



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

History

BHISAMBHA OR BAHSUMA ARISE OF NEW HISTORICAL POLEMICS

KEY WORDS: Bahsuma, Bheeshm Pithama, Hastinapur, Nain Singh

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ABSTRACT

Bahsuma which was known as Bheeshmpuri or Bhisambha in Mahabharata era or later period. Bahsuma is located in Tehsil Mawana in District Meerut of Uttar Pradesh. According to local folks it was considered as a birth place of *Devvrata* or Bheeshm Pithama. The destruction of Kaurvas or Pandvas capital Hastinapur by heavy flood in Ganges in the period of Kuru King *Nichakshu*. After the long journey of time this Bahsuma come in light in circa 18th Century AD in the period of King Nain Singh. He made his fort and treasury in Bahsuma. This research paper is entirely focused on the journey of Bahsuma along with time and present antiquities of various time period.

Introduction

Bahsuma is a town and Nagar panchayat in Tehsil Mawana of District Meerut of state Uttar Pradesh. It is approximately 36 kilometre from District Headquarter Meerut on Meerut-Pauri National Highway 119 (refer Fig 1). It is situated on Latitude 29° 13' 12.00" N and Longitude 77° 58' 12.00" E. From Hastinapur (Ulta Khera Mound, Refer Fig 2) it is approximately 5.5 Kilometre in South East direction. In Dwapar Yug (Mahabharata era) this Bahsuma is known for the birth place of Bheeshm Pithama, and named as Bheeshmpuri. Conventionally, Bahsuma was considered as a muhalla of capital Hastinapur. In the Mahabharata period, Bahsuma was used to keep the treasure.

Meaning of "Bahsuma".

The name Bahsuma was nascent from 'Vasu' which means treasury [1]. According to the literature , this place is served as the treasury of Kuru Kingdom [1]. In 18th Century Raja Nain Singh used this place for treasury purpose.

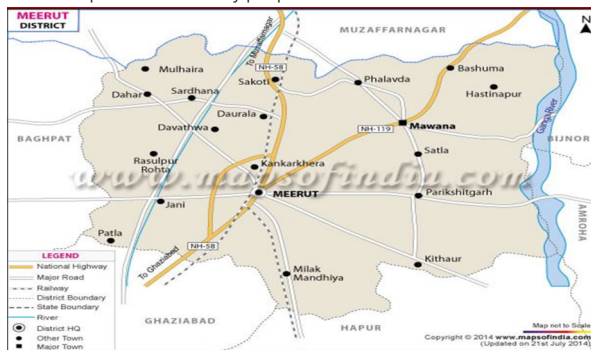


Fig 1: Route map from District Headquarter Meerut to Bahsuma [Courtesy: www.mapofindia.com]

Historical importance of Bahsuma in the Imperial and District Gazetteers

According to the district Gazetteer of Meerut [2], Bahsuma was one of the *muhalla* of Hastinapur kingdom. In this *muhalla* Vaishyas are located. But in and around 18th Century AD, it was the district headquarter of Raja Nain Singh of Parikshitgarh. There is a mansion of king and citadel built by him beside Bahsuma Nain Singh had some other palaces at Niloha (7 km from Mawana and 15 km from Hastinapur), Sonda and Muhammadpur Sikahra. In Imperial Gazetteer of India [3] and Statistical Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India [4] denoted Bahsuma as Bhisambha. It means that before India got independence Bahsuma is known by the name of Bheeshm Pithama i.e. Bhisambha. The Gazetteers shows the Bahsuma is nascent from the name of Bheeshm Pithama.

Antiquities present in Bahsuma

There are some antiquities present in Bahsuma when we go from Hastinapur towards Ulta Khera Mound to Jambudeep along to

the Madhya Ganga Canal road. For detailed directions refer image 2. This site is famous locally by the name of "Ujdi Kheri". Some walls are present on the research sites which are constructed from Lakhori Bricks and around 100 meters from these walls there is one deep well. Deep well shows the use of different bricks.

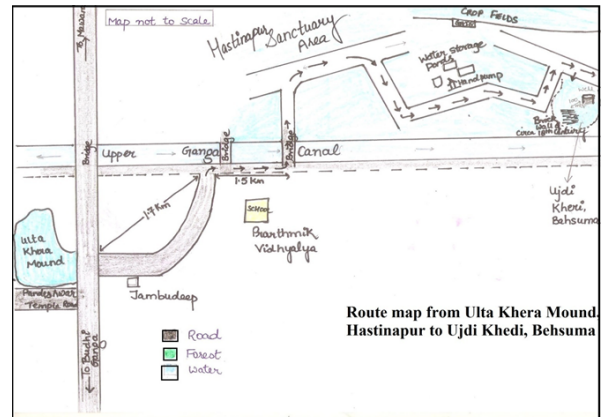


Fig 2: Route map from Ulta Khera Mound, Hastinapur to Ujdi Khedi, Bahsuma [Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]

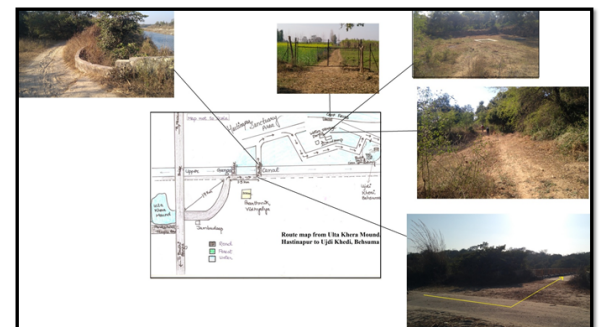


Fig 3 : Map with some exact locations and signs. [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 4: Walls of circa 18th Century AD [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 5 : Use of Lakhori Bricks in Well. [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]

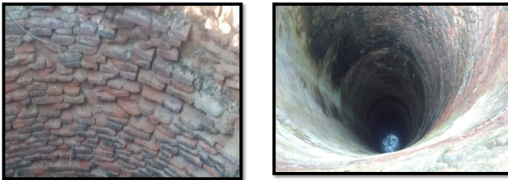


Fig 6 : Use of Lakhori Bricks in Well and deep well shows the use of different type of Bricks on Ujdi Kheri, Bahsuma. [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 7 : Wall which shows rectangular niche. This type of niche was not used by Mughals. Mughals used arched niches not complete rectangular or square. Wall made of Lakhori Bricks (right hand side).[Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 8 : Pillar like structure on the joint of some walls [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 9: Boundary wall of mansion [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]



Fig 10 :Sherds of Mughal Period [Photo Courtesy: Priyank Bharati]

Conclusion

At first glance, this site does not seem to be of Mughals Period but constructed in this time period only by the way not by Mughals. The practice of Lakhori Bricks was also in the 18th Century AD, in the wall which can possibly be of fortress and in the wall of the well, the same brick has been used. But the shape of the niches located in the wall is rectangular and not arched type here it is confirmed that it can be of the fort of King Nain Singh. Many Mughals period pottery is also found from this site. That means this site may be used by different peoples after Mahabharata Era. If this place is excavated then many mysteries can open up .Until then we will know this place by the name of Nain Singh not by the name of Pithama Bheeshm. After excavation it may be known for Bheeshm's Birth Place? It will take time to take this place in Mahabharata period from the 18th Century AD. If this place was also excavated in the 1950s when Hastinapur was excavated, then there would be great truth of Mahabharata.

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