विल्ली की वास्तुकला
Architecture of Delhi
Delhi, the capital of India, is one of the most ancient and historic cities of this country. Situated on the banks of river Yamuna, the city borders the state of Rajasthan to its West and South West, the Gangetic plains of Uttar Pradesh to the East and the Himalayan range, is not more than 100 Kms. to its North. The name of the city, "Delhi", derived from its older names Dili, Dilli, Dhilli traces its history back to the epic war, Mahabharata. During the 12th and 19th centuries the history of Delhi has witnessed the rise and fall of eight cities. Today these eight cities of Delhi are encompassed within the boundaries of the ever expanding capital city.

Quila Rai Pithora

This is the first imperial capital established in 1192 A.D. by Mohammad-bin-Sam of Ghur (Central Asia) popularly known as Mohammad Ghori and his Governor, Qutub-ud-Din Aibak. The city was restructured on the old city of Lal Kot, built in 1060 A.D. by the Hindu Tomar King, Anangpal by extending its boundaries. Following his victory over the city, Qutub-ud-Din Aibak used the carved pillars of 27 Hindu and Jain temples to make a mosque, which came to be called the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque—the might of Islam. He began work on the famous Qutub Minar in about 1200 A.D. This minaret was, in fact, completed in 1220 A.D. by Ilutmish, Qutub-ud-Din’s successor and son-in-law. It is 72.5 m high and rises in five successive storeys with twenty-seven flutings broken by four projecting balconies decorated with inscriptions. The lower storeys are of red sandstone with semicircular and angled flutings; the two highest storeys are made of red sandstone and Makrana marble. Other important building remains of this city are the Iron Pillar and Alai Darwaza. The sandstone gateway, the Alai Darwaza, was erected to serve as the southern entrance to the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque.

Siri

Ala-ud-Din Khalji laid the foundation of the second city in 1303 A.D. known as Siri near the present day Hauz Khas. It is also known as “Abode of the Caliphate”. However, in Alaud-Din’s time it was called Kila-Alai, a round city (shahr) very strongly built with seven gateways. Siri was the first city which was originally built by the Muslims. Ala-ud-Din Khalji was a very good administrator and planner. He also constructed a vast reservoir at Hauz-Khas known as Hauz-i-Alai which was intended to meet the needs of water and irrigation of the new city of Siri.

What remains of the once mighty city, Siri, are now only a few patches of ruined stone walls. Through the corridors of time the name of Siri once again reverberates as today we have the Siri Institutional Area, the Siri Asiad Village and the Siri Fort Auditorium—monuments to show Delhi’s everchanging profile.

Tughlaqabad

Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq built the third city of Delhi known as Tughlaqabad in 1321 A.D. It is approximately eight kms. to the south of the Qutub complex where the third medieval city of Delhi was built. The fort is roughly octagonal in plan with massive walls,
Jahanpanahbad

Ghiyas-ud-Din's successor Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq raised the fourth city Jahanpanah which largely comprised of a walled enclosure between the old cities of Qila Rai Pithora and Siri. A description of this is provided by the African traveller, Ibn Battuta, who lived in Delhi for eight years. In 1327 A.D. Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq transferred not merely the capital but also the entire population of Delhi to Daulatabad in the Deccan. On his return to Delhi, he made yet another city for Delhi, the city of Adilabad. Here he made his palace of a 'thousand pillars' or the 'Qash-i-hazar Sutoon'. He also constructed Satpula—Bridge of the Seven Openings—a reservoir which retained a vast sheet of water for the city of Jahanpanah. Another fascinating building of Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq is the Vijay Mandal, a tower used by him for reviewing his troops. All these still stand as evidence of his era.

Firozabad

Firoz Shah Tughlaq, the third Tughlaq ruler, founded the city of Firozabad in 1354 A.D. It was a populous capital which extended from Hauz Khas in the south to the north of the Ridge and eastward to the river Yamuna. Kushik-I-Firoz or Palace of Firoz was the principal building in the capital. It is now known as Firoz Shah Kotla. He brought two inscribed Ashokan columns from Topra near Ambala and Meerut and erected them in Delhi—one at Firoz Shah Kotla and the other on the Ridge, near Bara Hindu Rao. He repaired the Qutub Minar and built canals, roads and pavilions.

The Tughlaq rule ended in 1414 A.D. when it was replaced by the Saiyads and later by the Lodis. Under the Saiyads and Lodis there was little impetus for new constructional activities. In 1526 A.D. Babur, the first, in the line of Mughal kings gained victory over portions of north India with his capital in Agra.

Din Panah

Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, son and successor of Babur constructed the sixth capital city of Delhi under the name of Din-Panah, again on the right bank of river Yamuna. The city comprised of a fortified citadel (Purana Quila) where the royal family lived and which also had the residential area of the city population. The citadel is rectangular in shape with massive corner bastions. The entrance to the fort is through the west gate, the Bada Darwaza.

In 1540 A.D., Humayun was defeated in battle by Sher Shah Suri and was forced to flee from India. At present, Qila-i-Kunha Masjid and the octagonal Sher Mandal which were built by Sher Shah, still exist within this old fort area. Fifteen years later, after Sher Shah's death, Humayun defeated the Surs at Panipat and

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regained control of the city. He died in 1557 A.D. when he fell from the stairs of Sher Mandal. The construction of Humayun’s tomb was taken up by Hamida Banu in 1565 A.D. The complex took nine years to complete, and the tomb itself is a dazzling landmark in the evolution of Mughal architecture in India.

Shahjahanabad

Shahjahan, grandson of Akbar, finding Agra too congested, selected a site on the right bank of river Yamuna and constructed the seventh Delhi to be known as Shahjahanabad, now known as Old Delhi. The building of the Red Fort or Lal Quila commenced on April 16, 1639 and took over nine years to build. In plan it is an irregular octagon with high battlemented walls carried around the city side to terminate in three-storey towers at the north and south ends of the river frontage. It has twelve gates, the principal ones are the Lahori and Delhi gates. Inside the Red Fort are the buildings; such as Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas where the Mughal royal family lived and reigned. In 1648 A.D. Shahjahan finally shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi. The Jama Masjid outside Lal Quila and the Moti Masjid within Lal Quila are excellent examples of Indo-Islamic architecture of the seventh city of Delhi. Shahjahanabad functioned as the Mughal capital till 1857 A.D.

New Delhi

The great capital of New Delhi is one of the achievements of the British Empire. Two architects, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker were assigned the task of designing and layout of the eighth city of Delhi. Delhi became the capital of the British empire in 1911 A.D., officially named ‘New Delhi’ in 1926 A.D. and was formally inaugurated for occupation in January 1931 A.D.

The most appropriate starting point for any tour of New Delhi is the All India War Memorial, popularly known as India Gate situated at the east end of Rajpath. It is a huge stone memorial arch designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens to commemorate more than 70,000 Indian soldiers who fell in the First World War. Rashtrapati Bhawan with its 340 rooms and lavish grounds is the official residence of the President of India. Other important buildings of the period are the Parliament House, Secretariat Blocks, a circular marketing centre—the Connaught Place and others. There are many mosques, gurudwaras, temples, churches and modern buildings which stand testimony to the living vitality of this great city.
The educational package contains 22 pictures of famous buildings and historical sites of the city of Delhi, the capital of India. These pictures can be displayed in the classroom, at any prominent place in the school. The pictures can be stuck on cardboard, with the title and description. Students looking at these pictures, each day, and on reading the information will gather some knowledge of the famous buildings of Delhi city.

The education value of these pictures can be obtained only through activities that interest and involve the participation of students.

**Students Projects on “The place where I live”**

This package on Delhi monuments tells the story of many dynasties and kings who lived and built beautiful buildings to make Delhi the city it is today. You and your students can also undertake several projects on the village, city and town that you live in. We should appreciate the work of our forefathers and understand the present in relation to our past.

Students, individually or in groups can be asked to collect information about “The place where I live”, by collecting pictures, articles, news items, pamphlets etc. The topics to be covered in the survey should be:

- **Climate (State/Region)**
- **Natural heritage (forests, rivers, wildlife, vegetation)**
- **Agriculture (annual agricultural cycle, crops, cereals, grains)**
- **Inhabitants, members of the community**
- **Occupations (Income generating activities of the community)**
- **Famous people who lived in the area, their work and contributions in various fields.**
- **Languages, customs, fairs and festivals, religions.**
- **Important places (historical sites, monuments, museums & parks)**
- **Music, Dance, Theatre, Crafts of the area**
- **Important social, governmental, vocational institutions**
- **Services and facilities of the city (Electricity, water, hospitals, etc.)**
Interviews: “The place where I live”: Past and Present

Ask students to interview friends, relatives, neighbours and collect information on the change that have occurred in your native place over the past twenty years.

Cover all the topics given under Survey
— Climate
— Natural Heritage
— Agriculture
— Occupations
— Social Life
— People
— People who came from other places to settle in this city.

You can display the material collected by students in the form of an exhibition.

Students' Educational Tours:

Students in groups may be given projects to study their environment through first-hand experiences. Having obtained a good background in activities “Survey” and “interview”, it is time for them to look, observe and study. Here are some group projects for students, to enable them to study their environment in a detailed and methodical manner.

— Make a map of the village, city, town
— Locate the school, important places such as, monuments, gardens, zoological parks
— Study needs of the place—sanitation, transport, public amenities
— Collect data on population/land ratio, occupation, service facilities (hospitals, schools)
— Collect information on:
  : Air Pollution
  : Noise Pollution
  : Garbage Collection problems
  : Contaminated water
  : Unclean streets
  : Traffic difficulties
  : Housing problems
अपने स्थान के ऐतिहासिक स्थानों का ध्मण करें

निम्नलिखित गतिविधियां करो:
- स्थान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं को लेकर हुए ऐतिहासिक स्थान पर एक छोटा नोट लिखें।
- स्थान का मानचित्र बनाओं।
- चित्र बनाओं।
- संबंधित फोटोग्राफ्स और लेख एकजीत करो।
- इस स्थान का जिन लोगों ने दौरा किया है, उनकी सूची बनाओं और उनका दौरा करने का कारण भी बताओ।

अब जबकि छात्रों ने अपने रहने के स्थान का अध्ययन कर लिया है तो उनके पास इस स्थान का ज्ञान है कि वह ऐतिहासिक, वैज्ञानिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक प्रकृति का है, इसके साथ ही, छात्र बुजुर्ग लोगों के साथ बात करके और साक्षात्कार करके कुछ प्राप्त कर चुके होंगे और देखभाल हेतु स्थानों का दौरा करने तथा अपनी संरक्षित विश्लेषण की ओर ध्यान देने का ज्ञान प्राप्त कर चुके होंगे। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह शैक्षिक एक ऐतिहासिक ध्मण करने के लिए “स्वच्छ करें सीखें” का अवसर प्रदान करता है जो परम्परा का एक स्थायी रूप है और जिसे हम अपने छात्रों को दे सकते हैं।

छात्रों के निबंध/लघु कथाएँ/कविताएँ

छात्रों को नीचे बताए विषयों पर लघु निबंध, कहानी अथवा कविता लिखने के लिए कहा जा सकता है:
- वह स्थान जहाँ मैं रहता हूँ
- मेरा ग्राम नगर : मूर्तकाल और वर्तमान समय में
- वह स्थान जहाँ मैं रहता हूँ, वह __________ के लिए प्रसिद्ध है
- में अपने नगर से प्यार करता हूँ
- वह समस्याएं जिनका अंज हम समझ सकते हैं
- मेरे ग्राम नगर की डायरी
- हमारे आसपास का सीनेर
- 21वीं शताब्दी में मेरा नगर
- एक जाना वर्ष पूर्व का मेरा ग्राम नगर
- मेरे नगर की आत्मकथा आदि।

चित्र बनाईए

- वह स्थान जहाँ मैं रहता हूँ
- मेरे के अलावा अन्य स्थान
- ब्राह्मण भारत में अन्य स्थानों को जानकारी, लेख, चित्र और फोटोग्राफ्स एकजीत करने हेतु चुन सकते हैं:
- ऐतिहासिक स्थान
- धार्मिक स्थान
- प्रसिद्ध लोग और वह कहाँ के हैं
- आधुनिक विकास
- कृति
- धर्मी और इनके लोग

Visit historical sites in your place

Undertake the following:
- Write a short note on an historical site, covering chief characteristics of the building
- Draw a map of the site
- Paint a picture
- Collect related photographs and articles
- Make a list of important people who had visited this place and record the reason for their visit.

Now that students have studied the place where they live, they will have information that is historical, scientific, social, economic and political in nature. Added to this, the students will have acquired some values by speaking and interviewing older people, visiting sites to care and look after their cultural heritage. Most important, this educational experience is an opportunity for students to “learn by doing” which is the most lasting form of education we can provide to our students.

Essay/Short Stories/Poems

Students can be asked to write a short essay, story or poem on such topics:
- The place where I live
- My Home town: It's past and present
- The place where I live is famous for...
- I love my city
- The problems we face today
- A diary of my home town
- The beauty that surrounds us
- My city in the 21st century
- My home town one thousand years ago
- Autobiography of my city and, so on...

Paint a picture

- The place where I live
- Other places beyond my home

Students can choose to collect information, articles, pictures/photos of other places in India
- Historical sites
- Religious sites
- Famous people and where they come from
- Industrial development
- Agriculture
- Land and its people
Teachers can make a quiz based on the pictures in the package and the project work conducted by students. For instance, students must see and study the pictures and information sheets, given in this packet.

Divide students into groups, name the groups and inform them of the rules of the quiz.

The Teacher/Quiz master will ask the questions to the team. He must repeat the questions clearly.

30 seconds are allowed for the answer.

If the answer is correct, the team gets 2 points

IF NOT

The Question goes to the next team as a BONUS QUESTION. 10 seconds are allowed for the answer.

A correct answer to Bonus Question get 1 point.

The Teacher/Quiz Master must repeat the correct answer clearly for the audience to understand.

A QUIZ PROGRAMME can be run for 30-40 minutes. The decision of the Teacher/Quiz Master will be final.

Suggested Quiz on this Follo:

**General**

— Name capital of:
  - India
  - Sri Lanka
  - Mayanmar
  - Pakistan, etc.

— How ancient is the city of Delhi?

— Describe the climate of Delhi in Jan/May/Oct...

— What are the States that surround Delhi?

— Eight cities have been built in Delhi, name them.

**Picture 1**

— How old is the Iron Pillar?

— What is its height?

— In which period was it made?

**Picture 2**

— Why was the Qutub Minar built?

— What materials were used to build the Qutub Minar?

— What is Calligraphy?

**Picture 4**

— What is a tomb?

— Which great Indian Emperor fell down the stairs of Sher Mandal and died?

**Picture 9**

— Describe the material used to build Humayun’s Tomb.

— Humayun’s Tomb was the model on which another famous building built in India. Name this building.
— What is a masjid?
— Name four famous masjids and tombs of India.

— Rashtrapati Bhawan was originally built as a residence for...........
— Who lives in Rashtrapati Bhawan today?

— India Gate—What does the building commemorate?
— Parliament House—Name its architect.
— India's Parliament consists of ________ and ________.
— Name the members of Parliament from your district/state.

— Recite one passage or Teaching of a principle of the following religions:
  - Hinduism
  - Islam
  - Sikhism
  - Buddhism
  - Jainism
  - Christianity

— Name places of religious importance to the Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains, Buddhists.

Make your own questions as suggested above.

Quiz (written and verbal) is an enjoyable form of evaluation.

Let students participate in such Quiz programmes once a month on different topics.

Conduct the same sort of Quiz programme based on the Project “Place where I live” so that all the students know and understand the importance and contributions made by their own people to the development of India.

Project for Action : “My contribution to the city that I love”

Students can first discuss what they can do to improve their city and home town, cleaning campaigns, posters, education, social service, planting trees, forming queues for orderly behaviour and discipline, etc.

Poster Campaign :

Students may be asked to prepare a picture (12" × 15" size paper) giving suggestions on their role in caring for the environment.

Students can create slogans for the poster, for the cleanliness, protection and care of their home town.
1. लोह स्तव
कुकुट परिवार में स्थित यह 7.20 मीटर ऊंचा लोह स्तव वास्तव में उत्कृष्ट साहित्यीय गलती है जिसका यह दर्शन में प्राप्त हुआ है। अतः इसके लोहों को भारत में निर्मित 1500 वर्ष हो गया है अथवा इसका इस्तेमाल तरह से सुनिश्चित किया गया है।

2. कुकुट पािन
पाथ का यह अत्यधिक निगम का संबंधित उत्तराधिकारी में कुकुट पािन भी एक है। इस भाषा में कोई संग्रह नहीं है कि यह पाथ के महत्वपूर्ण विषयों में से एक है। 72.5 मीटर चौड़ी यह गाँवकूल इसिदर परिवार के से के तांत्रिक पाथ में, तांत्रिक पाथ के संबंध में निगम है। धातुरा पाथ का परिवार 17.37 मीटर है जो प्रायः उनके 2.75 मीटर रखा जाता है।

3. कुकुट परिवार, कुकुट पािन
यह सुभाष 1305 के अंतर्गत निगम कुकुट तथा यह अग्रह तकु गाँव द्वारा दर्शाया जाता ऐतिहासिक पािनों में कुकुट पािन की रचना में किन्हीं ढंग से कुकुट पािन की उपलब्धि है। यह पाथ में कुकुट पािन का यह विषय है भविष्य में इस पािन के बारे में कहने की जरूरत के लिए देखा जाए।

4. याम्स-उड़-दीन तुलसी का मकब्रा
याम्स-उड़-दीन तुलसी का वर्तमान स्थान या मकबरा मे 1321 में उसने छोड़ दिया था जब तब वे स्वयंत्र नए गुरुवारी में हुए। उन्होंने राजा महाराज साजिद खान को अपने दासी के रूप में स्वीकार किया था। इस संदर्भ में उनके मनोरंजन के लिए तुलसी का कलाम अच्छा है।

5. फिरोजशाह कोटला
इस संदर्भ की अवधारणा के लिए जानें कि फिरोजशाह कोटला के पाथ दक्षिण की हाला, जिससे इतिहास में तुलसी का मकबरा है। इस पाथ का इतिहास पुरातात्विक इतिहास में है।

6. बढ़ा गुलाम, लोही बाग
इस कथा की तारीख और प्रमाण की स्थान में अगर हम एक आचार अपनी पहचान होता है।

7. पुराने किले का दरवाजा
इस संदर्भ के भवनभावन अथवा वृत्ति विश्वासों में है। पुराने किले का यह दरवाजा एक प्रकार के हाला कुकुट पािन का एक प्रकार का दरवाजा है। इस संदर्भ के दरवाजे के यह दरवाजा एक बड़ा है।

8. शेख मंदिर
इस अजगरीय स्तव और ताला का चुंबन पानी से बना भक्ति दिवस शिक युग्म किले के मुख्य है। शहर में सुलूम का काल एक चिराग है।
13. जाना मिहिजस
मुम्बई वास्तुशिल्प अभियान में कबीर गांधी अवशेष रामगंगा मंदिर में शीमूँड़ा के कहानी के जीवन भर समाप्त हो गया था। इसके बाद कई वर्षों में इस क्षेत्र का विकास करते हुए, प्रतिष्ठित इमारतों में से एक काफी पुराना निर्माण था।

14. राजपुत्र भवन
राजपुत्र भवन भारत के शहीद शहीद का समाधि स्मारक है। इसे दो महारानी आंदोलन, सर एलिजा दीवानी सर हरिनारायण गुप्ता सर रामराज्य बुधवार इत्यादि ने भवन निर्माण कराया था। इस भवन को भवन अधीक्षक और 330 भवन वाले ने भवन उपनिवेशों के लिए निर्माण किया था। इस भवन में हरिनारायण, गुप्ता, एवं अन्य भवनों के लिए सुवर्ण चौथे शब्दों के लिए भवन निर्माण किया था। इस भवन में 15 जुलाई 1929 में निर्माण के लिए उपवन किया गया।

15. हिंदी गेट
यह एक केंद्रीय संस्थान से इसके बाद के नाम पर चुना जा रहा आज इस केंद्रीय संस्थान से हिंदी गेट का स्थापन कर दिया गया। यह 42.8 मंडी संगठन गेट का स्थापना का कार्यकाल नाम है। इसके बाद के नाम पर हिंदी गेट का निर्माण कर दिया गया।

16. संदर्भ भवन
संदर्भ मंडल में किसी अंग ने किसी अंग के लिए स्थापित किया गया--हार्दिका जय सिंह इमारत के साथ है। इस झुकाव में धारा का एक हिस्सा है, जो काफी सारे विभिन्न है।

17. संदर्भ भवन
राजस्थान के बीच में किसी बुद्धिमत्ता जन्मता जन्मता है जो अनेक जनताओं को नकारा दिया है। इसके बीच जनता-बुद्धि का अंतर स्थापित है।

18. कोटब पलेस
कोटब पलेस के मुख्य बुद्धिमत्ता की अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ सम्पादन संसार में फिल्में की शिल्प का अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ है। इसका अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ सम्पादन का शिल्प में फिल्में की शिल्प का अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ है।

19. गुड़ाम बलात्कास्थ
गुड़ाम बलात्कास्थ में किसी निर्माण के मुख्य बुद्धिमत्ता में फिल्में की शिल्प का अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ है। इसका अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ सम्पादन का शिल्प में फिल्में की शिल्प का अंतरिक्ष नीति के साथ है।
1. The Iron Pillar

The 7.2 m high Iron Pillar, in the Qutub complex is not quite as simple as it looks. Cast from iron of exceptional purity, the unique pillar has not shown any sign of rusting in roughly 1500 years of its existence.

The Iron Pillar originally built in the 5th century A.D. was transported from Mathura to Delhi in the 12th century A.D. The diameter at its base is 6 ft. 4 in. and tapers to 2 ft. 4 in. at the top.

The building of the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in the courtyard of which stands the famous Iron Pillar, is a wonderful monument to the scientific knowledge and skill of Hindu craftsmen. It was commenced by the first Delhi Sultan Mohd. Ghori in about 1196 A.D.; the arches seen in front of the Iron Pillar containing the pulpit were added by his successor Qutub-ud-Din about ten years later. Ilutmish who succeeded in 1210 A.D., began to enlarged the mosque by extending the sanctuary with screens in north and south and by adding a great quadrangle which should have enclosed the original building.

History offers several interpretations to the origin of the Iron Pillar. A Gupta inscription on the pillar records that it was originally a Vishnu Swtahwa set up in memory of King Chandra. The flat, square, towering end of the majestic pillar bears a hole indicating that an image of Garuda (The mount of Vishnu) originally decorated the tower.

Interestingly, there goes a belief that if one secretly wishes for something after encircling his arms, around the pillar (with his back to the pillar) his wish will be fulfilled.

2. Qutub Minar

The Qutub Minar is an outstanding landmark in India's architectural achievements. Undoubtedly, it is one of the most impressive monuments in the country. Dominating the skyline at a height of 72.5 m, this elegantly circular, sandstone structure has a base of 13.75 m diameter which tapers to a mere 2.75 m at the apex.

The origin of the imposing Minar can be traced to the end of the 12th century when Qutub-ud-Din conceived it as a part of the Qutub Mosque scheme. However, it was eventually completed by his son-in-law and successor Ilutmish.

The highest stone tower in India till today, the Qutub Minar also served as the Minar of the mosque from where the Muezzin made his daily call to the worshippers to come to pray. The word, 'Qutub' signifies a pole, the very pivot of justice and sovereignty.

As originally completed the Qutub comprised four storeys but today it has five storeys, the first three in red sandstone and others in marble and sandstone, with each storey clearly distinguishable from outside by decorative balconies. The first three storeys are each designed on a different plan. The fourth storey is simply round. The uppermost storey which was damaged in 1368 A.D. during Firoz Shah's reign, was replaced by him by two storeys made of marble and sandstone.

3. Alai Darwaza, Qutub Complex

Built around 1305 A.D. the Alai-Darwaza was undertaken as part of the building project of Alaud-Din-Khalji—the third in line in the dynasty of Afghan Turks from the village of Khalji—who ascended the throne of Delhi in 1296 A.D. The sandstone gateway was erected to serve as the southern entrance to the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. The planning of the gateway is a square measuring 35 feet internally and 55 feet externally. The height of the walls is 47 feet from the floor to the ceiling having a thickness of 11 feet.

The stately entrance to the courtyard of the age old mosque has suffered little damage in the last six centuries. The gateway has a main central hall—a cul-de-sac structure of 16.76 m side with a 18.28 m high dome. In the middle of each side is a doorway flanked by a perforated stone window. Each doorway opens into a single inner room with a domed ceiling. The distinctive square design and the original conception of the dome of the Alai Darwaza (gateway of Alaud-Din) are its unique features.

The sandstone gateway is the first building of its kind to be found in India employing Islamic principles of construction and ornamentation.

4. Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq

Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq Shah, was a Turk nobleman who succeeded the Khaljis in 1321 A.D. The ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, a keen architect, he added a new capital city in Delhi. The fortified town of Tughlaqabad, with high bastions and 13 gateways, the third city of Delhi, was the creative genius of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq.

Across the main entrance to the south of the octagonal fort is the red sandstone tomb of Ghiyas-ud-Din himself. The most striking part of its composition is the determined slope of the outer walls, as these are inclined at an angle of seventy-five degrees, suggesting the converging sides of a pyramid. Its square base is sixty-one feet wide and the entire height of the structure including its sandstone frieze is over eighty feet. A restrained use of marble on the walls of the self-built tomb gives this fortress like structure a distinguished look.

A white marble dome with a circular sandstone mark crowning glory of this exquisite tomb. Originally, the tomb was built within a vast artificial reservoir of rain water and was also connected to Tughlaqabad by a cause-way. The Qutub Badarpur road now runs through the cause-way.

5. Firoz Shah Kotla

Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who succeeded Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq constructed the fifth medieval city of Delhi called Firozabad on the right bank of the river Yamuna in 1354 A.D.

The principal ruins of this once populous city extended from Hauz Khas in the south, to the ridge in the north and the river Yamuna in the east. One of the principal ruins of this period is the Kushik-K-Firoz or palace of Firoz on the banks of river Yamuna. The most distinctive feature of this palace is a monolithic tapering column of polished sandstone from the 3rd century B.C. This structure known as the Ashoka Column was brought by Firoz Shah from Ambala to grace his newly built palace. It is the second column of Ashoka measuring 13.1 m in height.

The massive thick walls of the fort were built with closely packed blocks of stones joint together with mortar. The rough walls were coated with plaster or covered by a layer of polished stone to give its wall a smooth finish.

6. Bara Gumbad, Lodi Garden

Islamic gardens and courtyards have a special charm and attraction of their own. The establishment of a garden meant an opportunity to reveal the essence of a site. In Islamic literature, both in poetry and prose, the garden is lavishly praised and compared to the garden of Paradise.

In the Lodi Gardens, also known as Lady Wellington Park, there are four building of historical importance. The tomb of Mohammad Shah Saliyed, Bara Gumbad, Shish Gumbad and the tomb of Sikandar Lod.

Built towards the close of the 15th century A.D. during the reign of Sikandar Lodi, the mosque occupies a significant place in the development of Indo-Islamic architecture. Bara Gumbad is the earliest among mosque buildings attached to some of the tombs. It has the distinction of possessing the finest plaster work that survives in India today. On the outer walls of the prayer hall, we can see elaborate scrolls, decorations and inscriptions in Arabic. Beautiful coloured tile work is one of the notable features of the mosque. Five wide open arches with a flat top add an innovative touch to the mosque.

7. Purana Quila Gate

In a sad state of ruins today, this southern entrance to the Purana Quila bears evidence to the elegant architectural style of the Mughals. The gate is flanked by the remains of two huge circular towers with window openings. The arched roof of the gate is covered by an open pedestal with two chhatris on either side, made of black and red stone. Humayun is believed to have rebuilt the city at the present site of the Purana Quila, which came to be known as Din Panah. Later, Sher Shah Suri who defeated Humayun, completed the fort during his rule from 1538-1545 A.D., before Humayun once again regained his throne in 1555 A.D.

The two white elephant sculptures engraved on the high gate walls may have been inspired by Hindu architectural styles, though buildings of Humayun's period are basically Persian in concept.

8. Sher Mandal

The octagonal red sandstone tower of Sher Mandal stands at the entrance of the southern part of the famous Purana Quila in New Delhi. Built by Sher Shah, one of the most able rulers of India during the Mughal period, the location of Purana Quila is supposed to be the site of Indraprastha—the original city of Delhi.

Sher Shah built part of the old fort in the 16th century A.D. after defeating Humayun. During Sher Shah's five year reign, there was much improvement in the Government and administrative system of the country. His residence, treasury and seat of government were all located in the Purana Quila.

The fort has massive walls and three large sandstone gateways decorated with white marble inlay and coloured tiles. The design of these gateways formed the beginning of a more artistic ornamental type of building construction—an important architectural development of the times.

The Sher Mandal is later believed to have been used by Humayun as his library. History also records that the Mughal king fell to his death from the stairs of this very building.

9. Humayun's Tomb

Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor to rule India in the 16th century A.D. The lofty tomb of Humayun you see in the picture was built by Begum Begam, Humayun's widow, (popularly known as Haji Begum), eight years after his death.

Standing on the capital's famous Mathura road, the Humayun's Tomb offers the first indications of the development of the art of stone inlay which culminated nearly a century later in the exquisite decorations of the Taj Mahal at Agra.

The lofty mausoleum is located at the centre of the enclosure. It rises from a podium faced by a series of arched openings. The central octagonal chamber houses the cenotaph (false tomb) and is encompassed by chambers and arched lobbies with perforated screens. Each side of the chamber is dominated by three arches, the central one being the highest. This plan is repeated on the second storey. For the first time, double domes appeared in Indian architecture, the inner shell forming the vaulted ceiling to the tomb chambers and the outer shell creating a majestic external impact.

10. Lahori Darwaza

The famous Red Fort in Delhi is an imposing red sandstone structure built by Shahjahan in 1648 A.D. It has a magnificent entrance known as the Lahori Gate, which you see in the picture. This gate is believed to be facing the city of Lahore, now in Pakistan.

The Lahori Darwaza was situated at a point from where Emperor Shahjahan could get a full view of the famous bazar of Chandni Chowk, even as he sat on his throne at the Diwan-i-Am. However, Aurangzeb blocked the gate with a wall and made another gate on its right side. The Lahori Gate leads to a roofed passage with an arcaded shopping centre on either side called Meena Bazar. This was once the shopping centre for the women of the royal household.

The Lahori Darwaza has been tastefully designed. The chhatris on the superstructure are very impressive. Its ornamentation which is largely structural is extremely pleasing. The ramparts above the Lahori Gate are now used for the flag hoisting ceremony on Independence Day, every year.

Besides the main Lahori Gate, the fort has another imposing, three-storeyed gateway called the Delhi Gate. Flanked by semi-octagonal towers consisting of several apartments, the Delhi Gate has two elephant statues on the outside.

11. Diwan-i-Am

Diwan-i-Am is said to have been utilised as the 'hall of public audiences', by Emperor Shahjahan, to hear complaints and disputes of his subjects. Diwan-i-Am is known for its intricate carvings. It is built on a raised plinth and is open on three sides.

The Emperor's throne is placed at the raised recess of the back wall. The throne platform is marble panelled which was engraved with precious stones. In 1739 A.D., these precious stones were removed by Nadir Shah and later rulers. Lord Curzon, however, is said to have restored back much of its grandeur. The hall has a flat
roof raised on sandstone arches. Under the marble canopy on the
rear side stood the Emperor's throne from where he received the
general public.

The walls of the canopied hall are panelled with multicolored stone
inlay work depicting flowers and birds. On the ceiling of the central
panel can be seen the figure of the Greek God Orpheus with its
flute. Till this day, the Diwan-i-Am bears standing testimony to the
rich blend of Mughal and Hindu architecture in India.

12. Diwan-i-Khas

The luxurious royal chamber where Emperor Shahjahan gave
private audience to a selected set of courtiers and visitors, at the
Red Fort is well-known as Diwan-i-Khas.

The hall is exclusive and stands out of all the pavilions in the
palace. The large rectangular hall measures 27.4 m by 20.4 m and
is built entirely of white marble. It has elegant open arches on three
sides. The fourth side has window openings in between jali wall
panels. There is also a central chamber surrounded by aisles of
arches rising from piers. The lower parts of the piers are inlaid with
floral designs while the upper portions are gilded and painted. Four
pilarred chhatris decorate the ceiling of the Diwan-i-Khas.

The hall was renowned for the magnificent Peacock throne which
stood over the marble pedestal at the centre. The throne made of solid
gold was engraved with peacock figures shimmering with countless
precious stones. In between the peacock figures was a pumice carved
out of a single emerald. The stone studded master-piece was, however,
taken to Iran by Nadir Shah in 1739 A.D. The royal palace also had the
Nahiri-Bhishit—flowing through the central parts.

13. Jama Masjid

The largest mosque in India, Jama Masjid was the last of the
buildings constructed by Emperor Shahjahan in the mid 17th century
A.D. Built in a course of six years, by about 5,000 workmen, this
ancient place of worship has a vast courtyard of 400 sq. m. which
is reached by a flight of stairs. The gallery within the east gateway
was once reserved for royalty. Below, the square sandstone slabs
were meant for the commoners. The courtyard in the mosque is
enclosed by pillared corridors with domed pavilions at the corner.
The rectangular prayer-hall on the west measures 8.1 m by 27.5 m,
enclosed by 11 engraved arches. Inscriptional panels in white and
black marble run above the arches.

The two minars at the corners of the facade are 130 feet high.
The hall is surmounted by three shapely domes decorated with
alternate stripes of black and white marble—a new feature of
Shahjahan’s architecture. Mass prayers are held here on Muslim
religious occasions.

14. Rashtrapati Bhawan

Rashtrapati Bhawan is the official residence of the President
of India. It was designed by the two famous British architects, Edwin
Lutyens and Herbert Baker. This impressive building is known for its
imposing size and aesthetic use of 330 acres of land. It is essentially
built in neo-Roman style but incorporates Indian elements like
Buddhist railings, Islamic pavilions and Hindu brackets. Built on the
Raisina Hill, the Bhawan was first occupied in 1929 A.D.

The Rashtrapati Bhawan can be entered from the east gate by a
wide flight of steps leading to the porch. The magnificent Darbar Hall has a spectacular dome, the replica of a Buddhist stupa. It
has stately courts and spacious state rooms. The Darbar Hall and the Ashoka Hall have been the venues of many assemblies and
ceremonies of national and international significance. The entire
complex contains 340 rooms.

Outside the Rashtrapati Bhawan gates, stands the famous Jaipur
column—a stone pillar installed by Maharaja of Jaipur. The famous
Mughal Garden in the premises of the Rashtrapati Bhawan is known
for its collection of unique flowers, plants and trees.

15. India Gate

From the Secretariat complex, one can see the tall arched monument of the India Gate. This 42 m high buff coloured stone structure is the
All India War Memorial, popularly known as India Gate. It is raised
in the memory of 70,000 soldiers of the Indian army who died in
World War I. The Duke of Connaught laid the foundation stone of the
archway on February 10, 1921.

The names of the martyrs are inscribed on the stones of the arched
gateway for the entire world to see and remember the noble souls
who laid down their lives so that others may live.

The gateway has a flight of stairs that leads up to the roof top. It was
once used as the vantage point by visitors and photographers. Of
late, however, the steps are closed to the public.

At the centre of the open gateway, burns the eternal flame of
‘Amar Jawan Jyoti’. An inverted rifle with a helmet placed on the
butt, symbolising a memorial to the imperial soldier, stands under the
arch.

16. Jantar Mantar

On the Parliament Street towards Connaught Place, a collection of
pink coloured structures comprises one of Maharaja Jai Singh II’s observatories. Jai Singh’s passion for astronomy was even
more notable than his prowess as a warrior. Before commencing
construction, he sent scholars abroad to study foreign observatories.
He constructed this observatory in 1725 A.D., it is dominated by a
huge sun dial known as the “Prize of Diols”.

At the first glance, Jantar Mantar appears to be just a curious
collection of structures but, in fact, each construction has a specific
purpose, such as measuring the position of stars, altitudes and
azimuths, or calculating eclipses. Other observatories built by Jai
Singh are at Jaipur, Varanasi and Ujain. The fifth one, Mathura
observatory, has now disappeared.

17. Parliament House

One of the most impressive buildings in the heart of the capital is the
circular colonnaded building which houses the Indian Parliament. Designed by Edwin Lutyens and built in 1927 A.D. on the picturesqu
complex near the Secretariat, on Parliament Street, the Parliament House (Sansad Bhawan) is 171 m wide in diameter.

The outer corridor that runs all around the magnificent sandstone structure is enclosed by round stone pillars. The three-storied building which houses the Legislative Council comprises two
houses of Parliament.

Inside, the interiors are well laid out. There is a large Central Hall which is surmounted by an intricately carved dome on the roof top. The three large halls surrounding the Central Hall house the Lok
Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Parliament Library. The space adjacent to these halls is decorated with fountains and gardens that
add to the grandeur of the building.

There are approximately 500 rooms in the Parliament House housing the Parliament secretariat, office of the Prime Minister, banks, a post-office, railway reservation counters, etc.

The National Flag flies majestically on the buildings signifying the glory of the Indian democracy which has a government of the
people, for the people and by the people.

18. Connaught Place

The vast shopping centre, the Connaught Place, was built during the
British Raj, by the Viceroy, to cater to the needs of the sophisticated
class. It is named after the visit of the Duke of Connaught to India
in 1921 A.D.

The circular formation of buildings in white and the rounded pillars,
enclosing a spacious verandah, was conceived by Sir Edwin Lutyens in keeping with the architectural harmony of Rashtrapati
Bhawan and India Gate. The elite shopping centre comprised six
blocks in the inner circle called Connaught Place and six blocks in the outer circle known as Connaught Circus. Both circles have
colonnaded corridors.

The massive project built over a period of 10 years was designed and built by Farbuz Sabnha, a Bahai architect.

22. The Cathedral Church

In the heart of the Capital is the imposing structure of the Cathedral Church of the Redemption which has a 63 year old history.

The idea of building the church took its birth when Rev. T.R. Dixon
came to serve as Chaplain to the newly proclaimed capital of India.

The magnificent structure which looks like a half open lotus bud—
the symbol of worship, creation, beauty and purity—has its nine
interior petals in glistening white marble. The nine outer leaves form
a canopy over the nine wooden panelled entrances to the temple. The
smooth white marble flooring inside the auditorium creates a
beautiful atmosphere where the people from all faiths can pray in
silence. Around the temple are walkways and stairs which surround
the nine pools, representing the floating leaves of the lotus. The
pools of water help in cooling the building.

The marble quarried from Mt. Pantliikon mines in Greece was sent
to Italy where each panel was computer cut to the requisite size and
shaped before being transported to Delhi.

Today, a whole range of shops surrounding the temple have marred its original architectural beauty. The weekly mela held at the temple
can be entered from the east gate by a wide flight of steps leading to the porch. The magnificent Darbar Hall has a spectacular dome, the replica of a Buddhist stupa. It
has stately courts and spacious state rooms. The Darbar Hall and the Ashoka Hall have been the venues of many assemblies and
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column—a stone pillar installed by Maharaja of Jaipur. The famous
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for its collection of unique flowers, plants and trees.

19. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib

Built on a sprawling area near Gol Dak Khana, Gurudwara Bangla
Sahib, is among the renowned Sikh places of worship in Delhi. The
stately building in white marble presents a unique blend of Muslim and Indian architectural forms. The front wall, decorated
with balconied projections, have several surmounting domes. The
central dome which has an impressive golden covering makes the
Gurudwara one of the spectacular monuments in the Capital.

History records that the 17th century Gurudwara was once the
Bangla of Raja Jaisingh who was without an heir. He invited Guru
Harkrishan, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs to his Bangla. The Guru
visited the Raja in a crucial period when Delhi was under the grip of
an epidemic of smallpox. The Guru found a cure for the disease by
digging a pool, believed to have been the source of sacred waters
that can cure people from smallpox.

The sacred amrit sarovar in Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, is, till this
day, known for its magical powers in curing a number of diseases.

20. Hanuman Mandir

This sacred Hindu temple stands alongside the Capital’s
capping shopping complex of Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Said to have been built in the Mughal period, during the reign of
Raja Jai Singh, the Hanuman Mandir has its interiors made of smooth white marble. The exteriors were renovated in the year
1954 A.D. The interior walls are partly covered with silver. The
other idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita are also covered with
silver ornamentation.

The awe-inspiring idol of the chief God Hanuman, is believed to have been found during the medieval period. The surging crowds
that pour into the temple, do so under a popular religious theory
which classifies the temple as a Siddha Peeth (a place of fulfilment of wishes).

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Interestingly, there goes a belief that if one secretly wishes for something after encircling his arms, around the pillar (with his back to the pillar) his wish will be fulfilled.
2. Qutub Minar

The Qutub Minar is an outstanding landmark in India’s architectural achievements. Undoubtedly, it is one of the most impressive monuments in the country. Dominating the skyline at a height of 72.5 m, this elegantly circular, sandstone structure has a base of 13.75 m diameter which tapers to a mere 2.75 m at the apex.

The origin of the imposing Minar can be traced to the end of the 12th century when Qutub-ud-Din conceived it as a part of the Qutub Mosque scheme. However, it was eventually completed by his son-in-law and successor Ilutmish. The highest stone tower in India till today, the Qutub Minar also served as the Minar of the mosque from where the Muezzin made his daily call to the worshippers to come to pray. The word, ‘Qutub’ signifies a pole, the very pivot of justice and sovereignty.

As originally completed the Qutub comprised four storeys but today it has five storeys, the first three in red sandstone and others in marble and sandstone, with each storey clearly distinguishable from outside by decorative balconies. The first three storeys are each designed on a different plan. The fourth storey is simply round. The uppermost storey which was damaged in 1368 A.D. during Firoz Shah’s reign, was replaced by him by two storeys made of marble and sandstone.
3. Alai Darwaza, Qutub Complex

Built around 1305 A.D. the Alai-Darwaza was undertaken as part of the building project of Alaud-Din-Khalji—the third in line in the dynasty of Afghan Turks from the village of Khalji—who ascended the throne of Delhi in 1296 A.D. The sandstone gateway was erected to serve as the southern entrance to the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. The planning of the gateway is a square measuring 35 feet internally and 55 feet externally. The height of the walls is 47 feet from the floor to the ceiling having a thickness of 11 feet.

The stately entrance to the courtyard of the age-old mosque has suffered little damage in the last six centuries. The gatehouse has a main central hall—a cubical structure of 16.76 m side with a 18.28 m high dome. In the middle of each side is a doorway flanked by a perforated stone window. Each doorway opens into a single inner room with a domed ceiling. The distinctive surface design and the original conception of the dome of the Alai Darwaza (gateway of Alaud-Din) are its unique features.

The sandstone gateway is the first building of its kind to be found in India employing Islamic principles of construction and ornamentation.
4. Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq

Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq Shah, was a Turk nobleman who succeeded the Khaljis in 1321 A.D. The ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, a keen architect, he added a new capital city in Delhi. The fortified town of Tughlaqabad, with high bastions and 13 gateways, the third city of Delhi, was the creative genius of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq.

Across the main entrance to the south of the octagonal fort is the red sandstone tomb of Ghiyas-ud-Din himself. The most striking part of its composition is the determined slope of the outer walls, as these are inclined at an angle of seventy-five degrees, suggesting the converging sides of a pyramid. Its square base is sixty-one feet wide and the entire height of the structure, including its sandstone finial, is over eighty feet. A restrained use of marble on the walls of the self-built tomb gives this fortress like structure a distinguished look.

A white marble dome with a circular sandstone marks the crowning glory of this exquisite tomb. Originally, the tomb was built within a vast artificial reservoir of rain water and was also connected to Tughlaqabad by a cause-way. The Qutub-Badarpur road now runs through the cause-way.
5. Firoz Shah Kotla

Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who succeeded Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq constructed the fifth medieval city of Delhi called Firozabad on the right bank of the river Yamuna in 1354 A.D.

The principal ruins of this once populous city extended from Hauz Khas in the south, to the ridge in the north and the river Yamuna in the east. One of the principal ruins of this period is the Kushik-I-Firoz or palace of Firoz on the banks of river Yamuna. The most distinctive feature of this palace is a monolithic tapering column of polished sandstone from the 3rd century B.C. This structure known as the Ashoka Column was brought by Firoz Shah from Ambala to grace his newly built palace. It is the second column of Ashoka measuring 13.1 m in height.

The massive thick walls of the fort were built with closely packed blocks of stones joint together with mortar, the rough walls were coated with plaster or covered by a layer of polished stone to give its wall a smooth finish.
6. Bara Gumbad, Lodi Garden

Islamic gardens and courtyards have a special charm and attraction of their own. The establishment of a garden meant an opportunity to reveal the essence of a site. In Islamic literature, both in poetry and prose, the garden is lavishly praised and compared to the garden of Paradise.

In the Lodi Gardens, also known as Lady Wellington Park, there are four buildings of historical importance. The tomb of Mohammad Shah Saiyyed, Bara Gumbad, Shish Gumbad and the tomb of Sikandar Lodi. Built towards the close of the 15th century A.D. during the reign of Sikandar Lodi, the mosque occupies a significant place in the development of Indo-Islamic architecture. Bara Gumbad is the earliest among mosque building attached to some of the tombs. (It has the distinction of possessing the finest plaster work that survives in India today). On the outer walls of the prayer hall, we can see elaborate scrolls, decorations and inscriptions in Arabic. Beautiful coloured tile work is one of the notable features of the mosque. Five wide open arches with a flat top add an innovative touch to the mosque.
7. Purana Quila Gate

In a sad state of ruins today, this southern entrance to the Purana Quila bears evidence to the elegant architectural style of the Mughals. The gate is flanked by the remains of two huge circular towers with window openings. The arched roof of the gate is covered by an open pedestal with two chhatris on either side, made of black and red stone. Humayun is believed to have rebuilt the city at the present site of the Purana Quila, which came to be known as Din Panah. Later, Sher Shah Suri who defeated Humayun, completed the fort during his rule from 1538-1545 A.D., before Humayun once again regained his throne in 1555 A.D.

The two white elephant sculptures engraved on the high gate walls may have been inspired by Hindu architectural styles, though buildings of Humayun's period are basically Persian in concept.
8. शेर मंडल

यह अद्भुतकारिता तथा लाल बलुआ पत्थर से बना भवन दिल्ली त्यत पुराने किले के दक्षिण की तरफ दरवाजे के अंदर स्थित है। भारत में मुगल काल के दौरान एक शांत शासक शेरशाह सुरी ने इसे बनवाया था। पुराने किले का स्थान दिल्ली का मूल नगर इंद्रप्रस्थ माना जाता है।

शेरशाह सुरी ने संभवतः सीताधर्मी सतारों में हमारे को हवाने के बाद पुराने किले के अंदर इस इमारत को बनवाया था। शेरशाह के पांच साल के शासन में देश में काफी सरकारी और प्रशासनिक सुधार हुआ था। उसका खजाना और सरकारी मालिकोंरी सब बुराने किले में स्थित था।

किले की शीर्षें अत्यंत विशाल हैं तथा लाल पत्थर से निर्मित तीन बड़े दरवाजे को सफेद समग्री के जड़क कार्य तथा रंगन पत्थरों के समतल दुकड़न से सजाया गया है। इन दरवाजों को विनाय का भवन निर्माण की प्रकारण अलंकरण रूपालिका को शुरू करने की। यह उस काल की कला व अवकाश का एक विनिर्माण था।

ऐसा विश्वास किया जाता है कि बाद में हमारे ने शेर मंडल का इस्माइल एक पुस्तकालय के रूप में किया था।

इतिहास में यह भी वर्णित है कि इस इमारत की सीताधर्मी में फिसलकर हमारे की मृत्यु हो गई थी।

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8. Sher Mandal

The octagonal red sandstone tower of Sher Mandal stands at the entrance of the southern part of the famous Purana Quila in New Delhi. Built by Sher Shah, one of the most able rulers of India during the Mughal period, the location of Purana Quila is supposed to be the site of Indraprastha—the original city of Delhi.

Sher Shah built part of the old fort in the 16th century A.D. after defeating Humayun. During Sher Shah's five year reign, there was much improvement in the Government and administrative system of the country. His residence, treasury and seat of government were all located in the Purana Quila.

The fort has massive walls and three large sandstone gateways decorated with white marble inlay and coloured tiles. The design of these gateways formed the beginning of a more artistic ornamental type of building construction—an important architectural development of the times.

The Sher Mandal is later believed to have been used by Humayun as his library. History also records that the Mughal king fell to his death from the stairs of this very building.
9. Humayun’s Tomb

Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor to rule India in the 16th century A.D. The lofty tomb of Humayun you see in the picture was built by Bega Begam, Humayun’s widow, (popularly known as Haji Begum), eight years after his death.

Standing on the capital’s famous Mathura road, the Humayun’s Tomb offers the first indications of the development of the art of stone inlay which culminated nearly a century later in the exquisite decorations of the Taj Mahal at Agra.

The lofty mausoleum is located at the centre of the enclosure. It rises from a podium faced by a series of arched openings. The central octagonal chamber houses the cenotaph (false tomb) and is encompassed by chambers and arched lobbies with perforated screens. Each side of the chamber is dominated by three arches, the central one being the highest. This plan is repeated on the second storey. For the first time, double domes appear in Indian architecture, the inner shell forming the vaulted ceiling to the tomb chambers and the outer shell creating a majestic external impact.
10. Lahori Darwaza

The famous Red Fort in Delhi is an imposing red sandstone structure built by Shahjahan in 1648 A.D. It has a magnificent entrance known as the Lahori Gate, which you see in the picture. This gate is believed to be facing the city of Lahore, now in Pakistan.

The Lahori Darwaza was situated at a point from where Emperor Shahjahan could get a full view of the famous bazar of Chandni Chowk, even as he sat on his throne at the Diwan-i-Am. However, Aurangzeb blocked the gate with a wall and made another gate on its right side. The Lahori Gate leads to a roofed passage with an arcaded shopping centre on either side called Meena Bazar. This was once the shopping centre for the women of the royal household.

The Lahori Darwaza has been tastefully designed. The chhatris on the superstructure are very impressive. Its ornamentation which is largely structural is extremely pleasing. The ramparts above the Lahori Gate are now used for the flag hoisting ceremony on Independence Day, every year.

Besides the main Lahori Gate, the fort has another imposing, three-storeyed gateway called the Delhi Gate. Flanked by semi-octagonal towers consisting of several apartments, the Delhi Gate has two elephant statues on the outside.
11. Diwan-i-Am

Diwan-i-Am is said to have been utilised as the 'hall of public audiences', by Emperor Shahjahan, to hear complaints and disputes of his subjects. Diwan-i-Am is known for its intricate carvings. It is built on a raised plinth and is open on three sides.

The Emperor's throne is placed at the raised recess of the back wall. The throne platform is marble panelled which was engraved with precious stones. In 1739 A.D., these precious stones were removed by Nadir Shah and later rulers. Lord Curzon, however, is said to have restored back much of its grandeur. The hall has a flat roof raised on sandstone arches. Under the marble canopy on the rear side stood the Emperor's throne from where he received the general public.

The walls of the canopied hall are panelled with multicoloured stone inlay work depicting flowers and birds. On the ceiling of the central panel can be seen the figure of the Greek God Orpheus with his flute. Till this day, the Diwan-i-Am bears standing testimony to the rich blend of Mughal and Hindu architecture in India.
12. Diwan-i-Khas

The luxurious royal chamber where Emperor Shahjahan gave private audience to a selected set of courtiers and visitors, at the Red Fort is well-known as Diwan-i-Khas.

The hall is exclusive and stands out of all the pavilions in the palace. The large rectangular hall measures 27.4 m by 20.4 m and is built entirely of white marble. It has elegant open arches on three sides. The fourth side has window openings in between jali wall panels. There is also a central chamber surrounded by aisles of arches rising from piers. The lower parts of the piers are inlaid with floral designs while the upper portions are gilded and painted. Four pillared chhatris decorate the ceiling of the Diwan-i-Khas.

The hall was renowned for the magnificent Peacock throne which stood over the marble pedestal at the centre. The throne made of solid gold was engraved with peacock figurines shimmering with countless precious stones. In between the peacock figures was a parrot carved out of a single emerald. The stone studded master-piece was, however, removed to Iran by Nadir Shah in 1739 A.D. The royal palace also had the Nahir-i-Bihist—flowing through the central parts.
13. Jama Masjid

The largest mosque in India, Jama Masjid was the last of the buildings constructed by Emperor Shahjahan in the mid 16th century A.D. Built in a course of six years, by about 5,000 workmen, this ancient place of worship has a vast courtyard of 400 sq. m. which is reached by a flight of stairs. The gallery within the east gateway was once reserved for royalty. Below, the square sandstone slabs were meant for the commoners. The courtyard in the mosque is enclosed by pillared corridors with domed pavilions at the corner. The rectangular prayer-hall on the west measures 6.1 m by 27.5 m, enclosed by 11 engraved arches. Inscriptional panels in white and black marble run above the arches.

The two minars at the corners of the facade are 130 feet high.

The hall is surmounted by three shapely domes decorated with alternate stripes of black and white marble—a new feature of Shahjahan’s architecture. Mass prayers are held here on Muslim religious occasions.
14. Rashtrapati Bhawan

Rashtrapati Bhawan is the official residence of the President of India. It was designed by the two famous British architects, Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. This impressive building is known for its imposing size and aesthetic use of 330 acres of land. It is essentially built in neo-Roman style but incorporates Indian elements like Buddhist railings, Islamic pavilions and Hindu brackets. Built on the Raisina Hill, the Bhawan was first occupied in 1929 A.D.

The Rashtrapati Bhawan can be entered from the east gate by a wide flight of steps leading to the portico. The magnificent Darbar Hall has a spectacular dome, the replica of a Buddhist stupa. It has stately courts and spacious state rooms. The Darbar Hall and the Ashoka Hall have been the venues of many assemblies and ceremonies of national and international significance. The entire complex contains 340 rooms.

Outside the Rashtrapati Bhawan gates, stands the famous Jaipur column—a stone pillar installed by Maharaja of Jaipur. The famous Mughal Garden in the premises of the Rashtrapati Bhawan is known for its collection of unique flowers, plants and trees.
15. India Gate

From the Secretariat complex, one can see the tall arched monument of the India Gate. This 42 m high buff coloured stone structure is the All India War Memorial, popularly known as India Gate. It is raised in the memory of 70,000 soldiers of the Indian army who died in World War I. The Duke of Connaught laid the foundation stone of the archway on February 10, 1921.

The names of the martyrs are inscribed on the stones of the arched gateway for the entire world to see and remember the noble souls who laid down their lives so that others may live.

The gateway has a flight of stairs that leads up to the roof top. It was once used as the vantage point by visitors and photographers. Of late, however, the steps are closed to the public.

At the centre of the open gateway, burns the eternal flame of ‘Amar Jawan Jyoti’. An inverted rifle with a helmet placed on the butt, symbolising a memorial to the impartial soldier, stands under the arch.
16. Jantar Mantar

On the Parliament Street towards Connaught Place, a collection of pink coloured structures comprises one of Maharaja Jai Singh II's observatories. Jai Singh's passion for astronomy was even more notable than his prowess as a warrior. Before commencing construction, he sent scholars abroad to study foreign observatories. He constructed this observatory in 1725 A.D., it is dominated by a huge sun dial known as the "Prince of Dials".

At the first glance, Jantar Mantar appears to be just a curious collection of structures but, in fact, each construction has a specific purpose, such as measuring the position of stars, altitudes and azimuths, or calculating eclipses. Other observatories built by Jai Singh are at Jaipur, Varanasi and Ujjain. The fifth one, Mathura observatory, has now disappeared.
17. Parliament House

One of the most impressive buildings in the heart of the capital is the circular colonnaded building which houses the Indian Parliament. Designed by Edwin Lutyens and built in 1927 A.D. on the picturesque complex near the Secretariat, on Parliament Street, the Parliament House (Sansad Bhawan) is 171 m wide in diameter.

The outer corridor that runs all around the magnificent sandstone structure is enclosed by rounded stone pillars. The three-storeyed building which houses the Legislative Council comprises both houses of Parliament.

Inside, the interiors are well laid out. There is a large Central Hall which is surmounted by an intricately carved dome on the roof top. The three large halls surrounding the Central Hall house the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Parliament library. The space adjacent to these halls is decorated with fountains and gardens that add to the grandeur of the building.

There are approximately 500 rooms in the Parliament House housing the Parliament secretariat, office of the Prime Minister, banks, a post-office, railway reservation counters, etc.

The National Flag flies majestically on the buildings signifying the glory of the Indian democracy which has a government of the people, for the people and by the people.
18. Connaught Place

The vast shopping centre, the Connaught Place, was built during the British Raj, by the Viceroy, to cater to the needs of the sophisticated class. It is named after the visit of the Duke of Connaught to India in 1921 A.D.

The circular formation of buildings in white and the rounded pillars, enclosing a spacious verandah, was conceived by Sir Edwin Lutyens in keeping with the architectural harmony of Rashtrapati Bhawan and India Gate. The elite shopping centre comprised six blocks in the inner circle called Connaught Place and six blocks in the outer circle known as Connaught Circus. Both circles have colonnaded corridors.

In the mid-twenties, the American Express block, then known as Sujan Singh block, was constructed. Consequently in 1932 A.D., Scindia House, Janpath and the Regal building (built by Sobha Singh) came up.

The lotus shaped fountain at the centre, constructed in the sixties, adds to the beauty of the place. The underground shopping centre of Palika Bazar and the basement parking lot are recent attempts at modernising the older complex. Flanking the approach to Connaught Place from Janpath are the Eastern and Western Courts designed by Robert Tor Russell, a dignified pair of classical buildings with colonnaded Tuscan verandahs.
19. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib

Built on a sprawling area near Gol Dak Khana, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, is among the renowned Sikh places of worship in Delhi. The stately building in white marble presents a unique blend of Muslim and Indian architectural forms. The front wall, decorated with balconied projections, have several surmounting domes. The central dome which has an impressive golden covering, makes the Gurudwara one of the spectacular monuments in the Capital.

History records that the 17th century Gurudwara was once the Bangla of Raja Jaisingh who was without an heir. He invited Guru Harkrishan, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs to his Bangla. The Guru visited the Raja in a crucial period when Delhi was under the grip of an epidemic of small pox. The Guru found a cure for the disease by digging a pool, believed to have been the source of sacred waters that can cure people from small pox.

The sacred amrit sarovar in Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, is, till this day, known for its magical powers in curing a number of diseases.
20. हनुमान मंदिर

राजधानी के व्यक्ति वाषांतिक केन्द्र बाबा खारक सिंह भार्ग धरे यह पबन हिन्दू मंदिर स्थित है।
माना जाता है कि यह मंदिर 18वीं शताब्दी में राजा जयसिंह ने बनवाया था। मंदिर के अंदर का हिस्सा सफेद संगमरमर का बना हुआ है तथा प्रत्येक में आधी दीवार की ऊंचाई तक सुदूर चांदी की मूर्तियाँ बनी हुई हैं। सन् 1964 में इसके बाहर के हिस्से को मरम्मत की गयी थी। राम, लक्ष्मण और सीता की अन्य मूर्तियाँ भी चांदी से अलंकृत हैं।

प्रमुख भगवान हनुमान की अदेश पूजी के संबंध में यह माना जाता है कि भगवान हनुमान की विशाल मूर्ति मध्यकालीन है। मंदिर में उपजीत हुई थी इस लोकप्रिय धार्मिक धारणा को मानती है कि मंदिर "सिद्ध-पीठ" है (इस जगह पर सब को इच्छा पूर्ण होती है)। अब इसकी चारों तरफ की दुकानों ने इस मंदिर की मूलिक वास्तुकला की खूबसूरती को समाप्त कर दिया है। हर मंगलवार को इस मंदिर के आसपास सांपादिक बाजार लगाया है जिसमें बहुत ही भीड़ होती है।

20. Hanuman Mandir

This sacred Hindu temple stands alongside the Capital's buzzing shopping complex of Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Said to have been built in the Mughal period, during the reign of Raja Jai Singh, the Hanuman Mandir has its interiors made of smooth white marble. The exteriors were renovated in the year 1964 A.D. The interior walls are partly covered with silver. The other idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita are also covered with silver ornamentation.

The awe-inspiring idol of the chief God Hanuman, is believed to have been found during the medieval period. The surging crowds that pour into the temple, do so under a popular religious theory which classifies the temple as a Siddha Peeth (a place of fulfillment of wishes).

Today, a whole range of shops surrounding the temple have marred its original architectural beauty. The weekly mela held at the temple complex, every Tuesday of the week attracts large crowds.
21. The Baha'i House of Worship

The lotus shaped 'Mother Temple' of the Baha'is in South Delhi is a unique architectural wonder of the modern times. It is one of the seven Baha'i Houses of worship in the World.

The magnificent structure which looks like a half open lotus bud—the symbol of worship, creation, beauty and purity—has its nine exterior petals in glistening white marble. The nine outer leaves form a canopy over the nine wooden panelled entrances to the temple. The smooth white marble flooring inside the auditorium creates a beautiful atmosphere where the people from all faiths can pray in silence. Around the temple are walkways and stairs which surround the nine pools, representing the floating leaves of the lotus. The pools of water help in cooling the building.

The marble quarried from Mt. Pantilikon mines in Greece was sent to Italy where each panel was computer cut to the requisite size and shaped before being transported to Delhi.

The massive project built over a period of 10 years was designed and built by Fariburz Sahbha, a Baha'i architect.
22. The Cathedral Church

In the heart of the Capital is the imposing structure of the Cathedral Church of the Redemption which has a 63 year old history.

The idea of building the church took its birth when Rev. T.R. Dixon came to serve as Chaplain to the newly proclaimed capital of India. Architect H.A.N. Medd, in consultation with Sir Edwin Lutyens, the man who masterminded the planning of the city of New Delhi, prepared the plan for the church. With the coming of Lord Irwin as Viceroy the construction work was expedited and the foundation was laid on February 23, 1927, by the Viceroy himself. The Cathedral Church of the Redemption was finally opened for public worship on January 18, 1931.

The church building is built with white and red Dholpur stone. The porches and interiors are made of white stone, except for the arched ceiling. The Parish Hall of the church was opened by Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, as President of India, on December 15, 1965.