

*“Documentation of Unexplored Indo-Islamic Monuments in the Hinterland of Grand Trunk Road in Haryana and Punjab”*

**A Project Funded by U.S. Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP)**

**September 2008 – April 2010**

**Introduction:**

The Haryana, Punjab region of north India contains many surviving structures that demonstrate how a rich architectural tradition developed over centuries of interchange along the especially important route stretching from Agra to Lahore. For instance, caravanserais, which supported the myriad requirements of travelers and merchants, are particularly important structures surviving in this region. While the Islamic monuments of northern India have received much previous attention, those located in the Haryana-Punjab region are more neglected despite the fact that some of the surviving monuments were built by Mughal rulers, the dynasty best known for the creation of the Taj Mahal.

A generous grant from the US Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation made possible a project on documentation of these unexplored Indo-Islamic monuments located in the Hinterland of the Grand Trunk Road in Haryana and Punjab. With this financial help the Centre was able to document 167 monuments from forty five sites now located in Haryana and Punjab. The project commenced on September 25, 2008 upon receipt of first installment of the Grant to the Centre for South Asian Art & Archaeology (CSAAA).

**The Team**

The project’s team consisted of the following people each with particular skills pertinent to the documentation of these Islamic monuments. Dr. Vandana Sinha, Honorary Director of the Centre for South Asian Art and Archaeology, was also the Project-Director and in charge of the overall implementation of the fieldwork. By training an Art Historian, she was responsible for

recording all relevant data in the field and making sure that all data entered into the Centre's digital archives is accurate. With the aim to create awareness among tourists, locals, and other visitors about the monuments, she conducted onsite demonstrations for school children and teachers and also carried out discussions with local people and tourists alike to know their own perceptions of these sites. Dr. U. S. Moorti was another documentation specialist of the team who contributed in field – documentation and data-collection. Dr. Moorti is an archaeologist and he has considerable experience in field documentation of built heritage. Mr. Nanda, the professional photographer in the team, took all of the nearly 3000 plus photographs which now forms part of the Centre's digital archives. It is also being made available on web for free access. Mr. Nanda is an expert on documenting monuments in photography media and has the experience of field documentation of over 40 years. Mr. Omprakash, the other professional photographer involved with the project, took care of adjustment of photographs for final printing and web. He has astute sense of editing the photographs on the computer to allow for the highest quality possible. Mr. N. Ravi and Mr. S. Pandian, skillful draftsmen of the team, produced plans of a number of the buildings which had never before documented in this manner. Just as we used modern modes of photography in the field so too the plans were produced using Autocad on laptop computers in the field. What usually takes months to draw by hand could be done in a much shorter time. The team worked intensively in various sites in Haryana and Punjab in four phases from (I) October to November 2008, (II) March 2009 – April 2009 and (III) May, December, 2009 (IV) February 2010-March 2010. The rest of the review period was used by the teams in preparation of information for visuals, entering the data in the database, completing architectural drawings, editing, resizing, printing, mounting and labeling of the images, and preparations of the images and metadata to put on the web that would make available the documentation for world wide access and use.

### **Surveys and Permissions:**

Since inception of the Project on September 25, 2008 CSAAA Chairman, Dr. Pradeep Mehendiratta and Honorary Director, Dr. Vandana Sinha visited Chandigarh, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Nakodar, Nur Mahal, Philaur, Sirhand and Ambala to meet with the Chairmen Wakf-Board, Directors of Archaeology and Museums of Haryana and Punjab and Haryana Tourism,

Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India and In-charges of Wakf-Board in the two States and to obtain necessary permissions to document the protected monuments. In the process, an initial survey of some of the monuments in Punjab and Haryana was also conducted and meetings with Superintending Archeologists and Museum Managers were arranged to ascertain the listing of the Islamic Monuments in Punjab and Haryana and to ensure that the permissions our teams had will be adequate to meet the need of local officers in the Directorates of Punjab and Haryana Archaeology and the Archaeological Survey of India. All the above government agencies much appreciated endeavours of the CSAAA to document the Indo-Islamic Heritage of this region and gave full cooperation in completing the field documentation unhindered.

CSAAA was also able to procure the only copy of the publication “The Grand Trunk Road in Punjab 1849-1886” edited by a British that was published during the 19th century by erstwhile Punjab State Government including other publications related to the project.

### **Selection of Sites:**

Initially 30 sites were chosen for documentation in Haryana and Punjab. But, 15 additional sites having remarkable Indo – Islamic structures were added later which were noted during the first three phases of field documentation by the documentation teams. Finally, a total of 45 sites containing significant Indo-Islamic buildings were covered under the project. The sites were chosen particularly from four regions with the focus on the ones located along major trade routes of the period of Islamic political domination in north India. The region of the Grand Trunk Road (G.T. Road) was the largest which ran from Agra to Lahore (today in Pakistan) in the Mughal Period. Even today this is popularly known as the G.T. Road though officially designated as National Highway one. It also consisted of the widest range and largest number of heritage buildings. Being a major highway during the 16th and 17th centuries, the monuments constructed in this region had a character fitting to the environment of a travel route. And, thus the building documented here, had a large group consisting of rest - houses called “*sarai*”, distance markers known as “*Kos – Minars*” and bridges in addition to stepped-wells and gardens. Not to mention the mosques and tombs which essentially exist in all regions without any exception.

Another important route chosen for the project connected Delhi to Multan from the north-western direction of the capital. The Islamic material of this region pre-dates the Mughal period. Much of this material falls into the 14th century when the Tughluq dynasty (1321 – 1398) dominated in north India. In order to make best use of time and money, the sites located in the hinterland of these trade routes were also selected, many of them falling in the radius of 60 to 70 km from these medieval period highways. The goal was to include a wide range of materials both in terms of chronology as well as typology. While a wide chronological and typological range of materials was covered the main thrust was on those sites which despite their historical or architectural importance have remained unnoticed hence unprotected.

Thus in an attempt to document a large variety of building types we included mosques, Muslim religious shrines, tombs, elaborate stepped – wells or *baoli*, forts, rest – houses or *sarai*, palaces, distance markers or *kos minar*, schools or *madrassa*, gardens, and bridges. One aspect of this documentation tour was covering reused materials. Some was in the form of the type of reuse which was visible in monuments in form of use of pre-Islamic period building materials but in other cases we saw buildings such as mosques and tombs which had been abandoned in 1947 as the Muslims of Punjab (now divided into the states of Haryana and Punjab) migrated to the new nation state of Pakistan. Some of these buildings have now been transformed into Sikh *Gurdwaras* and Hindu or Jain temples, while others cited in old accounts have been completely demolished or are slated for demolition thus making this documentation project all the more relevant.

## **Field Documentation**

### Phase I: October to November 2008

In this phase the focus of the work was on seventeen (17) sites in Haryana (as listed in Appendix 1 and also in the enclosed map in Appendix 3) each of which had multiple monuments within a single complex or many individual ones within a single town. The sites were chosen from particularly two regions of the State. One that lay on a major trade route, the Grand Trunk Road (G.T. Road) and the second located in southern direction of Delhi, in the

radius of 60 to 70 km from the Grand Trunk Road. In the southern region we documented sites from two districts Gurgaon and Mewat. A large number of monuments documented from this region pre-date Mughal (c. 16th – 19th century) period. Though, at the same time existence of variety of 18th or early 19th century monuments especially in northwestern region of Gurgaon district suggests the region's importance in the Mughal period due to its proximity to the Capital. Especially, the local Mughal Governors took interest in developing this area and established their settlements. The latest material documented from this region included a step-well (locally called *baori*) built around 1905 when the British ruled much of the subcontinent. This step – well is an interesting example of India's growing interest in Colonial architectural traditions which is demonstrated through incorporation of colonial building elements in this originally Hindu architecture type. Sites documented alongside the Grand Trunk Road lie in five major districts of Haryana - Faridabad, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal and Kurukshetra. In this region the focus was on documentation of those 16th and 17th century monuments which were constructed along the Agra-Lahore route (also G.T. Road) on the order of Mughal rulers to facilitate caravans travelling on these routes. The monument types documented from this region were caravan – *sarai* or rest- houses, bridges, stepped – wells, gardens etc. (Appendix - detailed report on the phase one documentation).

### Phase II: March 2009 – April 2009

Almost the same team of professionals who participated in the first phase of field documentation in Haryana resumed documentation in Punjab towards middle of March, 2009. About 60 Indo-Islamic monuments from 16 sites as listed in the Appendix 2 and also in the enclosed map in Appendix 3 were documented from Punjab.

In the second phase of documentation we chose sites primarily located along the old Agra – Lahore route in Punjab which runs almost parallel to the modern Grand Trunk Road up to a town in Jalandhar District of Punjab called Phillaur. From Phillaur onwards the old Agra – Lahore route and the modern Grand Trunk Road diverts to two different directions. We followed the old route which leads to Raja Taal, our last site located at the border of India-Pakistan, via Nurmahal (Jalandhar District), Nakodar (Jalandhar District), Mahlian Kalan

(Jalandhar District), Sultanpur Lodhi (Kapurthala District), Fatehabad (Tarantaran District), Khawaspur (Tarantaran District) and Amanat Khan (Amritsar District), all of them important Mughal sites consisting of significant Islamic monuments. The monuments documented in this region are largely datable to 16th through 18th centuries. A number of these monuments were caravan-*sarais* (Inn/Rest House), a type which is typically found on the travel routes. During the first phase of field documentation we had already documented surviving *sarais* of the Haryana region.

Mughal accounts record Jahangir's order of 1607 in which he instructed landowners obviously those living in the vicinity of the Agra – Lahore highway to construct *sarais* at the distance of every eight *kos* (a distance measuring unit) in durable materials such as brick or stone and also emphasized the need to maintain them in good condition. What *sarais* we find today are not all the ones which might have been constructed during Jahangir's time but the remains of so many of them on the Agra-Lahore route certainly prove that even after Jahangir the other Mughal rulers took interest in building *sarais*.

In addition to caravan *sarais*, a large variety of contemporaneous building types including bridges, distance markers, stepped wells, tanks, gardens, mosques, Muslim religious shrines, and tombs were also documented from the G.T. Road and also from nearby regions such as Batala and Kalanaur in Gurdaspur District which have some very important monuments built during the Mughal Emperor Akbar's reign, in the second half of the 16th century or early 17th century.

### Phase III: May, December 2009

In an effort to mark the launch of the above project we attempted to invite the Chief Secretary of Haryana and the U.S. Ambassador to see our documentation work of the Mughal Garden at Pinjore, in Panchkula District of Haryana. While the launch event could not take place, we finished documentation of the garden. The teams spent about a week in documenting this six leveled garden which is located in an area of about 38 acres. Not only the buildings inside the walled enclosure were meticulously photographed and measured by every millimeter, every detail of the entire garden was carefully recorded including the water sources, tanks, channels and platforms. Undoubtedly the large size of the garden demanded longer time of the

architectural documentation team. But the bad weather made it impossible to continue work for the draftsmen. Under the circumstances the architectural documentation team had to postpone their work till December same year. In December the team spent another week in Pinjore to take measurements and complete the ground plans of the structures that included creation of ground plans of at least 11 buildings inside the compound as well as the central water channel and the platforms placed at some levels.

In addition to the Pinjore Garden, at least four other monuments probably contemporaneous in date with the garden or built a little later were also documented from Pinjore city. A Jami Mosque, a tomb complex which has received the status of a temple of a saint “Top Khan” in current times, and many natural springs around which these monuments were built, were photographed.

#### Phase IV: January-February, 2010

During documentation trips in the two states the documentation team noted a number of sites having remarkable Indo-Islamic structures which were not included in the earlier schedule. While some of these additional monuments were simultaneously documented during the first three field trips of sites in Haryana and Punjab, documentation of many of them had to be postponed due to bad weather and the schedule. Since the earlier documentation in the above two States had enabled the teams to cover most of the major structures of the regions, for example, the monuments on Agra – Lahore or G. T. Road or the Pre-Mughal structures on the old travel route in North-Western and Southern regions of Haryana, it was considered important to cover the remaining monuments to fill in the gaps in the earlier coverage. An extension of 6 months to the grant period by the Embassy enabled a fresh documentation of the remaining structures during the above period. The sites documented during the period included Jhajjar, Kaithal, Hisar, Hansi, Barwala, Fatehabad, and Tosham in Haryana and Sirhind, Mahlian Kalan, Doraha, and Nakodar in Punjab. (Appendix - list of sites and monuments in Haryana and Punjab). Moreover, photographic and architectural documentation of an early 18th century palace complex “Sheesh Mahal” from Farrukhnagar, District Gurgaon, Haryana was also undertaken during the period under review as this monument could not be documented earlier due to some ongoing restoration work. This palace complex was earlier a part of the walled city

of Farrukhnagar. In the phase I documentation the CSAAA teams had documented other surviving structures of this walled city such as the gateways, Jami-mosque and the octagonal stepped-well but the Sheesh Mahal. The documentation teams spent five days in created a meticulous to – the – scale ground plan of the entire palace complex and photo-document all the details of this building. This exercise was considered necessary in order to understand the plan of the royal residence and its placement in the walled city in connection with other monuments of the walled city such as the stepped – well that is said to be connected with the palace originally. As no such architectural documentation has been attempted before of the site, these drawings will be immensely useful for the agencies (such as INTACH) which are planning to restore the entire walled city and convert it into a tourist site. In addition, two large stepped – wells built during Mughal period (17th – 18th centuries) in Haryana, in the towns of Meham and Kaithal both then located on main travel routes, were also documented and their detailed architectural drawings were prepared. One of the famous and most extensive Mughal Gardens constructed on the Agra – Lahore highway for royal caravans was the Aam Khas Bagh that the teams got an opportunity to document during this phase. While a large number of monuments in Sirhind were documented by the CSAAA teams earlier, this garden was not covered. Similarly, documentation of two major Mughal caravan – *sarais* (rest houses), the *sarai* Dakhni at Mahlian Kalan, District Jalandhar and *sarai* Doraha in District Ludhiana, and another tomb garden complex at Nakodar, District Jalandhar, all in Punjab was undertaken during this field trip. Some significant Indo-Islamic monuments of the pre- Mughal period surviving along the Delhi – Multan travel route such as fort complex of Firoz Shah Tughluq in Hisar, mosques and *dargahs* of famous sufi – saints of the period in Barwala, Fatehbad and Tosham and remains of an ancient fort in Hansi that was captured by early Muslim invaders and modified, were also included and detailed photographs and architectural drawings were made.

### **The product:**

While this crucial preliminary field work was completed at the sites, the extensive data and preliminary images were developed into finished documents in the Centre's premises. In between various phases of field documentation, the information collected from the

documentation of monuments was entered in the database. Further research was carried out to gather contextual information about the monuments such as their historical significance, architectural style, period and patron etc. Inscriptions were deciphered with the help of experts and publications which sometimes contain information about the patron and date of construction of monuments. The raw image as produced by camera needed enhancement of light and contrast and sometimes adjustment of composition. This was taken care of by the photographers who had shot these images and had precise information of such details. Over 3000 images shot at the site were thus processed following the parameters already set by the team of professional photographers of the Centre.

The architectural documentation team produced 85 drawings including floor plans wherever necessary of several levels of the structures (such as multileveled gateways of caravan – *sarais* and stepped wells), schematic plans of sites and complexes in order to facilitate the research teams to understand the plans of these structures better and also the period of construction. The architectural documentation team would gather measurements from the site and transfer them to the AutoCAD software in their laptop computers and complete the unfinished portions mostly after returning from the field to the base. A detailed database of the architectural drawings was also prepared simultaneously in order to incorporate it with the main database readied to be put online.

This documentation resulted in extensive coverage of over 200 structures from 144 monument complexes in 45 sites in the two states that were chosen for documentation.

Eight sets of mounted and labeled photographs and architectural drawings created through this project, one in digital PDF format and one in printed hard-copy format were prepared for the archives of the 1) American Embassy, 2 & 3) Haryana and Punjab State Departments of Archaeology and Museums, 4 & 5) Waqf Board in Haryana and Punjab, 6) Archaeological Survey of India, 7) Haryana Tourism and also the 8) Centre for South Asian Art & Archaeology.

We are in the process of setting up a web site to upload the materials created through the project for world-wide access.

### **Dissemination and Outreach:**

While documenting the sites we engaged variety of audiences visiting sites with discussions on their understanding of these monuments and also gave them information about our documentation efforts. In many cases we realized that people actually didn't know the functions of these ancient structures but there was a great deal of curiosity about them. Often people living in or around the monuments showed great concern about their preservation. Most of the residents living in the *sarais* didn't know the real function of these places but they all thought, probably because of their fort-like appearance, these were ancient forts. Some residents at Taraori *sarai* informed us that it was the fort of Prithviraj Chauhan, the Rajput king of Delhi in 12th century where now they live and they said this fact was also mentioned in their History books. They also believed that the Islamic inscriptions written on the wall said that the builder of this fort was Prithviraj Chauhan, the celebrated Delhi King of Chauhan dynasty.

The *sarais* can be located in this region only if those are mentioned as “*Kila*” the Urdu translation of a Fort. However, many were aware of the existence of the Grand Trunk Road constructed by the Afghan ruler, Sher Shah Suri and often we found it mentioned as *Sher Shah Suri* Road on signage. During many of our onsite discussions we were surprised to learn the level of awareness many visitors displayed about these old sites and also the aesthetic sensibility that has been the reason for existence of the Sonipat *Jami* – Mosque and its beautiful painted ceiling, the *chattris* in Nuh and Ballabgarh, all of them cared by private owners.

In Thanesar we had an interesting experience of addressing a large group of school children visiting the site. These class six children of a private “Tagore International School” had come all the way from a village of Punjab especially to visit the site but with no clue to the nature of monuments that they were visiting. Accompanied by an equally enthusiastic group of teachers, none of them having any information about the monuments, they had thought to find a guide that was unfortunately not available. However, our documentation team offered to talk to them about the site and told them about the association of *madrassa* and the tomb and also about the *sarai* and the bridge located nearby. We observed a lot of enthusiasm among the children about the travel route signage and rest-houses which they could relate with contemporary road signs like milestone and signboards and inns and hotels. Their attention to every minute detail of the monument was remarkable when I listened to their observation of the tomb post site tour.

In general, during all our interactions an active interest of communities, tourists and general public about these monuments was noted. These field observations and interactions with the people at large make us believe that such programs may help create awareness and generate more interest in the cultural heritage of the geographical area that we document and study.

*Workshop at Pinjore Garden:*

In an effort to mark the launch of the above project we invited the Chief Secretary of Haryana and the U.S. Ambassador to see our documentation work of the Mughal Garden at Pinjore, in Panchkula District of Haryana. While the launch event could not take place, we finished documentation of the garden. We also organized a workshop involving some experts of Islamic Culture such as Prof. Ausaf Ali from Jamia Hamdard University as well as site visitors to discuss the value of such documentation projects. An onsite exhibition of the documentation done during the first and second phases was also organized for raising awareness amongst general public about the built heritage of this region. All the team members of the documentation team worked intensively for many weeks to put together the exhibition that demonstrates the whole documentation procedure followed by the CSAAA team members as well as those high quality photographs and architectural documentation of the monuments that have been created by us. The exhibition included a map of the regions and sites covered through this project in addition to showing some selected examples of various building types of different periods shot during the field work.

The workshop and the exhibition not only gave us an opportunity to interact with variety of people the visitors also found these events immensely informative as we learnt from their messages received later. Their messages confirmed how much they benefited from this program; they felt that not only the exhibition has informed them about these new types of monuments about which they were never aware of, the onsite interaction with the documentation team has also sensitized them about the built heritage of the country that dots the entire length and breadth of the subcontinent and that they had never ever noticed. Many visitors reported they found it inspiring as they now understand the importance of making documentation and feel encouraged to record the artistic and cultural traditions of their regions.

We displayed the exhibition several times since then in the campus of the CSAAA for the visitors of the Centre. The then Chief Secretary of Haryana Mr. Dharamveer visited the Centre specifically to see the exhibition on the documentation made for the project. He ordered five sets of posters developed by us for the exhibition. He wanted one complete set of these posters to be placed 1) at the Chief Minister's Office 2) at the Chief Secretary's office 3) in Haryana Bhavan, Delhi 4) Chief – Minister's office in Delhi and 5) in Secretariat, Haryana. Following his visit the officers of Haryana Trade fair authority visited the Centre to view the exhibition and selected some visuals of Indo-Islamic monuments such as Pinjore Garden from the State to exhibit in the International Trade fair. We have also been contacted by the Haryana Tourism Department for visuals of the Group of Tombs in Tauru, Haryana which they wish to use for restoration of the structures so that the site that has immense potential for Tourism can be developed into a tourist site.

*Day long workshops with School Children:*

As part of outreach planned for the project, over 100 students from 8<sup>th</sup> standard of G.D. Goenka world school, Sohna visited the Centre continuously for three days in three groups. Sohna is one of those important sites of Pre – Mughal structures, built probably during 14<sup>th</sup> through early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, which the Centre documented under this project. The idea behind inviting children from a school in this region was to create awareness amongst them about the architectural traditions of the area and also to encourage them to think about the issues related to preservation and maintenance of these structures.

The Centre's documentation team planned for the students a number of activities revolving around the documentation done for the project. An exhibition consisting of maps, floor plans, and photographs demonstrating the regions and monuments documented for this project was put up for the students. The activities conducted in conjunction with the exhibition helped the students to learn reading maps and architectural drawings. They also learnt about the old trade routes and major stopovers on the route as well as the specific types of architecture which developed in those regions due to the particular requirements of the travelers such as *sarais* or inns, bridges and step-wells.

Another purpose of this interaction was to make students aware of the other information resources such as the Photo-Archives and the library of the Centre which significantly support further studies on architecture and related disciplines.

In addition, two in-house exhibitions were organized of old and new documentation of Indo-Islamic monuments available in the Centre's photo and drawing archives for a group of 30 students of architecture from Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technology Murthal, Sonapat. This group visited the Centre to consult its photographic and architectural drawings collection of Indo-Islamic monuments as part of their course on medieval period architecture of the country. The students as well as the teachers found the documentation of the Indo-Islamic monuments particularly from Haryana and Punjab regions very interesting. They wish to use this documentation for creating a travelling exhibition of the monuments on the Grand Trunk Road which can be taken to all the architecture colleges situated along the Grand Trunk Road. The talk between the teachers of the Architecture College and AFCP Project Director is underway.

### **Future Plans:**

The Centre is planning further engagements with various groups in the local communities including schools in order to raise public awareness about such monuments. Part of our plan is to carry the exhibition on the project to schools and colleges in the two States to interest students towards this material which will enable them to use and evaluate documents of primary evidence of the past. A symposium to be held at the University of Texas at Austin is meant to build further on the documented materials and frame a larger, long term investigation across disciplinary and chronological boundaries concerning the shaping of the Punjab region. The symposium will provide the occasion to reflect on the knowledge about the built heritage in the region which only became the state of Punjab at partition.

**Outcome:**

The project has allowed to shed light on surviving Indo-Islamic monuments as one of the significant strands of the built environment of the region as well as to highlight the process of identifying cultural heritage. The project emphasizes on the importance of continuing to look for traces of the past while on other fronts developing an awareness of the past. A major aim of such documentation is to aid preservation of the monuments themselves by providing critical information for future decisions, the project also underscores the importance of understanding the layers of the “landscape” in which communities live. Further knowledge of these monuments created through this effort would allow reflection on the shared nature of the Indo-Islamic traditions in South Asia that have been diminished or lost due to time as well as the consequences of partition.

**Acknowledgements:**

The CSAAA documentation team is especially grateful to its Chairman, Dr. Pradeep Mehendiratta for taking personal interest in the project and ensuring successful completion of it by providing all the facilities and support to the team members. He travelled to Chandigarh, Amritsar and Ambala many times to arrange necessary permissions from concerned agencies in order to make sure that the documentation work proceeds without any interruption. The Centre also received full cooperation from the heritage protecting bodies such as Archaeological Survey of India, Haryana and Punjab Departments of Archaeology and Museum, Haryana Tourism Corporation Limited and Wakf - Board as well as from private owners to document the monuments under their protection without any hassles. We acknowledge their help with great appreciation. We are thankful to Mr. Chandar Singh, Former Chief Election Officer of Haryana, Mr. Dharamveer, Chief-Secretary of Haryana, Mr. Mahendar Kumar, Commissioner of Ambala Division and Chairman, Wakf – Board for their help in acquiring permissions and administrative support in their State. We are indebted to all those individuals and communities who welcomed us in their localities and extended hospitality. We would like to thank Prof. Catherine Asher and Prof. Janice Leoshko for their valuable guidance to the team in selection of sites, documentation strategies and research for gathering historical details of monuments and sites. This project could not have been completed ever had we not had the generous support of

the American Institute of Indian Studies which provided space and its entire human and research resources to facilitate the CSAAA documentation teams. The AIIS has also agreed to host the AFCP project image catalogue on their web site along with the AIIS images for as long a period as possible. We are greatly beholden to the Director-General, AIIS, Mrs. Purnima Mehta for her generosity and help.

Each team member of our team deserves millions of thanks for their dedication and hard work that enabled us to produce such enormous visual archive of the best quality pictures and documentation of Indo-Islamic monuments of Haryana and Punjab regions within such short time.

Vandana Sinha