



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

History

FEATURES AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SHALIMAR GARDEN OF KASHMIR.

KEY WORDS:

Ishfaq Khurshid Dar

Glocal University Mirzapur Uttar-pradesh

Dr. Syed Sadaf*

Guidence Glocal University Mirzapur Uttar-pradesh *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

The Shalimar Garden of Kashmir is the biggest Mughal Garden in Kashmir, it is situated on the Bank of Dal-lake. THIS Garden has a deep roots in History. Present Shalimar Garden was built by Mughal Emperor Jahangir for his princess Nur-jahan in the year 1619 C.E. The word Shalimar is derived from a sanskrit word which means abode of love. Shalimar Garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Kashmir. It is presently under the jammu and kashmir tourism department.

INTRODUCTION

Shalimar garden was built by Jahangir in 1620 C.E. it is the largest of all the Mughal Gardens in Kashmir. The word Shalimar means "abode of love". Mughals used to spend the summer in this and other Gardens of Kashmir. Shalimar is spread in about 1768 feet by 588 feet. Mughal Noble Zafar khan by the order of Shah-Jahan added a second Garden to the shalimar known as Faiz-Baksh. Shalimar Garden is the only Garden in Kashmir which receives high attention from other rulers of Kashmir.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND FEATURES;

Shalimar Garden has a long historical background. According to a legend, king Pravarsena II., the founder of the city of Srinagar, who reigned in Kashmir from A.D. 79 to 139, had built a villa on the edge of the lake, at its north-eastern corner, calling it Shalimar, which in Sanskrit is said to mean The Abode or Hall of Love. It is said that the king Pravarsena used to visit a local saint Sukarma swami at the mountains of Harwan, for the purpose of resting King Pravarsena built a villa and called it Shalimar, after this villa, Shalimar gets it's name. Shalimar villa was demolished but the area near this viila get the shalimar name. Mughal Emperor Jahangir for the hapiness of his wife Nur-Jahan built the present Shalimar Garden in 1620 and named it Farah-Baksh which means "The delightful". The word Shalimar means "abode of love". Mughals used to spend the summer in this and other Gardens of Kashmir. It is a beautiful Garden built on the bank of River Jehlum.

The Shalimar Graden is one of the Largest Mughal Garden In Kashmir, which is spread in about 1768 feet by 588 feet. Mughal Noble Zafar khan by the order of Shah-Jahan added a second Garden to the shalimar known as Faiz-Baksh(The Bountiful) in 1630. He built a garden and flower bed in the centre and combined both Farah Baksh and Faiz-Baksh gardens. In the middle of Faiz-Baksh garden, stone pools and fountains give a charmatic look. There are 132 fountains in this Garden. In the front side of Graden zaffar khan built a pavillion having pillars and galleries.

The wall is about six feet in height. Beneath the platform is canal. Which is about 15-20 feet in width. The combination of high buildings, waterfalls and pleasant trees, presents a beautiful view of Garden.

Other than Mughals many other rulers also altered Shalimar at various time intervals. Shalimar garden is the only Mughal Garden in Kashmir which received high attention from the Sikh and Dogras rulers. garden Maharaja ranjit singh built a guest house of marble, which was built for the European guests who often visited his kingdom. The electrification of shalimar garden was done by the Maharja Hari-singh. The name of shalimar garden has changed so many times by many

kings but the shalimar name remained popular among everone.

The measurement of garden is 1949 feet x 657 feet. The water was carried to garden by a canal, which flows through the rice- fields and finally fell-into the Dal-lake. The green footpaths was shadowed by the chinar trees. Stones are used in such that its diffcut to identify the gap between them. Like the other major Mughal Gardens Shalimar Garden is also a terraced one. It's water source comes from from the hillside, by a canal visits the Garden and finally moves out in Dal-lake.

A Canal called as Shah-nahar is the main supplier of water to the shalimar Garden, it flows from higher paer of the Garden to the lower part. In Shalimar Garden all paths are beautified with chinar and aspen trees. It is a three terraced Garden representing the islamic paradise garden.

The beloved wife of jahangir, noor-jahan is credited with the introduction of rose-oil or otto-rose manufacturing in Kashmir.

Shalimar Garden is divided into three parts Diwan-i-aam, Diwan-i-khaas, and zannan palace. Diwan-I aam is the name of the first terrace of shalimar Garden, which generally means public hall. In this terrace there is a beautiful water fountain with a black throne, placed on waterfall. The black throne was used by emperor while addressing the royal court. Diwan-I khaas is the name of second Garden terrace, which is a private hall, used by the guests, noble-men, courtians. Zanna is the third terrace, as the word zanna itself depects that it must b related with the womens. This terrace was the uppermost terrace of Garden, which was reserved for royal womens. this Zenana garden with heaps of Chinara trees and water is supplied through pivotal water channel. The passage of Zenana garden has two little structures built in Kashmir style over a stone stage and was utilized by security watches.

Bathrooms can b seen in the north west of the entrance room of the garden. The passage of Zenana garden has two little structures built in Kashmir style over a stone stage and was utilized by security watches. The green house Zenana was used by the Royal courtians. Dark structure in Zenana greenery enclosure A Study of cultural aspects of Mughal Gardens in Kashmir was raised by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan utilizing full dark marbles and it is encompassed by drinking fountains. Behind the dark marbles there are two waterfalls, The dark structure likewise has an engraving in Persian composed by Persian Poet Amir Khusrau saying "Agaar Firdaus baar roy-e zeemin aast, hamiin aast-o hamiin aast-o hamiin aas", meaning "If there is a heaven on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here".

The waterfall are cascades was built by prince Khurram in 1620 A.D.¹³. On both the sides of the canal are trees of Chinar and Cypress and a sprawling green turf¹⁴. Maharaja Rambir Singh made enough extension and rebuilt the garden¹⁵. In 1917 the work of damaged part of extension wall was undertaken by the Archcological Survay of India for reconstruction and two baradaries were re-roofed¹⁶.

The Shalamar gardens served the purpose of upholding administrative meetings. The architectural remains of diwan-i-khas and diwan-i-aam in the garden are the existing proofs. The black slab in Shalamar indicates the seat of emperor, where emperor used to sit for the meeting.

CONCLUSION;

Shalimar Garden is one of the largest Mughal Garden of Kashmir. According to a legend, king Pravarsena II built a villa on the edge of the lake, at its north-eastern corner, calling it Shalimar, which in Sanskrit is said to mean The Abode or Hall of Love. The present Shalimar Garden was built by emperor Jahangir in 1620 for his wife Nur-Jahan. The word Shalimar means "abode of love". Mughals used to spend the summer in this and other Gardens of Kashmir. Shalimar Garden is divided into three parts Diwan-i-aam, Diwan-i-khaas, and Zannan palace. Shalimar Garden is used for many functions like for holding Music, wine, Dance Parties and Marriage ceremonies. Shalimar garden is the only Mughal Garden in Kashmir which received high attention from the Sikh and Dogra rulers.

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