

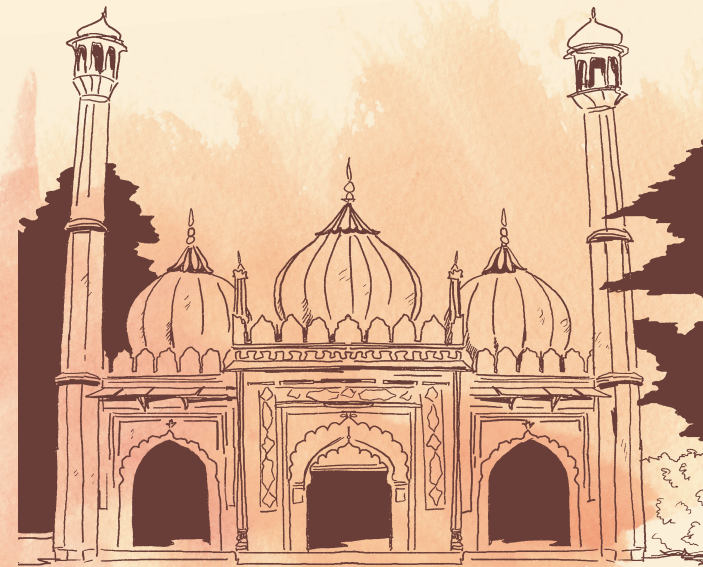
#### 4. JAIN TEMPLE AND SCHOOL

This is a large institutional building dating from the early 20th century. In plan it is a double storeyed structure built around a large courtyard.

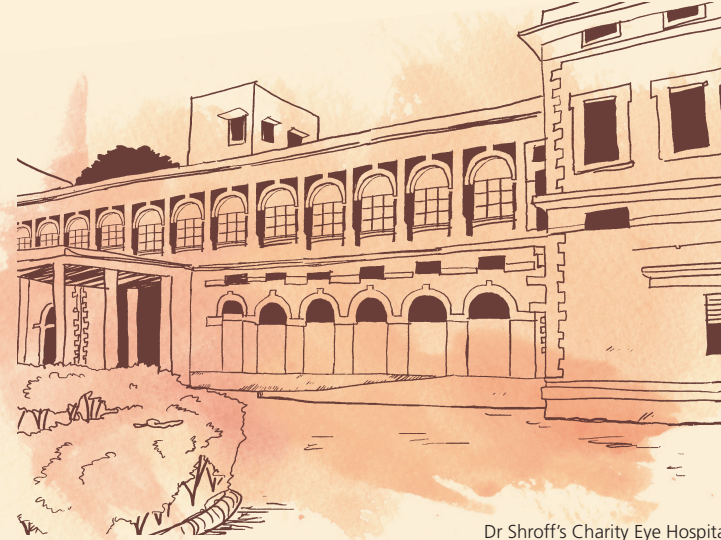
#### 5. SUNEHRI MASJID

One of three mosques called Sunehri Masjid, 'golden mosque', this small mosque stands near the Delhi gate of Red Fort. It was constructed in 1751 during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah. The persons responsible for its construction were Qudsia Begam, the mother of the emperor and the real power behind the throne; and her trusted courtier Javed Khan. This mosque was used mainly by the Mughal royal family, and after the suppression of the Revolt of 1857, passed into Army control, together with the Red Fort and the area around it.

The structure gets its name from the fact that originally its three domes were covered with copper gilt mounted on a wooden base. Since these had become much weathered and worn, Bahadur Shah II in 1852 had the domes repaired in sandstone instead.



Sunehri Masjid



Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

#### 6. DR SHROFF'S CHARITY EYE HOSPITAL

The building was completed in 1927, on land provided by the administration to a trust set up by Dr Sorabji P. Shroff in association with other prominent citizens of Delhi like Dr M.A. Ansari, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Lala Sultan Singh and Shri Pyare Lal. The building is double storeyed, with a portico and semi-circular arched openings. Timings: 8.30 am – 5.00 pm. Wheelchair access.



Commercial and Residential Buildings

#### 7. 20TH CENTURY COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Along Netaji Subhas Marg and on streets leading off it, are a few blocks of plastered brick buildings dating from the 1930s-40s. They have colonial features in their facades, with varying combinations of semi-circular arches, parapets, overhangs and columns.



Nearest metro Station: Kashmere gate & pragati maidan

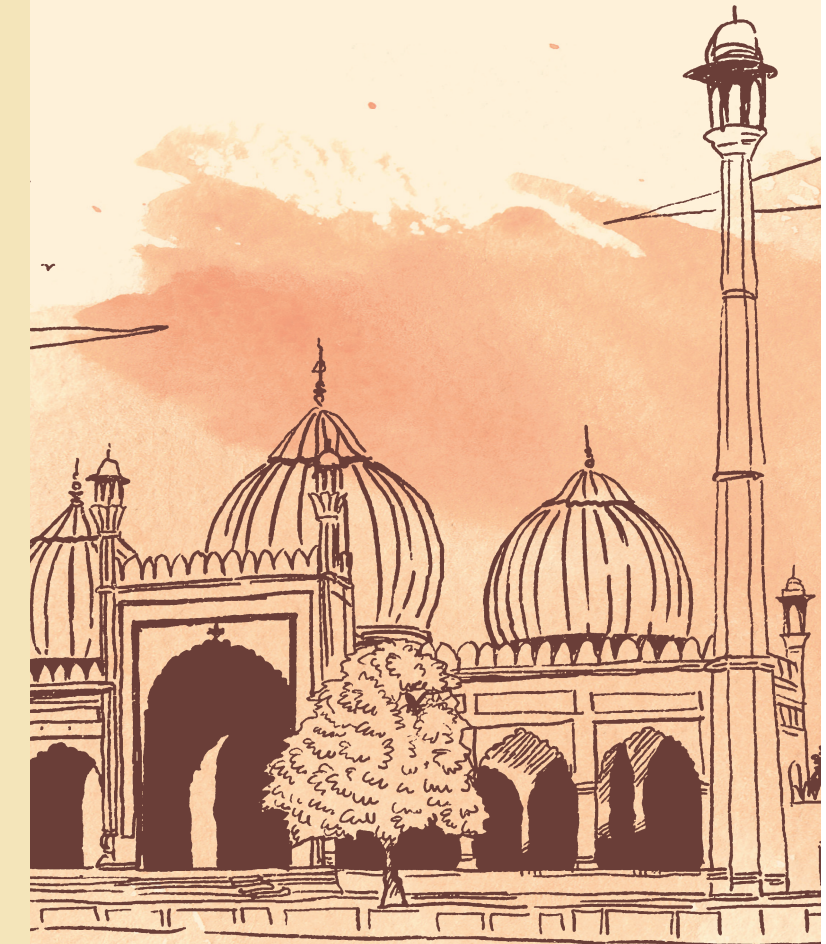
Nearest bus stop: Golcha Cinema

Bus route nos.: 026, 118, 246, 260, 301, 322, 347, 363, 403, 405, 409, 419, 423, 425, 429, 729, 784



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## a walk around DARYA GANJ & SUNEHRI MASJID



## 1. DELHI GATE

One of the original 13 gates of the city of Shahjahanabad, it was so named because it opened towards the older cities of Delhi. The gate is of dressed stone, grey Delhi quartzite and red sandstone, with battlements along the top and formidable bastions framing the central pointed arch opening that leads into the gate.

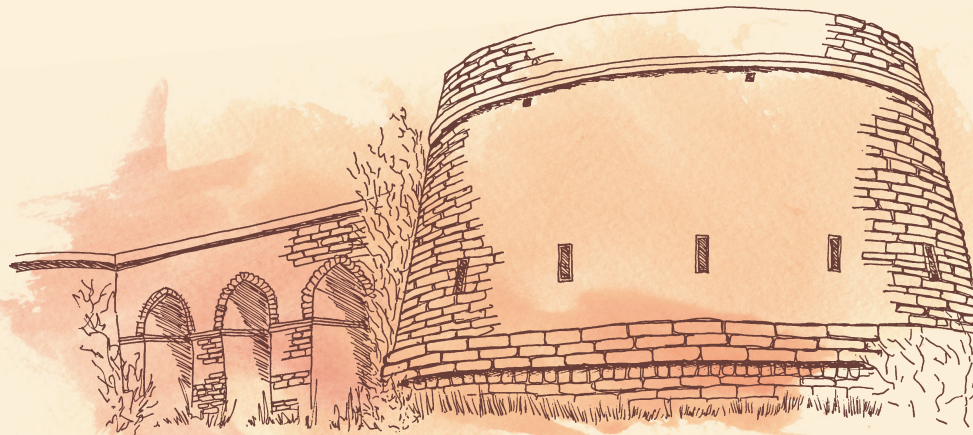


Delhi Gate

## 2. CITY FORTIFICATIONS

The section of the city wall along Ansari Road is one of the few intact portions of the wall that once linked the gates of the city. Originally built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in the 1650s, this part of the wall was strengthened and renovated by British engineers in the early 19th century. Arched *dalans* – shallow cell-like structures – stretch all along the lower half of the wall; the wall itself looms to a height of about 13m from the ground. It's good, solid rubble masonry, with arrow slits and battlements atop the ramparts. As you walk along beside the wall, you'll also see wide ramps, floored with thin Lakhori bricks,

reaching up from the ground to the top of the wall. These were used to haul up cannon that were mounted atop the wall. Half way down you'll see a more formidable bastion used to mount cannons: the Martello Tower. The tower is a tapering circular bastion, over 17m in diameter at its base and slightly higher than the wall leading up to it. Martello towers, built in large numbers by the British all over the world in the first half of the 19th century, were free-standing towers usually built along coastlines as defensive structures. The Martello towers along the Shahjahanabad city wall are a departure from the norm, as they are built as adjuncts to the wall, and are of course not located on a coast.



Martello towers

The name Daryaganj (Darya – river; ganj – wholesale market) suggests that this was originally a wholesale mart for grains and other bulk goods that came to Delhi on the river Yamuna, which flowed just below the city walls on the east. On the west, Daryaganj was bounded by a prominent market street – Faiz Bazar – which had shady trees and a central stream of running water. Though in later centuries this area came to be quite densely populated, the Revolt of 1857 had a catastrophic impact on this locality. Much of the British and Eurasian population, concentrated in this area, became victims of the revolt. Later, when the British recaptured the city, many of the stately homes belonging to Indian nobles were confiscated. Much of the subsequent redevelopment of the area took place in the early 20th century, and there are many interesting buildings representative of the 1920s-40s, besides its older structures.



## 3. ZEENAT-UL-MASAJID

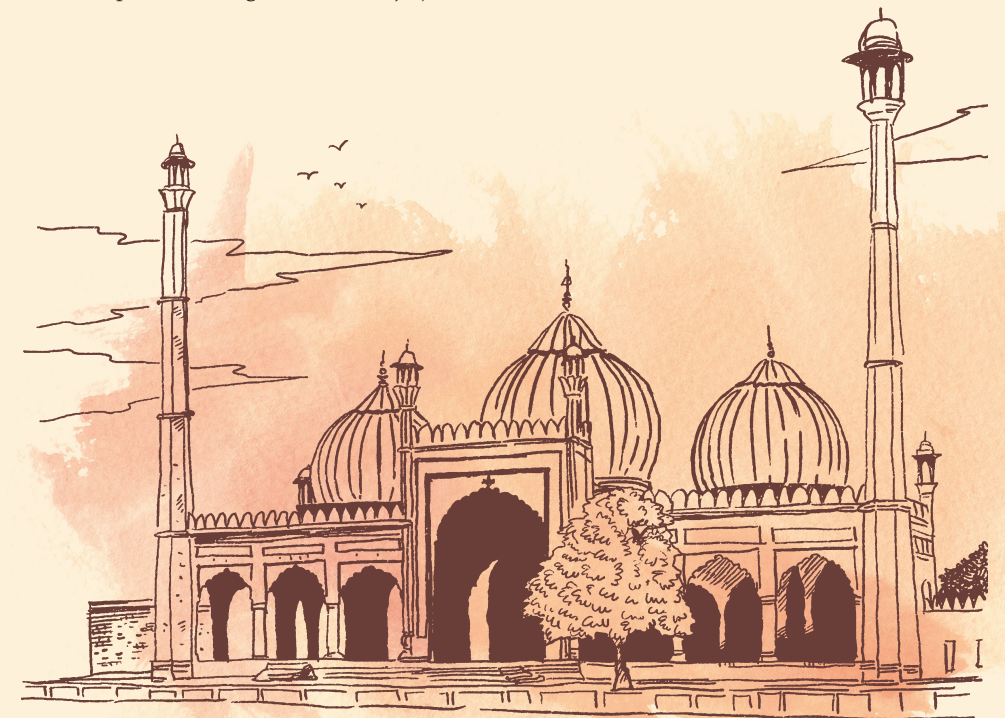
The formal name of this mosque literally means 'Ornament of mosques', but it is also known as the Ghata Masjid ('cloud mosque'). It was built quite close to the city wall, near the gate known as Khairati Ghat Darwaza or Masjid Ghat Darwaza. This also suggests that the name 'Ghata' could be derived from the nearby ghat – steps leading down to the water.

This striking mosque was commissioned by Zeenat-un-nissa Begum, the daughter of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, in 1707. According to one early twentieth century book in Urdu, within Shahjahanabad this mosque was next in importance only to the Jama Masjid. It was also one of the first buildings that came into view when the city was approached from the river.

Its generally recognized importance was probably the reason why after the suppression of the Revolt of 1857, the British administration confiscated it as a punitive measure (just as it did other mosques including the Jama Masjid). The

tomb of Zeenat-un-Nissa, which was within the Zeenat-ul-Masajid complex, to the north, was destroyed. The building was then also turned into a commissariat bakery. By 1875, the bakery had been moved out, but as late as 1929, visitors were reporting that the grounds of the mosque were being used for purposes as varied as a stable for *tongas* (horse-drawn carriages), an arena for wrestlers, and a tennis court.

A flight of steps leads up from the road to the main courtyard in front of the mosque. The seven-arched façade of the mosque is of red sandstone, topped off with three bulbous domes in stripes of white and black marble. The minarets at either end of the mosque are mainly red sandstone, and the decoration throughout is fairly minimal: shallow carved niches, fluted columns with bulbous bases, and some squinches are about all you'll see. The ceiling of the mosque inside the central arch has a carved circular pattern. In front of the main court is a large tank, originally meant to provide water for ritual ablutions.



Zeenat-ul-Masajid