

THE HISTORICAL FORT OF BATHINDA CITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE

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Abstract:- The State of Punjab is a part of the world's first and oldest civilizations. The area has a large number of sites and monuments from pre-historical period succeeded by historical and modern times. There are many monuments of historical importance in the State of Punjab which are being looked after and maintained by the Archaeological survey of India. The aim of this paper is to focus on the historical background of "The fort of Bathinda city. It is one of the oldest Fort, which is a centre of attraction for invaders from past time and in this era sailors are astounded toward this.

Keywords- Birth of the Fort, Myths of this Fort, Different names, Historical important, Present position.

Introduction:-

Historical Buildings and Forts are the mirror of some special time of cultural and social progress. People's talent and ability is cleared from these buildings. The Fort of Bathinda has one of beautiful monuments of the city of Bathinda, which may be regarded as remarkable Specimens of architecture of an erstwhile Indian state. The art of constructing forts is as old as human civilization. In Sanskrit literature, the word 'Durg' was used for fort while Vedic literature proves that Aryans used the word 'Pur' for fort. The art of fort Construction developed with the progress of human civilization and culture. The Mansara's Shilpashashastra describes Six Major types of forts such as Jal Durg, Giri Durgs, Vana Durg, Dhanu Durg, Mahi Durg and Nar Durg. The Fort of Bathinda is fall under the Nar Durg category. It was also called Nara-Durga and Bala - durga. Bathinda is a beautiful and well - designed city and the fort was situated in the Midst of the town which is also known as Qila Mubarak. Not to be confused with a similar named fort in Patiala, the Qila Mubarak. This Fort, is one of the most important forts of India, Punjab State had a great Strategic importance during

the past time, because in the earlier times the way from Multan to Delhi is go through Bathinda. It has played a very dominant role in shaping the history of the Bathinda city. As we know from historical facts that the rulers in past history believed in the Divine right of Kingship and examined defense of Subjects as their major duty they needed strong holds hence constructed forts. Forts were also displayed honor, wealth, grandeur and gravity of the rulers. The Fort of Bathinda is near about 1800 years old. According to traditions, its foundation was laid down by Raj Dab, who was an ancestor of the celebrated king Bineypal, during the early centuries of the Christian era. This substantial fort was constructed at the time of growth of Kushan state and it was constructed together with North India's ruler of Kanishka and Raja Dab. The walls of this fort testify the evidence of different attacks and uprisings of centuries ago. This castle is situated at north - west that's why all the strikers who attacked on Delhi passed from this place, so it is called Tabar-e-Hind means 'The Gateway of India'. As it's structure is very strong, so this citadel played a role of guard from attackers. This city has also been written as the capital of king Jipal of Lahore. This fort is believed to have been before Muslims came to India. Some historians accepted that this fort was constituted by Bhatti Rao Rajput, son of Bala Nand, who became the ruler of Punjab in 279 A.D. At that time the fort was called by the name of 'Vikramgarh'. At that time, this castle would be weak as whatever shape it has today and in the Muslim period this fort would be made of mud. But this belief is also not that much fair because in this area among these Bhattis the son of Jaisal named Hemhal Bhatti brought Sidhus here in 9th century. It is the faith of Bathinda's people that king Binaypal who was son of king Surpal, he settled this town and he kept name of Bathinda under his own name and under the name of his minister Thanda. Even it is trust of people that Binaypal built this fort. He also sacrificed his own minister 'Thanda Ram' for the construction of this castle. It has old unique tale of minister Thanda Ram at the time of it's development. The ancient Fort is Situated on a high ancient mound in the middle of the town. The bricks used to construct this fort dates back to the era of kushanas. The entire structure is built of small, thin bricks and mortar. The total area of the Fort is 15 acres. The height of its imposing wall almost 150 feet. The walls of Bathinda fort are very Massive and built in the slant form, being 53 feet at the base and 35 feet at summit in thickness and 100 feet in height. To the right side of the gateway is 'Rani Mahal' with projecting balconies and rooms, the roof being painted with floral designs. The gate of the fort is made by iron sheets which is a great preserver from the enemy. In ancient times, there was a ditch on the four sides of this fort, which was filled with the water of the Sutlej and Ghaggar rivers. This dug was 25 feet deep and 40 feet wide around the fort. But in the eleventh century these rivers changed their position. Because of these rivers was not in controlled way as today's time. These rivers flowed from high to low sides themselves. History also states that it wasn't the river, but the Sutlej - Ghaggar canal which was constructed by Firoz Shah. The old owe - inspiring relic of its past splendor,

is the Fort. It is larger than its counterparts of Lahore, Phillaur and Hanumangarh. It stands as a gigantic sentinel in the heart of the City. From time to time, this fort remained the center of attraction for historians that were associated with Mahmud Ghaznavi, Raja Jaipal, Prithviraj Chauhan, Razia Sultana and many other kings. In the eleventh century Mahmud Ghaznavi defeated the king Jaipal's son Anandpal and captured this fort. During the attack of Muhammad Ghori, the fort of Bathinda was under the control of Mangal Rao. Muhammad Ghori conquered this fort from Mangal Rao and his son Anand Rao. And he handed it over to Malik Jaiyudin-Taluqi and went back to Ghajini. But he returned as soon as the News of Chauhan's attack on the fort. Chauhan won in the battle of Tarain. In 1192 A.D. Muhammad Ghaznavi strongly attacked, in this attack Prithviraj died. After the defeat of Chauhan, the fort came under the leadership of Kutb-din-Abiak. Ultimately the fort went in hands of Kabacha. After that Razia had a special relationship with the fort of Bathinda. One and only lady Razia Sultana who succeeded the throne and ruled on Hindustan in 1236 A.D. While ruling on Delhi she faced a lot of problems due to state circumstances also due to enmity of Turks. Secondly she faced difficulties because she fell in love with negro slave named Jamal-ud-din Yaqut, at that time he was made minister of troops. As a result some governors of Punjab became rebellious. These governors and Turks rebelled against Razia Sultana, in this revolt Bathinda's governor Ikhtiyar-ud-din Altunia also participated, when Razia came Bathinda to suppress this revolt she was captured in castle by Altunia. Yaqut also joined this revolt with Razia. Yaqut was died in this revolt. At last Razia married to Altunia. This statement that Razia committed suicide by jumping from fort was wrong, because Altunia and Razia both climbed toward Delhi to get the throne of Delhi, but they defeated. After their defeat when they reached near Kaithal then Jat's of Kaithal killed both of them. Razia has very close relation with this fort that's why it is also called 'Razia fort'. By remembering Razia's stories related to this fort people even today draw fantasy pictures and they say that in fort on right upward side Razia used to live. This is named as 'Suman Buraj'. It is said that on the side of old market of 'Suman Buraj' where people get vision kings and queens, it is place where public events happened. Even today people make fantasy vision of daughter of Iltutamish's can be seen. After the death of Razia her brother Nasir-ud-din got power of this fort and he gave the control of this fort under Sher Khan. And he repaired the fort from mason and gave it new shape. But Balban got throne of Delhi and got murdered Sher Khan and after that he made governor of this city to his own son Prince Sultan Muhammad. In this fort passed through powers of different kings. This fort came in the hands of Sidhu-Brars at the time of Babar, who's entry prohibited at the time of Lodhis. In 13th century numbers of families took hold of this fort ruled on it. Among these famous were 'Bhatti' family's and as a result surrounded areas of this fort got name 'Bhatinda' and as time passed name changed as Bathinda and under this name town constructed. There was regular fight between Afghans and Turks, so nobody became permanent holder of

this town and this fort only became place of Ghosts. When 10th Guru Shri Guru Gobind Singh bravely fought on Khidrana di Dhab against Aurangzab and gave boon of salvation to 40 Singh's on 22 June 1706 A.D. coming from the way of Haji Ratan, he entered in fort. On right side of the door of Fort's upside there is a Gurudwara, which is built in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. At the arrival of Guru Sahib under Patiala family a Gurudwara built in fort. Bathinda got name 'Gobindgarh'. According to people in fort there lived a blind monster and Guru ji made them free from fear of this monster. Guru ji took shelter in fort so that he can aware people against ignorance and led helpless people towards education. But it is sad that in fort Guru ji tied his horse with a tree, now on that tree people tie religious thread and amulet. Bad thing is this that a great person who sacrificed everything for the people and tried to free people from superstition, customs, caste system and tried to encourage People to make a modern society with logic, they have forgotten real message of Guru. After this in 1754 A.D. Baba Ala Singh took hold of the fort and till 1948 his heir got power on this fort. Now Fort's administration came under central Archaeological department. That time this fort used for military activities. One of the most attractive thing in the fort is Queen's palace, because perhaps only this building is left to see as a historical place. From name of Queen palace we can get the idea that this palace constructed for queens to live here. But today this palace is in very poor condition, due to this visitors are not allowed to visit this palace. Once this fort was having 32 towers of different shapes among them some are completely have broken and on some tower work of repair is going on. In this fort there is a well which was only one source of water at that time. Here some cannons are also preserved which was once used in wars. When Babar came first time in India he brought cannons with him in the fort which was made of copper, gold, silver and iron. Among these cannons four are here and kept in the fort for historical heritage. Once there was a Mughal Cannon and there were two Persian texts on this, from which we come to know that this cannon earlier was in the fort of Gwalior who's commander was Mutmit Khan. After that this cannon brought in the fort of Bathinda. But today, there is no any writing on cannons which are kept in the fort. Therefore it is known as the oldest Fort of India. At present the work of repair of this fort is going on, from architectural department in order to preserve the History. Administration fully trying to maintain this fort, so that they can keep this historical building and it's history for long term.

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