



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## The Historical And Archaeological Significance Of Hisar CITY

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### Abstract

Hissar, a city located in the Indian state of Haryana, has a rich historical and cultural legacy that dates back to ancient times. Established as a key urban center in the Indian subcontinent, Hissar's history is characterized by its strategic location and role in regional politics, trade, and culture. Hisar's historical importance lies in its role as a strategic military and administrative center throughout various periods, its contribution to regional stability, and its rich cultural heritage. The city's archaeological sites and historical structures reflect its evolving role in Indian history, from ancient times through the medieval and Mughal periods to the modern era.

**Keywords:** Haryana, Hisar, Monuments, ancient, History, city.

### Introduction

Hissar is situated in the northern part of India, in the state of Haryana. Its strategic location historically positioned it as a key hub in the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent. The origins of Hissar can be traced back to ancient times, with evidence suggesting its involvement in early trade and political activities. It was part of the kingdom of the Jat rulers and played a role in regional dynamics. The city gained prominence in the 14th century when it was fortified by Firoz Shah Tughlaq of the Tughlaq dynasty. The Persian word "Hissar," meaning fortress, reflects the city's fortified status under Tughlaq rule. During the Mughal Empire, Hissar continued to be an important administrative and military center. The Mughal influence is evident in the city's architecture and its role in regional administration. Under British colonial rule, Hissar underwent various administrative changes. The British period saw the development of modern infrastructure and integration into the British Indian Empire. In contemporary times, Hissar is renowned for its agricultural productivity, particularly in the cultivation of cotton and wheat, which are crucial to the local economy. The city is home to institutions such as Haryana Agricultural University, highlighting its role as an educational and research hub in the region. Hissar boasts a range of historical and architectural sites, including remnants of Tughlaq fortifications and Mughal-era structures, reflecting its rich cultural heritage. The evolution of Hissar from an ancient fortified city to a modern urban center demonstrates its adaptability and ongoing relevance in the region. Today, Hissar continues to play a significant role in the economic, educational, and cultural landscape of Haryana, contributing to its identity as a vibrant urban center.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of studying the history and archaeology of Hissar generally focus on several key areas. To explore and document the ancient civilizations that once thrived in the region, particularly focusing on the Indus Valley Civilization and its urban planning, culture, and daily life. To trace the evolution of Hissar from its early history to the present day, including its role in various empires and kingdoms such as the Mauryas, Guptas, and Mughals. The architectural styles, urban planning, and infrastructure of ancient Hissar, including the remains of forts, temples, and city layouts. Investigate artifacts, pottery, inscriptions, and other material remains found in the region to gain insights into daily life, trade, and cultural practices. The study of Hissar's history and archaeology aims to enrich our understanding of ancient cultures, preserve invaluable heritage, and connect past civilizations with contemporary knowledge and appreciation.

### Ancient Origins and the Indus Valley Civilization

The roots of Hissar trace back to the Indus Valley Civilization, one of the world's earliest urban cultures. Archaeological excavations in and around Hissar have unearthed evidence of a well-planned urban settlement dating back to around 2500 BCE. The remnants of this ancient city, often associated with the site of **Hissar-Fort**, reveal sophisticated urban planning, including a grid layout, drainage systems, and residential structures. These findings highlight Hissar's role as a significant node in the extensive trade networks of the Indus Valley Civilization, providing insights into its economic and cultural exchanges.

### Medieval Era

Hissar's historical significance became more pronounced during the medieval period. The city's prominence grew under the Delhi Sultanate. In the 12th century, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the founder of the Delhi Sultanate, established the Hissar Fort as a strategic military outpost. This fortification was part of a broader strategy to consolidate control over northern India. The fort's construction marked the beginning of Hissar's transformation into a key administrative and military center.

The fort, with its robust walls and strategic location, played a crucial role in the defence and administration of the region. Hissar's importance continued to rise under successive rulers, including the Khilji and Tughlaq dynasties, who made further improvements to the city's infrastructure.

### Mughal Influence

The Mughal era was a period of significant development for Hissar. Emperor Akbar, known for his architectural innovations and administrative reforms, took a keen interest in the city. Under his reign, Hissar became a prominent centre for trade and administration. The city was strategically located on the trade routes connecting Delhi to the northern regions, enhancing its economic and political importance.

Mughal architecture left a lasting impact on Hissar. Several structures from this period, including mosques and tombs, reflect the architectural style of the Mughals and their contributions to the city's cultural heritage.

### Colonial Period and Modern Era

The colonial era brought new dynamics to Hissar. During British rule, the city became an administrative centre, and its strategic importance continued to be recognized. The British era saw infrastructural developments that modernized the city, including the construction of railways and new administrative buildings. The remnants of colonial architecture and urban planning from this period offer a contrast to Hissar's ancient and medieval heritage.

Post-independence (Modern Era), Hissar evolved into an important regional hub, with significant developments in education, industry, and infrastructure. The establishment of institutions like the **Haryana**

**Agricultural University** and various industrial projects have played a crucial role in shaping the city's modern identity.

### Archaeological Significance

The archaeological significance of Hisar is evident in its numerous historical sites and artifacts. Excavations in and around the city have uncovered remnants from different historical periods. The Hisar Fort, with its imposing walls and gate structures, stands as a testament to the city's medieval military and administrative role.

Artifacts such as pottery, coins, and tools from various periods offer valuable insights into the daily lives and cultural practices of the ancient inhabitants. The discovery of these artifacts not only enhances our understanding of Hisar's historical significance but also contributes to broader studies of ancient and medieval Indian history.

The archaeological significance of Hisar is underscored by numerous excavations and discoveries. Sites such as **Hissar-Fort, Feroz Shah's Fort**, and various ancient mounds have yielded artifacts, inscriptions, and architectural remnants that provide a window into the city's diverse historical phases. These findings are meticulously documented and studied by archaeologists and historians to reconstruct the city's past.

Preservation efforts are ongoing to protect and conserve Hisar's rich heritage. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and local heritage organizations work to ensure that historical sites and artifacts are maintained and accessible for future generations. Initiatives include conservation projects, educational programs, and community engagement to raise awareness about Hisar's historical and archaeological importance.

### Ancient Artifacts:

- **Excavations:** Archaeological excavations in and around Hisar have uncovered a range of artifacts from different periods. These include pottery, coins, and tools from the Indus Valley Civilization, as well as medieval and Mughal-era artifacts. These findings provide valuable information about the city's historical and Cultural revolution

### Cultural and Heritage Tours

**Guided Heritage Tours:** Several tour operators and local guides offer curate heritage tours of Hisar, focusing on its historical landmarks, archaeological sites, and architectural marvels. These tours provide in-depth information and context, enriching the visitor experience.

**Local History Walks:** Participating in local history walks allows tourists to explore Hisar's historical neighbourhoods and lesser-known sites. These walks often include interactions with local historians and access to areas of cultural significance.

### Cultural and Educational Impact

Hisar's historical and archaeological heritage significantly contributes to the city's cultural and educational landscape. Museums and heritage sites attract scholars, students, and tourists, fostering a deeper appreciation of the region's past. Educational programs and guided tours help disseminate knowledge about Hisar's ancient civilizations, medieval history, and colonial past, enriching the public understands of regional history.

## Practical Tips for Visitors

- **Best Time to Visit:** The ideal time to visit Hisar is during the cooler months from October to March, avoiding the extreme heat of the summer.
- **Travel Arrangements:** Hisar is well-connected by road and rail to major cities like Delhi and Chandigarh. Local transportation options include taxis, auto-rickshaws, and rental vehicles.
- **Accommodation:** Visitors can choose from a range of accommodation options, including budget hotels, mid-range lodgings, and heritage stays that offer a traditional experience.
- **Local Cuisine:** Sampling local cuisine provides an additional layer of cultural immersion. Hisar's food reflects regional flavors and traditional cooking methods.

## Conclusion

Hisar stands as a vibrant mosaic of history and archaeology, offering a profound narrative of human civilization through the ages. From its ancient roots in the Indus Valley Civilization to its medieval fortifications and colonial legacy, Hisar's historical and archaeological significance is both vast and varied. As preservation efforts continue and new discoveries emerge, Hisar remains a crucial focal point for understanding the intricate tapestry of India's past, bridging ancient history with contemporary relevance.

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