



Yamuna nagar: History and architectural remains

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Abstract

Yamuna nagar is Historical district and Bilaspur, Jagadhari, Sugh, are main towns, mentioned in Mahabharata. Hiuen Tsang described about this area. In medieval period, it was situated on diplomatic location. The original name of town was Abdullapur.

Keywords: Medieval, Bilaspur, Abdullapur, Jagadhari, Sugh, Hiuen Tsang, Buria, Sultanate, Mughal

Introduction

Yamuna nagar district named after its main town, came into existence on 1st November 1989. The original name of the town was *Abdullapur*. The district is triangular shaped with base made by a boundary with Himachal Pradesh on the North end apex touching *Karnal* district on South. It is bound by Uttar Pradesh on the east, *Ambala* district on the west and *Kurukshetra* district on the south west. *Bilaspur* (*Vyaspur*), *Jagadhari* (*Yugandhari*) and *Sugh* (*Srughna*) are city of the district and all mentioned in *Mahabharata*. *Hiuen Tsang* the Chinese traveler, mention the presence of the town *Srughna* of great Buddhist and *Brahmanical* learning which corresponds to the village *sugh* in then *Jagadhari tehsil* of *Yamuna Nagar*. The *terrocotta* finds at *sugh* can be grouped into various time periods, such as *Maurya*, *Sunga*, *Kusana*, *Gupta* end medieval period. It is recorded that *Topra* edict from earlier *Asokan* period was moved from a village *Jagadhari* to *Kotala* in Delhi by *Feroz Shah Tuglaq* in the 14th century. *Buria*, part of District was rehabilitated by *Mughal* emperor *Humayun*. *Raja Birbal*, one of the nine ministers of Emperor *Akbar* is believed to have been born here. *Shah Jahan* also used to visit this place and erected a structure, *Rang Mahal*.

Architectural remains of Yamuna Nagar

Buria is a small and ancient town in *Yamuna nagar* district of Haryana, situated on the banks of *Yamuna canal*. Some authors mention that *Rang Mahal* of *Buria* related to *Birbal*. During British period, *Buria* was captured by the Sikhs in 1760 AD and after some time its came under direct British control.

Rang Mahal

The town of *Buria* was closely associated with *Mughal*. A chief courtier of Emperor *Shah jahan* built a pleasure house at *Buria*. It is a simple double storey building situated at the north-west of the village *Buria* and 6km to the East of *Jagadhari*. *Charles J. Rodgers* makes a mention of *Rang Mahal* ^[1]. *H.H. cole* ascribes its construction to *Shah Jahan* Who, he says though without substantial basis built it in 1630 A.D. ^[2] It gains its name *Rang Mahal* from the colour decoration but presently since structure is in ruins. The ground

floor comprises a square room of 4.7m side with an along room in each corner. All the rooms are covered with flat ceiling and connected with one another through one meter broad flat arched opening ^[3]. All rooms have a similar arrangement. The difference being that their ceilings are slightly domical and there is no pillar in the central rooms in seen in the ground floor ^[4].

The room on the upper floor are covered with low domes and are concave in shape ^[5]. On the top floor, the flight of steps are covered with simple structures, each topped by two small domes. The building stands on a raised platform, which is made of bricks and plastered with lime. The wall of the *Rang Mahal* are Purposely adorned with painting depicting such motifs as vase and flowers, cypress and date trees, flowering trees and arabesque borders. Other animate motifs painted on the walls of this room are fairies, peacocks and other birds. On the northern corner of the western wall. The lady is dressed in red and viridian garments ^[6]. The whole building was plastered with a fine quality of *chuna*, some of its portions still retain a marble-like lusture

Bilaspur

Bilaspur is another town of the *Yamuna Nagar* district. Here *Gurudwara kopal Mochan* is located towered the east of *kapal Mochan tank*. This *Gurudwara* was visited by *Guru Gobind Singh* after the battle of *Bhangani* in 1687 on his way to *Paonta Sahib*. The *Gurudwara* is located within a walled enclosure and faces the northwest. It is accessible through an arched gateway which along with the *Gurudwara* stands on platform. The gateway is a double storey building with rooms. It is a rectangular building with projecting corners, where all four corners are topped with *chattris* at the upper level exhibiting Sikh architecture. A large pavilion with domical roof is located centrally at the terrace. Ornate features like cusped arches at the gateway and decorative parapet inverted lotus and silver finials are present on the *Gurudwara* that enhance the architectural vocabulary of the building. A tank is also located within the walled enclosure.

Sadhaura

It is town of *Yamunanagar* district. The town of *Sadhaura* is

of great historic significance and had great antiquity as well. Sadhaura, steeped in history a Sanskrit language composite of Sadhu and dwar, meaning 'The way of saints'. A. Cunningham, conducted his exploration here in 1879 AD. He described about an old monuments. He too mentioned about some inscription in an old mosque^[7], dating back to 1600 AD. *Sadhnara* came into lime light in 1712-14, When imperial *Mughal* forces chased *Banda Bairagi*. *Banda* was a representative of *Sikh Guru Gobind Singh*, who made his head quarters in *Mukheshpur*, near *Sadhuara* 1710AD. That was period of political uncertainty at Delhi. So *Chin Bahadur* a *Mughal Aamir*, who appointed and come *sadhuara* for capturing *banda* in 1712 AD, was recalled back to the *Mughal* court^[8]. Many monuments remains are available to here, describe below.

Qazi Mosque

This mosque is situated in the northern side of the town. The entrance gateway of this mosque is in the northern side and entirely built of red bricks. This gateway is engrailed arched opening the soffit of the arched gateway is decorated with painting. The hall of mosque is divided into three chambers inter connected by the arched ways. The central square chamber is main sanctuary hall and in the centre of its western wall is a beautiful designed and recessed sinking *Mihrab* has been made the soffits of the inner arches are covered with stucco work on the upper portion of the sanctuary hall or interior of the drum. Beautiful squinch have been made for transitional phase of its dome. On southern side of this mosque is staircase adjacent to the main building leading to the terrace. In front of the sanctuary hall and in the centre of the courtyard, there is a pond for ablution (*hauz-i-kalan*) in square shape^[9].

Abdul Wahab Mosque

It is the mosque of Aurangzab's time. It is the situated extreme west of the town where as the *Qazi* mosque is in the northern side of the town. The central arch has eight lines of Persian poetry in purple letters on yellow ground. The translation of the inscription^[10] is as under :- "*It records the date of erection of the mosque in the forms of a chronogram as well as figures which is 1088 A.H. during the region of Alamgir.*"

The whole structure is surmounted with a bulbous dome with a belong domes on it either side interiorly, the mosque has considerably low ceilings. It is so because of double domes. The sides ones are elongated. All the tree domes are surmounted with inverted lotus moldings the interior of the mosques is suddenly pointed with floral patterns.

Triangular shape district, mains cities are Buria, Bilaspur Sodhaura. Jagadhari and Sugh. They are very important sites from Historical point of view. Many architectural remains available from the district. Rang mahal of Buria is well planed structure belong to medieval period. Gurdawara Kopal Mochan of Bilaspur was visited by Guru Gobind Singh, so many Devotees Sikh come here. In Sodhaura a Dargah of Noor Sahid Sadhaura and many structure likes as *Qazi* mosque, *Abdul Wahab* mosque are available. Thus, the sites of Yamunanagar District is important for history.

References

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