

Chapter XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

BAWANI KHERA (TAHSIL BAWANI KHERA)

Headquarters of a newly carved out tahsil of the same name, it lies at $28^{\circ} 57'$ north latitude and $76^{\circ} 2'$ east longitude. It is located 19 kilometres from Bhiwani, to the north-east, on Bhiwani-Hansi Road. In 1971, it had a population of 8,824.¹ It is a railway station on the Hisar-Rewari section (metre gauge) of Northern Railway. The village was raised to the status of a notified area committee in June 1973.

Located on a mound, the town has now extended towards the south. Most of the streets and houses are pakka but there is no proper arrangement for drainage. Though headquarters of a tahsil, the town presents a depressing appearance. A *mandi* is being developed by the Town and Country Planning Department.

Bawani Khera is said to be nearly 700 years old. But availability of large-size bricks measuring $31 \times 22 \times 5$ cms., belonging to Kushan-Gupta age, lead some credence to the fact that the present site was inhabited even before that. In the absence of any corroborative evidence, no specific conclusion can be drawn.

The places of antiquity and of interest include Nathon-Ka-Dera, Dadu Panthion-Ka-Dera and Shri Gauri Shankar Temple.

Located near the old village tank the Dera of Nath sect is said to be the oldest place in the town. One Mahant Bali Nath is believed to have founded this Dera several hundreds years ago, and people believe that it existed even before the present town was inhabited. There is also a Shiva Temple, a structure of sub-recent date inside the Dera. Shri Gauri Shankar Temple, located near the tank is about three centuries old. God Shiva is the main deity of the temple.

The places of public services include a police station, a post and telegraph office, a Public Works Department Rest House, four dharmshalas, a

1. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District, 1974, p. 176.*

veterinary hospital, a bus stand, a Government Higher Secondary School for boys and a Government High School for girls.

BHIWANI (TAHSIL BHIWANI)

Bhiwani, the headquarters of the district of this name¹, lies at 20° 48' north latitude and 76° 9' east longitude. It is located 123 kilometres west of Delhi and 253 kilometres south-west of Chandigarh. With a population of 73,086² in 1971, it is an important railway station on the Rewari-Bhatinda section (metre gauge) of Northern Railway, and is now being connected with Rohtak by broad gauge.

The town was formerly surrounded by an old wall, now in complete decay. This had 12 gates, all of which are now decayed. Of these were the Bapora Gate to the north-west, Rohtak Gate to the east, and Dadri Gate to the south-east. The old town is congested. The streets are narrow. It is dotted with old ornate buildings with orient domes or Rajput style pavilions. The doorways are carved in wood and almost as big as castle gates. The architecture and masonry of these buildings seems to indicate that the workmen and artists had attained a degree of high sophistication.

The town is no longer confined within the old walls; habitation has spread outside. Many new dwellings have sprung up to the north-west, north-east, east and west of the town. The houses in the old town are built of brick and lime and in most cases are several storey high. New houses of modern design constructed with brick, cement and steel have come up in the recently developed areas.

Bhiwani seems to be a corruption of the word 'Bhani'. From Bhani it changed to Bhiani and then Bhiwani. One Neem, a Jatu Rajput, is said to have founded the village in honour of his wife Bahni, who had saved his life from treachery, and called it by her name.³ The local population still prefers to say 'Bhiani', not Bhiwani.

In 1803, Bhiwani was annexed by the British. In 1817, William Frazer, the Political Resident in Delhi, selected this place for the site of a *mandi*. The town rose to importance. Before the advent of the railways in this part of the country, Bhiwani was popularly known as the 'Gate-way' of Rajputana. It

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1. It is also the headquarters of the sub-division and tahsil of the same name.
 2. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District*, 1974, p. 190.
 3. For legend, see chapter on 'General'.

was the main centre through which all the trade from Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jaipur and other States of Rajputana used to come into British India.¹ It was a famous trading centre of Punjab even before the Partition of the country. Next to Amritsar, it was the biggest market for textiles. Bhiwani is also known as a town of charitable trusts², created by prosperous business men, who migrated to Calcutta, Bombay and other big cities of India for business. A number of hospitals, schools and colleges are even today maintained by these trusts.

This town is often called the 'Little Kashi' of India. There are nearly 300 small and big temples in it. Some of the more important ones are described here.

Gauri Shankar Mandir.—Situated in the heart of the town, this beautiful temple was built by Seth Kirori Mal of village Luhari in 1951 at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh. It is one of the premier temples of this region. The entrance gate is an imposing structure facing the bazaar. A specimen of Hindu architecture of modern times, inside this big temple is made of marble. There is a clock tower over it. There are three main shrines in the temple. The shrine of Gauri and Shankar (Parvati and Shiva) is in the middle, those of Laxmi and Narayan, and Radha and Krishna on the right and left respectively. The shrines contain life like marble statues of these deities. In the centre of the temple there is a pillar square with entablatures joining the ceiling. Carvings of various scenes from Hindu mythology are configured on the walls, pillars and entablatures. Text of the *Bhagvad-Gita*, the Song Celestial, and couplets and sayings of various saints and poets are engraved or painted on the entablatures of the colonnades.

A fair is held every year at this temple from Shrawan Shukla Purnima to Janamasthmi when attractive religious *jhankis* (tableaux) are exhibited.

Khaki-Baba Ka Mandir.—Built over a 100 years ago is a temple of the Vaishnav sect. The main deity is Lord Rama. There are also Shiva temple and Hanuman temple in the premises. It was originally a small temple, but in Vikrami Samvat 1963 (A.D. 1906), Khaki-Baba, a devotee of Lord Rama, came to this place on a pilgrimage and chose to live here and the temple became associated with him.

Shri Rang Nath Mandir.—Situated in Bichla Bazaar, this is a famous temple of the Vaishnav sect. It was built in Samvat 1907 (A.D. 1840) by Shri Ramanuja Acharya.

1. *Hisar District and Loharu State Gazetteer (Hisar District)*, 1915, p. 252.

2. For details about some important trusts, see Chapter on 'Other Social Services'.

Hanuman Mandir.—Situated outside the Hanuman Gate, this temple is said to be one of the oldest of Bhiwani, built over 300 years ago. On every Tuesday people visit in large numbers to offer prayers to god Hanuman and distribute *rashad*.

Hira Puri Mandir.—Situated at the bank of Dobi, the old pond of the town, it is said to be the oldest temple. The main deity is Shiva. Legend has it that one Mahatma Hirapuri came from village Luhani and started living here. Bhiwani was then a Rajput village occupied by two distinct groups, viz. Lohadh and Halu. There were frequent clashes between them over the water of the village well, located near the present site of the temple. Once the Rajputs of both sides assembled to fight with each other at this spot. Mahatma Hira Puri could not tolerate this quarrel between inhabitants of the same village and he laid himself alive in *samadhi* in order to restore peace. Later a Shiva Temple was erected on the site.

Samadhi of Todar Singh.—It is located near the Bichhawa Tank. It is believed that Emperor Humayun came to Charkhi Dadri for Shikar and married a Rajput girl. Her brother Bhani Singh with the help of Mughal troops raided Baliali (a village near Bhiwani). Rajputs of Bhiwani could not brook this insult, and under the leadership of Todar Singh fought Bhani Singh, who was killed in battle. The Emperor sentenced Todar Singh to death. A *samadhi* was built in his memory.

Modern Bhiwani has a city water-supply scheme, one of the largest of its kind. The new District Administrative-cum-Judicial Complex built in red stone, revives the traditional Rajasthani architecture blended with the modern. A Bal Bhawan, a multi-storey District Public Library, a new multi-storey P.W.D. rest house have also come up in recent years. A stadium of inter-national standards is under construction.

Industrially the town is taking new shape. A milk plant was set up in 1972 by the Haryana Dairy Development Corporation, at a cost of Rs. 60 lakh. 'Hafed Bakeries', the first cooperative bakery in the country was established at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh. There are two large-scale textile units, guar gum factory, vegetable ghee factory, dental chair units, and a number of small textile units.

Other places of interest for public service include a police station, a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, a general hospital, a T.B. clinic, an Employees State Insurance Dispensary, Ganpat Rai Matri Seva Sadan Hospital, Kishan Lal Jalan Free Eye Hospital, Adarsh Eye Hospital, Kanhi Ram Free Eye Hospital, a veterinary hospital, an industrial training institute, a

Government industrial school for girls, Technological Institute of Textiles, Vaish College, Adarsh Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Government College, K.M. College of Education, a Government college of education, 6 privately managed high/higher secondary schools for boys and girls, 2 Government high/higher secondary schools for boys and girls, a District library, Kirori Mal Library, Kishan Lal Seva Sadan Library, a municipal park, three cinema houses, a new bus stand, a canal rest house, a P.W.D. rest house, a H.S.E.B. rest house, a milk plant rest house and a number of dharmshalas.

CHARKHI DADRI (TAHSIL DADRI)

Headquarters of the tahsil and Sub-Division named Dadri, it lies at 28° 36' north latitude and 76° 17' east longitude. It is located 30 kilometres from Bhiwani to the south-east. In 1971, it had a population of 19,484.¹ It is a railway station on the Firozpur-Rewari section (metre gauge) of Northern Railway.

The old town which was surrounded by a stone wall with four gates (Rail Darwaja, Delhi Gate, Budwana Gate and Charkhi Gate) and two small entrances, has extended itself outside the old wall towards the railway station and new bus stand. The old compound wall with the gates was built by the Maharaja of erstwhile Jind State in 1917 Samvat (A.D. 1860). The old houses are mostly built of stone and lime; some present an imposing appearance. New modern houses are coming up. The town is a big mandi. A Master Plan has been prepared for development and is being put through.

Prior to settlement of the present town there was said to be a lake that abounded in frogs. The Sanskrit word for frog is *dadur*, and hence the name Dadri. To distinguish this frog town from other similar place names in the adjoining areas, and even in the adjoining States, the name Charkhi (of a nearby village) was added to precede it.

One Bihlan, a Rajput, who came from Ajmer Shariff, Rajasthan, is said to have founded the town, nearly 600 years ago. In A.D. 1806, the then British Government of India gave this area to the Nawab Ismail Khan of Jhajjar. But the Nawab opposed the British during 1857 Uprising. The area was taken back as a punishment and was given to Maharaja Sarup Singh of Jind, as a reward for his services. It remained a part of erstwhile Jind State till the formation of PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) in 1948. Later, after the merger of PEPSU and Punjab in 1956, the town became a part of the Mahendragarh district, and was included in the Bhiwani district in December 1972.

1. *Census of India 1971, District Census Hand Book, Mahendragarh District, 1973, p. 75.*

The principal antiquities and places of interest in the town are :—

Shyamesar Tank.—The big Shyamesar Tank with stone quays (*ghats*) and a number of temples around is a place of grandeur gone by. It is said to have been built by one Lala Sita Ram around A.D. 1687, at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh. According to *Phulkian States Gazetteer (Patiala, Jind and Nabha)*, 1904¹, he was the treasurer of Muhammad Shah, Emperor of Delhi. But according to another legend, he was the treasurer of Shah Jahan, the Mughal Emperor of India.

The municipality has made arrangements for supply of canal water to the tank, and is also taking steps to clear it up as a tourist attraction.

Mandir and Samadhi of Baba Shami Dayal.—Located on the bank of the Shyamesar Tank, it is said to be the oldest temple of the town. Legend has it that when Bihlan founded this town, there was a Samadhi of a saint known as Shami Dayal. Bihlan saw in a dream that the saint wished him to build a temple, which would lead to the prosperity of his caste and the area. Bihlan constructed the temple named after the saint. This is a place of veneration for Jats of Phogat *got* (clan). Every year a *mela* is held on the eight day of *Bhadrapad* (Samvat), and is attended by Phogat Jats in large numbers.

There are scores of other Hindu temples, a Jain temple and a Sikh *gurdwara* in the town.

The old fort (built nearly 200 years ago by the Nawab of Jhajjar) now houses a number of Government offices.

The town is also known for the Dalmia Cement Factory. Established in 1938, it employs nearly 1,000 workers. Its production capacity is 750 tonnes per day.²

Places of public service include a police station, a post and telegraph office, telephone exchange, a 50-bed civil hospital, an Employees State Insurance Dispensary, a veterinary hospital, a recently constructed bus stand, a cinema house, a municipal library, a municipal rose garden, Mathura Parsad Trust Library and Reading Room, Janta Vidya Mandir, Ganpat Rai Rasivasia College, Saraswati College for women, Saraswati College of Education, a Government industrial school for girls, a Government higher secondary school for boys, a Government higher secondary school for girls, two privately managed high/higher secondary schools for boys and girls, a canal rest house, a Sainik rest house, a P.W.D. rest house (known as Dorothy Villa) and a number of dharm-salas.

1. *Ibid*, p. 333.

2. For details, see Chapter on 'Industries'.

KALIANA (TAHSIL DADRI)

Located at the foot of a hillock, about 40 kilometres to the south of Bhiwani and 10 kilometres to the west of Charkhi Dadri, it had a population of 2,214 in 1971¹. The hillock is bare.

This is said to have been the capital of Raja Kalia after whom the town is named. It has sunk to the level of a village, but remains in its vicinity testify to its having been a large and populous place. In A.D. 1326 or Hijri 725, Raja Kalia rebelled against Alaf Khan, King of Delhi, son of Ghayas-ud-din Tughlaq. The Imperial army under Saiyad Hidayat Ullah (or Mubarriz Khan) attacked Raja Kalia, and in the struggle both were killed. The town was placed under Mir Bayak an official of Alaf Khan.²

The Kalia hillocks are famous for sang-i-larz (flexible sand stone). Also called Ital-Columite, this stone is found at a height of 400 metres above sea level. According to geologists, there are only two such flexible stone rocks in the world—one is at Kalia and the other in Brazil (South America).

LOHARU (TAHSIL LOHARU)

Loharu lies at 28° 26' north latitude and 75° 49' east longitude, about 60 kilometres to the south-west of Bhiwani on the Bhiwani-Jaipur Road. It is the headquarters of the tahsil of its name. It had a population of 5,579, in 1971.³ It is a railway station on the Rewari Rajgarh section (metre gauge) of Northern Railway and a junction for Jaipur. It is an isolated town in the vicinity of the Rajasthan border. It has a Notified Area Committee.

The houses in the town are scattered. These are generally built of stone and lime in the old style. Houses made of brick, cement and steel with modern design are also coming up. The streets are mostly pakka.

Legend has it that the site of the town was originally inhabited by Lohars (blacksmiths), from whom the town has derived its name. The town used to be the seat of the Nawab of Loharu till 1950, when it was merged with the Hisar (Hissar) district, and included in the Bhiwani district on its formation in December 1972.

Of the ancient history of Loharu, little is known. It once formed part of Jaipur State, but towards the middle of the 18th century some adventurous Thakurs, after the fashion of the day, shook off the Jaipur authority and form-

1. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Mahendragarh District*, 1973, p. 68.
2. *Phulkian States Gazetteer (Patiala, Jind and Nabha)*, 1904, p. 335.
3. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District*, 1974, p. 202.

ed an independent State. The Raja of Khetri, Bhopal, Singh, a satellite of the Jaipur *raj*, attempted to subdue them but was slain in battle at Loharu. The place was, however, re-annexed to Jaipur for a time, but it soon regained independence. Subsequently it acknowledged British suzerainty, and the government ceded it to the Maharaja of Alwar, who had loyally aided them during the Maratha Campaign.¹ Nawab Ahmed Bakhsh Khan², who served the Maharaja of Alwar, was given this area in recognition of his services. Thus he was the virtual founder of the family which ruled over the area for seven generations.

The principal places of antiquity and of interest in the town are :

Loharu Fort.—Loharu fort is the chief monument. It is said to have been built in A.D. 1570 by Arjan Singh. The Nawab's palace was built inside the fort in 1890. The building of the palace is a mixture of oriental and western styles. It stands on a raised terrace, with a fountain and a tank in its centre. The palace has been purchased by Haryana Government and the tahsil office and treasury are now housed in it.

Mosque.—Situated in the middle of the town is a mosque built in Persian style with a dome, minarets, and a fountain at the centre of the court. It was built in A.D. 1861 by one Mirza Nazar Muhammad Beg.

Shikharband Mandir.—Located inside it, is the town's oldest Hindu temple in the town. It is said to have been built in 1710 Samvat (A.D. 1653) and traces its origin to the days of Sheikhawati rule. Principal deity of the temple is lord Rama.

Shri Satya Narayan Temple.—Located near the Amin Mandi, the temple was built in Samvat 2000 (A.D. 1943) at a cost of Rs. 1.25 lakh. The land for the temple was donated by the then Nawab of Loharu. It is an attractive temple with god Satya Narayan as the main deity.

Tomb of Raja Khetri.—The old tomb is now in complete decay. However, pakka platform was raised in A.D. 1894 by the then Maharaja of Khetri. According to a stone inscription in Hindi and English, one Bhopal Singh, Raja of Khetri was killed at this spot whilst storming the fort of Loharu on Bhadra-

1. *Hisar District and Loharu State Gazetteer (Loharu State)*, 1904, p. 2.

2. Nawab Ahmed Bakhsh Khan was the son of Mirza Arif Jan Beg, a Bukhari Mughal, who came to India in the middle of the 18th century and took service under Emperor Ahmad Shah of Delhi.

pad Krishna 10, B.S. 1828 (September 5, 1771).¹ In this battle both the rulers were killed.

Grave of the dog of Bakhtawar, a slave, and a dome known as Sati-ki-Mandi, where the wife of Bakhtawar is believed to have immolated herself, after her husband's death, are now in complete decay, only ruins can be seen. According to the *Hisar District and Loharu State Gazetteer (Lohru State)*, 1915², the dog of Bakhtawar is said to have helped in killing nearly 28 persons in a battle between Thakur Madan Singh and Alf Khan, Governor of Hisar (Hissar), in Samvat 1728 (A.D. 1671).

Towards the west of the town there is a tank paved with stone which was built by the then Nawab of Loharu in 1902 at a cost of Rs. 20,000.

Another big pakka tank located near the present residence of the Nawab of Loharu was built by Seth Har Narayan Ishwar Dutt of Kajrewala in Samvat 1972 (A.D. 1915). Nawab Amar-ud-din donated 1,100 bighas of land for grazing. This land is now managed by the Gaushala Loharu.

The Amin Mandi with 228 shops was constructed by the Nawab of Loharu nearly seven decades ago. The plan and lay out of the mandi is excellent, but it now has a deserted appearance. Loharu used to be a flourishing market during the Nawab's time. The merger of the State with the Hisar district, and removal of all restrictions on inter-State movement resulted in dwindling trade, and consequently a large number of traders migrated to other towns.

A number of places of public utility have come up during the last few years which include a 24-bed civil hospital, a T.B. clinic, a bus stand and a P.W.D. rest house. Other places of public service include a police station, a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, a veterinary hospital, a municipal library and reading room, a Government high school for boys, a Government high school for girls and three big dharmshalas.

MITATHAL (TAHSIL BHIWANI)

Situated at a distance of 11 kilometres to the north-east of Bhiwani, it lies at 28° 53' north Latitude and 76° 11' east longitude. In 1971, it had a popu-

1. The stone inscription reads thus : "This is sacred to the memory of Raja Bhopal Singh Ji of Khetri who was killed here in a battle whilst storming the fort of Loharu in Bhadrapad Krishna 10, B.S. 1728 (5th September A.D. 1671) and was put up by his great grand-son Raja Ajit Singh Ji Bahadur of Khetri in A.D. 1899".

2. Ibid, pp. 21-22.

lation of 4,238¹. The village is approached by a link road from Tigrana on the Bhiwani-Jind Road.

The results of archaeological excavation supervised in 1968 have thrown welcome light on the Copper-Bronze age culture-complex of the Indo-Gangetic divide of the 3rd-2nd millennia B.C. It provides a continuous cultural sequence from pre-Harappan to late-Harappan times.

The site came to light for the first time in 1913 when a horde of coins of Samudra Gupta, one of the most illustrious kings of the Gupta dynasty, was found. During 1965 to 1967, beads and curious copper implements were discovered at the site, giving it the honour of yielding proto-historic material. This was followed by excavations in 1968.

There are two low mounds of modest size. The smaller mound, measuring 150 x 300 metres and rising to a height of 5 metres, lies on the west, and the bigger one, on the east, is about 300 x 75 metres in expanse and nearly 3 metres in height. The excavator believes that the site once lay on the bank of river Yamuna which has since gradually moved away.²

The site has yielded a variety of antiquities such as beads, bangles and terracotta, stone, shell, copper, ivory and bone objects.³

Mitathal may be said to be the most classical town site hitherto discovered in northern India. It reveals a continuous habitation from pre-Indus to post-Indus times, covering a period of ten hundred years. It has also added new dimensions to the antiquity of the district.

Places of public service include a post office, a veterinary hospital, a Government high school and a Government middle school for girls.

SIWANI (Tahsil Bawani Khera)

Close to the Rajasthan border, Siwani lies at 28° 55' north latitude and 75° 37' east longitude. It is located 60 kilometres to the north-west of Bhiwani. In 1971, it had a population of 7,540.⁴ It is a railway station on the Hisar-Rajgarh section (metre gauge) of Northern Railway. The village Siwani was raised to the status of a Notified Area Committee⁵ in August 1971.

1. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District, 1974*, p. 184.

2. Suraj Bhan : Excavations at Mitathal 1968, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, 1969, Volume I, No. I, pp. 1-2.

3. *Ibid*, p.3.

4. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District, 1974*, p. 29.

5. Later dissolved in 1977, vide Haryana Government Notification No. 12749-2CII-77/23127, dated 28-7-1977.

The old village situated on a mound has extended towards the west after Independence (1947). It is a big *mandi* for *bajra* and *moong*. Most of the old houses are made of mud but new houses of brick, cement and steel are coming up. Streets are mostly pakka. The place is known for its good quality drinking water. It is said that before Independence, the Bikaner State had made arrangements to procure drinking water from Siwani for the patients of the State Hospital at Bikaner.

Nothing much is known about the history of the town but it is estimated at 1,100 years old. But for a few Hindu temples, which are of recent origin, there is no place of interest worth mentioning.

The places of public service include a police station, a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, a Government dispensary, a veterinary hospital, a Government high school for boys, a Government middle school for girls, a Haryana State Electricity Board rest house, and a police rest house.

TOSHAM (Tahsil Bhiwani)

Headquarters of a Development Block, it lies at 28° 52' north latitude and 75° 37' east longitude. It is 23 kilometres to the north-west of Bhiwani. In 1971, it had a population of 5,039.¹ It is dominated by the 800 feet (244 metres) high hump of Tosham hill. The hill rises characteristically out of the desert sand, almost like the hump of a camel. Curiously enough, as one approaches Tosham by road from Bhiwani side, the hill gives an impression of a sleeping camel.

On the top of the hill, there is an irregular plateau covered with jungle growth. There are platforms and ponds, some of which contain a little water. These water ponds mostly lie along the eastern brow of the rock, and carry names like Pandutirtha, Surya Kund, Vyasa Kund, and Kukara Sarovar. A fair is held on Somvati Amavas at these tanks.

The very name Tosham is suggestive of its derivation from a chaste Sanskrit word. It is said to be one of the ancient towns of Haryana. People also seem to associate it with the legendary Pandavas and claim that there was a Tapobhumi where the sages, in olden times, observed penance. It also remained part of the Delhi kingdom of Prithviraja Chahamana (Chauhan).²

1. *Census of India 1971, District Census Handbook, Hisar District*, 1974, p. 195.

2. In A.D. 1190-91, Muhammad Ghuri invaded India but was defeated by Prithviraja Chahamana (Chauhan) of Sakambhari in the battlefield of Tirawari (Taraori), situated between Thanesar and Karnal. In order to avenge himself of the defeat, the Sultan again attacked India in 1192 and defeated Prithviraja at Tirawari (Taraori) and the latter was taken a prisoner or killed in the neighbourhood of river Saraswati, (*Karnal District Gazetteer*, 1975, p. 21.)

During the Mughal period, one Turssam Khan, a Pathan invaded this town.

Places of antiquity and historical importance in the town are :

Rock Inscriptions.—The inscriptions found engraved on the precipice of the hill are the oldest and surest relic of the ancient past in Tosham. These were first brought to notice by General Cunningham in 1875. They may be seen about half way up the hill, on two separate large blocks, of which, the larger one, nearly two and a half metres high and two metres broad, contain three records, including the longest and most important one, and the other contain two small epigraphs. Though the language of these inscriptions is Sanskrit the script is Pali. These inscriptions date back to the 4th-5th century A.D. These epigraphs, though short, throw a good deal of light on the contemporary religious history of this part of India.

Samadhi of Mungipa.—Climbing up the hill from east lies the Samadhi of Sidha Mungipa of the Nath Sect, who is believed to have immolated himself alive for killing a cow. It is said that the saint was in meditation when a cow disturbed him, he just raised his hand to ward her off. The cow, out of fear, tried to run away but rolled down the hill and died.

People come here in large numbers to offer foodgrains and oils at the Samadhi over which stands a domed structure.

Little above this, there is a waterpool in a cavern, beside which there is a Shiva temple.

Pancha Tirtha.—It is an ancient temple situated on the Tosham hill. People visit this temple on *Kartika Purnima* and have a dip in the tank here.

Archaeologically, the other significant finds are the large bricks measuring 31x25x5 cm, belonging to the Kushan-Gupta age, which may still be seen in the construction of the fort wall, the ruins of which can be seen on the hill.

Prithvi Raj Ki Katchery or Baradari.—There stands a small stone hillock to the north of the Tosham hill; it is crowned by a building, variously called Baradari or Prithvi Raj Ki Katchery, made on a cross-wise plan, each wing being 5 metres high and projecting over 3 metres from the central square building which is surmounted by a low dome. Architecturally, it may fall in the early Sultanate period. The whole

structure has sixteen arched openings, although apparently there appear twelve openings which probably lend it the name Baradari. It is made of rubble-stone joined by and plastered over with lime mortar.

Many new buildings and places of public service built recently include a 24-bed Civil Hospital, a bus stand and new waterworks built at a cost of Rs. 9 lakh. Other places of public service include a police station, a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, a veterinary hospital, a Government industrial school for girls, a Government high school for girls, a Government high school for boys, a P.W.D. rest house and two dharmshalas,