



Muslim monuments of the princely state ‘Kotah’

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Abstract

The princely state of Kota located in the south-eastern part of Rajasthan is the name of the Bhils. Jaitra Singh captured Akelgarh located on the eastern bank of Chambal and killed the Bhil ruler Kotia there. After the name of the same Bhil ruler Kotia, this place was called 'Kota'. Before becoming an independent state in the 17th century, Kota was a small state under the Bundi state. Madho Singh was the first ruler of Kota. Kotah has the realtions and gave their services in the mugal court. In this sequence, various Muslim buildings were constructed here during the period of different rulers.

I. INTRODUCTION

The princely state of Kota located in the south-eastern part of Rajasthan is the name of the Bhils. There are two assumptions in this regard. According to the first belief, Jaitra Singh, the grandson of Raja Rao Deva of Bundi, had invaded and captured the village Kotia of the Kotia branch of the Bhils. Later this place became famous by the name 'Kota' and Kota became the capital of the state. According to another belief, in 1264 AD, Jaitra Singh captured Akelgarh located on the eastern bank of Chambal and killed the Bhil ruler Kotia there. After the name of the same Bhil ruler Kotia, this place was called 'Kota'. Before becoming an independent state in the 17th century, Kota was a small state under the Bundi state. The Hada Sardars saved Bundi from Malwa Sultan and placed Surjan Rao on the throne. After his eldest son Bhoj became the king of Bundi and second son Hriday Narayan became the ruler of Kota. When Prince Khurram was crowned as Shah Jahan, he made Madho Singh the ruler of Kota. He Had the relations with mughal and various Muslim buildings were constructed here during the period of different rulers.

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of the Malwa Sultan and placed Surjan Rao, the eldest son of Surtan Singh, on the throne.

After the death of Surjan Singh, his eldest son Bhoj became the king of Bundi and Surjan's second son Hriday Narayan became the ruler of Kota. After the death of Bhoj in 1607, his son Rao Ratan Singh became the ruler of Bundi. After the death of Jahangir in 1627, when Prince Khurram was crowned as Shah Jahan, he made Madho Singh the ruler of Kota. ¹ Madho Singh got many constructions done in Kota city during his reign such as Bada Mahal, Haju in front of the palace, Baulsari ki Deodhi, Nakarkhana Darwaza, Salargazi Darwaza, Capital Fort, Shaharpanah i.e. Kaithuni Pol, Patan Pol and Kishorepura Darwaza of Kota. construction etc. At that time Kishorepura Darwaza was called 'Bhilwadi Pol'. At a distance of twelve kos from Kota, Madho Singh established a town named Madhukar Garh, whose hills were used as the ramparts. Kotah has the realtions and gave their services in the mugal court. Due to their relation with mugal court it became contact with the muslim culture . In this sequence, various Muslim buildings were constructed here during the period of different rulers.

Dargah/Tomb

1.1 AdharShila, Kota

Between the 12th and the 13th century, there were a large number of Sufi saints in India. At the same time, Syed Maula Ali Hamdani, while doing his work in different areas of Hadoti, made this place on the banks of Chambal river in Kota his place of worship. Hazrat Syed Maula Ali Hamdani was related to 'Qadriya-Silsile' in the Sufi tradition. 'Adharshila' huge rock rests nominally on a small piece of stone about 40 kg and is so inclined at the top that there is a possibility of it falling every moment, but that moment never came. In a pit-like place under the adharshila, there is the tomb of Sufi saint Hazrat Syed Maula Ali Hamdani, who had done severe penance at this deserted place and fixed this huge rock in the air with.

The dargah of Adharshila and the dome above the dargah are built in the architectural style of the Sultanate period. Later, the rulers of the Mughal period and the local provincial administrators got mosques, gardens and many other types of construction cars done in the dargah complex. It is not known during which ruler's period the DargahGumbad was built. On the right and left side of the main gate of the dargah and inside there are many chhatris playing in the Rajput architectural style of Hadoti. The pointed minarets stand at the front of the main gate. In front of the main gate of the dargah, there are two other

mausoleums built in the same construction style of the main mazar on either side of the road. Their construction style also seems to be of the same period.



Adharshila

1.2 Tomb of Saudagar Ali Shah Hamdani

Tomb Saudagar Ali Shah Hamdani Situated near Adharshila on the banks of the Chambal river, this tomb is built on an 8-foot-high quadrangular platform. The tomb of Saudagar Ali Shah Hamdani, made by the beautiful carvings on red stone and the precise forging of choker stones, is made on seeing the strength and beauty of this Mughal era building. The remains of a well-maintained garden have been found around this tomb, which is a fundamental feature of the Mughal architecture (Char Bagu system). The inner part of the tomb is 16 feet by 16 feet quadrangular, in which two tombs belong to HazratSaudagar Ali Shah and his wife Ayesha Bibi.

Inside the tomb there are arched tibaris built in Rajput style and an umbrella-shaped stepwell is situated in the back part of the tomb, which is in a dilapidated condition. ²

1.3 Dalel Khan's Tomb

¹ Dr. Saxena Arvind Kumar, Dr Pradhan Nalini, Pradhan Neha-Bundi Rajya ka sampoom Itihas- Apolo Prakashan, sahiyagar, rajapark Jaipur, 2022 first adition, p. 1-66

² Ahmad Firoz: Prakruiti ka adbhut chmtkar, Kota ke aitihaik darshniye sthal smarika- Rajasthan ki hadoti virasat , Bhartiya Sanskritik nidhi, 1987, p. 30

Dalel Khan's tomb, built in 1842 AD, is located in the middle of Kota city. Dalel Khan was appointed as the Chief General of Kota State. Dalel Khan and Zalim Singh had a very rich friend. Dalel Khan's influence was so great that all the new guns that were minted at that time were engraved on them as 'MaharavshreeUmaid Singh ji, RajshreeJhalaZalim Singh ji, Dalel Khan ji'.³ Even today these guns are kept safe in the royal Aslakhana of Kota Museum. One such cannon named 'Rambaan' is kept in Nayapura (Kota). Near the dome of Dalel Khan's tomb, there are artistic three palanquins, big 6 feet high chhatris, built in the Rajput style of Hadoti, along with six small 3 feet high chhatris. In the middle of these chhatris is situated the Kalashnuma dome. There are two tombs inside the tomb, whose length is 10 feet and width is 5 feet. One mazar is of Dalel Khan and the other is of his Begum. Mughals on marble at these tombsInscribed Arabic calligraphy has been done in the style. Whose length is 30 feet and width is 20 feet. A mosque built in the pure Mughal style is located in the left part of the medieval tomb, on which the four minarets are built. A good example of the architectural style. There is also a horse stall near the mosque. The tomb is surrounded on all sides by fortified high walls, which on view appears as a Rajput citadel.



1.4 Tomb of Anwar Khan

Hazrat Syed Anwar situated in Borkheda of Kota built in 1804 AD. The tomb is also built almost in the style of Dalel Khan's tomb. In the construction style of this tomb of Anwar Khan, the architectural style of Hadoti as well as the Mughal architectural style has been beautifully blended. Built on a 6 ft high rectangular (42 ft 32 ft) platform, this tomb has a total of six minarets built in the Mughal style in place of chhatris near the dome. Ornamented pillars and walls in Hadoti style in Anwar Khan's tomb.

³ Sharma Mathuralal : Kota Rajya ka Itihas Part 2, Editor- Dr Narayan Jagat , Rajasthani Granthargar, Sojti Gate , Jodhpur, 1993 p. 537

In front of the main entrance of the tomb, four pillars decorated in Hadoti style and small pillar-like figures in Rajput style have been engraved on the walls. The garden in the front and back of the tomb is built in the Mughal style and in the premises of the tomb itself there is a stepwell built in the Hadoti style, which is in a dilapidated condition. Anwar Kha was a courageous Pathan warrior originally from Gujargarhi in Afghanistan.

1.5 Idgah of soldiers

This Idgah was built by JhalaMadho Singh on the instructions of Kota Maharao Ram Singh (II) in 1834, especially for the Pathan soldiers appointed in large numbers in Kota's army. This was due to the influence of Dalel Khan.⁴ The Mughal style and Hadoti style have been beautifully blended in the architectural style of this huge Idgah. Chhatris in place of minarets in Idgah have been constructed in the pure Rajput architectural style of Hadoti. Fort-like high ridged walls are built around the huge courtyard of the Idgah.

1.6 Tomb of Kesar Khan Dokar Khan

Built in 1573 AD during the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar, this historical Tomb on a high mound on the bank of Kishore Sagar pond of Kota. Kesar Khan and Dokar Khan were brave Pathan warriors of Malwa and were related to each other. There were brothers. In 1546 AD, he suddenly attacked and captured Kota and Ruled Kota for about 26 years. At that time the Kota under the princely state of Bundi.⁵ The construction of different parts of this tomb Happened in different architectural styles. The construction of the original tomb in 1573 AD was purely construction of Chhatri and Burj in and near Mughal architectural style 17th and 18th century. It was done in the Rajput style of Hadoti. Small domes are built. A Mughal-era mosque is situated on the left side of the tomb. A big round dome on top of the tomb in the middle and four in its four corners.

There is an cenotap in the right part and a cylindrical high turret located in the near, this cenotap and turret was built by Maharao Madho Singh of Kota in 1637 AD and a cannon was placed on it. It was customary to fire artillery from this turret every day at 12 o'clock in the honor of these two brave warriors. This practice lasted for 300 years and continued till the reign of MaharaoUmaid Singh II (1889 to 1940 AD).

⁴ Dr. Shbanam Zahida- Hadoti anvm Tonk ke Muslim smarak, Rajasthani Granthagar, Sojti Gate , Jodhpur, 2021 , p. 130

⁵ Sharma Mathuralal : Kota Rajya ka Itihas Part 2, Editor- Dr Narayan Jagat , Rajasthani Granthargar, Sojti Gate , Jodhpur, 1993 p. 66-68

1.7 Tomb of Nadirshah

The tomb of Shah Jahan's treasurer Nadir Shah, located in Ladpura, Kota, is a unique masterpiece built in the pure Mughal architectural style.⁶ The dome of the tomb and the solid cylindrical minarets are built in the style of construction of Mughal mosques and tombs. The width of the tomb is 35 feet, the length is 25 feet and the height is 30 feet.

1.8 Dargah Syed Abdul Hakim Sahib, Kaithunipol

This dargah was built during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in Hijri 053 (1643 AD) by MaharaoMadho Singh, the founder of the Kota state, near Kaithunipol. When Kaithunipol, Patan or Kishorepura gates were built by Madho Singh in Kota city, then this dargah was also built with the same material. Syed Abdul Hakim, a Sufi saint of Chishti silila had come from Agra to Kota and at that time started praying here in solitude. Once when Madho Singh left Kota to suppress the rebellion of Khan Jahan Di, he came to this place of worship of Sufi Abdul Keem and received his blessings. The last wish of the Sufi saint was that his last rites should be performed at the place of his talk in a very simple way without constructing any grand building. Therefore, on the instructions of MaharaoMadho Singh, a small tomb was built in the middle of the 18 feet 16 feet E room of the Sufi saint and an umbrella was built in the Hadoti style over the mazar. The upper part of the cenotaph was given a slight roundness from above to give it the shape of a dome. The minarets were not built in the original form of this building, built in the middle of the 17th century. Later, some other unknown murid (devotee) got the construction of two hexagonal high minarets in the rear part of the tomb.

1.9 Idgah Kishorepura

The construction of this Idgah was done under the rule of Maharao Chhatrasal Singh (II) of Kota. In the period Hijri Samvat 1295 (1878 AD) was done in Kishorpura area of Kota. This building was constructed on 10 bigha 4 biswa land on the orders of Maharao. Originally a mosque was constructed in the building of the Idgah with a 12 feet high double bar and a large open courtyard inside, but later (a few years ago) both the entrances of the Idgah were rebuilt by the local people. given a new look.

1.10 The Dargah of Hazrat Ahmad Ali Shah alias 'Jungli Shah Baba'

The Dargah of Hazrat Ahmad Ali Shah alias Jungli Shah Baba near Vallabh Nagar area of Kota was built during the reign of MaharaoBhim Singh (II) on 24th

(10 March 1945) of RabiulAwwal in the month of Hijri Samvat 1364.⁷



But the engraved inscription gives complete information about the construction of this tomb. Inside the Hazrat Tomb, the marble qatabas (inscriptions) at the head of the main tomb were Sufi saints of the Ahmad Ali Shah Chishti silila. As soon as he entered the periphery of his worship, he was called as Junglee Shah Baba because of the calm behavior of wild peoples. The Persian inscription on the tomb of Junglishah Baba, the onion-shaped dome at his dargah is built in a purely Islamic architectural style. The main hall of the mazar is 22 feet by 22 feet in a quadrangular shape. Inside is the main mazar of Baba. The inner and outer walls of the entire dargah are covered with bright green tiles. Undoubtedly, these tiles must have been erected by some of Baba's murids (devotees) in later years to secure the originally constructed walls and pharaohs of the tomb. Presently this building is under the control of Waqf Board.

1.11 Shahi Masjid, Mokhapara

This mosque was built by Dalel Khan in 1818 AD in Mokhapara of Kota city. Inside this mosque, there are open courtyards in front of high arched doors, a WuzuHauz in the right corner and a qibla wall on the roof of the mosque as well. A palanquin-shaped figure was made in the middle at the upper end of the wall of the kibble on the roof. Also, while coming down from the roof of the mosque, artistic pillars were made on either side of the stairs. Due to lack of proper maintenance, a pillar has fallen but a pillar is still standing.

1.12 Kalandari Mosque

Such a mosque which was specially built near the tombs of the soldiers who died in the war was called 'Kalandari Masjid'.⁸ A unique feature of the construction style of this mosque is that the roof of this mosque was not made. All the worshipers offer prayers in the open under the sky.

⁶ Ahmad Hafiz Kalim: Hadoti ke jaban shuhda, Universal Publications, Rampura, Kota

⁷ Dr. Shbanam Zahida- Hadoti anvm Tonk ke Muslim smarak, Rajasthani Granthagar, Sojti Gate, Jodhpur, 2021, p. 135

⁸ Dr. Shbanam Zahida- Hadoti anvm Tonk ke Muslim smarak, Rajasthani Granthagar, Sojti Gate, Jodhpur, 2021, p. 137

CONCLUSION

Although the kingdoms of Bundi and Kota were established by the Hada-Chauhans by defeating the Bhils, both these kingdoms were weakened due to continuous fighting with Mewar. Seeing such condition of Bundi and Kota, the Sultan of Malwa attacked Bundi and Kota. After the separation of Kotah state from Bundi state, it has its own history and relation with the Mughal court. Thus it came into contact with Muslim traditions and various Muslim buildings were made in that period. It is shown the transition period of the Indo-Muslim culture which impacts on the architecture of the Rajput culture.

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