



## A medieval city: Faridabad and its monuments

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### Abstract

Faridabad is a Medieval city, founded by sheikh Farid. It is located on Grand truck road. Ballabgarh is a tehsil of Faridabad and a historical town. Surajkund is one of the oldest monument of Haryana. Sarai, Bridge, Kos minar, Palace, Fort and Rani ki chhatri, are historical monuments of the district.

**Keywords:** Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Anangpur, monument, Kos Minar, sarai, Surajkund

### Introduction

Faridabad was founded in 1607 AD by *Shaikh Farid*, Treasurer of *Jahangir*, with the object of protecting the highway which passed through the town. Later it becomes the head quarter of a *Pargana* which held in *Jagir* by the *Ballabgarh's* Ruler. The district *Faridabad* come on map of Haryana on 15 Aug 1979 as the 12<sup>th</sup> district of the state. *Faridabad* is bound by *Palwal* on the South State of Delhi on the northwest, Uttar Pradesh on the past and Gurgaon district on the South east. *Faridabad* is about 25 km from Delhi in 28°25'16" North latitude and 77°18'28" East longitude. District is located on national Highway no 2. The district is a plain area with perennial *Yamuna* River on its East, Which has formed its flood plain area as a narrow belt on the South West. Physiographic ally. The district can be divided into *Faridabad*, *Ballabgarh* and *Yamuna Khadar* plain<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Monuments

One of the oldest monument of Haryana state is in *Faridabad*, known as *Surajkund*. The *Kund* means, a water storage tank is said to have been built by the early kings of Delhi near the Village *lakarpur*. King of *Tomar* Dynasty named *Surajpal* son of King *Anangpal* got it built in 686 AD<sup>[2]</sup> and named it after his own name as well as on its pattern of construction in the shape of Sun. It is construction of big carved rectangular stone bricks in circular form, collected from nearly hillock. The purpose of its construction was to harvest rain water from the catchment area of some hilly ground. It was designed in such a way that the natural slope of the land was helpful to get this tank filled. The vast sun shaped *kund* consists of *Ghats* (entrances) on East and West direction. A provision for entering cattle and carts is left by leaving the circular are incomplete in a suitable width. The ancient tank is enclosed by flanking walls of heavy stone blocks. The beigh houring hills are dotted with the ruins of fortifications. *Ferozshah Tughlaq*, the Indian Emperor (1351-1388AD) added a small fortified enclosure called *Garhi* to this tank and carried out some repairing works on its steps and terraces<sup>[3]</sup>. A craft *Mela* was started here in 1981 to celebrate the finest handlooms and

handicraft tradition of the country. It is held annually, in the month of February<sup>[4]</sup>.

Anangpur is a famous village in Faridabad district of Haryana. Here is a unique Indian hydraulic engineering structure was built during the Tomar dynasty in early medieval period. The massive stone masonry dam is supposed to be constructed by the king *Ananpal-II* around 1051 AD. The objective of dam was to hold/store the rainy water coming from hilly upstream and to release the desired quantity of water for feeding of *Suraj Kund* accordingly. The dam is centuries old and may be a part of *Suraj Kund* Project. It exists at hardly a kilometer distance from the *Kund*. The dam is 101.2 metre in length and 19.8 metre in width on its top. The width<sup>[5]</sup> of dam at base is 27.43 metre and is battered with uniform masonry offsets behaving like steps. It has seven arched openings with grooved slits to regulate the desired Quantity of water by inserting stone or timber sills. It is unique in its design of construction and in system of water controlling, as the other upstream ends of the opening are siphon shaped.

### Sarai

Sarai khwaja is a village in Faridabad and this village is situated on Delhi- Mathura Road. A remains of sarai found at here from medieval period. The tradition of *Sarai* on highways seems to have originated, for the first time in India<sup>[7]</sup>. we only come across their medieval counter parts called *Sarai*. *Sarai* is a Persian word, which means a place, an edifice, but in Hindustani it is a halting place. It usually consisted of an enclosed yard with a chamber<sup>[8]</sup>. During the region of *Akbar* the Great, some *Sarais* were said to be built, by his royal officer *Shaykh Fared*. He has been a military commander of *Akbar* and even during some period of Emperor *Jahangir*. He founded the present city of Faridabad from Tilpat pargana.

### Bridge

Memoirs of *Jahangir* mention that he ordered a number of bridges to be built at every river to facilitate the travelers. The

bridges of *Khwaja Sarai* is one of the bridges built by *Jhangir* <sup>[9]</sup>. This bridge is an arcaded structure that spans across the width of the river. Big blocks of stone are employed for constructions without any plaster. Buttresses are located at every arch for extra support, with minarets present in pairs at each end with fluted shafts and topped with domes. Only two minarets exist now <sup>[10]</sup>. This bridge is constructed over *Buddiawala Nala* <sup>[11]</sup>.

### Kos Minar

A number of *Kos Minars* are located in *Faridabad* <sup>[12]</sup>. *Kos Minars* were important monuments on the medieval routes. The *Kos Minars* served the purpose being served by the modern milestone on the road. Many rulers paid great attention to the development of the Roads during his region. They functioned as the arteries of the Empire <sup>[13]</sup>. *Arif Qandhari* explained the purpose of *Kos Minars*, "That travelling to and fro goes on day and night and these *Minars* guide them (travelers) from losing their way or getting off the route" <sup>[14]</sup>. We get many *Mughal Kos Minars* from Haryana.

The first *Mughal* Emperor *Babur* ordered to raise distance marker, *Kos Minars*, each twelve yards high with a *chardara* on top at every nine *Kos*, all along the distance from *Agra* to *Kabul* <sup>[15]</sup>. *Akbar* made some change in the system. He issued an order that at every *Kos* of the way on the routes a *minars* should be setup, and be adorned with deer horns that those who had lost their way, might have a mark and that strength might be given to the Fatigued <sup>[16]</sup>. In 1619 Emperor *Jahangir* ordered *Bakir Singh*, the *fauzdar* of *Multan*, to erect a minaret at each *Kos* a distance of approximately 3.22 km on the old Imperial route <sup>[17]</sup>. The *Kos Minars* in *Faridabad* are typical *Kos Minars* built by *Jahangir*, with a circular tapering structure resting on the octagonal base separated by a band. It is constructed in bricks covered with lime plaster. The *minar* is covered with a domical top separated by a base moulding. Generally, the features of the *Kos Minars* commonly matched with one another, however sometimes these features were slightly different at different places <sup>[18]</sup>.

Some *Kos Minars* in *Faridabad* are as *Kos Minar* of *Sikri*. This *Minars* is in *Sikri* village. It falls in the agriculture land in a very dilapidated condition. It is brick structure standing on an octagonal plat form and Covered with plaster. Another *Kos* is in *Mujesar* village. *Kos-Minar* of *Faridabad* is situated in old *Faridabad*, sec-29. All *Kos Minars* of Haryana are made of bricks but only this *minar* in made of rubbles and bricks. *Kos Minar* of *Khwaja Sarai* is situated in Sec. 25. All *Kos Minar* of *Faridabad* is significance for history and tell us stories about glory of *Mughals*.

### Ballabgarh

*Balramgarh*, at present known as *Ballabgarh*, is a tehsil of district *Faridabad* I Haryana. The town was founded *Balram singh jat* [ballu]. By constructing a fort there and naming the city his own name i.e. *Ballu Garh*, means *Ballus Garh* (Fort of *Ballu*). And *Raja Nahar Singh* was another king of his dynasty built many structures. The main structures of *Ballabgarh* are Fort of *Ballabgarh*. Fort is located on the road between *Delhi* and *Mathura* <sup>[19]</sup>. The fort is believed to have been built by *Balram* (1702-1754), a Chief *Jat* who held the surrounding

country under *Surajmal*. Construction of the fort was complete by 1750 and was used by *Balram* for its strategic location against the *Mughals*. The original structure constituted two Gates, four Minarets were located at the four corners of the palace on which large cannons were mounted. The fort had a *Darbar-E-Aam* and a *Rang Mahal*. Which were decorated with a *Chattri*. The structure lost its grandeur and started to dilapidate after *Nahar Singh* passed away in 1857. It is locally known as *Ballabgarh Ka Kila*.

### Nahar Singh Mahal

The palace is a rectangular double storeyed building, constructed with sandstone. The rooms of the palace are designed around a central courtyard with arched *verandahs*, accessible from the main entrance on the south east. All the surfaces are adorned with intricately designed stone work. This place is currently used as a Haryana Tourism Guest House.

### Rani-ki-Chattri

The camp of *Rani-ki-Chattri* includes a pavilion and a stepped tank built by widow of *Anuradh Singh*, *Raja* of *Ballabgarh* till 1818, in Memory of her deceased husband <sup>[20]</sup>. *Rani ki Chattri* is a pillared hall baradari structure with a square plan and elevated plinth. The architectural details include Islamic Multi cusped arches, pointed arches, *Rajput* style *Jharokhas* capped with *bangaldars* and central *chattri* at terrace level with onion dome. The structure is built in bricks and lime, Clad with buff colored sandstone. Interior walls are covered in white araish plaster, the ceiling is painted. Building corners are marked with a octagonal turrets decorated with blind arcades and niches at ground level. Capped with ribbed domed *chattris* at roof level. A sandstone *chajja* on decorative stone brackets runs all around the building below parapet level. The tank is composed of *Lakhori* brick walls with octagonal turrets and arched niches, a style typical of the water body architecture prevalent in the region of North India.

From the foundation of the city, *Faridabad* is a main city, located on grand trunk Road. During *Mughal* period, this city became the headquarter of a *Pargana*. Many monuments and structures are available here and show it Historical Importance, like as *Suraj Kund* project, *Khwaja Saria*, Bridge of *Khwaja Sarai*, *Kos Minars*, fort of *Ballabgarh*. *Raja Nahar Singh Mahal* and *Rani Ki Chattri*. These are well planned structures and in good condition. But some *Kos Minars* have been destroyed many types stone is used in the structure of the district on the behalf of the monuments we can say that our site is important for security and diplomatic purpose. Monument of *Ballabgarh* show, the power of the local rulers and tell us the story of 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

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