



HISTORY OF TOSHAM

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The study of history of Tosham started with the meaning of its origin and name of town. Bhiwani is one of the twenty two districts of Haryana state. Tosham is also the one of the sub-division of Bhiwani district. It is dominated by the 800 feet (244 metres) high hump of Tosham hill. Tosham by road from Bhiwani side the hill gives an impression of sleeping camel. The name of Tosham itself also appears to me to be derived from these Tusham princes, as its original form was most probably Tusharama or the "Tushara Monastery" which was first shortened to Tusharama and then to Tusham. In the ancient period this region was first inhabited by the chalcolithic agricultural communities at least as early as (2400 B.C.).

Subsequent to the chalcolithic period we find traces of the Harappan or possibly the pre-Harappan culture in this area.

The appearance of the Aryans later on this area is supported by the grey ware pottery found from a few sites in this area. Archaeological explorations indicate that the first Aryans settlements were located in the northern part of the district, the chief centres being Bawani Khera, Kanwari, Kungar and Jamalpur and towards south their settlements lay along the bank of the streams Yadhusara (Dohan), Krishnarati (Kasarati) and Anumati (Nai).

It was in the 1st century B.C. that the Indo-Greeks invaded India from the north-west. In the struggle that ensued, the Yaudheyas were defeated. The discovery of Indo-Greeks coins from Naurangabad affirms that the Indo-Greeks ruled over this region though their rule was short lived. The Indo-Greeks were replaced by the Kushan during A.D. 1st century of the time of Kaniksha and Havishka, the powerful Kushan rulers, have been found from Naurangabad. The Kushan rule lasted for about 150 years when their power decayed, the brave Yaudheyas again asserted their authority and drove them out from their country.

Before entering in to an account of the region comprising this district during the medieval period, it is important to realise the geographical significance of its location. There were two routes from across the mountains in the north-west by which foreign invaders came to India. The northern route through the

Khyber pass followed the ancient Mouryan highway from Purushpura to Patliputra. It passed through a more politically alive, settled and fertile part of the Punjab. More often not during the course of Indian history, this route was followed by invaders during the early winter months when the rivers of the Punjab were easily fordable. They passed along the upper water for the additional reasons that Kashmir being isolated by its mountains, the left flank of the invading armies was safe from attack. Further more the tribe of Khokars, established in the salt range, could not depend upon for safety.

When Babur invaded India in 1524-26, Hisar is an important strategic centre of Ibrahim Lodhi's empire. It had a good number of imperial garrison, and the army quartered here with in a position to operate effectively on the flank of Babur's line of March from Sirhind southwards towards Delhi. He launched the Fierce attack on India in A.D. 1526. On reaching the Ghaggar, he learnt that an army was marching against him from Hisar under Hamid Khan, the official in charge of the Hisar Division. This unnerved Babur for a while. He deatched his son Humayun with the whole of right wing of the Mughal army to neutralise Hamid Khan. A stubborn battle was fought near Hisar in which Hamid Khan was defeated.

During Akbar region (1556-1605) Hisar became once more a place of considerable importance. It was now made the headquarters of the revenue division, known as sarkar. The division of Haryana comprised of four Sarkars - Delhi, Rewari, Hisar and Sirhind. Every Sarkar was put in charge of a Foujdar who was to act as a military as well as civil functionary.

Hisar which came to prominence since the times of Firuj Tuglaq remained the headquarter of a shiq throughout the sultnate, became a sarkar under sher shah and continued to be so under the mughals. It constituted 27 parganas : Tosham, Agroha, Ahroni, Atkhera, Banaiwal, Puniyan etc.

In 1798, however, a remarkable adventure appeared on the scene and subjected the people to his control. This was Gorge Thomas as Irishman, who come to India in 1780-81. The 'Irish' Raja of Haryana; as he was called, provided good government to the people. He divided his territory in to 14 parganas, the Bhiwani district having four Dadri, Tosham, Bhiwani and Siwani. Each parganas comprised a number of villages as before Thomas did not interfere in the Affairs of the village people as long as they cared to pay land revenue to his revenue officials.

George Thomas had to compaign against the Rajputs, Sikhs and Marathas to retain his territories. Sindhia now become jealous of Thomas's progress and ordered General M. Person (Governor of the Gang Doaab) to attack him in 1801. The operation launched by the Marathas incited the ruler of neighbouring territories, the Sikhs, Jat ad Rajputs, to join hands against their formidable adversary. Thomas was outmatched in numbers when the siege of George garh (Jahazgarh in the Jhajjar tahsil of the Rohtak district) began, but

he decided to fight Betrayed by several of his chief officers, he proceeded towards Hansi where he abandoned his claim to power, he died soon afterwards at Burhanpur while on his way to Calcutta.

Hisar retained a part of the north western province till February 1858 when the administrative set-up recognised after the Ghadar of 1857. It is commonly but wrongly believed that the people of Haryana were mostly inactive if not quiet during the uprising of 1857. Recent researches show that they played a best part in the uprising at their adjective conditions permitted. They suffered great hardships and paid a pretty heavy price for during the challenge the unchallengeable. But they had no regrets.

Though the south of the uprising in our region had begun to be heard sometime in the month of April, its full fury was seen on 10 May 1857, about nine hours before its occurrence at Merut.

The people of Hisar also behaved like wise Prince Mohammad Azim Beg led them. The Ranghars and Pachhadas of Hisar and the Bhattis of Sirsa at once took advantage of the Subversion of the British to revert to their old predatory habits, and the district was at once plunged in utter anarchy and confusion.

After their exit from Hisar the rebels, led by the prince west towards Tosham on 25 September. They attacked the tahsil headquarters killing the government officials including Tahsildar Nand Pal, thanedar Pyarelal and Qanungo Khazan Singh. Here they also plundered the treasury and looted the loyalist bankers. After that they directed their attention towards Hansi with a few to attacking and plundering the tahsil headquarters. But their plan to seize Hansi was foiled by General Courtlandt as he checked them at Hajimpur, a village near Hansi and burnt down this stronghold of the rebels. On the 11th another attack was made on the village of Mangali by the general. The village was overpowered by the storming troops and burnt. On the 13th once more severe attack was made by the same general on Jamalpur village. It was first captured then burnt.

Almost everywhere in the state, the people gave a good account of themselves. They made great sacrifices.

The Agitation was further intensified when Khilafat movement gained momentum (1920), Barring a few, the entire Muslim population of the tract got effected by the new movement. Bhiwani Khera, Tosham and almost all places where Muslim lived took part in the agitation.

When civil disobedience was launched in 1930, the people of Bhiwani prepared salt at Bhiwani on April 20, 1930 in defiance of salt laws. The local cloth dealers took a vow not to import foreign cloth.

During the IInd World War the people of Bhiwani area reacted in two ways. The loyalist and peasants help the government by men, money and materials, but the nationalist opposed it. In response to Mahatma Gandhiji call for individual Satyagrah (October 17, 1940) a few people courted arrest from this region also.

Later on during the Quit India Movement (1942) the arrests in Bhiwai exceeded little over 300(August 1942 May, 1944). Besides, many officers and soldiers from Tosham joined the Indian National Army.

Tosham is land of festivals, fates and fairs. These festivals and fates usually take place in the vicinity of a great temple popularly known as Baba Mungi Paa temple which is the great object of special veneration; a site surrounded by legends a sacred kund, a place of Pilgrimage. The crowd comes to meet one another, to find amusement.

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