

Taj Mahal of Chiniot

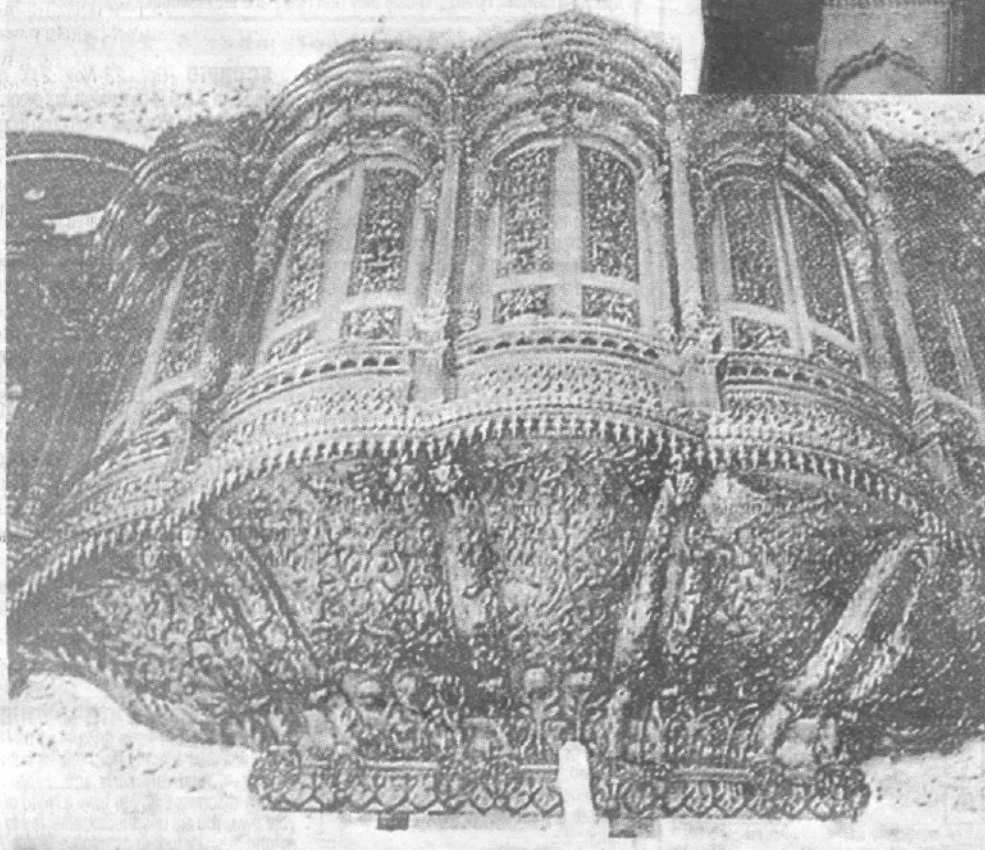
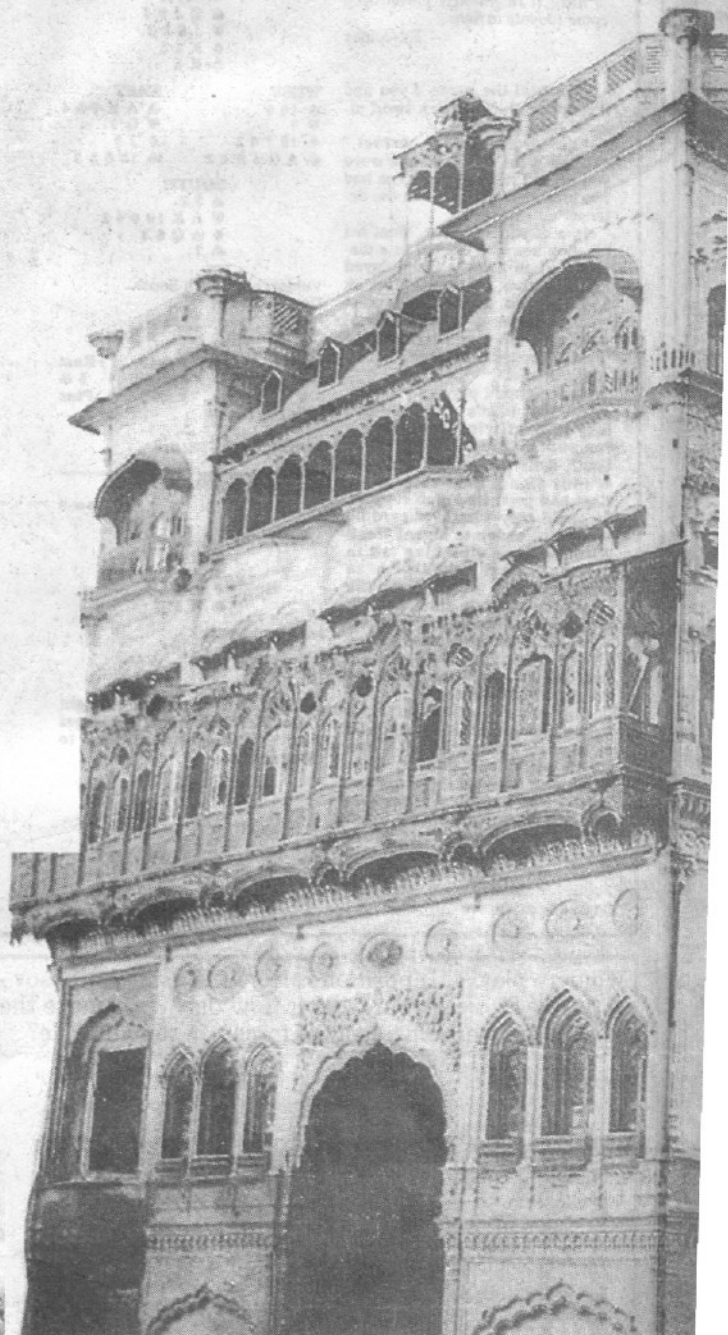
News
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Chiniot is one of the oldest towns of Pakistan in the Jhang district on the bank of the river Chenab. This town and its surroundings have many stories in its streets

to be found. It is unfair not to discuss the traditional tragic love story of "Heer Ranjha" which has become a part of our folk heritage and is still remembered, read and heard with pride and sadness.

Among many such stories is one that of "Gulzar Manzil" a masterpiece of indigenous art and architecture which has



been given the title of Taj Mahal of Chiniot by the local people.

Although like other such monuments, there are many legendary tales behind Gulzar Manzil but the most believed and Quoted is that. This house (Palace) was named after Gulzar Muhammad son of Seth Umer Hayat, a personality from Khawaja family which settled in Chiniot around late 18th century.

Nothing could have been better than Gulzar Manzil which was once the highest building of the town. The masterpiece was a results of work of many expert carpenters and engravers of the area under the masterly supervision of Syed Hassan Shah the work started around in 1923 but unfortunately in 1935 when this palace was still under construction. Seth Umar Hayat died without seeing his dream come true. The tragedy for the palace was never over, as it was left for servants to look after hence



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soon after its completion, the decline started the local management did their best to destroy the palace by using it as

Orphanage and they also removed the top pavilion which used to give a view of river Chenab and was decorated with masterpiece of engraved wooden doors and windows.

On 7th June 1990, the district administration of Jhang District under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, who is not only an experienced administrator but also a renowned scholar and author of money books, decided to restore the Taj Mahal of Chiniot by converting it in to a public library in this connection, the fund launching started and then local expert carpenters and engravers were hired to execute the restoration work.

Today although the restoration is not till complete, it still speaks of its brilliance and it is believed that if funds are made available this will become one of the most elegant libraries in Pakistan and will attract different scholars as well as the tourists from Pakistan and the world over.