



FROM BARREN LANDS TO INDUSTRIAL HUB.....JOURNEY OF FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH

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Firozabad is Uttar Pradesh's district headquarters. The industry of creating glass bangles is well-known in the city. On the east side, it is 40 kilometers from Agra and 250 kilometers from Delhi, the capital city of India. The majority of the people is employed in the industry. The towns of Shikohabad and Tundla are located in the Firozabad district. Tundla is situated to the west and east of the city of Shikohabad. Glass bangles are the primary business in the area. Due to over pollution gas business in the city is reduced. Women of the city are employed in their houses to prepare and give the final touch to the bangles. The earlier name of the city was Chandawar from the founder king Chandrasen.

The city has evolved in various time zones like from the time of Chauhan's era to Firoz's era. The city has evolved from the kingdom of Chandwar to District Firozabad. Firozabad had witnessed levels of evolution in terms of regional evolution, aerial evolution, legal evolution and economical evolution. Now it is also called *Suhag Nagari* which is derived from the making of bangles in the city which is the main source of income and economic growth of the city and plays an important role in the settlement pattern of the city.

Firozabad city had evolved in phases. It is evident that downfall of Chandwar became the rising time of Firozabad. Now Chandwar is just a village on the outskirts of Firozabad. Chandwar a place with so much of historical importance from Chauhans reign to Jaychand fight it had witnessed all. Those ruins are example of negligence over Chandwar. Only religious places like jain mandir, hanuman mandir and sufi dargah are in good shape and maintained time to time. The fort is almost demolished its only wall is left which is in very bad shape. All the brick joints are losing their packing capacity due to which it had almost demolished. All the mosaic art has now blurred and started to chip off from the surface. Thus realization about the importance of the place is necessary.

Firozabad is now developing city from a barren agricultural land. Glass have played an important role in evolution of the town as one of the major factor effecting lifestyle and evolution of a place is economic source. When people came in business of glass and saw the growth many people shifted to the city for economic purposes. They start settling in unplanned manner with narrow roads and less facilities and started to earn. Later the need of resources increase as work load increase and many laborers, economically powerful people and political powerful people joined the force hence residences, school, trade route (buses and rails) and public area evolve periodically.

Glassmaking was the main source of income then and now. The art of curating glass in different shapes and forms is intangible and cannot be performed by any outstation worker. A perfectionist and experienced person would be required to do so. The techniques are shared to close ones and experts make them perfect in the field. The original technique of doing this is only in the hand of the labor who is doing the work. Every tourist or sells man who is buying glass products like bangles or chandeliers of any part of the country would prefer Firozabad manufactured product as they know the value and authenticity of the product. Even the town is known as Suhag Nagri for some good reasons. The industry is standing here for a long time and is there to stand strong hence proving its authenticity over these years. Hence Firozabad is settling as industry town.

Despite the glass business and its growth over years some architectural marvels are standing strong showcasing the art of the city. The main attraction is Chadamilal Jain Mandir constructed in marble and the fine cuts, planning, symmetry, mosaic dome and landscape makes it worth a visit. It is also an attraction due to its location in the core main area of the city. There is lot to explore in those narrow lanes like the *havelis* and religious places.



The structures of the Firozabad which are architectural marvels are majorly *havellis* and institutes. These havellis and institutes dates back to 1919 starting from SRK College.

Shri Ram Chandra Kanhaiyalal College (SRK College) was established in 1919 for better educational environment in city. Some of the highlighting features of the structure are onion dome, octagonal dome chattri, semicircular arch, arched corridor, jallies, spandrel¹, finial², lotus decoration, decorative spires, dado detailing and rich landscape points out towards Islamic architecture influence.



Havellis in 1920s

Residence of Mushtaq Ali Khan was built before 90years ago (around 1920s). He was a glass factory owner and at that time family size was 80-90 people now it house 25-30 people. It has burial of original owner in their residence compound and situated in *purani mandi*. With detailed rock cut exterior with floral detailing, semicircular arches, glass beading used in interior arches, German tiles and wooden batten roof are some features of this residence.

¹ Spandrel: Between one sides of an arch's outer curve, a wall, and the ceiling or framework, there is an approximately triangular void.

² Finial: a decoration at the object's top, end, or corner.



Rambabu ji ki *havelli* was built around 100years back. Any evident history could not be found due to change in ownership. It is now used as residence purpose. Original owner could not be traced as this property was bought by Rambabu ji long back and after his demise there is no one who might know about it. It is a marvel covered in detailed rock cut exterior and some other features are chatris, symmetry in elevation, pointed arches, use of German tiles and beautiful landscape. Slight changes had been made to original structure mainly in interior.



Havelli in 1939

Residence of Mehboob Ali Khan which was made for residence purpose in 1939. Now two families reside in this house with some part of the house locked up. This residence have burial of Mehboob Ali Khan in their compound. It is called Shauqat Manzil now. It is built in area of 1.5hectare and situated in purani mandi. Detailed rock cut exterior is common but some add on features are like multifoliated arch, detailed gates and detailed railing extending till balcony ceiling supported on parapets and brackets.



Havelli in 1947

Residence of Late. Shree Gopi Nath Aggarwal Jain (Raja). It was made for the purpose of residence in 1947 now it serve the motive of residence and some area is on rent for shops. It is 100'X100' property. No changes had been made in exterior only interiors had been changed as per usage. Mosaic³ stairs (Figure 40), detailed and decorative rock cut exterior, semicircular arches, jallis in railing and lotus detailing are attraction of the structure. A stone locally called laal pathar was used in construction (not to be confused with sandstone).



Residence of Chadamilal Jain has two parts and built with rock cut detailing in columns, railing and decorative places like entrance and mosaic art (Figure 42). A whole wall is covered in mosaic making it felt like a painting. Now is used as packaging unit and conference and a little part for residence purpose.



Hospital in 1951

Ram Labhaya Arora memorial was built in 1952 by Ramji Arora for betterment of citizens and it is built in mosaic art and railing jaali which is still in working condition for free for under privileged crowd.

³ Mosaic: In art, mosaic refers to the ornamentation of a surface with designs made out of closely spaced, usually multicolored small bits of stone, mineral, glass, tile, or shell.



The most important and earliest built structure Tomb of Firoz Shah built in 16th century is still standing strong along with some changes in the original structures but some original features can be traced like octagonal plan, symmetry in elevation, Islamic furnishings, dome on supported pendentives, arches, niches, sandstone brackets and parapets, sandstone *jaali*, *chattri* and designing features.



From architectural study detailed rock cut elevations, arches, use of German tiles, influence of Islamic architecture and mosaic were common in the areas. Mosaic art had place in every element from floor, wall art and domes. It was done with several materials like stone and glass. All of this architecture is diminishing due to lack of care and maintenance over time.



Hence Firozabad is lot more then glass industries like heritage value and its evolution journey which no one recognize and value now. Glass is part of Firozabad and a major one which also need all the respect due to its undervalue over years. Firozabad glass industry is secondary type of industry which has impacted many lives in the city. Due to rise in demand of glass many people started to settle in Firozabad as it was new concept in the area and was in great demand. Due to availability of resources and trade routes via water (earlier) and rail (later) made incoming and outgoing of the goods easier. The connectivity of the city to Agra made the locally made glass bangles have a name in market as Agra is a tourist hub. The city had grew from a barren land to a developing district whose major credit goes to glass industry.