

Fort and Fortress in Indian Cinema: Study on the Role of Indian Historical Monuments on Indian Cinema

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***Abstract---** The Indian monuments gives out a very impressive reflection about the Indian culture, by which even today's artist get inspired. These types of historical monuments preserve the memory of famous art works. This also gives reference to the ancient rulers, their achievements and downfall. These monuments became historic and adds in the record of man's art workmanship. Indian Cinema on the other side in today's world is the most popular means of entertainment. Millions of people watch cinema everyday all over the world not only as a means of entertainment but also as an escape from the monotony, boredom, anxiety and troubles of life. The usage of monuments as film location gives major highlight to the Indian masterpieces. This paper attempts to shed light on the role of monuments on Indian cinema and also, I would like to elaborate on the tradition and culture of Indian cinema with historic beauty by going through detail study on the subject written by distinguished authors.*

***Keywords---** Fort and Fortress, Indian Cinema, Historical Monuments.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The front-page news mostly becomes a recipe for teatime gossip, the printed glamour world turns out to be the latest fashion, and the two-hour motion picture seems to reel our real life somewhere. So basically, the media & entertainment industry has influenced us from breakfast to dinner and kept us awake and aware of the diversified Indian landscape, language, religion, cuisine, dance, music and festival.

The Howrah Bridge was the only icon of the city of Kolkata that was captured in Indian cinema till movies like Yuva, Autograph, Kahaani, Bomkesh Bakshi happened and presented a better picture of the city. Remote villages like Kanuria which is a few kilometres from Bhuj, Khanyaan in Hoogly district of west Bengal and Barna which is close to Jaisalmer in Rajasthan all came to the notice of viewers when film makers of movies like Lagaan, Swades, Lootera and Rudaali respectively broke the monotony of the dominating Bombay film industry.

Indian cinema which is no doubt the highest grossing part of the Media & Entertainment industry has done a lot for the advancement of tourism in India not only in zeroing several unexplored destinations of India but also brightening other key elements.

II. FILM LOCATION

Movie maker finds new places to capture in their film which are never seen or shown by others before. People get to see new places out of those many places become preferred tourist destination. On the other hand, Tanot Mata temple in the middle of the Thar desert was first unveiled in J.P Dutta's Border. It is approximately 150 kilometres

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away from Jaisalmer city and close to the battle site of Longewala of the Indo- Pakistan War of 1971. The major hill station that became popular due to filming are Gulmarg and Srinagar in Kashmir, Manali, Dalhousie, and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Nainital in Uttarakhand etc. are the good examples of how the Indian cinema influences the Travel and Tourism sector in India.

Goa is one of the popular destinations for Bollywood movie shooting. Beaches like Dona Paula and Miramar were shot in several movies. A few scenes from the award- wining Bollywood flick, Dil Chahata Hai, were shot in Sinqerim and Anjuna, the two most popular beaches in Goa. Some other notable Hollywood movies shot in Goa are Josh, Golmaal, Dhoom and Pukar. The Bollywood classic Sagar, starring Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia brings out the isolated Aska Beach and Manori Beach in Mumbai. Paradise Beach in Pondicherry is yet another popular destination for Bollywood movies.

Similarly, filmmakers chose monuments as their film or song background to show how rich our culture is and also to an essence to the particular film. Monuments helps us explore more of our lost traditions. Forts used as film location generates a kind of tourism for the citizens. Many forts in India are only famous due to the Indian film.

Amer Fort

Amer was once the capital of Princely Jaipur State, and the fort of the residence of its Rajput rulers. Maharaja Man Singh I, who led the Mughal Emperor Akbar's army, commenced its construction in 1592 on the remains of an 11th century Fort.

Successive rulers added to Amer Fort before moving the capital to Jaipur in 1727.the fort was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in2013,as part of a group of Six hill forts in Rajasthan. Its architecture is a noteworthy fusion of Rajput and Mughal styles.

In the black and white movie film Mughal-e-Aazam, only this song “**Pyaar Kiya toh darna Kya**” was shot in colour, and they used the awe- inspiring Sheeshmahal (Mirror Palace) at Amer fort in Jaipur for their location.

In Khoo Surat when Sonam Kapoor visits the Maharaja of “Suraj Garh Palace with the handsome prince Fawad Khan in this film, they used the Amer fort of Jaipur as the setting. The Ganesh PolGate can be seen in the background when these two have a conversation with Maharaja.

Sanjay Leela Bansali is known for his larger than life sets and use of bright colours, but Jaipur's natural beauty remains a larger part of his movies. The beautiful song “**Mohe Rand Dolaal**” from Bajirao Mastani which is a tribute to “**Mohe Pangat Pe**” from Mughal -e-Aazam was shot at the Amer Palace in Jaipur and is the most aesthetically pleasing performance in the movie.

One of the best Indian period films ever made, Jodha Akbar by Ashutosh Gowarikar features beautiful scenes shot in and around the Amer Fort. The scene where Aishwarya Rai is cooking food for the king in a huge kadaiis still there at the Amer fort.

Chomu Palace

The history of Chomu and that of Jaipur run parallel from 1565 to 1937 A.D. the foundation of Chomugadh was laid by Thakur Karan Singhji. Karan Singhji continued to make additions to the fort and, with the persistent efforts of Sukh Singh ji and Raghunath Singh ji, Chomugadh was finally finished during the reign of Mohan Singh ji in 1714. The fort thus has historical importance because it took more than a hundred years for its construction to be completed.

The site for the fort was identified by Pandit Premi Das ji, who visited what was at that time a dense jungle for meditation. He found the place ideal to establish a fort because it was visible only when one went to deep into the jungle and it lay close to the lake. It thus presented the necessary parameters of shelter to military chiefs and their armies.

Chomugadh is a three storied structure with a lot of open space like chowks (open courtyards),

Baradaris (pavilions) and chandnies (semi covered terraces)

The film Gullab speaks of gory politics, this Anurag Kashyap film was shot at the Chomu Palace in Jaipur. Bhool Bhulaiya Priyadarshin only comedy slash horror movie was a huge hit and was shot at Chomu Palace in Jaipur. This 300-year-old, elegant palace hotel is an authentic and historic building that provides a haunting beautiful setting for the Indian film.

Narain Niwas Palace

Hotel Narain Niwas Palace was built in 1928 by General Amar Singh, thakur of Kanota and commander of the erstwhile Jaipur Sate Force and confidant of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh. General Amar Singh was the grandson of Thakur Zorawar Singh, founder of the Kanota family Thakur Shivnath Singh, General Amar Singh's brother, supervised the actual construction. The new mansion was named after their father, thakur Narain Singh who had been Chief of Police in the erstwhile Jaipur Sate as well as the minster at the neighbouring princely state of Alwar. Narain Niwas was a country residence in which General Amar Singh could withdraw when he wanted a change from his busy administrative and court life, and from the cares of the Kanota family's Haveli within a walled city.

Visitors can now enjoy traditional Rajput hospitality at the hotel a property which is now run as a Heritage hotel by the Kanota family. Care has been taken to maintain the traditional furniture and decoration so as to provide visitors an unforgettable experience of Rajasthani culture.

Paheli, directed by the veteran actor Amol Palekar, shot many significant scenes in Jaipur. An architectural marvel, hadirani ki baori is used as the location where Rani Mukherji finds something strange, this structure has a prominent history and is said to be home to certain supernatural forces. The song from the film "**Kangana Re**" was shot at the Narain Niwas Palace in Jaipur.

Zubeida one of the Karishma Kapoor's best films, was inspired by the life of Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur. The film was shot in the Narain Palace of Jaipur.

Aguada Fort and Chapora Fort

The Aguada fort is a monument to Portuguese construction and engineering , although parts of it have fallen to the ravages of time, much of it is intact and it remains the best-preserved Portuguese fort in India today. Built over three years from 1609 to 1612. Fort Aguada is a typical example of Portuguese military architecture. Built of durable laterite stone, so easily available all over Goa. The Aguada fort also numbers among its splendours a four storied lighthouse. This lighthouse was built in 1864 and is the oldest of its kind in Asia. It once used oil lamps to emit a beacon of light once every seven minutes which was later upgraded to emit light every thirty seconds.

The present structure of Chapora Fort was built in 1717. Many rulers have held this fort for varied periods of time but main enmity was seen between Marathas and Portuguese to gain control over it although it was built to serve as a place of strategic importance for defence purposes, the fort fell very quickly in the test of military prowess. When we see around today, there are very less signs of the barracks and the houses which were there in significant number once inside the fort.

Kabhi haan kabhi naa (1994), this is one of Shah Rukh Khan's most memorable performances for which he even won the filmfare Critics Award for the best performance. Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa is directed by Kundan Shah and revolves around Shah Rukh's attempts to woo the girl he loves. It is filmed at the Aguada Fort and the ruins of St. Augustine in addition to other well-known places.

Dil Chahta Hai, the winner of the National Film Award for the Best Feature Film in Hindi, has attained a cult status. Directed by Farhan Akhtar, the movie is based on the lives of three friends portrayed by Amir Khan, Saif Ali Khan and Akshaye Khanna. Since the release of the film, the Chapora fort has become the major tourist attraction in Goa.

The Goalmaal series one filmmaker who really loves Goa is Rohit Shetty, the Director of this film. Almost all his movies are either set or shot in Goa. The Goalmaal series revolves around the lives of four friends and their antics , always leading to the dramatic end. This series is the fourth highest grossing film series in Bollywood. Some of the location of this movie series include, Fort Aguada and Dona Paula.

Purana Qila

One does not have to go far to see the old fort or Purana Qila standing amidst wild greenery. Built on the site of the most ancient of the numerous cities like Delhi, Indraprastha. Purana Qila is roughly rectangular in shape having a circuit of nearly two kilometres. It is surrounded by a wide moat, connected to the river Yamuna, which used to flow on the east of the fort. The northern gate way, called the Talaqui Darwaza or the forbidden gateway, combines the typically Islamic pointed arch with Hindu chhatris and brackets, whereas the southern gateway called the Humayun Darwaza also had similar plan. The massive gate way and the walls of Purana Qilla were built by Humayun and the foundation laid for the new capital, Dinpannah .the work was carried forward by Sher Shah Suri, who displaced Humayun. Today in Purana Qilla is the venue for the spectacular sound and light show held every evening.

Love Aaj Kal the Purana Qila acted as a symbol of love in the 2009 hit film, which narrated two stories an old school one between Veer and Harleen and the modern romance between Jai and Meera. In one scene you can see Deepika Padukone working on the restoration of the fort.

Chak de India while the title track of 2007 drama sees the Indian women hockey team led by Shah Rukh Khan jog around various locations across Delhi such as Lodhi Gardens, Garden of five senses and Rajpath, the Purana Qilla also makes a brief appearance. Singer Sukhwinder Singh 's vocal with the visuals of the team running through a misty path amid the fort's ruins makes a great sequence.

Veer Zara another blockbuster was shot in purana Qila. The sequence shot at the **Qila-e-Kuhna** Masjid in Purana Qila saw the film's protagonist Ver and Zaara bid farewell to each other. After the film release it became a popular spot among the tourist.

Dil Se the climax scene of the 1998 Mani Ratnam movie, Dil Se was shot at the fort. In the sequence, Amar played by Sharukh Khan and Moina (Manisha Koirala) express their love for each other. The suicide vest Moina is wearing explodes killing them both.

Qutub Minar

Qutub Minar is the soaring 73 m high tower of victory, built in 1193 by Qutub -ud- Din Aibak immediately after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu Kingdom. The tower has five distinct stories each marked by a projecting balcony and tapers from a 15m diameter at the base to just 2.5 m at the top. The first three storeys are made from red sandstone, the fourth and the fifth storeys are of marble and sandstone. At the foot of the tower is the Quwwat -ul- Islam Mosque, the first mosque to be built in India. An inscription over its eastern gate provocatively informs that it was built with material obtained from demolishing 27 Hindu temples. A 7m high iron pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque. It is said if you can encircle it with your hands while standing with your back to it your wish will be fulfilled. Iltutmish in 1230 and Alla-ud-din Khilji in 1315 made the addition to the building.

"Dil Ka Bhanwar Kare Pukar" from the film **Tere Ghar ke Samne** featuring the evergreen Dev Anand and pretty Nutan. This entire song was shot inside the complex of Qutub Minar.

In **Fanna** playing the character of a tourist guide Aamir Khan dances in the same complex in the song **Chaand Sifarish**. According to Kunal Kohli the director of the film was shot at several locations in Delhi says "We need to showcase our rich heritage and culture, as our cinema reaches all over the world. When things are in our backyard, we tend to overlook them". Kohli adds that regular cultural programme and events should be held at these world heritage sites.

Sarai Fort

This 17th century beautiful Sarai situated at Doraha Village to the south of Ludhiana- Khanna road, built by the Mughal ruler Jahangir. This huge rectangular Sarai has octagonal bastions at each corner with 168 m square area of battlemented walls and also has rooms and verandas on all sides. It has a huge two double storied gateways in the centre on the northern and southern sides, connected with a Kachha pathway. The northern gate was painted with the floral designs and the southern gate has flora and fauna paintings. One of the gates is beautifully decorated with blue

and yellow glazed tiles and the other gates is diverse with its frontage separated into panels and built with carved brickwork. The framework of the arch of each entrance gateway is made with glazed tiles created in the model of multi cornered stars and Swastikas. Sarai has twenty rooms on northern sides and thirty rooms eastern and western sides each with a suit of three rooms in the centre.

The shooting of **Rang de Basanti** was shot in Sarai Fort. This fort became an apt place for the people who have just a day in hand and are looking for a perfect weekend getaway.

Agra Fort

Construction along the bank of the Yamuna river was begun by the Emperor Akbar in 1565 on the site of an earlier fort. Further additions were made particularly by his grandson Shah Jahan, using his favourite building material white marble. The fort was built primarily as a military structure, but Shah Jahan transformed it into a palace, and after it became his gilded prison for eight years after his son Aurangzeb seized power in 1658. The Yamuna River originally flowed along the straight eastern edge of the fort, and the emperors had their own bathing Ghats here. The Amar Singh Gate to the south is the sole entry point to the fort. Following the plain processional way, you reach a gateway and the huge red sandstone Jehangir's Palace on the right. In front of the palace is Hauz-i-Jehangir, a huge bowl carved out of a single block of stone, which was used for bathing.

On the northern corner of the courtyard you can get a glimpse of the Shish Mahal (Mirror Palace) with walls inlaid with tiny mirrors. **Mughal -e- Aazam**, the timeless description of the 16th century Anarkali and Salim love saga had many significant scenes shot in Agra. The lavish palace of Akbar in the movie is none other than the magnificent Fatehpur Sikri. The famous song "**Pyar kiya toh darna kya**" was shot in the Agra Fort. The "Sheesh Mahal" palace of glass shown in the song was set up in the fort especially for the song, which was later disposed of.

Jaigarh Fort

Located at fifteen kms from the pink city of India, Jaipur the magnificent royal construction Jaigarh Fort grabs the attention of the travellers with its unique approach. Particularly the carvings on the walls make it stand as an architectural wonder along with its rainwater harvesting system. This striking construction stands at the top of the Aravalli ranges with several interesting features.

The royal structure reflects the medieval construction style and is filled with various marvellous exquisite interiors. The huge and stunning construction Jaigarh Fort was built during the period of Jai Singh II between fifteen to eighteen centuries using the red sandstones. This was once the fort, which is responsible for the safety and security of both Jaipur and Amer from rivals. Also, the majestic fort has the complexes to store the huge weapons, cannons and other arms along with places like warrior's assembly.

Abbas Mastan well known Directors loved the pink city. According to them "no city has as many ancient forts and dreamlike palaces as Jaipur". The climactic fight scenes in Humraaz was shot at Jaigarh Fort in Jaipur.

Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal is located on the right bank of the Yamuna rivers in a vast Mughal garden that encompasses nearly seventeen hectares, in the Agra District in Uttar Pradesh. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in the memory

of his wife Mumtaz Mahal with construction starting in 1632 and completed in 1648, with the mosque, the guest house and the main gateway on the south, the outer courtyard and its cloisters were added subsequently and completed in 1653. The existence of several historical and Quranic inscription in Arabic script have facilitated setting the chronology of Taj Mahal.

Bunty and Bably an Indian hindi crime- comedy film has a scene shot near the Taj Mahal where the characters bunty and Bably, the two small town misfits, try to con the foreign buyers and sell the Taj Mahal.

Another movie **Mere Brother ki Dhulan** a romantic comedy film has its major shot in Agra. And in the climax scene main characters of this film gets married in front of the symbol of love, The Taj Mahal.

Unexplored Forts

Often it seems like some places have been used repeatedly in Indian film. Since we already know about most of the iconic film shooting locations in India like Rajasthan Forts, Darjeeling, Aitharappilly Falls, Udaipur Palaces etc, we can come up with different locations like:

Mandu Fort Complex is truly wonderful and must be explored in Madhya Pradesh. It is known for its amazing architecture and this destination can look magical on screen for sure.

The Raisen Fort amazes us with its rustic charms. Located in the town of Raisen in Madhya Pradesh, this ruined fort can be potential film shooting locale.

Gawilghur is one of the lesser known forts of Maharashtra. This hill fort was under Marathas and the east India company for a long time . today it is in a ruined state but looks scenic, especially during monsoons.

Korigad is one of the oldest forts in Maharashtra. It is a hill fort which was captured during Shivaji's rule. Korigad is situated near Lonavala and boasts of some stunning landscapes.

Rajasthan is one of the top films shooting locations in India. Its forts have for a long time served as beautiful backdrops or palaces in movies. The Taragarh Fort may not be a famous one, but it is surely one of the best offbeat forts in Rajasthan.

Kondapalli fort is a fourteen-century architecture located in the Krishna District near Vijayawada. This beautiful hill fort is set in the backdrop of the Eastern Ghats which adds to the charm of the place. The fortress of Kalinjar depicts the royal past of Uttar Pradesh. This a hill fort situated at the edge of the Vindhya Mountains Ranges. It is one of the unexplored forts in India that can serve as a film shooting location.

Hence there are many more historical monuments who are not famous, but they can be still look great on screen.

Film Tourism

Given the impact of “cinema” on the behavioural changes on the audiences, it has in recent years emerged as a powerful tool for the development and promotion of destinations. Several destinations have gained in terms of tourist influx by being the venue/location of popular domestic and international cinema. In addition to the exposure provided through such films, there are many ancillary gains to the destinations like income generation, investment, job creations etc, which contribute to the overall economic development of the respective destinations. India in

addition of being one of the leading films producing countries with the filming community spread across various regions of the country, also offers a diversity of landscape and the locations in the different states, union territories, making it an appealing destination for the production of both national and international films. India can offer various benefits to film makers such as scenic and diverse locations, cost efficiency benefits, skilled yet expensive manpower and local talent. Further, film tourism can result in several benefits to the country as well including promotion of tourism industry, boost to local film production, creation of employment, transfer of technology.

While a picture speaks a thousand words, a video speaks a million. And Bollywood impacts almost a billion of its enthusiastic fans and followers spread across the globe. Films have been an integral to Indian household, since independence, when they were gradually accepted as a moral medium of entertainment for the family as a whole. In the centenary year of Indian Film industry, it is established that Bollywood has big influence on Indians when choosing their next holiday destination.

The 1974 Bengali flick, *Sonar Kella* directed by Satyajit Ray is another beautiful example of an outdoor set in the fort city of Jaisalmer that has pulled in PAN India audience. The landmark of the Kolkata the Howrah Bridge was the only icon of the city that was shown in various movies like *Yuva*, *Kahaani*, and *Gunday* which gave an identical image of the city. Similarly, the *Hawa Mahal* in Jaipur was replaced by Jaigarh fort and Nahargarh Fort in the movies *Ajnabee* and *Rang De Basanti*. The rock cut temples of Badami, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, came up with the picture *Rowdy Rathore*.

III. CONCLUSION

It is widely believed that nothing unites India more than Cricket and Bollywood. Given the impact of Cinema on behavioural changes on audiences, it has in recent years emerged as a powerful tool for the development and promotion of destinations. In addition to the exposure provided through films, there are many gains to the destinations like income generation, investment, job creation etc which contribute over all economic development of the respective destinations. Films are powerful tool to shape perceptions, create new ones and reinforce the old ones. Encouraged by the growth of International travel and the development of the entertainment industry, film tourism is also seen to be a growing phenomenon, which should be the part of any tourism marketing strategy.

India, in addition of being one of the leading film producing countries with the filming community spread across various regions of the country, also offers a diversity of landscape and locations in different State and territories, making it an appealing destination for the production of both international and national films.

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