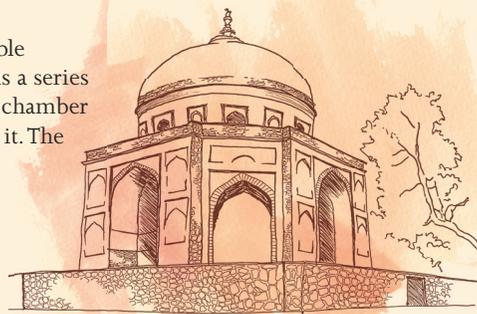




### 8. SUNDARWALA MAHAL

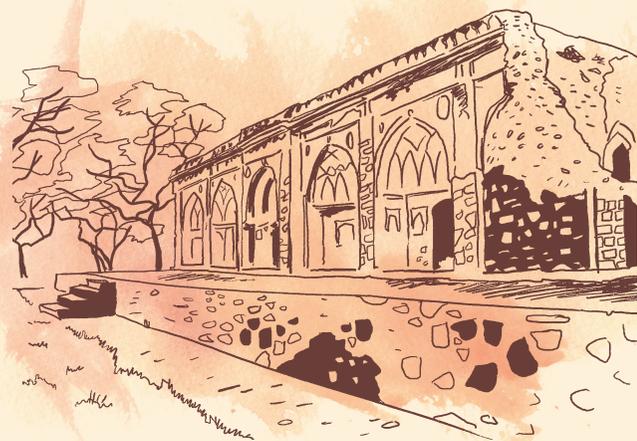
Sundarwala Mahal is a fairly plain structure of rough rubble masonry, in the form of an oblong octagon. The interior is a series of dark interconnected verandahs that surround a central chamber with a vaulted *tekhana* (an underground chamber) under it. The roof would once have been topped by another structure.



Nila Gumbad

### 9. BARA BATASHEWALA MAHAL

Now located within the Bharat Scouts and Guides complex (Bharatiyam), the Bara Batashewala Mahal (constructed in 1603-4) is the tomb of Mirza Muzaffar Husain, the great-nephew of Humayun. It is four-sided and stands on a high platform. Beautifully painted plaster forms the main decorative feature.



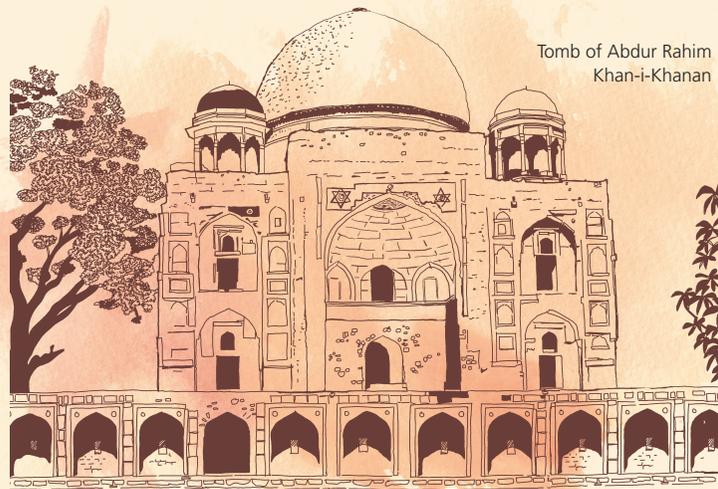
Bara Batashewala Mahal

### 10. CHHOTA BATASHEWALA MAHAL

The Chhota Batashewala Mahal is an unknown person's tomb dating back to the early Mughal period.

### 11. TOMB

Located in the green area north of the Humayun's Tomb complex, towards Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, this square tomb is of an unidentified person of the early Mughal period. The notable ornamentation is on the inside – Quranic verses are incised in plaster in a broad strip above the dado, and in the centre of the ceiling is a very fine circular design painted in deep blue and red.



Tomb of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan

### 12. NILA GUMBAD

Located just outside the eastern wall of Humayun's Tomb Complex, the Nila Gumbad (literally, 'blue dome'), is the tomb of Fahim Khan. He was the loyal attendant of Akbar's general, Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, who built the tomb in 1624-5. The seriously damaged but still striking glazed tile and painted brickwork pattern of the exterior is noteworthy. The interior decoration consists of incised plaster and boldly painted net vaulting.

### 13. TOMB OF ABDUR RAHIM KHAN-I-KHANAN

Located off the main road to the south of Humayun's Tomb complex, this is the tomb of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, the son of Akbar's regent Bairam Khan. Rahim was not only an accomplished general who reached great heights at Akbar's court, but a great scholar and poet. He is counted among the great poets of Medieval India, and his poetry in the Braj language is still part of the required reading for Hindi language courses.

The square tomb, built in 1626-7, stands on a high platform with arched cells, on either side of which are medallion carved in a variety of motifs - floral and geometric designs, the name of Allah, and even a stylized peacock. Inside the tomb chamber, remains of very finely incised and polished plaster are the main decorative feature. The platform on which the tomb sits has remains of water tanks and channels.

The dome and arches of the exterior were stripped of their marble in the first half of the 18th century, to furnish the tomb of Safdarjang.



Nearest metro station: Pragati maidan

Nearest bus stop: D.P.S school

Bus route nos.: 042, 101, 156, 323, 402, 403, 405, 409, 411, 426, 429, 436, 438, 447, 453, 454, 457, 458, 459

Other places of interest: Nizamuddin



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# a walk around HUMAYUN'S TOMB





Mosque of Isa Khan

### 1. MOSQUE AND TOMB OF ISA KHAN

The mosque and octagonal tomb of Isa Khan Niyazi, a nobleman from the court of Sher Shah Sur, were built in 1547-8. In style these buildings are very different from Humayun's Tomb, built mainly of grey quartzite with some sandstone, with incised and painted plaster and ceramic tile ornamentation. A mosque, also beautifully decorated with tiles, is built to the west of the tomb.

### 2 ARAB SARAI

Hamida Banu Begum is supposed to have built this enclosure in 1560-1, supposedly for some 300 Arabs whom she brought back to India from Mecca. The other belief is that the Arab Sarai was built as housing for the Persian artisans who were working on Humayun's Tomb. Not much remains within the enclosure but the gates are interesting. The northern gate, 14m in height, is made of grey Delhi quartzite and red sandstone, embellished with an inlay of white marble. At the other end of the enclosure are an old *baoli* or stepwell and the remains of an old *bazaar* – made of rubble masonry, now in ruins. At the other end of this enclosure is also the east gate, built during the reign of Jahangir by one Mihr Bano. It is decorated in blue, yellow and green glazed tiles, with traces of painted plaster.



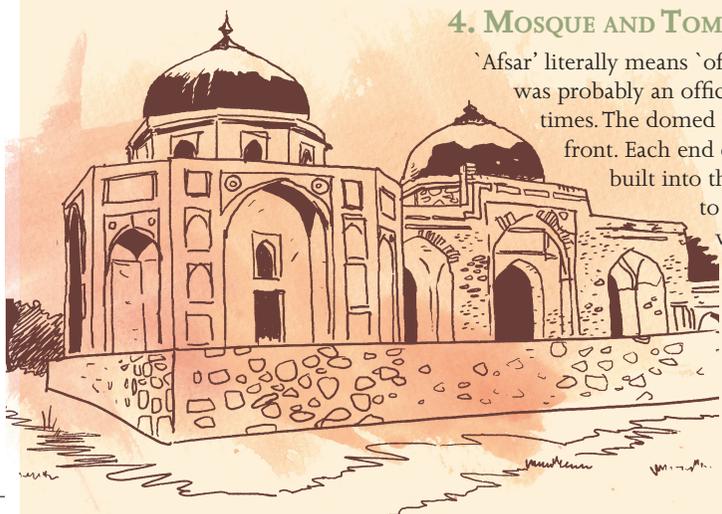
Arab Sarai

### 3. GARDEN AND TOMB OF BU HALIMA

The grave platform is in a ruined state, but the gate is still largely intact. Its façade is angled back on both sides and has a recessed arch in the centre. The ornamentation on the gate is exceptionally beautiful - ornate domed canopies and bright blue, green and yellow tile-work.

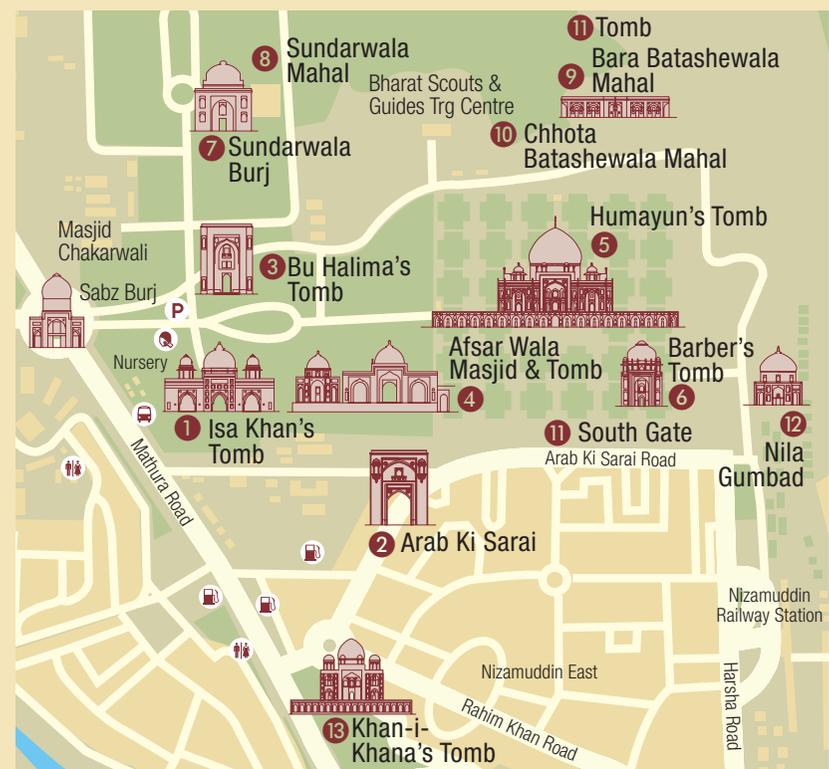
### 4. MOSQUE AND TOMB OF AFSARWALA

'Afsar' literally means 'officer', so the un-named man buried was probably an officer of some standing in early Mughal times. The domed mosque has three arches along the front. Each end of the façade has a narrow staircase built into the thick outer wall. The tomb adjacent to the mosque is in the shape of a square with the four corners lopped off. The exterior is sparingly decorated with inlays of black and white marble on a background of red sandstone.



Mosque and Tomb of Afsarwala

Humayun's Tomb and its surrounding monuments form a vast complex, with 30 acres of gardens surrounding the central platform on which Humayun's tomb stands. Other than Humayun's Tomb, there are a number of other structures within the enclosure and immediately outside.

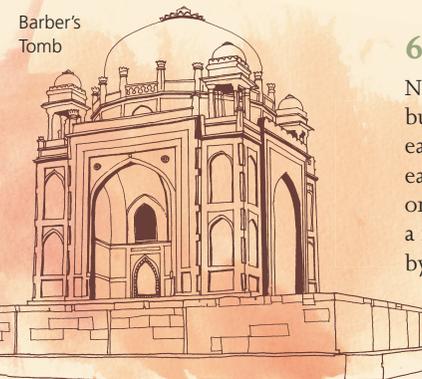


Humayun's Tomb

### 5. HUMAYUN'S TOMB

Humayun's Tomb was built under the aegis of Humayun's senior queen, Hamida Banu Begum, between 1564 and 1573. Apart from the emperor Humayun, who died in 1556, many later members of the Mughal royal family are buried here. Though there are more than a hundred graves in the crypt, a few cenotaphs are visible on the platform.

This is the first major example of a Persian-style garden tomb in India. Two gates, one on the western and one on the southern side, lead to the garden. The river once flowed close to the eastern wall of the enclosure. The tomb chamber has a white marble dome topped by a brass finial. Humayun's cenotaph, like the interior of the tomb, is very plain, though the whole would originally have been gilded, enameled



Barber's Tomb

### 6. BARBER'S TOMB

Nothing is known of the barber who is said to be buried here, but the tomb, built in 1590, stands on a platform to the south-east of Humayun's Tomb. The tomb has a large recessed arch on each of its four sides, but the only entrance is through the arch on the southern side. The interior houses two cenotaphs, one of a male and the other of a female (a male's cenotaph is indicated by a ridge-like wedge atop it, known as a *kalam*; a female's cenotaph, on the other hand, has a flat strip on top, called a *takhti*).

### 7. SUNDARWALA BURJ

Situated inside the Government-run Sundar Nursery, to the north of the complex of Humayun's Tomb, this early Mughal tomb is a modest-sized square structure topped by a flattish dome. The ornamentation on the exterior consists of finely incised medallions on either side of the arched opening that faces the Sundar Nursery main gate. The compact interior of the tomb is profusely and exquisitely decorated with finely incised plaster covering almost every inch of the vaulted ceiling and the walls. The underside of the dome is covered in a pattern of six-pointed stars filled with delicate arabesques; and larger floral patterns spread across the walls, along with bands of Quranic inscriptions.



Sundarwala Burj