a prison for the sultan. Stones were used in the construction of Hisar Firoza's perimeter wall. The fort had a complex of buildings built inside of it. The main gate, built into the western wall and leading into the fort's south court, is the only way in. The fort's lone remaining gateway can be found here. There are two guardrooms on either side of an arched entrance to a passageway. There is a vaulted roof over the gate, which is made of rubble stone. They've taken a toll on the gate's walls. A wall with crenellations guards the western side of the building. Recent construction left the eastern facade's semi-circular supporting arch in its original configuration. In order to get to this point, the path through the gate now has an upward grade.



Hisar's historical fort can be likened to the madrasa of Firoz Shah at Hauz-i-Khas, which was built on the same principles of architecture. This structure was erected in the early years of Firoz Shah's administration, long before the fort of Hisar had ever been built. On the surface, it appears as if the fort in his capital city of Firozabad was constructed in the same way. However the ruins on this level demonstrate that it was built of bricks and mortar on masonry piers and vaults. The upper floors of the building have been demolished to the ground level. It is possible to apply the design principle used in the construction of the fort of Hisar to constructions of a later age. Because of its historical and architectural significance, it has been designated a Monument of National Importance and is therefore protected under law.

#### **5. Gujari Mahal**

Firoz Shah also constructed the Gujari Mahal for his love Gujari, whom he met while hunting and fell in love with. She was a native of Hisar. Outside the fort, the Mahal is perched atop a massive

rubble and mortar platform. As a result, two square towers form the eastern side of the platform of the Gujari Mahal. The north and south sides of the platform have deep vaulted recesses created in the west end. It resembles Muhammad bin Tughlaq Shah's Bijai Mandnl in Delhi in appearance. Despite the fact that the Taj Mahal is more magnificent, the Gujari Mahal stands as a testament to the great values of love and sacrifice. When Firoz Shah Tughlaq built the Gujari Mahal to honour his beloved, he unwittingly inspired Shah Jahan to build the Taj Mahal in memory of his cherished queen Mumtaz.



The baradari can be found at the centre of the eastern side of the platform, in the middle of the eastern side. The walls are thick and weathered, making them appear older than they are. At its widest, it measures 23'6" by 23'6". The walls of the building are 7'3" in thickness. Each wall has three arched apertures. Below the level of the springing line, the arches of the exterior openings have horizontal cross lintels. Frames for doors and windows are rectangular in shape. The crevices around the domes are filled with rubble and mortar in order to create a flat roof.

The caves of the baradari are supported by brackets on the spring level and have stones put in them. The roof is supported by nine pendentives with hemispherical domes, four columns, and a series of pilasters. This baradari's four pillars, which are decorated with ghata-pallava and lahara-vallari motifs and appear to have been salvaged from an ancient temple in Agroha, give a glimpse into Haryana's historic architectural marvels. The pillars measure 6'11" tall by 1'4" wide. Carved pots and greenery embellish these columns. Arch motifs decorate the bases and capitals. It's a bricked-in floor. There are few examples of a Firoz Shahi brick floor in its original shape that are still in good condition. Only the columns are carved from red sandstone, which is used for the rest of the construction. The building appears to have been built to showcase these unique and old artifacts to their fullest potential.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, the patrilineal monuments of Hisar are noted for their distinctive architectural elements and Hisar is known as historic city. A historical feel is given to Hisar's streets by the ornate gates of these residences, and the podiums on the buildings themselves, which are decorated and used for various social and religious occasions, add even more beauty to the city. It is clear from these monuments that the memorials of monuments enjoy a high social position.

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