

Kaithal:History And Heritage

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Abstract: *kaithal is a historical city. In ancient time, it was established by Yudhisra. Another view is that Lord Hanumana born at here and named it Kapisthala, which come to be known as kaithal. After 1947, it was part of district karnal and in 1973 became a part of created district of kurukshetra. Kaithal become a new district of Haryana on November 1989. And kaithal is a heritage city from ancient time.*

Key-words :Heritage, Yudhisra, Kapisthal, Gate, Razia sultana, Mughal, Tomb, Jama masjid, Fort, Palace, Baoli

Kaithal was earlier a part of district *Karnal* and in 1973 become part of the newly created district of *Kurukshetra*. *Kaithal* become a new district of Haryana on 1 November, 1989. The district is located in the central part of the lap formed by the boundary of Punjab, Haryana State. The state of Punjab makes boundary with the district in its northwest, *Jind* district lies to its southeast, *Kurukshetra* in the Northeast and *Karnal* in the southeast. *Kaithal* district lies between 29° 32' to

30°12' north latitudes and 76°08' to 76°45' east longitudes. The district is said to be found by *Dharamraj Yudhisra* in commemoration of the victory of *Pandavas* against the *Kauravas* in the *Mahabharata*. He selected the site because of its association with lord *Hanuman* and named it *Kapisthala* a Sanskrit word, meaning “an adobe of monkey’s which later come to be known as *kaithal*. The town is situated on the bank of an extensive tank, known as *Bidkiar* Tank. The town of *Kaithal* had an enclosing wall with eight gateways including *Karnal Gate*, *Keorak Gate*, *Dogran Gate*, *Suraj Kund Gate*, *Siwan Gate* and *Kasai Gate* etc.

Memories of Razia Sultan –

During medieval period, Timur lang stopped here in 1398 AD, before attacking on delhi. Later, this city

become a muslim cultural center during sultanate and Mughal period. According to Ain-e Akbari, kaithal was a pargana, under the sarkar of sirhind. In the 18th century, it fell into the hands of sikh chieftain and after that, come under British influence. *Razia Begum* was the first Indian Lady king at Delhi in 1236-40AD. She was an unmarried daughter of *Sultan Iltutmish* and thronged as Indian King. Though she ruled about four years with many difficulties and obstacles but could not manage the empire for a longer period. Frequent revolts arose in distant provinces and conspiracy in her own court at Delhi went on to topple over her power, once to suppress a revolt at *Batinda*. She had to fight with army of that defeated Governor. But after being defeated, she was returning to Delhi. Some miscreants attacked her contingent and she was assassinated¹ near *Karnal* in 1240 AD. Some local peoples says that, Tomb of Razia Begam is here.

Monuments of Kaithal

Tomb of Sahabud-Din-Balkhi – *Prince Shahabud-Din-Balkhi* is said to have come from *Balkhi* in central Asia in 673H. He was assassinated in a Battle at *Kaithal* and his Grandson built the tomb in his memory. The structure is construction of stone. An inscription in Arabic are present on the *Cupola* of this building.²

Tomb of Shah wilayat – The tomb was built during the reign of Ghori Rulers. The tomb is believed to be restored in the time of *Aurangzeb*. The mosque in the enclosure in a much earlier structure. Sandstone is use in this tomb.

Tomb of Sheikh Tayyab – it is located in the *Kaithal* City .

Sheikh Tayyab was a great saint and follower of the renowned *sufi* saint *Hazrat Shah Kamal*. He moved to India from *Bagdad* after the death of *Hazrat Shah Kamal* and occupied the seat of his teacher. *Sheikh Tayyab* died in the late 16th Century. It believed that tomb was constructed by *Hazrat Shah*

Sikender, the son of *Hazrat Shah Kamal*. The tomb is square in plan. It is made of *lakhori* bricks and lime mortar. The roof is covered with bulbous dome with lotus finial resting on an octagonal drum base.

Tomb of Razia Sultan – This tomb is located in the field near the city on *Kaithal-Manas* Road. The original grave of *Razia* once existed at this place. This mausoleum is protected with a boundary wall and the western wall has a closed arch. A small gate on the eastern side marks the entrance to the monument. As it is evident from its style of architecture, this present structure of the tomb was created something during 16th century. It is built with baked bricks and lime mortar. A mosque and a well near the tomb were also built at the same time while constructing this mausoleum.

Dargarh of Baba Shah Kamal Kadri – It is situated at *Jawahar Park*, this structure stands as a symbol of *Hindu-Sikh-Muslim* Unity. *Baba Shah*

Kamal is believed to have come to *Kaithal* from *Baghdad*, around four Century back and the tomb was erected by his descendants. Devotees come here every Thursday. This *dargah* is a masonry structure covered with domical roof and fine structure.

Jama Masjid – It is a typical structural mosque in the town. The central portion of the mosque is higher than its side wings. It consists of two aisles separated from each other by four piers. The whole structure was conversed with ten equal sized domes, in two rows of five each. Now front row of the mosque has been fall. The total effect was that of solidity and solemnity. There is no inscription but the basis of the shape of its arches. *Rodgers* has described it to the period of *Humayun*.³ All the six *Iwans* were having arched opening and inter connected with each other. The central dome is little higher than the others. The domes are surmounted in the centre of the terrace to the roofs the sanctuary halls. On the top corners of the

sanctuary halls, beautiful squinches have been made for the transitional phase of its dome. The squinches of the sanctuary halls were inscribed with Islamic creeds and decorated coloured fruits. The interior of the dome ceiling are ornamented in stucco work with colour painting. Most of the parts of the ceiling are flanked off exposing the rubble masonry work. On the terrace, the central sanctuary hall is having an octagonal drum flanked by circular drums on each side. The drum of the central chamber is decorated with merlon designs. There are hemispherical domes which are plastered externally and crowned by finial from the petals made of rubble and mortar. The building is remarkable and in very dilapidated condition.⁴

Fort and Places of Bhais – The Jat Sikh rulers of Kaithal princely state popularly known as Bhais constructed many buildings of antiquarian interests. The founder of Kaithal Chiefship, Bhai Desu Singh built a fort for his defence preparation of Kaithal about 1775, but

that fort was not found strong enough and the third ruler, Bhai Lal Singh strengthened the fort during the reign, that fort is situated near Bidkair tank. Now only its back wall and a residential palace inside the fort complex is remaining. The specific feature of this oldest palace is the underground escape tunnel. Some remains of Burj and Ghat of an attached tank are also surviving behind the fort wall. Another palace built by Bhai Udey Singh on European pattern is also nearby and now used as a residence for local Administrative officers. The last chief of Kaithal, Bhai Udey Singh built an imposing palace at Pihawa and named it Garden house. Pihawa fell under the territory of Kaithal Chiefs. He too built other such palaces at Kankhal (Haridwar).⁵

Baoli – There is a famous baoli near government hospital, locally known as ‘Baoli of Kaithal’. Archaeological survey of India declared it a protected monument as early in 1919AD.⁶ Some repairs to it were affected during the year 1935-36.⁷

Beside the main flight of stairs, the baoli has one subsidiary. Stair way, descending near the second arch way. Both stair ways communicate with a well of 6 meter diameter set at the end of the structure. Traditionally, the baoli is associated with the name of *Chhajumal* but *Rodgers* attributes its construction to one sandhas.⁸ The use of cusped profile for the main opening in the second arch way built across the sidewalls indicates the region of *Shahjahan*⁹ or later when the cusped arch was in style.

Razia Sultan defeated by her enemies in Kaithal and she died here she was buried at the site of her death. Kaithal was an important center during medieval period. Many monuments are available here like as tomb of Shahbud-din-Balkhi, Tomb of Shah Wilayat, Tomb of Sheikh Tayyab, Tomb of Razia Sultana, Dargah of Baba Shah Kamal Kadri and Jama Masjid. These are well planned structures with the use of bricks and stones. Jat Sikh rulers of Kaithal princely state known as Bhais,

built here many structures. Thus we can say Kaithal is an important site from historical point of view.

Reference

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