

# History of Pacca Fort Hyderabad

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**Abstract:** This article is to discussed about the history of Pacca Fort Hyderabad. Hyderabad is much Famous due to Pacca Qilla, Pacca Fort is the property of mirs. It shows the experts, arts, science of the rich culture of Sindh. The whole article is based on history, era, structure and the main historical buildings in the fort which were built at that time. Every line showing according to the historic perspectives of Sindh.

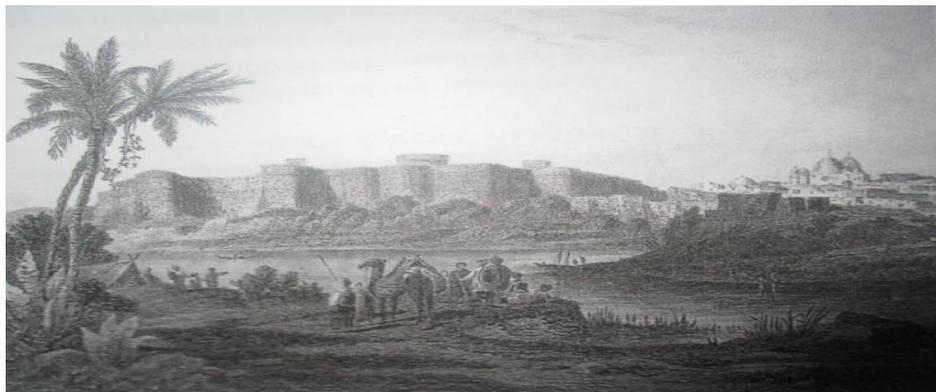
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## 1. HISTORY OF HYDERABAD

### 1.1 Introduction

Hyderabad is known for its historical and cultural background. It is second largest popular city in Sindh and 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in Pakistan.

It is situated at 25°23' North Latitude and 68°25' East longitude. The history of this city's rise and fall is fascinating. In historical accounts some historians have termed this city with sweet name of "Patala". Some famous writers have termed it as "NairoonKot" while others have made it "Bairoon". However, at present it is known as Hyderabad since many years.



## 1.2 Patala

### 1.2.1 Meanings of Patala

Experts of Linguistics believe that the name Patala has been derived from word “Patal” which is kind of a flower. The shape of that pleasant flower is like that of Lotus. Some are of opinion that Patala is a Darawarian word which means Paataal. It is said that when white Aryans came from dry and cold mid Asia and here experienced moisture and hot weather, they called it Paataal (Inferno). M.H. Panhwar refers to works of W. Karafel that, “ In old books Patala has been referred in the sense of “ Seven Storey Building” and in Greek “ Patala” means temple too. GerusBhaw also confirms this theory. In Tibet, at present too, a pagoda is situated high in mountains which consists of fascinating and beautiful valleys, known as Patala. It is said that Dalai Lama of Tibet’s ancestors were also inhabitants of Sindh.

After researching different historical accounts and early maps one can challenge the researches who have termed Patala to Hyderabad. In the circumstances, it would be wise decision that to find original PATALA we must search for geographical and other facts again.

Having seen the turbulence of mighty river Indus and its frequent changing waterways, some experts are of the opinion that Patala waterway had been flowing besides Hyderabad. While researching through books, Patala has been mentioned in writings of historians and geographers who were accompanied with Alexander. Later, many writers have talked of Patala in their writings. Famous writer Arrien (90-173 A.D) writes in his famous book “Alexandria ‘s expedition”,

“Alexandra”, after having got repaired his boats, marched towards Sindh along with his army. At the time of Alexandra’s expedition, Sindh was ruled by King Sambas from Samba’s dynasty. Patala, Savestan and Debal were ruled by his fellow kings. Alexandra had groups of Egyptian and Phenicia origin fishermen. King Sambus challenged Alexandra but king of Patala, Mokress, surrendered without fight. On third day Alexandra came to know that the rule of Patala had commanded his people to abandon the city. When Alexandra reached at Patala, he found the city deserted, even no any farmer was present. He ordered his army troops immediately to catch some local people. When they reached trapped, Alexandra said to the local men, “bring your other fellow men and cultivate your fields without any fear. You will not be barred from doing anything.” On Alexandra’s this assurance some people returned back. Alexandra, having got accompanied by some village boatmen, moved towards sea to study more about river, but, after having travelled a little far, rough sea waves and storm displaced hulls of the boats.”

Arrien further narrates, “When Alexandra returned back he saw the newly built castle. At the time of his departure he had ordered his commander in chief to build a castle around the port and preserve the junction too because Alexandra had to build a wharf also at the meeting point of two rivers. At Patala, River Indus is divided into two channels.

According to Strabo, “Patala is independent or semi- independent state at the junction of rivers of lower Sindh.” Dayonas has sung in one of his song that, “Patala and Patalini are two local names; The river has two canals which are standing surrounding the island, called Patalini.”

Talimy writes in his book of geography that, “Whole state including waterways of river is called Indo-Sathia. With division of the river in two channels, an Island namely Patalinei is emerged at its face.”

H.T. Laimberk narrates in his book “Sindh: an Ananalysis” that, “Megasthenes, who came to India just after twenty or thirty years after expedition of Alexandra and had collected substantial information

related to this area after living enough time in court of Chander Gupat, clearly cites that, “The river forms an island namely Pirasiyani and other little island namely Patal, the later island seems like equilateral triangle, with two-miles lengthy sides.”

Apoliens came to India around 42 -50 A.D. Philasterius, who wrote biography of Apoliens, writes that, “Apoliens saw face of Indus and Patala. That city was situated on an island, in river Indus, where Alexandra had landed his ships.” This account proves that Patala was present 375 years after Alexandra too.

English researcher Hague narrates too that, “According to Tibetan folklores, Casma De Covas tells that, Potala or Potalaka is name of an old city, situated on face of river Indus.” He thoughts that the Patal which is mentioned by Alexandra was destroyed due to changed path of the river.

One Chinese Buddhist monk Hiyang Chowang came to India in 641 with the intention of visiting holy Buddhist places; he narrates story of the city “Pee –to-Che-Lo “in following words that, “The soil of this city is saline and wind is very cool. Wheat and pulses are cultivated here but fruits and flowers are rarely found”. When Talimy family started ruling Egyptian land, their ships used to trade with India through the port of Sindh. The Ships used to exchange metals, wine and glass materials brought from Egypt with Spices, cotton and wool clothes from here. Historical books term place of that port as Hyderabad.

## **2. History of Pacca Fort**

In the haze of history, The Pacca Fort of Hyderabad is standing tall on Ganjo Takkar (The Barren Hill) . Whenever any traveler reads the above-mentioned words inscribed on crown of its royal entrance; his heart repeats these words inadvertently. Mian Mohammad Shah Kalhoro would be pleading for fulfillment of his aspiration today too beneath the piles of mud.

Pacco fort Hyderabad is well known and one of the greatest monuments of Sindhi heritage, it still in good condition between Hyderabad city. When you cross either road to Hyderabad, you can see the huge fort Pacca Qilla or Pacco Qillo walls around it. It has surrounded many residential areas to be located, and then go ahead, can found the biggest Qasimabad Graveyard, standing beside it, can also be in your eyes the Pacca Fort in front of it.

Pacca Fort Hyderabad fort has unique in shape as compare among others Forts, there rectangle shape, long, tall walls with red bricks make this fort unique then others. The area of the fort spread around 30 acres of land.

Moreover, when look at the Hyderabad city culture, it has its own style of living in Sindhi way, most of the people are Sindhi, there spoken language is Sindhi, which is also very unique and popular language, living people are very kind and helpful in front of others. Hyderabad city has many other historical spots located around which will become this city more interesting among tourist and visitors.

The Royal Fort, now known as Pacca Fort, Hyderabad was constructed on the hill of as Gunjy by Kalhora ruler, Mian Ghulam Shah around 1768 when he founded the city of Hyderabad, he made it his capital and raise here some buildings for the purpose of civil use during the Talpur ruler of Sindh.

He also used the Hyderabad Fort to reside and hold his court in it for the purpose, he added a Haram and other buildings to accommodate the rulling family and his relations. He to enable resident’s

mosques to fulfill their religious obligations and also built it some Mosques. During the period of Mirs the Fort was gradually swarmed with shabby and old buildings by working class of their habitation.

The Fort formed at once the place of defence, the treasury and the residency of native rules and Richard.F.Burton.

### **Pacca Fort is located right in the centre of Hyderabad Sindh.**

It is said that the constant floods in Khudabad frustrated Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro the ruler of Sindh. He decided to abandon Khudabad and shift his capital to a new place in late 1789's

Kalhora decided to build a new capital on the ruins of ancient fishing village on hillock known as locally as Ganji (Bald or barreu).

The Hillock Fort's construction is said to have been headed by Diwan Gidumal, an intelligent courtier who was given two boats' full of money by Ghulam Shah.

The fort slightly oblong in shape covers over 38 acres of land. Its fortification wall, running along the contour of the Hillak is imposingly built with burnt bricks and decorated with ornamental "Kanguras" of odd shape.

There is only one main entrance opening in the north towards shahi bazaar.

Main gate of the fort Hyderabad in order to enter the artifacts and magnificence of the craftsman of older times.

The radius of pucca fort 1 mile.

It is situated 68' above from sea level.

This Royal Fort is 25".22' north and 68".41' east from railway station Hyderabad.

The fortification wall of Pacca Fort is 40'.

Hyderabad and its commanding fort were founded in 1768 by Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro chief, his Talpuri successor, shifted to it from Khudabad near Hala and continuing its status as a capital greatly expanded the fort by building residential chambers within for extensive family.

Ever since the British period the craftsman and working-class people live in a sort of shanty town inside the fort. The influx of the refugees after independence multiplied with population here. A few efforts to vacate the historical Monuments from these encroaches did not bear any encouraging result.

According to the historians, 6th century during the rule of Rai family, the Governor Brahminabad started the construction of Pacca Fort. After that Ghulam Shah for their habilitation of this fort. The radius of Pacca Fort is 1 mile. It is situated 68ft about sea level. In the supervision of Mirza Ahmed Khurasani the fort having the covering area of 36 square-acre with 8 security check post was completed only within two months by a mason called ustad Shafi Mohaammad along with other masons. A palace was constructed in the centre of the fort, where family accommodations were built for the ruler. A small door was constructed from the east on the north of the Fort. The ruins of the main door fort the rulers to the north are also seen. There was no any other door for the common through fare of the Fort. The security check posts were constructed along the walls of the fort to avoid the attacks from the enemies. There was a deep trench across the Fort for the defense of the Fort. During the period of Talpurs dynastic rule on Hyderabad many localities were constructed and expanded around the fort but the Fort was used as a camp and also on ammunition storage during

British Rule. The area around the walls of the Fort and its nearby buildings were damaged during a fire which broke out in the ammunition storage on 15 April 1906. After the partition of the sub-continent in 1947, some of the refugees from India were accommodated in this Fort.

### 3. Archaeological Area

A small enclave near the main gate towards north had mercifully remained clear of squat encroachers. In fact this is the only area where the few historical buildings still stand to tell the tale of the forts past glory. In the north western corner of this complex lies the Mirs Haram, built on 7.5-meter-high solidity-built podium. The interior of the Haram is profusely decorated with fresco paintings, though of degenerated quality.

There are five large halls towards east of the Haram. This was the place where Mir's treasury was located. Some of these halls were later turned into Record office during the Raj. After the establishment of Archaeological Circle office at Hyderabad. Three of these halls were converted into a small but beautifully representative Museums, while others served different official requirements. To house its office a double story block was constructed on the southern side of this ensemble. A residential accommodation for the Director was carved out of the southernmost building by additions/alterations. A two-room complete unit quarter on north-north eastern side of this ensemble. 4 two-room and 2 one-room quarters in a row on it east, 1 two-room with extra-large room on the south-eastern side all built during the British period, in or around 1935 – come to accommodation different categories of the staff of the southern Circle of Archaeology.

### 4. Protected Antiquity

As it was not possible to get cleared the whole area of the fort from the mushroom growth of the slums having large population, the boundary wall and the complex consisting of Mirs Haram, the specious chambers etc. situated in the northern part of the fort was protected in 1957 under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act-1904 (now replaced by Antiquity Act 1975).

### 5. Old Offices of Mirs Hyderabad

There are five specious chambers/rooms situated inside the Fort. The building was used as land record office since the colonial period and as such the architectural features if any were completely defaced due to constant renovation work. Modern mosaic flooring is now laid in the building. In the museum, here which contains coins weapons and other materials but it had been burnt after the year 1987. It is said about the structure of the museum that it is a Royal Palace.



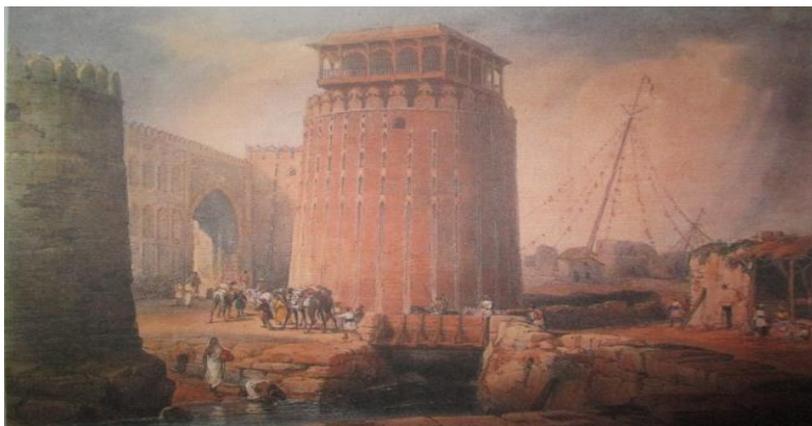
### 6. Haram of Talpur Miirs

It was built by Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur during 1784-1802 inside the fort. It is a single room structure in square plan measuring 28X28X.9 feet built on a raised platform. A carved wooden door on western door is provided to the Haram. The roof is resting on the wooden beams. The entire ceiling of Mir Haram is adorned with Lacquer work, lime plastered walls are decorated with the fresco painting. Mir Haram built on 7.5-meter-high solidly built podium. It is a beautiful room in the centre of the fort which is called the home of the Mir (Mir-e-Haram). The walls and the roofs of the Mir-e-Haram still have beautiful arts and drawings which can be seen even today but at somewhere which shows the sign of decay of Mir-e-Haram.



## 7. Tower

A very high circular Tower was built inside the Fort in the past which may be used as Gunman post or water tower in the Talpur period. The tower is also called as a moat around the fort whereas there was a deep moat before the royal entrance and removable wooden bridge. The tower is not present today because in the British period they also damaged the tower.



## 8. Conclusion.

The Archaeology department is taking serious efforts and working on the Fort. The Archaeology department is trying to preserve and conserve the work on boundary wall and main building, to give the same look at the Mirs era. Every work like Kashi Tiles, Burrent Bricks, Plasters, Floorings, Parks, etc in the fort showing the rich culture of Sindh. Pacca Qilla of Hyderabad is showing the majesty of Mir rulers of Sindh. The whole Architecture of pacca Qilla look like the Mughal Architecture, same way the Mughal Architecture is also part of Muslim Architecture.

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