



Our Duties Towards Our Cultural Heritage

Do's

- 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 the monuments.
- Keep distance while looking at any displayed or easily reachable 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 the garden of the monuments.
- Don't engrave on the wall of the monuments.
- Don't touch any painting, etc. and neither throw water nor 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 is not only our *karma* but 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 activity only after the permission of the National Monuments.



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Kos Minars Mile Stones



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Chandigarh Circle was established in the year 1985 for the protection, preservation, and conservation of ancient monuments of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. In 2004, Chandigarh Circle was bifurcated and Shimla Circle was created for better maintenance/ preservation of monuments of Himachal Pradesh. There are 124 monuments and sites under the jurisdiction of Chandigarh Circle; 91 in the states of Haryana and 33 in Punjab. These monuments include — Temples, Forts, Dam, Palaces, Tombs, Archaeological Sites, Mosques, Sarais, Kos Minars, and Gateways, etc.

Kos Minars- The medieval Indian measure of distance was termed *kos*, a corruption of the Sanskrit word *Krosa*, or its equivalent in Persian, *Kuroh*. The Chinese traveller Xuan Zang writes the measure *kos* as *keu-lu-sha* and defines it as the distance "that the mooing of a cow can be heard." By medieval times the words *krosa* or *kuroh* got rounded off to *kos*. Although the word *kos* remained the same yet the distance signified by it varied not only from time to time but also from place to place. One reason for this variation was the changing length of the *gaz* (yard) which is the smaller unit of length.

Distance marking posts or pillars are known as early as the Mauryan period from the records of Megasthenes. Describing the foot post during the fourteenth century Ibn Batuta mentions three towers or pavilions at every third of a '*kuroh*', which were the precursors to the *kos* minars.

The first Mughal Emperor Babur ordered that 'distance

markers' be raised. These were supposed to be constructed on a pre-determined plan each measuring "twelve yards in height with a *chardara* on top" at every nine

kos all along the distance from Agra to Kabul. Akbar ordered the erection of *Kos* minars along the Agra-Ajmer route during the nineteenth year of his reign. Arif

Qandhari author of *Tanikh-i-Akbari* states that the Emperor had the horns of the deers affixed to these minars so that each tower was studded with three or four hundred horns, which were to serve as directional signage. Hiran Minar at Fatehpur Sikri has horn shaped stones fixed on exterior of the tower.



Kos Minar No. 25, Banechhari, Distt. Faridabad (Haryana)

In A.D. 1619, Emperor Jahangir ordered Baquir Khan, the Fauzdar of Multan, to erect a *Kos*-minar (mile-stone) at every *kos* (3.20 km) on the old imperial route from Agra to Lahore to show the distances. He recorded that every *kos* during his reign was equal to "five thousand cubits [*gaz*] and a cubit and a quarter is equivalent to two *shari* cubits each of which is twenty four fingers." The shape of the minars had already been fixed during the reign of Akbar who had built similar minars along the Agra-Ajmer Highway. According to Ebba Koch, these *Kos* Minars represent a smaller form of the Akbari hunting towers that were set up in imitation of Iranian models.



Kos Minar, Tul Hellen, Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar (Punjab)

Each tower is a brick or stone structure covered with plaster. It usually soars from a slightly tapering octagonal base which rises up to nearly half of its total height. Hence

upwards, it becomes a tapering cylindrical pillar, rounded at the top. The octagonal base is separated from the central portion by a moulding above which runs a band of colour or a border in relief and another moulding is seen below the spherical top. Sometimes the top is crowned by a finial. A recess on each *kos* minar, which originally carried the stone bearing is the serial number of the *kos*. The twin *Kos* Minars at Panipat still bear the recess but without any inscriptions.



Kos Minar, Panipat (City) Distt. Panipat (Haryana)

Kos Minars form the single largest group of monuments protected by the Chandigarh Circle of ASI in the states of Haryana and Punjab. There are 50 *Kos* Minars protected by the ASI in the state of Haryana and 13 in the state of Punjab. *Kos* Minars and Sarais are located at regular intervals throughout the route in the states of Haryana and Punjab. During the Mughal Period, this route was used for controlling their extensive empire and as the lifeline for trade. The Badshahi route runs through **Palwal, Faridabad, Delhi, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala** Districts of Haryana and **Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana, Jallundhar, Kapurthala and Taran Taran** Districts of Punjab. Several *Kos* Minars, Sarais, Tombs, etc are located on the highway and can be seen on the way from Delhi to Chandigarh and on the way from Agra to Delhi among which some of them are protected by the A.S.I.



Kos Minar, Sarnewal, Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab)



Kos Minar No. 24, Banechhari, Distt. Faridabad (Haryana)