

Hissar district of Haryana is one of the rich regions in the archaeological and architectural wealth. In protohistoric times, the famous Harappan site of Rakhigarhi was the great centre of activity. The Asokan pillar at Hissar; discovery of the Buddhist Stupa, Kushana sculptural art, Yaudheya seals and coins from Agroha and sculptures of Gurjara-Pratihara from Hansi and Agroha, establish that Hissar, Hansi and Agroha dominated the scene since the early historical period. Few of the important monuments and sites in and around Hissar declared as monuments/ sites of national importance are narrated below.

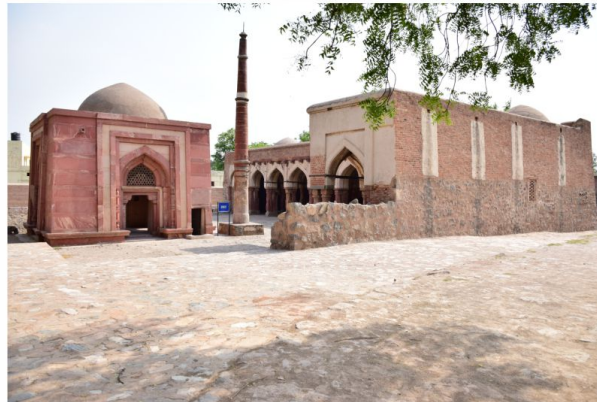


Firoz Shah's Palace, Hissar : The foundation of the present town of Hissar (29° 10' N; 75°44' E) was laid by Firoz Shah Tughlaq (AD 1351-75) in AD 1356. He adorned his new town 'Hissar-Firozah' with palaces, mosques, gardens, canals and other public buildings. Full account of the foundation of this town and its buildings has been narrated by the contemporary historians – *In the fort of Koshak or Villa was so magnificently built that nobody could name its equal. This Villa consisted several decorated apartments and possessed many mysteries. One of them was that any man who happened to come in this Koshak and to go round the many apartments in it, he would certainly reach the point where from he started first. The central apartment was so dark that if the guards would not guide, it would be impossible to come out of the darkness. The mosque, lat (pillar) and the domed building are also part of this Koshak.*

The remains of the Firoz Shah's Palace are located in the fort wherein underground apartments still exist in the good state of

preservation. The palace is built of rubble masonry carrying thick lime plaster and its arches are supported on red sandstone pillars, carved in low relief, extricated from destroyed Hindu temples and reused here.

The palace complex consists of an open courtyard on the sides of which are placed two to three storied structures. In the massive western wall of the palace is embedded a passage from where steps leads to the terrace. The passage meant for troops guarding the palace, is provided with archer holes and includes a bastion, the hollow core of which has a pillared hall connected with other rooms and cells of the palace. In view of its historical and architectural importance it was declared as a monument of national importance vide notification No. 11078 dated 09.04.1924.



Lat-Ki-Masjid, Hissar : The mosque popularly known as Lat-Ki-Masjid was built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq. It is a unique example of Tughlaq architecture. The mosque is a combination of buildings having an L shaped ablution tank and a lat (pillar). The mosque is built partly of red and buff sandstone and partly of rubble masonry having thick plaster over it. Stone pillars showing floral and geometrical designs in low relief, extricated from destroyed Hindu temples, support the main arched openings and recesses in the hind wall. One pillar bears an inscription assignable to ninth-tenth century AD. The main prayer hall has nine bays. It has a carved Kiblah and a pulpit in the western wall. A flight of steps descends from the prayer hall to

the tank through underground chambers. To the northern end of the mosque at right angle, is attached a pavilion having three arched openings. Within the courtyard, placed to the north-east is a lat after which the mosque is named. The lat consists of two parts, lower one is of buff lime stone and the upper portion is that of red sandstone. The lower portion is a part of one of the pillars erected by Asoka, the traces of a line in Mauryan Brahmi characters is visible at the top of the shaft while the genealogy of Firoz Shah's family in Tughra-Arabic characters is carved in high relief on the cylindrical shaft of red sandstone.

Behind the lat stands a beautiful domed building having a square chamber showing moulded and penelled decorations in red sandstone. It has openings on all the four sides which are provided with pillars supporting pierced tracery screens. The sloping walls and its other architectural features no doubt indicate that it is of Firoz Shah's time, but it is difficult to explain for what purpose it was built. Sources relate that it was the entrance to the mosque. Local tradition says that it connects with the underground passage leading to Hansi. Another tradition tells us that it was meant for keeping the imperial treasures and guarded by soldiers. The walls of the first storey have cladding of red sandstone upto the niche and the rest of the dome is of masonry construction. There are two ways of narrow steps one from outside and the other from inside, leading down to the underground square chamber. In view of its historical and architectural importance it was declared as a monument of national importance vide notification No. 513 dated 01.09.1911



Gujri Mahal, Hissar : Gujri Mahal was built by Firoz Shah (AD 1351-75) for his beloved Gujri, a native of Hissar, with whom he fell in love during the course of one of his hunting expeditions. Situated outside the fort, the palace imbibes characteristic features of Tughlaq architecture such as massive tapering walls thickly plastered and narrow openings. Lot of material extricated from destroyed Hindu temples has also been reused here. Standing on a raised high battered walls, which has underground chambers, the palace consisting of a baradari and a pavilion is approached by flight of steps. The baradari, a square structure has twelve arched entrances, each side. All entrances except one are provided with stone door frames. Twelve stone pilasters embedded in standing pillars divide the inner span of the roof into nine bays each carrying a hemispherical dome and decorated with fine paneling work in lime plaster. Concealed within the walls of the baradari are two stair cases leading to the cells underneath. The exterior walls above the arched openings, are provided with beautifully carved red sandstone brackets. To its west is a mausoleum which is roofless having a platform containing five graves and a small flat roofed mosque with three entrances. In view of its historical and architectural importance it was declared protected as a monument of national importance vide notification No. 513 dated 01.09.1911.

Our Duties Towards Our Cultural Heritage

Do

- Help in keeping the monuments clean.
- Help in maintaining the natural environment around the monuments.
- Help in preventing and avoiding any act of destruction of monuments and report any such matter to the concerned staff.
- Keep distance while looking at any display of easily touchable antiquity and painting etc.
- Help in protecting unprotected monuments, antiquities etc.
- Help in creating cultural awareness among the masses.
- Help in maintaining the sanctity of the monuments.

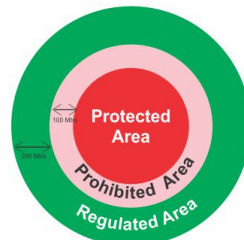
Don'ts

- Don't litter or spoil any monument.
- Don't pluck flower, etc. from monuments garden.
- Don't paint, draw or whitewash any wall etc. in and around the monuments.
- Don't touch any painting, etc and neither throw nor divert any water, flash-light and use ritual objects, etc. over them.
- Don't hamper or spoil the originality of any artefact/ antiquity of an unprotected area/monument.
- Don't underestimate the importance of any cultural heritage.

'Ancient Monuments and antiquities are one of the precious gifts passed on to us by our ancestors and thus, it not only happens to be our karma but it is also our dharma to keep them protected and conserved'.

According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.

Protected Area :	Archaeological Site/ monuments of National importance.
Prohibited Area :	Construction activity not allowed.
Regulated Area :	Construction activities allowed only after the permission from the National Monument Authority, New Delhi.



MONUMENTS & SITES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN HISSAR (Haryana)



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