

THE STORY OF KOS MINARS



According to a report of Archeology Survey of India, there are 49 Kos Minars in Haryana. The Kos-minars, erected during reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir are the earliest known examples of the 'road milestones' in the Indian History. In 1619 AD, Emperor Jahangir ordered Bakir Khan, the Fauzdar of Multan, to erect a minaret at every Kos (a distance of 2 miles and approximately 3.22 kms.) on the old imperial route. Kos-minars are plastered solid bricks structures standing on a square platform. Each minar soars from a tapering octagonal base.

LESSONS ON THE MOVE: HARYANA IS WALKING BACK TO ANCIENT HISTORY, ONE SPOT AT A TIME

GURGAON: Just after Haryana Day last November, the department of archaeology and museums launched its series of heritage walks, an initiative through which it seeks to cultivate understanding of the state's cultural and architectural past .

These walks are the brainchild of Amit Khatri, director of archaeology and museums at the state government. "The heritage walk concept is just one of the components of what we at the department aim to do, which is to have regular events that spark awareness about Haryana's cultural heritage and promote it as well," Khatri told TOI.

As much as the department is spearheading the project, it recognises that the success of the heritage walks relies on collaborations. So, on the ground it is the communities that are taking charge, such as the INTACH Hisar chapter and Mewat Kal Aaj Kal in Nuh. Unlike Delhi, where the heritage walk space has become saturated, Kush Dhebar — an archaeologist and heritage expert currently engaged as consultant with the department, said there was greater scope for the idea in Haryana. "Because every district has its own story, they have their own oral traditions, local myths and culture," he added.





HISTORY

The geographical region of Haryana is steeped in history and heritage. Revered in Indian traditions, it is believed that Brahma, in ancient times, performed a seminal sacrifice here, birthing the universe. This belief finds validation in archaeological findings dating back to 15 million years ago, when early humans inhabited the Haryana Shivaliks, as evidenced by Guy E. Pilgrim's investigations in 1915. It was within these bounds that the sage Ved Vyas penned the epic Mahabharata. Right since the ancient period till the modern times, Haryana has been an important part of Indian history. Notable Harappan sites like Rakhigarhi, Banwali, Birhana are in Haryana. The Kuru clan ruled from here. The Tomars, Delhi Sultanate and Mughals also ruled here. Places like Ambala, Hisar, Thanesar, Rewari, etc. played an important role in the first war of Indian independence. The three battles of Panipat were also fought here.



THE BATTLES OF PANIPAT

All the three battles of Panipat are significant in their own nature and changed the course of India's history. None of the wars were fought to win over Panipat but to enter Delhi as it was a gateway to India from the north. Let us discuss the three battles in brief. On April 21, 1526, the historic First Battle of Panipat took place near the village of Panipat in Haryana, signifying the inception of the Mughal Empire in India. This clash witnessed the invading army of Zahir-ud-din Babur confronting the declining Lodi Empire, the last bastion of the Delhi Sultanate under the rule of Ibrahim Lodi. On November 5, 1556, the Second Battle of Panipat unfolded, pitting the forces of Hemu, also known as Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya, the Hindu monarch reigning over North India from Delhi, against Akbar's army. This was Akbar's first year as the king and his commanders Khan Zaman I and Bairam Khan emerged triumphant, securing a significant victory.

The third and final battle was fought on January 14, 1761, between the Maratha Empire and a coalition led by the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani —the Rohilla Afghans of the Doab and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Oudh. This battle holds immense historical importance as it signaled the decline of Maratha power in India. Despite their prior dominance, the Marathas faced a formidable opponent in Durrani's coalition, ultimately shifting the balance of power in the region.





PRE-HISTORIC SITES IN ARAVALLIS UNPROTECTED

Tribune News Service

Sumedha Sharma

Gurugam, May 25

With no major progress made in surveying and protecting pre-historic sites discovered in the Aravallis, around 5,000 hectares of archaeologically-valuable land is vulnerable to encroachment and damage. It may be noted that around 20 pre-historic sites have been discovered on the mountain range, the latest being the petroglyphs found in Badshapur Tethar village of Sohna.

The Palaeolithic site, which is spread across two acres, includes graffiti and hand and foot prints of humans and animals engraved on quartzite rocks. The site is atop a hillock and just 6 km from Mangar Bani, where cave paintings believed to be from the same period were discovered in 2021. Sunil Hasrana, a local ecologist, says owing to increased encroachment and human activity in the forest, the majority of these sites were at a high risk of being lost.

"These sites have been listed but are yet to be surveyed, forget getting archaeological protection. These are vulnerable to weather, visitors and encroachments. We are currently protecting these, but swift action is required to ensure that this treasure is not lost," said Hasrana.

Speaking to The Tribune, Banani Bhattacharya, Deputy Director, Haryana Department of Archaeology and Museums, said a committee had been constituted by the Centre this month to take the issue forward.

"A committee has been formed now and we will move ahead with the survey, examination and protection of these sites," she said.



Attention

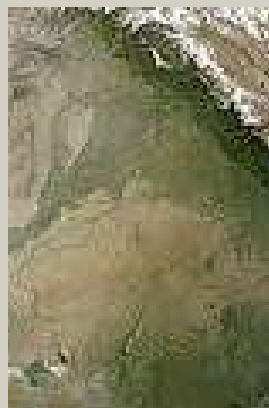
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ART AND CULTURE

The art and craft of Haryana encompass a diverse range of traditions, with pottery, embroidery, and weaving standing out prominently. Haryana's vibrant Phulkari dupattas are renowned across India and beyond for their intricate beauty. It has also received a GI tag. Additionally, the artistic landscape of Haryana boasts sculptures and murals reflecting both Persian and Mughal influences.

Various crafts, including woven furniture, artistic sheet metalwork, wooden bead making, and the crafting of zari & tilla juttis (leather footwear), contribute to Haryana's rich heritage. Lacework, bone carving, and wood carving further add to the state's artistic prowess.



Haryana is renowned for its rich tradition of ancient folk music. The folk songs of Haryana encompass two distinct styles: classical and countryside. Classical compositions trace their origins to legendary figures like Barahmas and Jaimal-Phatta, imbuing them with mythological depth and grandeur. On the other hand, countryside music features a diverse array of songs set to varied ragas, following the Hindustani style. These songs, often sung during celebrations and different seasons, evoke the essence of rural life and cultural vibrancy in Haryana.

Among the most cherished dances are the energetic Khorja Dance, performed notably at weddings. Additionally, the graceful Gangaur and Ghoomar dances captivate audiences with their elegance. Raas, a tribute to Lord Krishna, and Chaupaia, a dance involving both men and women using manjiras and earthen lamps, add further depth to Haryana's cultural tapestry. Witnessing the mesmerizing Deepak Dance, with its devotional fervor, leaves an indelible impression on all who experience it.



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HERITAGE UPDATES

THREE HERITAGE PROJECTS IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA BAG UNESCO ASIA-PACIFIC AWARDS 2023

Three heritage projects from Punjab and Haryana, namely the Rambagh Gate & Ramparts in Amritsar, Pipal Haveli in Gurdaspur, and Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, have secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced on Thursday.

HERITAGE WALKS THROW A LIFELINE TO HARYANA'S FORGOTTEN MONUMENTS

The popularity of heritage walks in neighbouring Delhi has inspired the Haryana Archaeology Department to open the gates for those interested in looking for Mughal history beyond Agra and Delhi. Started as an experiment, these special walks have become a ray of hope for survival of many such monuments in Haryana.

Rakhi Garhi favourite spot

We initially started with tours with 10 persons and now every weekend we get groups of almost 20 people.



HARYANA PAVILION SHOWCASES CULTURAL HERITAGE, GROWTH IN TRADE, SAYS BANDARU DATTATREYA

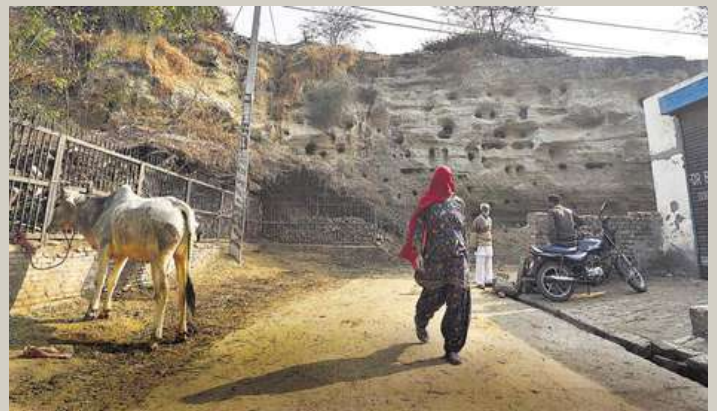
Haryana governor Bandaru Dattatreya praised the Haryana pavilion at the India International Trade Fair for showcasing the state's cultural heritage and trade progress. He highlighted Haryana's growth in industries such as IT, electronics, and automobiles, making it a leading industrial center in North India. The Haryana pavilion consisted of about 50 stalls that showcased the cultural heritage, development and trade activities of the state.

RAKHIGARHI, THE FORGOTTEN, AND NOW ENDANGERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN HARYANA

Once upon a time, this settlement by the seasonal river, during the Indus Valley Civilisation, must have been one bustling town. We are talking about Rakhigarhi, a village in Hisar district, belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation. This archaeological site, dating back to 2600-1900 BCE, was one of the largest settlements of that period.

Only a very small portion of the site has been excavated and some researches suggest that the site may actually pre-date the Indus Valley Civilisation. At present, the village of Rakhigarhi does exist, people do live there, and the village is in fact growing as we speak. This is also why today, the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi is in the top 10 list of archaeological sites in Asia that are endangered.

A very small section of the site is under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India and unfortunately in various stages of decay. The majority of the site, however, has fallen prey to rampant soil mining, encroachment, illegal sand lifting, human settlements coming up, and worst of all – theft of excavated artefacts for illegal sale.





FOOD

Haryana's cuisine mirrors its people - straightforward, grounded, and deeply connected to the land. Rooted in simplicity and agricultural heritage, it prioritizes fresh, wholesome ingredients prepared with minimal fuss.

Known as the '**Land of Rotis,**' Haryana boasts a rich variety of these flatbreads, from traditional wheat to nutritious baajre ki roti. While historically, rotis were crafted from a blend of wheat, gram, and barley flour, the preference now leans towards wheat due to economic reasons, albeit sacrificing some taste and nutrients.

With its abundant cattle wealth, including the renowned Murrah buffalo and Haryana cow, dairy products play a central role in Haryanvi cuisine. Homemade butter and ghee, churned daily in many households, are staples. Buttermilk (chaaj) and lassi, a yogurt-based drink, are cherished refreshments, with lassi holding such esteem that even thandai, a milk-based drink, is referred to as "kachi lassi" in Haryana. Some dishes from the state are shown below.



ACTIVITY

WRITE A UNIQUE RECIPE FROM YOUR STATE.

DO SKETCH THE FINISHED FOOD IN THE BOX BELOW

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