

Baz Bahadur's Palace:

Situated on the slope of a hill in the midst of a picturesque natural setting, the main gateway of this palace is approached by forty broad steps with landings at intervals. The passage through the gateway accommodates rooms for the guards on both sides with a vaulted ceiling above. The passage further leads to the outer court of the palace with its main doorway in front. The main palace consists of a spacious open court with halls and rooms on all the four sides and a beautiful cistern in the middle. Beyond the colonnade on the northern side at its centre projects an octagonal pavilion with arched opening overlooking the remnants of a beautiful garden. The eastern and western sides of the court have almost the same plan. The southern side consists of a hall with two rooms on both sides and openings at the back side into another hall which affords access to another court to the south. This court is much smaller in dimension than the former court, and was probably meant for the attendants of the palace.



Baz Bahadur's Palace

Roopmati Pavilion:

At the crest of the hill and to the south of the palace of Baz Bahadur stands the pavilion associated with the beautiful queen, Roopmati. A closer examination of the building shows that it had undergone two or three stages of construction in different periods. The original structure, as will be clearly seen from the east consist of a low but massive hall with two rooms at both ends. The walls have a sharp slope towards the base and the arches are rather heavy in proportion to their span. The parapet above the walls also belongs to the original structure. This part of the building without the pavilions above thus belongs to the earliest stage and seems to have been built to keep military watch over any possible enemy movement on this side of the fort. It falls down here abruptly to a depth of 365 m towards the distinctly visible Nimar plains below.



Roopmati Pavilion

Taveli Mahal: The name Taveli is a corrupt form of 'Tavela' which literally means 'Stable'. The building was thus a "stables block" or mansion since its ground floor was used for the stables, the two storeys above, were used for the accommodation of the guards. This is easily explained by the fact that the building was constructed close to the Royal Enclave.

The terrace of the Taveli-Mahal commands a beautiful view of the surrounding water tanks & building. Presently the building is partly used as a departmental guest house. Its ground floor houses a museum.



Pavilion in front of Taveli Mahal

Other places of interest in this enclave are Dilawar Khan's Mosque, the Nahar Jharokha (tiger balcony), the two large wells called the Ujali (bright) and Andheri (dark) stepped wells and Gada Shah's Shop and House, all worth a visit.



Entrance fee for visiting monuments
Rs 5/- for Indian Nationals and those from SAARC and BIMSTEC countries and Rs 100/- for other nationals.
Free for persons up to 15 years.

Timing: Open all days from sunrise to sunset.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Mandu

Madhyayugeen Vaibhav



Mandu, 2009

Mandu, located 35 km. south of its district headquarters - Dhar in MP, is situated 634 m. above the sea-level and is separated from the main plateau of Malwa by a deep ravine, called the Khakra Khoh. In ancient times it bore the names, Mandapa Durga and Mandava Garh. The history dates back even before the Paramara period as an image of Jain Tirthankara Adinatha found from Talanpur, near Kukshi, District Dhar bearing a Sanskrit inscription of Vikrama Samvat 612 (A.D.555), on its pedestal. It refers that the image was installed in a temple of Parsvanatha, in a locality called Tarapura inside Mandapa-Durga, by a merchant named Chandrasimha Shah. For the next three centuries the fort, probably was a frontier outpost, of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire of Kannauj. An inscription of Vikrama Samvat 1003

Archaeological Survey of India
Bhopal Circle

(AD 946), found at Pratapgadh in Rajasthan, refers the reign of king Mahendrapala of this dynasty, it is stated that prince Madhava was then acting as the 'great feudatory or 'great governor' at Ujjain and his commander-in-chief (baladhikrita) Sri Sarman, was carrying on the affairs of the state at Mandapika i.e., Mandu.

An inscription in the local collection in the fort date to Vikrama Samvat 1125 (AD 1068) and it refers to Sri-Bhattaraka-Devendra-deva, possibly a vassal chief, paying homage to Udayaditya, whose capital continued to be at Dhar. The weak successors of Udayaditya frequently held their camp capitals at Mandu in place of Dhar, which was militarily less secure and in course of time Mandu, ultimately became the state capital. Certain royal grants, issued by Arjunavarman under his royal seals from Mandapa-Durga, were also found. In about AD 1227 Shamsu'd-Din Iltutmish invaded Malwa, sacked Vidisha and Ujjain; but the reigning Paramara king, Devapala, concluded a treaty and Mandu was left unmolested. This first Muslim invasion was a passing political calamity to the Paramaras, who continued to rule from Mandu as a weakened and shattered power. From AD 1256 to 1261 Jayavarman ruled from Mandu, as seen from his copper-plates discovered at Godurapura District Nimar. Jayavarman was succeeded by Jayasimha II, who is mentioned as Lord of Mandapa-Durga in a memorial pillar from Valipur, District Dhar. In about AD 1283, Bhoja II ascended the throne of Malwa. An inscription of seven lines mentioning his name was found in the Rewa-Kund area. This unfortunate king had to face the Delhi Sultan Jalalu'd-din Khalji in AD 1293 when the latter invaded his kingdom. Mandu continued to be with Hindu rulers upto AD 1305. At that time Mahlak Deo was occupying the crown. The Hindu kingdom of Malwa was finally dissolved and made part of the Delhi Sultanate, under Muhammadan governors. A few Hindu or Jain temples were erected in the fort in the fourteenth century as seen from the scattered ruins. The governors held their capital at Dhar though they camped sometimes at Mandu. It was in the year 1401, when Dilawar Khan Ghori, Governor of Malwa declared himself independent ruler of Malwa and kept his capital at Dhar. His son Hoshang Shah succeeded the crown in AD 1405 and shifted the capital permanently to Mandu. He died in AD 1435 and his son Ghazani Khan ascended the throne with the name of Mahmud Shah.

Finally after the death of Mahmud Shah in AD 1436 this dynasty came to an end. The most popular ruler of Mandu was Mahmud Shah Khalji. During his reign his subjects were very happy. Other rulers namely Ghiyasuddin and Nasiruddin also were instrumental in the well being of the kingdom.

Later Malwa remained a dependency of Gujarat till AD 1534 when Humayun conquered the fort, while King Bahadur Shah escaped from Songarh, the citadel of Mandu, after having let his horses down from the precipice. But, as soon as Humayun left Malwa, Mallu Khan, an officer of the former Khalji dynasty, retook all the territory between the Narmada and the town of Vidisha and crowned himself at Mandu with the title of Qadir Shah in AD 1536. Later it came under the Mughals who were great patrons of buildings and under them also, building activity was encouraged and continued.

The important monuments are as follows:



Jami Masjid

Jami Masjid:

Built in 1454, the Jami Masjid is by far the most majestic building in Mandu. It is said that the builders had designed it after the Omayyad Mosque of

Damascus. The best view of this monument can be had from the Ashrafi Mahal rising in front of it. The mosque is marked by decorations on the lintel of the doorway, the jali (filigree) screens and the curious little domes of the prayer hall, are believed to be acoustic devices to amplify voices and absorb echoes.

Ashrafi Mahal: Ashrafi Mahal was originally built as a madarsa (a Muslim religious school), but later extended to become Mohammed Shah's tomb. Now only the ruins of this building are visible.



Ashrafi Mahal



Delhi Darwaza

The Darwazas: The 45 km enclosure walls that encircle Mandu are punctuated by 12 gateways. Most notable of these is Delhi Darwaza, the main entrance to the fortress city, for which the approach is through a series of gateways well fortified with walled enclosures and strengthened by bastions such as the Alamgir and Bhangi Darwaza, through which the present road passes. Jehangir Gate and Tarapur Gate are the other main gateways.

THE ROYAL ENCLAVE

Jahaz Mahal:

This 120 mt long "ship palace" built between the two artificial lakes, Munj Talao and Kapur Talao is an elegant two storeyed palace. Probably it was built by Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din-Khilji for his large harem. With its open pavilions, balconies overhanging open terrace, Jahaz Mahal is an imaginative creation in stone of a royal pleasure craft.



Jahaz Mahal

Hindola Mahal:

An audience hall, also belonging to Ghiyas-ud-din's reign, it derives its name of Hindola Mahal or "swinging palace" from its sloping sidewalls.



Hindola Mahal

Innovative techniques are also evident in its ornamental facade, delicate trellis work in sandstone and beautifully moulded columns. To the west of Hindola Mahal there are several unidentified buildings which still bear traces of their past grandeur. Amidst these is an elaborately constructed well called Champa Baoli which is connected with underground vaulted rooms where arrangements for cold and hot water were made.

Hoshang Shah's Tomb:

It is India's first marble edifice and one of the most refined examples of Afghan architecture. Its unique features are the magnificent dome, marble lattice work of remarkable delicacy and porticoed courts and turrets which mark the four corners of the rectangle. Shah Jahan sent four of his master architects to study the design of this tomb and took inspiration from its plan and layout. Among them was Ustad Hamid, who was also associated with the construction of the Taj Mahal at Agra.



Hoshang Shah's Tomb