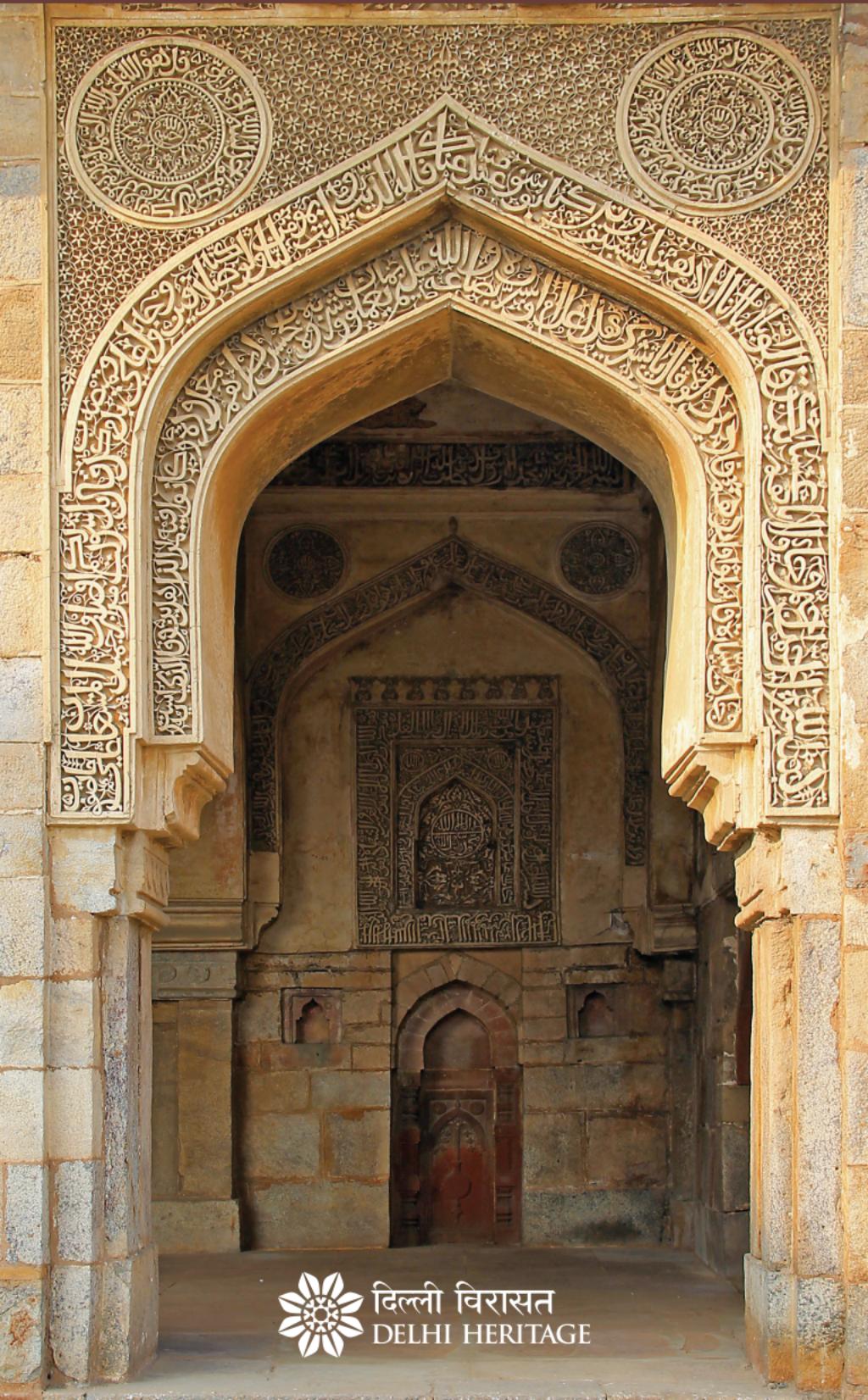


LODI GARDEN AND THE GOLF CLUB



दिल्ली विरासत
DELHI HERITAGE



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Lodi Garden, located on Lodi Road between Safdurjung's Tomb and Khan Market in south Delhi, covers an area of 90 acres and is dotted with beautiful monuments and tombs. Buzzing with joggers and walkers throughout the year, the area is a haven for picnickers and for those looking for a sunny patch to warm themselves in winters and a cool retreat, in summers, especially in the early hours of mornings and in the evenings. With its undulating walking paths and jogging tracks fringed with ancient trees, colourful shrubs, and flowering plants, the garden's historical past is another evidence of how the city's present encompasses within it a rich past.

Lodi Garden, as we see it today, in its avatar as a landscaped park, was designed in 1936 as a setting for the group of 500-year old buildings belonging to the Sayyid, Lodi, and Mughal dynasties. At that time, south Delhi was not like it is today, an important commercial and residential hub of the city. In those early years of the twentieth century, the landscape around Delhi could be compared to Rome and its surroundings: both were cities sparsely populated, strewn with impressive remnants of former empires. In 1931, when New Delhi, the new city designed by Edwin Lutyens was nearing completion, south Delhi had changed little and was described as 'a flat country, brown, scrubby and broken', studded with ruins. At that time these tombs, mosques and other structures stood in what was then called the village of Khairpur, on the outskirts of New Delhi. A few years later, in 1936, the villagers were moved from Khairpur and a garden was laid out with native and exotic trees and plants around the monuments. It was then

called Lady Willingdon Park, after the wife of the then British Viceroy. Post-Independence, it was more appropriately renamed Lodi Garden and was redesigned in 1968 by J.A. Stein, an eminent architect, who was also involved with many other buildings around the Lodi Garden complex. The oldest structure in the Lodi Garden complex is a turret (an Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] protected structure) that appears to have been part of a walled enclosure (not evident any more) which historians believe to have belonged to the Tughlaq period (AD 1320–1413). Nothing else is known about the other structures here that were also built at this time.

Most of the tombs and mosques go back to the time of the Sayyid and Lodi rulers of Delhi when the area was called Bagh i-Jud, in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The Sayyids established their small sultanate in the fifteenth century (AD 1414–51) with Khizr Khan as the first ruler, who ruled Delhi for seven years after the collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty. Khizr Khan was succeeded by his son Mubarak Shah who ruled for more than a decade after his father's death in 1421. The third ruler Muhammed Shah, reigned subsequently from AD 1434–44. His son Alauddin Alam Shah is known to have built Muhammed Shah's Tomb, the oldest and the solitary testimony to the Sayyid Dynasty in the garden, now an ASI protected site.

The Sayyid Dynasty was displaced by the Lodi Dynasty (AD 1451–1526) which originated from an Afghan tribe that had been in India for a long time. Bahlol, the first Lodi king, seized power from the Sayyids without much resistance and re-established the

prowess of the Delhi Sultanate. The Lodis ruled over an area stretching from the banks of the Indus, over Punjab and the Ganga-Yamuna Doab down to the borders of Bengal, and southwards into central India.

The son of Bahrol Lodi, Sikandar Lodi reigned for twenty-eight years from AD 1489–1517. His empire extended from Punjab to Bihar and he built his capital at Agra. Sikandra, a short distance from Agra, now well known for the tomb of Akbar which is located there, is named after this great Lodi king. Sikandar was succeeded by his son Ibrahim. He was defeated at Panipat in 1526 by Babur who then established Mughal rule in India, bringing an end to the Sultanate era. The Mughal rule which showed its beginnings in the sixteenth century had brought the entire country under its umbrella by early eighteenth century.

It was during the reign of Sikandar Lodi that the various prominent structures now visible within Lodi Garden took shape. Sikandar Lodi's Tomb, the Sheesh Gumbad and the Bara Gumbad (ASI protected sites) were all built during this period and hence display a similar architectural language.

The buildings here present a unique combination of pre-Sultanate and Sultanate elements of architecture with most of the construction in stone and plaster. These structures also reveal an advanced understanding of dome construction, using the principle of an arch and the transformation and transition of a square to a circle through use of squinches (a structure set diagonally across the interior angle between two walls to provide a transition from a square to a polygonal or a circular base to construct a dome) and corbels. The structures represent the Sultanate style with traces of intricate patterns and

geometric designs of interwoven squares, circles, and lines. Ceramic tiles, plaster work, and painted decoration adorned the domes and outer walls of most of the buildings. Some structures are embellished with pre-Sultanate lotus motifs and Arabic script or typically Hindu-style bells and Sultanate domes.

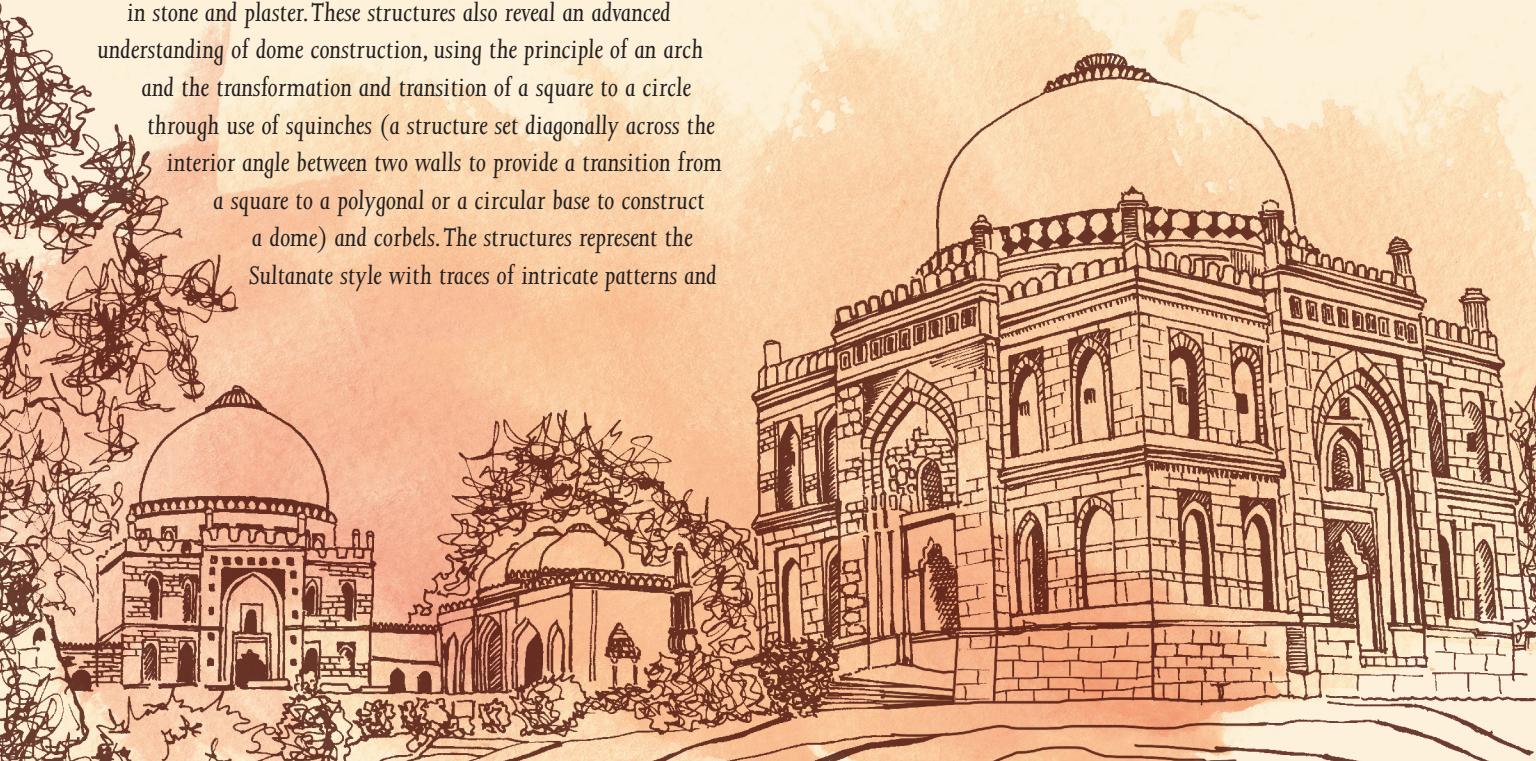
Further into the garden are remains of a watercourse connected to the Yamuna River. Across this waterway, close to Sikandar Lodi's Tomb is the Athpula ('eight-piered') bridge. It is one of the few remains of Emperor Akbar's reign, in Delhi the others being the Humayun's Tomb, Atgah Khan's Tomb (at Nizamuddin), and Adham Khan's Tomb (around Mehrauli). Also built in the Lodi Garden during the Mughal period is a gateway along with a mosque set within an enclosed garden and another small mosque near the herbal garden. The gateway and the mosques are all ASI protected sites today.

The garden stands today as an island of peacefulness and serenity amidst the mad rush of city life.

Timings: 5.00 am–8.00 pm (summer),

6.00 am–8.00 pm (winter)

Entry: Free



1. TOMB OF MUHAMMED SHAH SAYYID

The only Sayyid building in the Lodi Garden is the tomb of Muhammed Shah Sayyid. After the ruler's death in AD 1451, the tomb was built by his son Alauddin Alam Shah.

This handsome building constructed of Delhi quartzite stone stands on a high platform. An arched verandah surrounds the central octagonal chamber which is nearly 15 m wide, in the middle of which lies the cenotaph of Muhammed Shah surrounded by several others of his family and close relatives. Each side of the inner chamber has a beam-and-lintel doorway which originally had perforated screens, with the main entrance to the chamber from the south.

The dome of the building is large (10 m in diameter), gracefully proportioned, and raised on an octagonal wall that supports the dome above. A cluster of small chhatris (pillared kiosks) surround the main dome which is crowned with an inverted lotus finial. Above the doors, the shape of the chamber ingeniously transforms from an eight-sided octagon to a sixteen-sided, hexadecagon. The sixteen sides then form a circular dome above, the soffit of which is ornamented with incised stucco plasterwork.

Patterns and inscriptions from the Quran were carved on wet plaster. After drying, the plaster was painted with many colours, creating a befitting resting place for the kings. The entry to the chamber from the west was later fully walled, to serve as a mihrab indicating the direction of Mecca which Muslims face while praying.

A few distinctive features that include

corner buttresses, corbelled doorways and a cluster of small octagonal chhatris around the main dome give the tomb a distinct Indo-Islamic appearance.

2. MOSQUE IN HERBAL GARDEN

This small eighteenth-century mosque was built by the Mughals. It sits between Muhammed Shah's Tomb and the Bada Gumbad, close to the herbal garden. The mosque, recently restored, appears to have been located inside an enclosure that has disappeared over time. All that remains of the enclosure is a part of the wall with a bastion that extends from the mosque.

Constructed of random

rubble masonry and

finely plastered over,

this little mosque

is crowned with a

brick-vaulted roof

with a ribbed pattern

and topped with an

inverted lotus finial,

now hidden behind

dense undergrowth. Three equal-sized, pointed-arched openings

on the eastern façade and single arched openings on the north

and the south façade, give access to the single chambered mosque.

The inner chamber measuring approximately 6 m x 4 m has three

arches on the western wall which serve as the mihrab, or the focus

for prayer. The parapet follows a pattern in incised plaster, which is

similar to the parapet of Athpula, also a Mughal-era construction.

3. BADA GUMBAD

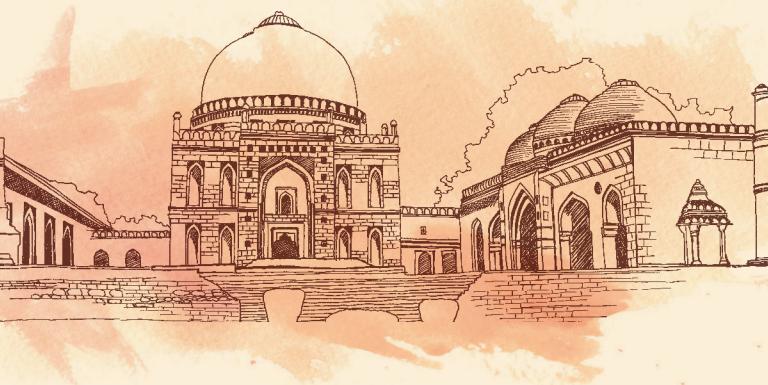
This imposing building which is believed to be a gateway because of the absence of any grave, dates back to the Lodi Dynasty. The name literally means the building with a big (bada) dome (gumbad). The entrance to the Bada Gumbad is accentuated by a flight of steps rising upto a height of approximately 4 m from the ground. Towering up to approximately 27 m and measuring 19 m x 19 m, this square structure is one of the biggest and the finest examples of the Lodi-period monuments in Delhi.

It is also the first example in Delhi of what is called the 'full dome', that is, a dome which is a complete semi circle. It rises from a sixteen-sided drum with each face relieved by niche shaped panels. Above these arched panels, a lotus-bud frieze topped by a moulded string course runs all along the dome, which is externally plastered and has a lotus cresting.

When seen from outside, the structure would appear to have two storeys. However, when you enter you will see that it has a single chamber with a magnificent high ceiling. The decoration is minimal with the pale grey quartzite relieved by pink sandstone and grey-black highlights and corbelled doorways.

Black marble faced over the spandrel of arches and brackets in red sandstone provide a striking contrast and lend an interesting composition to the entire structure. Adjoining the tomb on the west is a mosque, with a pavilion on the east. This group of buildings is raised on a high platform in the middle of which is an elevated area that might have been a grave.





The mosque measuring 25 m x 6.5 m is a fine example of the decorative technique of incised and painted limestone plaster used during the Lodi period. It is divided into five bays with spectacular stucco-work of floral motifs and geometric designs over the arches. The three central bays are roofed with domes and the two end bays with low flat vaults. The arches lead into a rectangular prayer hall that is profusely decorated throughout with Quranic inscriptions and conventional foliage on the walls and ceilings.

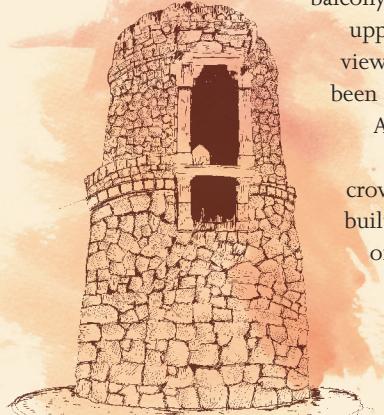
4. TURRET

Historians have reason to believe that this turret, adjacent to Gate no. 3 of the garden, is perhaps the oldest structure in this ensemble of tombs and mosques. This 6 m high turret was probably the corner tower of an enclosure that has completely disappeared over time. It is circular in plan with an external diameter of approximately 4 m and walls as thick as 50 cm. The absence of a staircase restricts visitors to the lower level that comprises of a

small room/enclosure. A jharokha (overhanging enclosed balcony), and two arched openings at the upper level would have been ideal for viewing the gardens should there have been a staircase leading to the top level.

A concrete plinth around the turret

seems a later addition. This turret crowned with a ribbed-pattern dome, built in rubble masonry with no signs of plaster, leaves visitors wondering about the purpose of the building.



5. SHEESH GUMBAD

Facing the Bara Gumbad is the Sheesh Gumbad, literally 'glass dome', so called because the dome and parts of the facade were once completely covered with coloured glazed tiles. One can see remnants of its former elegance in the turquoise and cobalt-blue tile work on the façade.

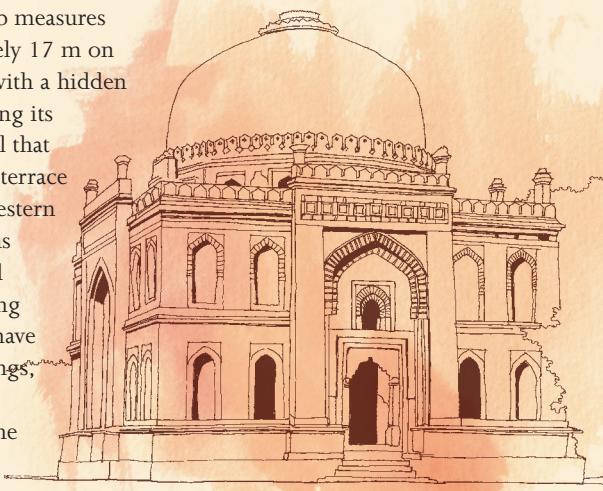
Architecturally, it follows the pattern of square Lodi tombs with a 'double-storeyed' appearance, but this building is somewhat different in its ornamentation. Topped with octagonal minarets in the corners, the exterior divides itself into two storeys with the help of a projecting horizontal cornice. Each storey has been ornamented with panels of recessed niches that run above and below the string-course, the upper ones being pierced by small openings, further enhancing the entry.

The tomb measures approximately 17 m on both sides with a hidden staircase along its western wall that leads to the terrace above. Its western wall contains a mihrab, and the remaining three sides have three openings, the central one being the doorway flanked by

two arched openings to admit light and air. One of the distinctive features is the row of blue tiles (9 inch square each) that run across all walls below the central and upper string course, except the central portion which is adorned with nine square panels each containing light blue tiles with floral designs.

The transition from a square plan to the circular dome is achieved by the use of broad squinches supported on stone pendentives. One of the interesting features is the beautiful carving in plaster between the arched niches and the patterned design along the parapet wall below the dome and along the tomb's edges.

The ceiling inside the dome is decorated with incised plaster-work containing floral patterns and Quranic inscriptions. The central tomb chamber measuring 10 m on both sides has several graves, presumably belonging to eminent people of Sikandar Lodi's time.



6. WALL GATEWAY AND MOSQUE

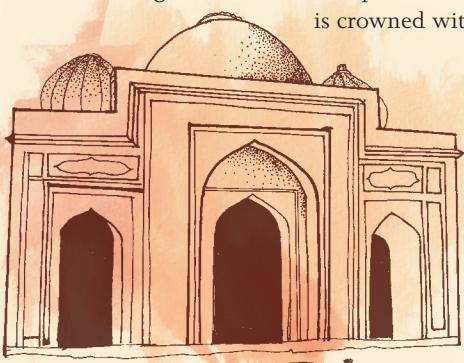
This small complex built during the late Mughal period, comprises of a tri-arched entrance gateway and a small mosque enclosed within a walled garden. The four walls of the garden, though broken at various places, still remain.

Historical accounts mention that a baoli (step-well) existed in front of the gateway, just outside the enclosure. There is also mention of a small brick tomb in the centre of the garden. Today however, there are no traces of either of these structures.

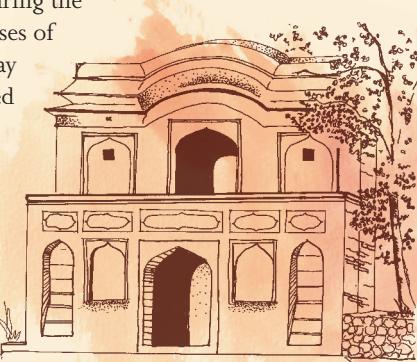
The double-storeyed gateway was finely plastered over Lakhori brick masonry (a Lakhori brick was slightly thinner and longer than a regular brick) and topped with a brick vaulted Bangaldar roof (a roof style commonly seen in Bengali houses with four of its corners bent that fall vertically). The east façade has three bays of cusped arches, where the central bay is the doorway, leading into the enclosed garden. The west side of the doorway has staircases at either end going up to the room and terrace above.

The single-chambered mosque, is rectangular in plan, and is crowned with three brick domes

with a large central dome and two smaller ones on either side. The domes are fluted and topped with an elongated inverted lotus, finial. The entrance façade has three bays of pointed



arches with the higher central arch projecting out. Inside the mosque, the western wall has three arched mihrabs. Evidence of ornate designs painted on the inner walls, plastered Lakhori brick outer walls, and patterned openings are certain distinct characteristics of Mughal construction. The mosque also has a courtyard on its eastern side.



7. TOMB OF SIKANDAR LODI

The Lodi Dynasty was the last ruling dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate and lasted for seventy-five years. Sikandar Lodi is known to be the second and the most significant ruler of the dynasty who ruled from AD 1489–1517. This tomb, enclosed within high walls lies about 250 m north of the Sheesh Gumbad on the north-western corner of Lodi Garden.

The tomb is entered through an elaborate gateway, complete with a raised forecourt on the south where two standing chhatris give the complex a distinct appearance. The walled enclosure measures nearly 7.5 m on either side, with 3.5 m high battlement walls and recessed internal arches. The corners of the enclosure are strengthened by octagonal towers, only one of which now stands. On the west side of the inner walls of the tomb is a wall-mosque which appears to be an earlier tomb structure converted to form a grand entrance to the tomb that was constructed later.

The octagonal tomb is quite similar in appearance to Muhammed Shah's Tomb, except for the missing chhatris on the roof. The upper portion of the dome is decorated with a distinct pattern in plaster and the corners of the sixteen-sided drum base takes the shape of a pillar which then rises to form circular minarets.

Its inner chamber is surrounded by a lovely verandah of arches with carved sandstone brackets. Seven openings lead into the inner space where the tomb inside retains some well-preserved and beautifully designed glazed tile decorations, painted stucco-work, and a single grave.





Nearest Bus Stops

- (ii) **Lodi Road X-ing:** 052, 047, 440, 521, 522, 526, 580
 (iii) **Max Mueller Marg:** 047, 052, 440, 521, 522, 526, 580

- a** Lodi – The Garden Restaurant
- b** National Bonsai Park
- c** Butterfly Park
- d** Herbal Garden
- e** Glass House
- f** Rose Garden
- g** Duck Pond

- Bus Stand**
- Cycle Track**
- Running Track**
- Parking**
- Toilets**
- Cafeteria**

ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE



Chhatri detail

The architecture of Delhi has undergone a fascinating journey over the last thousand years. During this period, the city came under the sway of several successive dynasties, each leaving its distinct mark on the city with its unique architectural styles. But what has remained constant in this ever-changing political and religious context is the unbroken

legacy of the craftsmen and masons who have built these buildings and have left their distinct mark on them. Elements of Delhi architecture are thus a result of a complex fusion of these craftsmen's individual skills and the prevalent formal ideas about architecture.

The earliest construction known in Delhi was the load-bearing masonry type, using the hard quartzite stone available locally. The remnants of this type of construction can be found around the tank of Suraj Kund and the fortifications of the city of Lal Kot. Simultaneously, the first religious constructions were based on the traditional Indian building system that was trabeate, using pillars and beams and lintels. In this system the length of available material defined the sizes of spaces created. While the walls were still built out of load-bearing masonry, interior spaces and openings were framed by posts. To span and create openings, as well as to create interior volumes, the technique of corbelling was used. This technique did not use any mortar and therefore was prone to physical damage.

When the first Islamic rulers came to Delhi, they continued to use these indigenous techniques in their buildings while fusing them with purely Islamic building forms. Thus, several early buildings in the Qutb Minar complex have false corbelled arches and the mosque uses old temple columns and beams as the construction material for its colonnade. The tradition of profuse carving of the building surfaces also continued and got a fillip due

to the use of red sandstone. Gradually, true arches and domes were introduced into the buildings, a technique the masons took a while to perfect. Sultan Balban's Tomb is the first building to use a true arch and dome. At this time, the other



Typically Indian carved corbels, often used in conjunction with the arch

major distinction from the traditional building techniques was the use of mortar, because true arcuate system of construction was not possible without its use.

By the time of the Tughlaqs, the architecture had become much more refined while the arch and the dome were fully developed structurally. White marble was sometimes used to outline particular features such as doors, arches, and the rectilinear frames that became such an important feature on Indo-Islamic façades. This emphasis on highlighting architectural features is in interesting contrast to the prevailing decorative system elsewhere in the Islamic world where decoration (for instance ceramic tiles) tended to smother all constructional features. Starting with the late Sultanate period, the introduction of decorative brackets, balconies, pendentive decorations, etc. in the architecture made it slightly less forbidding. The other distinguishing features of Indo-Islamic architecture are the utilization of chhatris, minarets, and half-domed double portals.

In the early Mughal period, although the constructional techniques remained largely the same, the emphasis was on applied decoration rather than the decorative use of architectural features. At the same time, new architectural features, such as arch netting to support a circular dome over a square plan were introduced. New features began to be incorporated from elsewhere in the Mughal empire – especially from Rajput buildings and the buildings of Bengal. Flat or hemispherical domes transformed into more accentuated onion domes and double domes. In the later Mughal buildings, we see a much more mannered style with fluted bulbous columns and cusped arches. This happened probably due to the contact with Europeans who came to India for trade.

Finally, colonial architecture introduced a whole new range of architectural elements. While the early colonial period saw a vigorous exchange of ideas and fusion of European and Indian features – the use of pilasters and window surrounds became common on indigenous buildings and the use of chhatris and verandahs became a fashionable way of Indianizing colonial buildings. This culminated in the hybrid style evident in the buildings of New Delhi, constructed in the 1910s-20s.



Soffit of a dome at Lodi Garden

8. ATHPULA

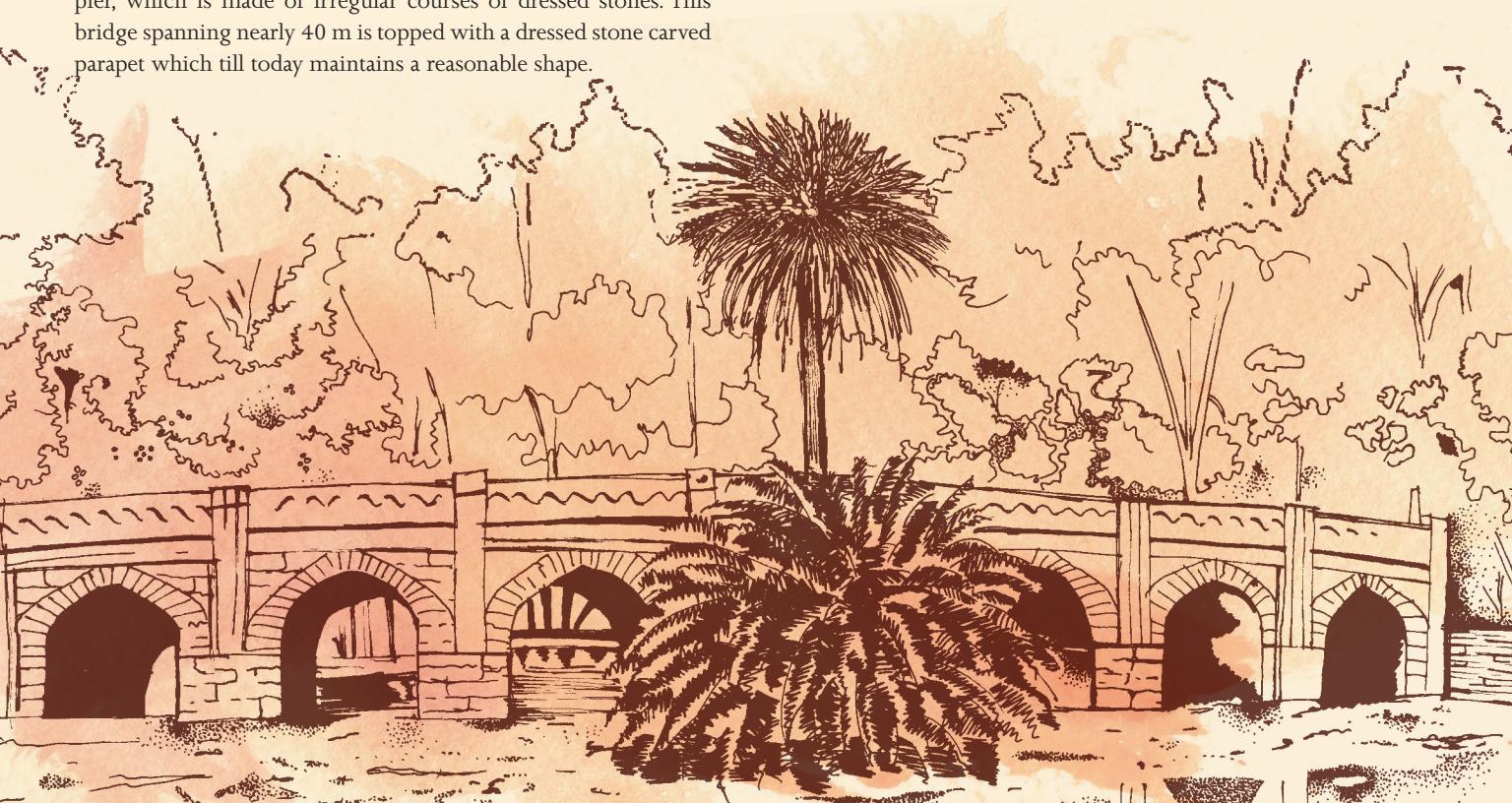
One of the most fascinating structures of the garden complex is this sixteenth-century Mughal construction to the east of Sikandar Lodi's Tomb, along Gate no. 4 of the garden. The picturesque eight-pier bridge was built during Akbar's reign by Nawab Bahadur, to span a tributary of the Yamuna that probably met up with the Barahpula nullah (canal) further south. This was perhaps a part of the river system that drained the south Delhi area and fed the River Yamuna. This stream must have dried up at some point and part of it has now been replaced by a man-made reservoir located towards the north of the garden which is also in close proximity to a recently added duck pond.

This beautifully curving bridge built diagonally across the stream, was originally known as 'Khairpur ka Pul' after the village of Khairpur in which it was located. The present name 'Athpula', is derived from the *ath* (eight) piers nearly 2 m in thickness that support the arches of the bridge. The piers support seven arches with the central arch being the largest and the others decreasing in span from the centre. A circular fluted pilaster in dressed stone, topped by an octagonal minaret rises from the middle of each pier, which is made of irregular courses of dressed stones. This bridge spanning nearly 40 m is topped with a dressed stone carved parapet which till today maintains a reasonable shape.

Other places of interest

Along with its ancient legacy, meandering walkways, and sweeping greens, the garden also includes a few distinct features which aim to preserve and provide a natural, habitable environment to various plant species. The National Bonsai Park, entered through a rustic gateway, presents a fascinating collection of bonsai to the visitors of Lodi Garden. This area, slightly buried under the plinth, lies near Gate no. 1 adjoining the exclusive garden restaurant, Lodi. A butterfly park and herb garden surround the Mughal mosque on either side, located towards the north of Muhammed Shah's Tomb. This garden maintains nearly thirty-five species of exotic plants laid across a vast open space. Further north, towards the walled garden facing the wall mosque and gateway, is the Rose Garden, planted with a variety of beautiful roses.

In 1968, J. A. Stein restructured the garden and constructed a Glass House within the premises, near Gate no. 1, which itself is an architectural treat to look at. It is also extensively used for cultivation and exhibition of different variety of plants found within the Lodi Garden.



The Delhi Golf Club

The Delhi Golf Club, one of the oldest golf courses in Delhi was established by the British in 1930s. When Sir Edwin Lutyens was laying out New Delhi, a decision was taken to shift the golf course then in use, which included the area now known as India Gate, to the current location after a reconnaissance by the Chief of the Horticultural Department. Built on land which was a burial ground of the Sultanate and Mughal dynasties, it integrates and adorns a slice of the city's history within its lush lawns, sprawling across an area of 220 acres.

Located in the heart of the city, bounded by five intersecting roads, namely Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, Lal Bahadur Shastri Road, Lodi Road, Archbishop Makarios Marg, and Subramaniam Bharti Marg, the club is home to over 300 species of birds and a variety of nearly 200 species of trees amidst vast greens and ancient monuments.

Originally located in an area twice its present size, the club has undergone many changes and was redesigned by Peter Thompson in 1977–78. Access to the Golf Club is from Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, entering through which one can explore the structures inside, by moving from south to north, mostly along the peripheral boundary.

The Golf Course today is only accessible to members or with special permission.

A few of the Mughal and Tughlaq tombs within the Golf Club were earlier part of a village named Babarpur, that was located towards the south of the current boundary of the Golf Club. Barah Khamba, an early Mughal tomb and the tomb of Bagichi are the tombs that originally belonged to this village. Other Mughal constructions inside the Golf Club include the tomb of Sayyid Abid, Mir Taqi's Tomb, Lal Bangla enclosure, and a few more unknown mosques and tombs. The Gol Gumbad (located outside the site along the Lodi Road) and Barah Khamba are the only Sultanate-era constructions in the vicinity.

Entry with prior permission only.

Timings: 5.00 am–11.00 pm (summer),

6.00 am–11.00 pm (winter)

1. LAL BANGLA

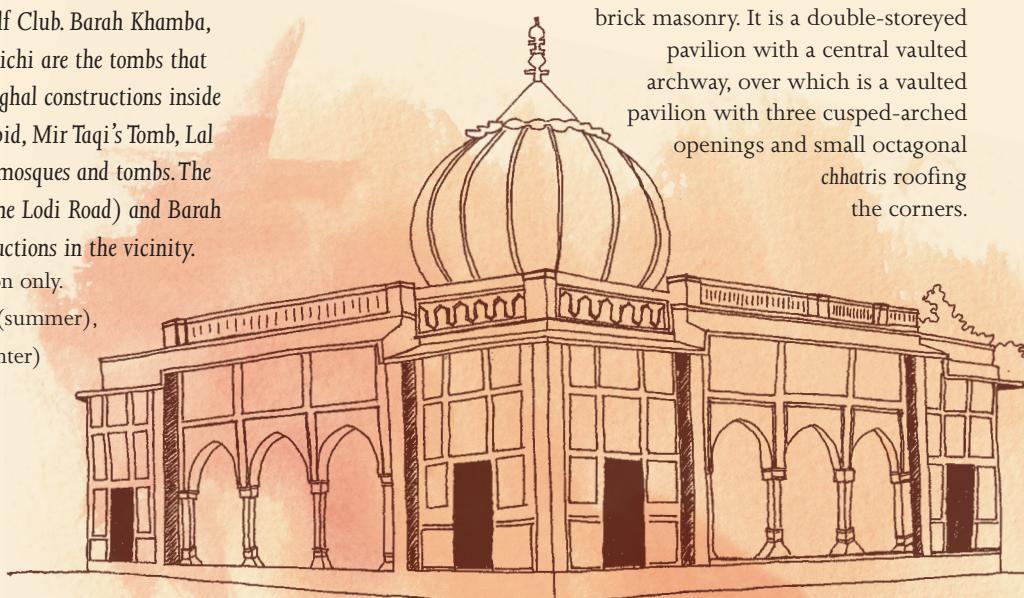
Lal Bangla was the name given to a garden enclosure containing three domed mausoleums and an arched gateway leading to it. The enclosure, partially visible from the road outside lies opposite to Zakir Hussain Marg, towards the left of the main entry. Lal Bangla appears to have derived its name from its appearance, the gateway and the three tombs within, being constructed of red sandstone. It is also possible that the structures were named after Lal Kunwar, who is buried here.

Built during the late Mughal period (AD 1779–80), the tombs are known to be that of Lal Kunwar, mother of Shah Alam II and her granddaughter Begum Jan. The third tomb, smaller than the other two, consists solely of a square room with no graves inside. Its patron and its association with the other two tombs remains unknown.

Lal Bangla I, the tomb of Lal Kunwar consists of a central, square double-domed chamber with an arcaded verandah on all four sides and small square rooms at the corner. The tomb is entered through a tri-arched opening with fluted columns and ornate details all along. The dome with a finial on top is adorned with bands of red and white sandstone, giving the structure a distinctive appearance.

Lal Bangla II, the tomb of Begum Jan is similar but smaller and less elaborate than the former. The dome with similar features is however larger in size.

What was originally a walled enclosure, has now only the southern wall intact with a central vaulted gateway leading to the enclosed tombs. The gateway that remains, is built of Lakhori brick masonry. It is a double-storeyed pavilion with a central vaulted archway, over which is a vaulted pavilion with three cusped-arched openings and small octagonal chhatris roofing the corners.





2. SAYYID ABID'S TOMB

This tomb of the early Mughal period was constructed by the general of Sultan Jahangir, Nursat Jang, for his companion Sayyid Abid after his death in AD 1626. The tomb in the middle of the green quarter, lies towards the south of the Lal Bangla enclosure.

The tomb which has an octagonal footprint comprises of arched openings with a highly ornamental red stone jali (screen with ornamental patterns) along each of the cardinal directions, flanked on either side by arched niches. The longer side externally measures 7 m with the tomb rising to a height of approximately 9 m from the ground. The inner chamber with arched niches of different styles forms a square in plan, measuring approximately 4 m. The dome is constructed out of brick and springs from an eight-sided masonry base above the string course and is topped by an elongated inverted lotus crest. The walls of the tomb are constructed of Lakhori bricks and plastered above.



3. MUGHAL VAULTED TOMB

This Mughal tomb, surrounded by a vast open area is located right next to the tomb of Sayyid Abid. The tomb, unlike the other tombs within the Golf Club comprise a vaulted roof above with no traces of graves inside the tomb. Constructed of Lakhori brick masonry,

it consists of an oblong chamber measuring approximately 8 m x 5 m. The building stands on a chabutara (platform) 1 m high with three arched openings along the longer sides and two arched openings along the shorter sides. This tomb is devoid of any decorative elements besides the arched niches on the walls.



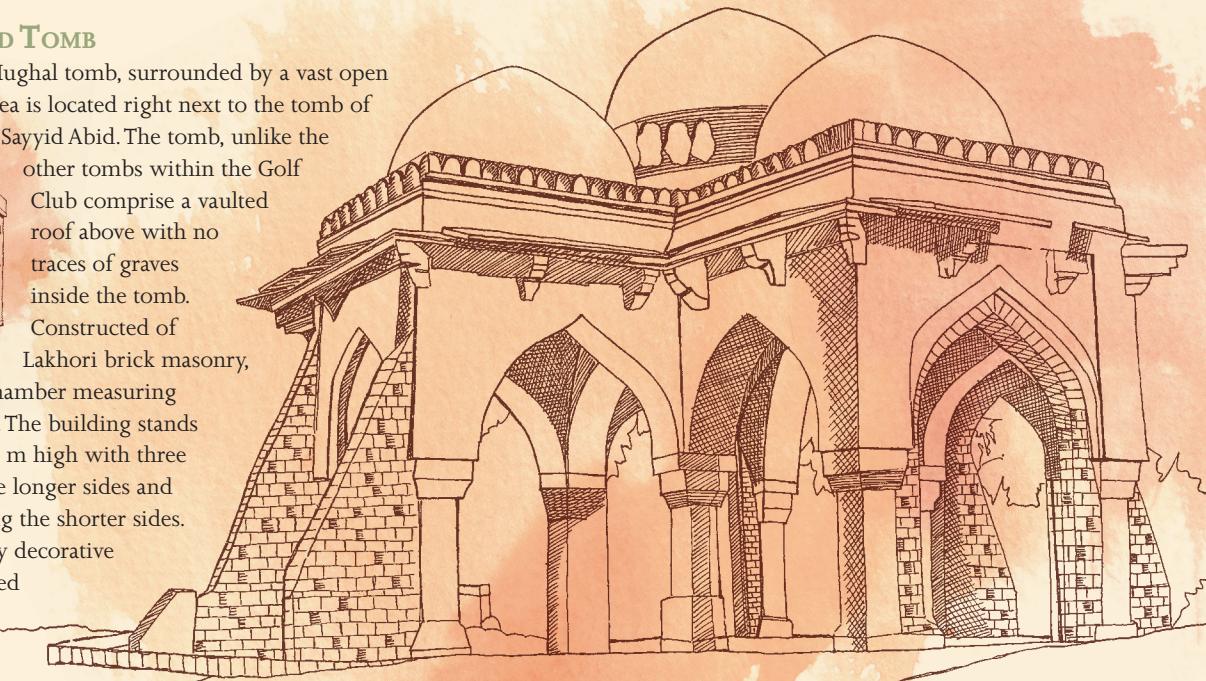
4. BARAH KHAMBA

The tomb, Barah Khamba, located inside the Delhi Golf Club originally belonged to a village named Babarpur. It stands on a low mound, surrounded immediately by a green play area and lush vegetation.

Barah Khamba literally derives its name from its configuration that once contained twelve dressed massive stone columns topped by domes above. The central dome being the highest, towers above the other three remaining domes surrounding it, under which lies an unknown grave. The domes seem to be pointed and their construction suggests that they belonged to the Tughlaq period.

The building on the whole is devoid of ornamentation apart from the parapet wall and the base of the dome that is embellished with crenellations (openings/cut outs along a wall) of different designs.

Interestingly enough, the tomb has a very unusual layout, cruciform in plan, with the entire structure rising to a height of approximately 12.5 m.



5. EARLY MUGHAL TOMB

This decorative tomb of the early Mughal period, located along the western boundary of the Golf Club, originally belonged to a village named Babarpur.

There is no historical evidence of its making or period of construction but its exquisite details, both along the exterior and the interior distinguishes it from the other Mughal tombs within the Golf Club. The tomb constructed of Lakhori brick and stone, has an irregular octagonal plan externally, with a square measuring approximately 5.5 m within. The longer side measuring nearly 6 m has decorative arched-entrances in each of the cardinal directions with a smaller arched opening above, possibly for light and ventilation. The tomb crowned by a dome, springs from an eight-sided base which is decorated with arched panels.

A fluted dome topped with a lotus crest, arched niches, and painted decorations on the parapet, ceiling, and the walls, gives the tomb a distinct appearance. It contains three unknown graves within.



6. TOMB OF BAGICHI

Originally belonging to the village of Babarpur, the tomb of Bagichi is surrounded by vast open space on three sides and lies along the Archbishop Makarios Marg towards the west of the

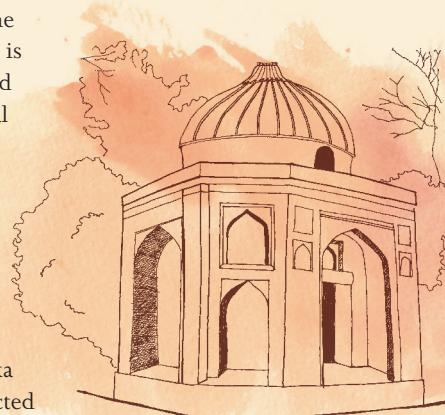
Marg towards the west of the

Golf Club. This tomb within a small garden called Bagichi was originally enclosed by four walls (now almost in ruin) entered through a low-arched gateway.

The tomb, square in plan and measuring approximately 8 m comprises of arched openings with a flat doorway along all four sides. Constructed of Lakhori brick masonry and stone, it is crowned by a dome, the soffit of which is ornamented with a striking floral pattern in incised plaster. The walls and ceilings inside are adorned with frescoes. Although no historical information about the two graves inside can be found, this tomb has certain distinctive features that suggest that it belonged to the Mughal period. The tomb stands out by virtue of its square, sandstone chhattris that are crowned above the pilasters on the external façade. Standing on a floral base, these pillars are embellished with beautiful incised plaster-work.

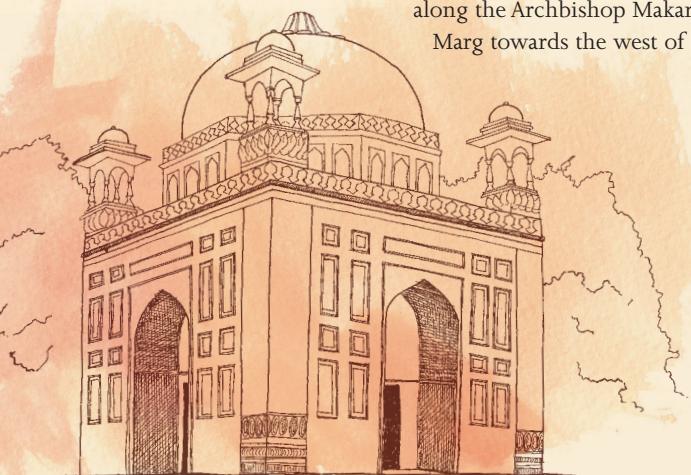
7. MIR TAQI'S TOMB

All that is known about the tomb of Mir Taqi is that it is a Mughal construction and there is no other historical information available on its origin and period of construction. This single-domed tomb stands over a slightly raised platform towards the northern end of the Golf Course, opposite Kaka Nagar. The tomb, constructed of Lakhori bricks, is plastered and rises up to a height of approximately 8 m from the ground.



Like a number of other tombs of this period, this tomb too is an irregular octagon on the exterior and a square inside, measuring approximately 3 m internally. There are large, arched openings along the longer sides with doors set within, although now only the red sandstone frames remain along these openings. Flanked on either side of these primary openings, are deep, arched niches at two levels along the shorter sides of the octagon. The western wall of the tomb serves as a mihrab. One of the prominent features of the tomb is the fluted dome with an inverted lotus crest that also contains some fine decorations in incised plaster.

There are no graves in the central chamber although there are many on the platform and in the vicinity.



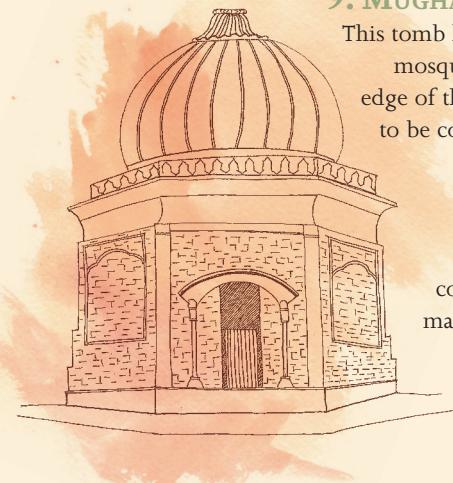


8. LATE MUGHAL MOSQUE

The mosque, as the name suggests is known to belong to the late Mughal period. Standing on a platform, it lies towards the northern side of the Golf Club, opposite Kaka Nagar. The mosque measuring approximately 9 m x 4 m is constructed of Lakhori brick masonry which originally consisted of three bays, crowned by domes above. The central bay is emphasized by a large opening, a raised parapet, and a larger dome above, flanked on either side by smaller bays, of which the southern bay has now collapsed, a victim of the passage of time.

9. MUGHAL OCTAGONAL TOMB

This tomb lies adjacent to the Mughal mosque, along the north-eastern edge of the club's boundary. Known to be constructed during the early Mughal period, it is of an octagonal plan with low jack-arched openings along its longer sides. It is constructed of Lakhori brick masonry, raised on a platform and crowned by a fluted dome with a lotus crest above.



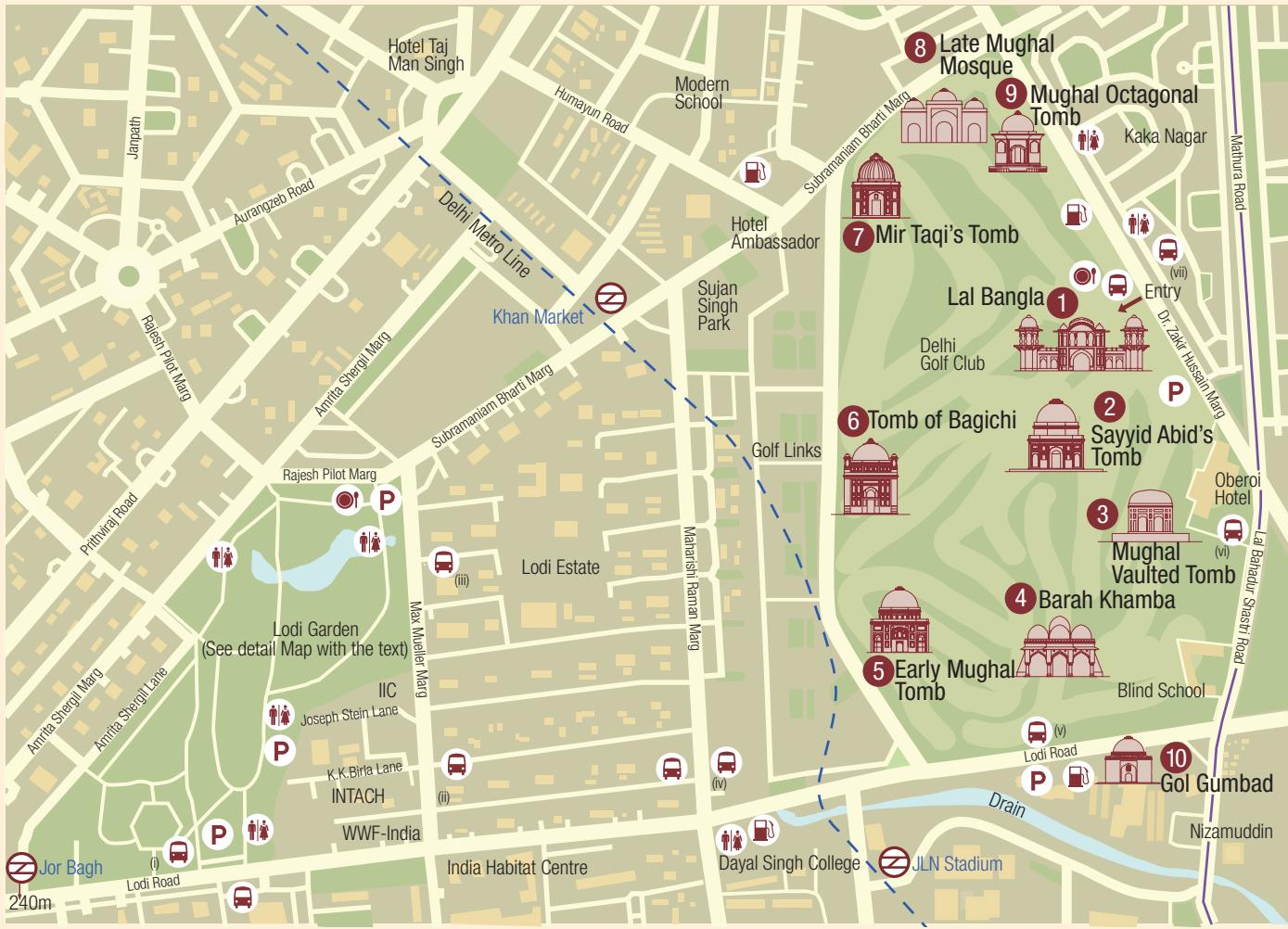
10. GOL GUMBAD

The Gol Gumbad is located outside the Delhi Golf Club complex, at the intersection of Lodi Road and Lal Bahadur Shastri Road. The tomb lies in close proximity to other historic structures including the Sabz Burj and Chausath Khamba. Known to be built during Lodi rule, this large-domed tomb is constructed of rubble masonry with a fine coating of plaster. With no decorative elements on its external surface, the tomb is largely devoid of any ornamentation except the exquisitely crafted stone jali in octagonal pattern, above the central doorways.

Square in plan and measuring approximately 13.5 m, the tomb has a central arched opening on each side, all of which serve as entrances to the inner chamber. The square plan inside forms an octagon at the upper level, which is a base for the dome above.



Each face of the drum(base for the dome) is relieved by arched niches that provide light to the dome from inside, the soffit of which is embellished with elegant ornamentation in stucco work. The tomb rises to a height of approximately 13 m from ground with a dome topped by an inverted lotus finial. A narrow staircase along the south side leads to the terrace where the parapet displays a fine decorative pattern carved in plaster. The tomb does not show traces of graves inside.



Nearest Bus Stops

- (i) **Lodi Garden:** 052, 326, 344, 970, 994
- (ii) **Lodi Road X-ing:** 052, 047, 440, 521, 522, 526, 580
- (iii) **Max Mueller Marg:** 047, 052, 440, 521, 522, 526, 580
- (iv) **Dayal Singh College:** 026, 056, 173, 181, 305, 326, 344, 373, 375, 408, 430, 450, 481, 623
- (v) **Ispat Bhavan:** 181, 727
- (vi) **Amir Khushroo Park (Oberoi Hotel):** 274, 419, 423, 244, 356, 449, 482, 930, 484, 323, 462, 435, 445, 490, 446, 424, 374, 412, 425, 930
- (vii) **Golf Club:** 040, 156, 410, 490, 452, 893, 894, 930, 470

- Bus Stand
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