

**H.C. ARORA**  
ADVOCATE  
**PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT**

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Dated: 30.12.2019

To,

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.
2. Chief Secretary, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Teja Singh Samundri Hall, Golden Temple Complex, Sri Amritsar Sahib

**Subject:- Renovation, Preservation and restoration of Haveli Todar Mal (Jahaz Mahal) (Fatehgarh Sahib).**

**By Speed Post/E-mail**

Dear Sirs,

As you are well aware, Todar Mal was a local businessman of Sirhind, during 17<sup>th</sup> Century. He was ardent follower of Sikh Gurus, and at the same time, he was a *Diwan* in the Court of Nawab Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, under Mughal Empire. *Diwan* Todar Mal is remembered for buying a small piece of land for the cremation of the dead bodies of Mata Gujri, the mother and Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, the two younger sons of 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh in 1704 A.D, by paying an exorbitant price to the owner of the land. He had to cover the whole piece of land with gold coins (*Ashrafis*) in a vertical position, as he was asked to vertically place gold coins on the land and only then the piece of land so covered by gold coins would be given to him for cremation of Mata Gujri, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. *Diwan* Todar Mal later made arrangements for their cremation.

*Diwan* Todar Mal had however, to bear the brunt of Wazir Khan's wrath, and he and his family had to abandon the Haveli thereafter. The aforesaid Haveli also known as Jahaz Haveli/Jahaz Mahal and is presently lying in dilapidated condition.

It hardly needs be emphasised that *Diwan* Todar Mal is remembered by all Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims with great reverence. However, his Haveli is lying abandoned and is in a very dilapidated shape, and it has not been taken care of, either by the State Government, or for that matter, by the Central Government, or the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). In this context, I have to make the following submissions:-

1. That Jahaz Haveli/Jahaz Mahal is place/building of historical importance at National level and should have been preserved and renovated by the Archaeological Survey of India/Government of India. However, what to speak of the Government of India, even the State of Punjab has not bothered to undertake the restoration work of aforesaid Jahaz Haveli/Jahaz Mahal.
2. That it appears that the Haveli was handed over to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in 2016/2017. However, the restoration work of the Haveli is moving at the snail's pace, and is not likely to be completed even in next one or two decades at the present pace. In view of the historical as well as religious importance of this Jahaz Haveli/Jahaz Mahal, it requires to be preserved, restored and renovated in befitting manner.

I would therefore, call upon you to take immediate steps to prepare a road map for its restoration/preservation and renovation, as the case be, within a fixed time frame, to meet with aspirations of the people of our great Nation.

In case, I do not hear from you within a period of one month from the date of receipt of this Demand Notice by you, which is being sent by E-mail also, in that event, I shall be left with no other alternative except to file proceedings by way of a PIL (Public Interest Litigation), in the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh, for seeking the redressal of my aforesaid legitimate grievance, in public interest.

Meanwhile, please acknowledge receipt of this notice.

(H.C. ARORA)  
ADVOCATE