

EXPLORING THE
DELHI RIDGE

*REVIVING THE HERITAGE OF THE
"LUNGS OF DELHI"*



Delhi Development Authority
DDA

The Delhi Ridge is more than a forest. It is a living archive of history. Explore its monuments, pathways, and hidden heritage, and reconnect with the layers of Delhi's past.



Contents

INTRODUCTION

The Delhi Ridge

UNDERSTANDING THE RIDGE AND ITS MONUMENTS

The Ridge Zones

Northern Ridge

Central Ridge

South-Central Ridge

-Sanjay Van

-Qutub Minar Complex

-Mehrauli Village

-Mehrauli Archaeological Park

Southern Ridge

-Tughlaqabad

-Sultan Ghari

ANCILLARY STRUCTURES

South-Central Ridge

-Sanjay Van

-Qutub Minar Complex

-Mehrauli Village

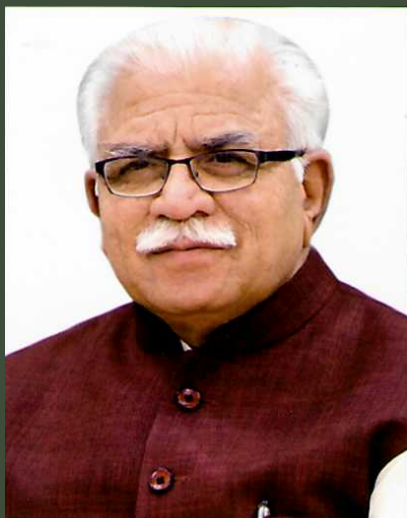
-Mehrauli Archaeological Park



Foreword



Hon. Minister of Housing and Urban
Affairs; and Minister of Power
Government of India



Sh. Manohar Lal

“India's cities derive their distinct character from the heritage they have inherited over centuries. The monuments nestled within the Delhi Ridge are not merely architectural relics; they are enduring symbols of our civilizational journey and integral to the historical identity of the National Capital. As our cities continue to grow and evolve, conserving such heritage while making it meaningful for present and future generations remains an essential responsibility.

Throughout my years in public life, I have believed that development acquires greater value when it respects history and strengthens people's connection with their cultural roots. The monuments of the Delhi Ridge present a unique opportunity to achieve that balance. This publication, through its carefully curated heritage trails and accessible digital interpretation, encourages citizens, students and visitors to engage with these remarkable

sites with greater understanding and appreciation, while fostering a stronger sense of responsibility towards their conservation. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has consistently encouraged initiatives that integrate heritage conservation with urban development and public participation. It is gratifying to see the Delhi Development Authority, working in close partnership with INTACH Delhi Chapter, translate this vision into a comprehensive and engaging public resource. The successful completion of this project reflects the value of institutional collaboration, and I am confident it will encourage similar heritage-led initiatives across the country, enabling our historic cities to celebrate their past while shaping a sustainable future.”

Sh. Manohar Lal



Hon. Lieutenant
Governor of Delhi

“Having spent much of my public life representing India across the world, I have come to believe that the true character of a nation reflected as much in its landscapes and heritage as in its institutions. Delhi is a city of remarkable cultural legacy, shaped by centuries of political change and cultural exchange—from the era of Prithviraj Chauhan and the Delhi Sultanate to the Mughal, British and modern Indian periods. Rather than losing its identity, Delhi has absorbed these influences, evolving into a resilient city enriched by every civilisation that has left its mark.

A very few places embody its enduring spirit more profoundly than the Delhi Ridge. As the ancient spine of the Aravalli Range, the Ridge has nurtured the city's ecology while bearing silent witness to the rise and fall of kingdoms, the making of empires, and the evolution of India's capital. Its forests, monuments and archaeological remains together form living archive that deserve to be understood, experienced and cherished.

This e-book is a thoughtful endeavour to

reconnect people with that legacy. By weaving together heritage trails, carefully researched narratives, OR-enabled interpretation, interactive maps and AI-assisted digital resources, it offers an engaging gateway to explore the Ridge beyond its natural beauty. It demonstrates how technology, when guided by scholarship, can deepen public appreciation of heritage and inspire a stronger sense of responsibility towards its conservation.

The Delhi Development Authority and INTACH Delhi Chapter have together created far more than a publication, they have built meaningful bridge between Delhi's past and its future. Their collaborative effort reflects the shared commitment required preserve the capital's unique identity while making it accessible to every generation. I hope this initiative encourages citizens and visitors alike to rediscover the Delhi Ridge with renewed curiosity, pride and a lasting sense of stewardship.”

Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Foreword



Sardar Taranjit
Singh Sandhu

Foreword



Hon. Vice Chairman
Delhi Development Authority
DDA



Sh. N. Saravana
Kumar

“Cities are remembered not merely for their skylines, but for the stories etched into their landscapes. The Delhi Ridge is one such living landscape where nature and history have coexisted for over two millennia, preserving the remarkable journey of Delhi from its earliest settlements to the vibrant capital of today. The Delhi Development Authority has the privilege and responsibility of safeguarding this extraordinary cultural and ecological heritage. While conservation remains our foremost commitment, we are equally dedicated to making the Ridge's rich history more accessible, engaging, and meaningful for the public.

This e-book brings together the historic monuments across the four Ridge zones of Delhi in a single, comprehensive digital resource. As part of DDA's initiative to enhance the visitor experience, it complements a

network of heritage trails, QR code-enabled interpretation, and digital resources that allow visitors to explore the history, architecture, and significance of each monument with ease. By combining heritage conservation with digital innovation, we hope to encourage informed exploration, strengthen public appreciation, and foster a deeper connection with Delhi's shared heritage. It is our vision that every visitor experiences the Delhi Ridge not only as a protected natural landscape but also as a living museum where history, culture, and nature come together.

I sincerely hope that this e-book inspires readers to rediscover the Delhi Ridge and join us in preserving this invaluable legacy for generations to come.”

Sh. N. Saravana Kumar



Indian National Trust for Art and
Cultural Heritage
INTACH Delhi Chapter

“The production of this E-Book has been a labour of love for us at INTACH Delhi Chapter, and it is after much painstaking research and a sense of pride and satisfaction that we present it to you. We pay tribute to the ecological and cultural significance of the legacy of the Delhi Ridge; and to the rediscovery of its Forests, Monuments, Archaeological remains, as well as the Flora and Fauna. We have drawn up Circuits and Trails which will be developed as Heritage Walks for students and visitors so as to spread awareness of this area of Delhi's living heritage, which the DDA and Government of India are so diligently making efforts for its preservation and rediscovery. We thank the DDA and the Govt. for reposing faith in INTACH Delhi Chapter, and to have entrusted INTACH Delhi Chapter with the conservation of so much of New Delhi and Shahjahanabad over the years.”

Smt. Anita Singh, Convenor

“The Ridge is of immense importance in Delhi not only as a natural feature, but as a human landscape. This compilation for the first time brings together a descriptive list of heritage buildings on the Ridge, and in the process it helps us to understand its historic evolution in terms of human occupation. We can see how over a long period of time people have lived in this space, built cities, water bodies, hunting lodges, memorials, places of worship, formal gardens and burial places, transforming the face of the Ridge in the process. Hopefully, this work will help us all to understand the built heritage associated with the Ridge, and to respect it as a record of our past.”

Dr. Swapna Liddle, Advisor

Executive Summary



Smt. Anita Singh



Dr. Swapna Liddle

1593.86 ha

Protected Forest

6932.71 ha

Wildlife Buffer Zone

14700 ha

Tree Cover

8480.04 ha

Reserve Forest

618.07 ha

Unclassified Forest & Area

1973.93 ha

Wildlife Sanctuary

**These figures include overlapping areas*

Source: <https://evanlekh.eforest.delhi.gov.in/reserved.html>

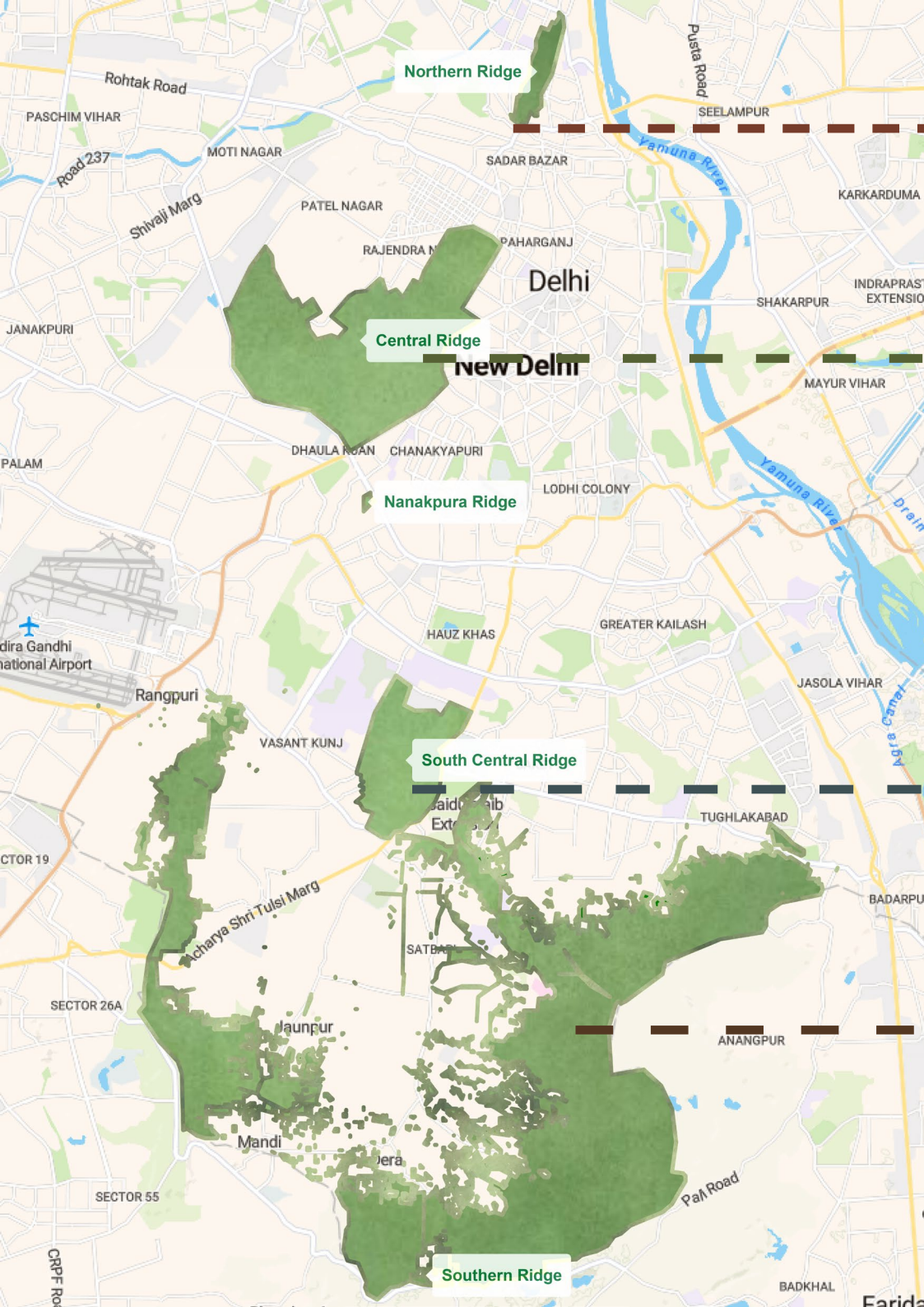


34200 ha

Green Cover

What is the Delhi Ridge?

Ridge' which is the rocky outcrop of Aravali hills in Delhi, has been notified as Reserved Forests under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 vide Notification no. F.10(42)-1/PA/DCF/93/2012-17(I) dated 24th May, 1994. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, through various orders passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677/1985 (MC Mehta vs. UOI & Ors.) has directed that ridge should be maintained in its pristine glory.



Northern Ridge (Kamla Nehru Ridge)

- Approx. 87 Hectares
- Hilly terrain near Delhi University.
- Includes colonial-era and earlier remnants.

Central Ridge

- Approx. 864 Hectares
- Extends from south of Sadar Bazaar to Dhaula Kuan.
- Significant colonial and pre-colonial interventions

South-Central Ridge

- Approx. 6200 Hectares
- Hilly terrain with forested and city areas
- Rich in medieval remains ranging from different time periods.

Southern Ridge

- Approx. 6200 Hectares
- Area covered within Sultan Ghari park and Tughlaqabad forest
- Includes fortifications, water heritage and medieval-era structures.

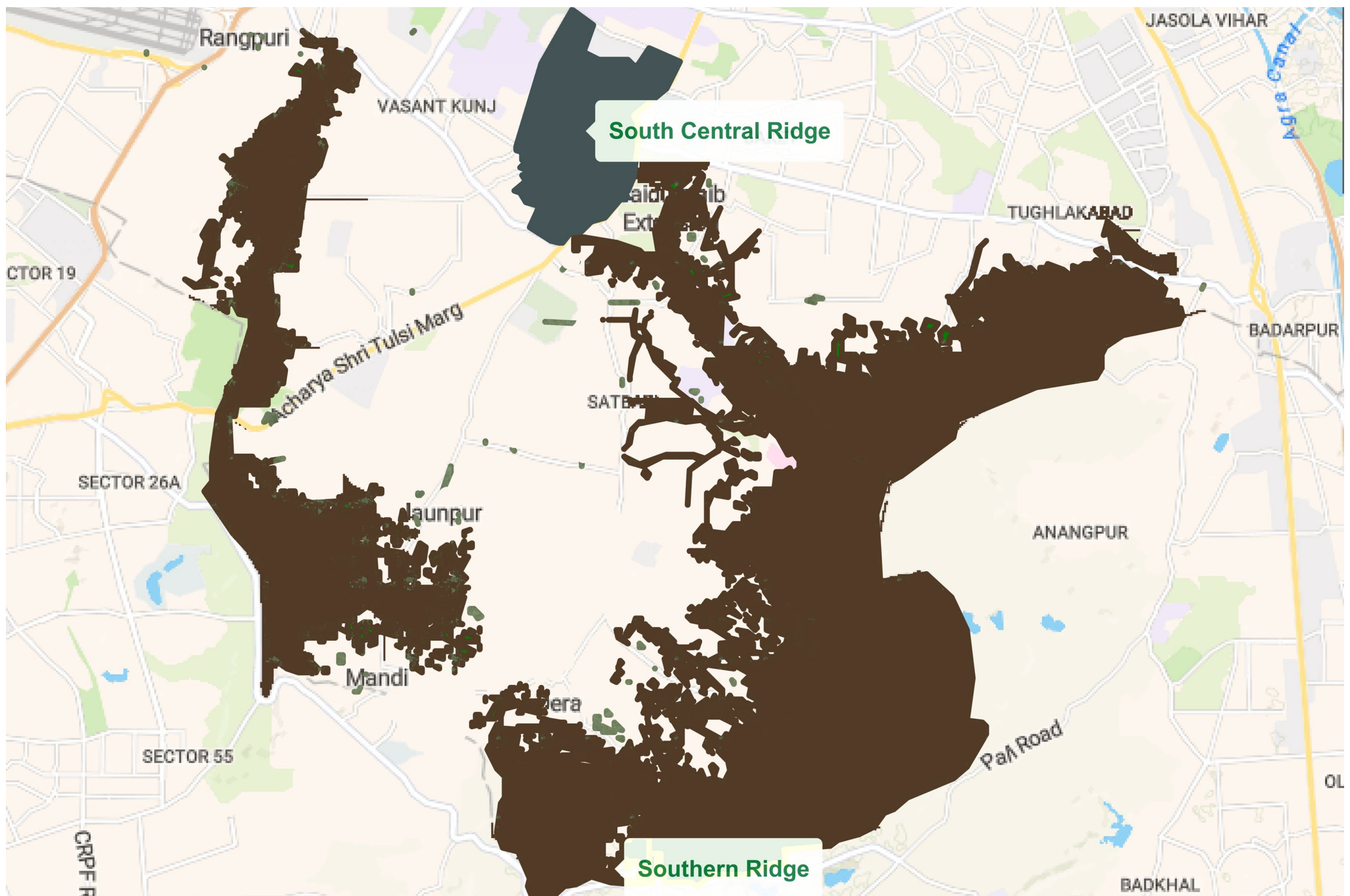


Northern Ridge

87_(approx)
Hectares

Central Ridge

864_(approx)
Hectares



South-Central Ridge 626 (approx)
Hectares

Southern Ridge 6200 (approx)
Hectares

The **Northern Ridge** is the northernmost extremity of the Aravali hills. Old Stone Age tools have been found in this part of the ridge, which tell us that the hunting gathering communities lived here, much before cities or even agricultural villages were established in this region. During the fourteenth century, when Firoz Shah Tughlaq established the city of Firozabad nearby, he transformed the Northern Ridge into a hunting reserve, building a hunting lodge with an attached stepwell, and a mosque.

In the mid-17th century the city of Shahjahanabad was established by Shahjahan at the foot of the ridge, bringing human habitation much closer. The real proliferation of structures however happened in the 19th century, when the British East India Company added military and memorial structures as well as residential buildings. This culminated in the Civil Lines – a residential-cum-administrative hub built directly abutting the hills. This process was accelerated in the 20th century with the development of the North Campus of Delhi University.





Northern Ridge

Also known as Kamla Nehru Ridge

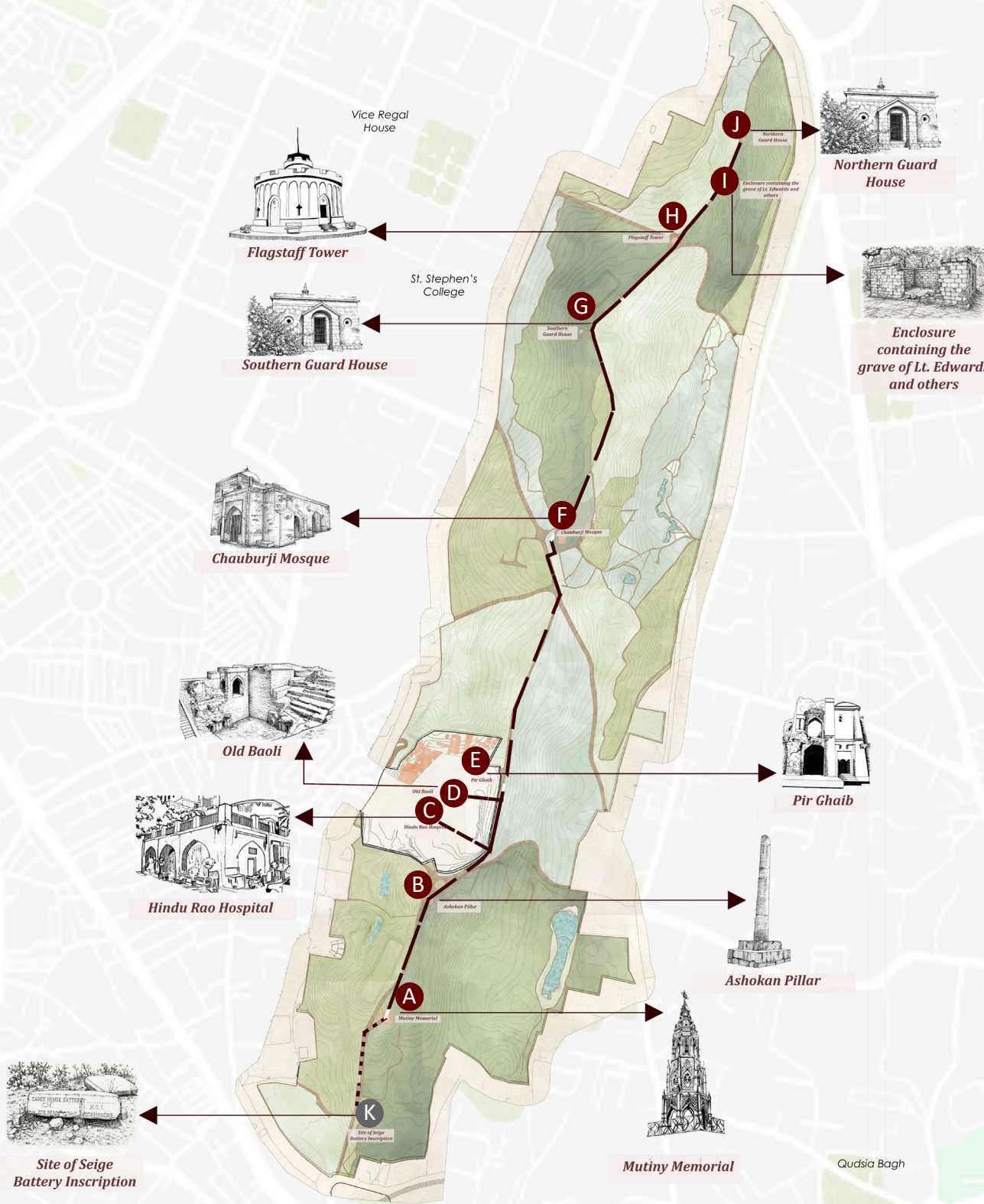
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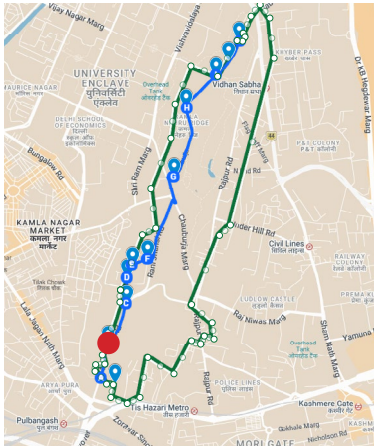
**For graphical representation only.*

Northern Ridge

- A. Mutiny Memorial
- B. Ashokan Pillar
- C. Hindu Rao Hospital
- D. Old Baoli
- E. Pir Ghaib
- F. Chauburji Mosque
- G. Southern Guard House
- H. Flagstaff Tower
- I. Grave of Lt. Edwards
- J. Northern Guard House
- K. Site of Siege Battery Inscription



**For graphical representation only.*



Coordinates:

28°40'16.90"N, 77°12'38.77"E

You are on a trail

Follow this [route!](#)



Visitor Information

• Nearest Metro Station:

Pul Bangash Metro Station (Red Line) – approximately 1.5 km away

• Timings:

Sunrise to Sunset (Daily)

• Entry Fee: Free

• Nearby Landmarks:

Ashokan Pillar, Flagstaff Tower, Hindu Rao House, Chauburja Mosque, Khooni Khan Jheel, Qudsia Bagh, St. James' Church, Nicholson Cemetery

Mutiny Memorial

MPD Zone
Jurisdiction

Notification
No.

C

Department of
Archaeology, GNCTD
DAHMASR Act 2004
(No. F. 14(33)/LA-
2004/273)-12



Historical Background

The Mutiny Memorial, now also known as Ajitgarh, was built by the British in 1863 to commemorate the officers and soldiers of the Delhi Field Force who lost their lives during the Revolt of 1857, between 30 May and 20 September 1857. The monument stands on the site of Taylor's Battery, one of the key British artillery positions during the Siege of Delhi. The Revolt of 1857 marked a turning point in India's history, challenging the rule of the British East India Company and eventually leading to direct governance by the British Crown. The memorial was erected to honour the military personnel who died defending the Company during the conflict and reflected the colonial interpretation of the events, which referred to the uprising as the "Mutiny." Following India's independence, the meaning of the monument evolved. In 1972, during the 25th anniversary of India's independence, a commemorative plaque was installed at the site to honour the Indian freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives during the uprising. Today, the Mutiny Memorial stands not only as a reminder of the events of 1857 but also as an important symbol of changing historical perspectives and the many narratives that shape India's past.

Architecture

The Mutiny Memorial is a fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture, a style widely used by the British for public and commemorative buildings during the nineteenth century. Constructed almost entirely of red sandstone, the memorial is designed as a tall, tapering tower that resembles the spire of a Gothic church, leading many local visitors to mistake it for a place of worship. The structure rises from a raised stone plinth paved with red sandstone, giving it additional prominence within the landscape of the Delhi Ridge. The tower itself stands approximately 29.5 metres high and is crowned by a red sandstone spire topped with a marble cross, reflecting its original colonial symbolism. The entrance is located on the western side and is marked by a pointed Gothic arch. Inside, a winding staircase leads to the upper levels of the tower. Marble plaques fixed on all sides of the exterior bear the names of the British officers and soldiers commemorated by the monument, and explain the significance of the monument. The use of Gothic architectural elements, together with durable local stone, creates a striking landmark that continues to dominate the surrounding landscape.

Significance

The Mutiny Memorial is one of Delhi's most

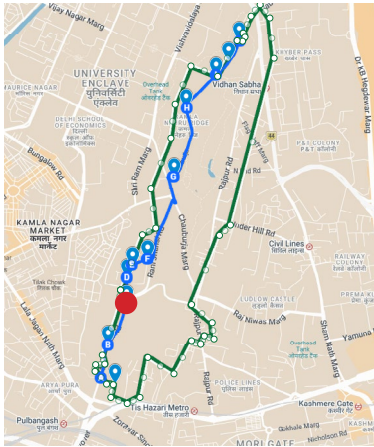
significant colonial-era monuments because **it reflects the changing interpretation of history over time.**

Two marble plaques in Urdu and Devnagri script, explaining the importance of the memorial, are also very significant, because when read, the text of both is identical. This testifies to the fact that at least till the mid-19th century, Hindi and Urdu were not necessarily two different languages; but rather one language that could be written in either of the two scripts.

Present Condition

The monument is maintained by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Delhi. It has undergone major conservation work in recent years to preserve its historic structure. Regular maintenance continues to protect the memorial and ensure that it remains accessible to visitors.





Coordinates:

28°40'25.97"N, 77°12'42.62"E

You are on a trail

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Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Pul Bangash Metro Station (Red Line) – approximately 1.5 km away
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: Free Entry
- Nearby Landmarks: Hindu Rao Hospital, Mutiny Memorial, Flagstaff Tower, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi University North Campus

Ashoka Pillar

MPD Zone
Jurisdiction

C

Archaeological Survey of
India



Historical Background

The Ashoka Pillar located on the Delhi Ridge was originally erected in Meerut district during the reign of Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE) and carried inscriptions promoting the principles of Dharma, welfare, and moral conduct among people. The pillar was later moved to Delhi by Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century CE. Firoz Shah, known for his interest in ancient monuments and conservation, relocated the pillar and installed it near his hunting lodge, the Kushak-i-Shikar, on the Ridge.

The pillar was described in the early 17th century by English traveller William Finch, who noted its inscriptions and distinctive top. During the reign of Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar (1713–1719 CE), the pillar was damaged due to an explosion and broke into five pieces. These fragments were later joined and the pillar was re-erected at its present location in 1867. Today, it stands as an important reminder of Delhi's ancient history and the legacy of Emperor Ashoka.

Architecture

The Ashoka Pillar is a monolithic sandstone column carved from a single piece of stone, representing the advanced craftsmanship of the Mauryan period. The pillar originally carried a polished surface characteristic of Ashokan architecture, though much of its original finish has weathered over time. It stands approximately 10 metres high and has a smooth, tapering form typical of Ashokan pillars found across the Indian subcontinent. The pillar bears inscriptions written in Brahmi script and the Prakrit language. These inscriptions are engraved directly onto the stone surface and communicate Ashoka's messages of ethical living, compassion, and social responsibility. The simple yet elegant design of the pillar reflects the architectural philosophy of the Mauryan period, where monumental structures were created not only for visual impact but also to convey important public messages. The careful reassembly and relocation of the pillar during later periods also demonstrate historical conservation practices undertaken in Delhi.

Significance

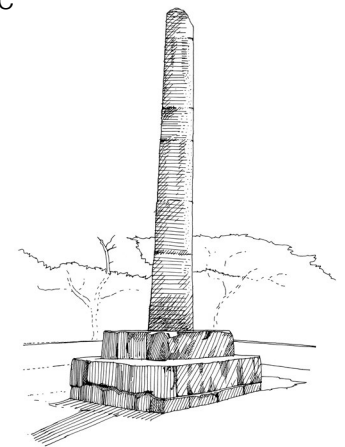
The Ashoka Pillar holds immense historical and cultural significance as **one of the surviving symbols of Emperor Ashoka's rule** and his vision of promoting peace, tolerance, and public welfare. The inscriptions on the pillar provide valuable insights into the social

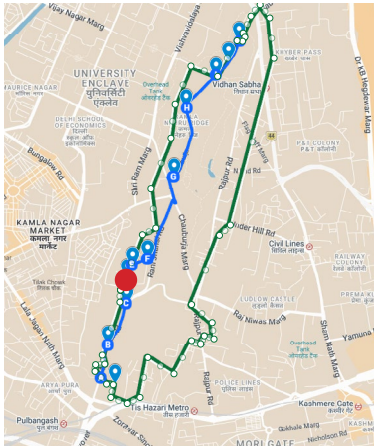
and administrative ideals of the Mauryan Empire and remain important sources for understanding ancient Indian history.

The relocation of the pillar by Firoz Shah Tughlaq highlights Delhi's long **tradition of preserving and adapting historical structures**. Its movement from Meerut to Delhi reflects the Sultan's appreciation of India's ancient heritage and his efforts to protect significant monuments. Today, the pillar represents a connection between different periods of Delhi's history, from the Mauryan era to the medieval and modern periods. Located on the Ridge, it serves as an important heritage landmark that reflects the city's layered past and the continuing need to preserve its historic identity.

Present Condition

The Ashoka Pillar has undergone restoration after historical damage, including rejoining of broken fragments and reinstallation. Currently located near Hindu Rao Hospital, the monument requires regular conservation, improved visitor facilities, protection from weathering, and better interpretation to enhance public awareness.





Coordinates:

28°40'31.81"N, 77°12'42.66"E

You are on a trail

Follow this [route!](#)



Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Pul Bangash Metro Station (Red Line) – approximately 2 km
- Timings: Exterior accessible throughout the day; the hospital remains operational 24 hours. The historic building has no designated visiting hours.
- Tickets: No entry ticket required for the hospital premises.
- Nearby Landmarks: Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh), Ashokan Pillar, Pir Ghaib, Khooni Jheel

Hindu Rao Hospital

MPD Zone

C

Jurisdiction

Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Notification No.

F.No. 7(367)/227/2002/UD/84/ 3(C)- 4, dated 2010



Historical Background

The historical building of Hindu Rao Hospital, located on the Northern Ridge of Delhi, was originally built as a residential bungalow during the late 1820s. The house is believed to have been constructed by Edward Colebrooke, the British Resident in Delhi between 1827 and 1829. It was later purchased by William Fraser, the Commissioner of Delhi, who lived here until his assassination in 1835.

The property was subsequently acquired by Hindu Rao, the brother of Baiza Bai, an influential Maratha noblewoman associated with the Scindia dynasty of Gwalior. Following political unrest in Gwalior, Hindu Rao had moved to Delhi, where he made this house his residence until his death in 1855.

During the Revolt of 1857, owing to its elevated position on the Ridge, this building became a key British military post and was subjected to intense shelling during the siege of Delhi. Contemporary photographs show the house in a heavily damaged condition after the conflict. Following the revolt, it was converted into a military convalescent hospital. Over time, the complex expanded, more buildings were added, and it today functions as Hindu Rao Hospital, one of Delhi's oldest public hospitals.

Architecture

The original Hindu Rao House was designed as a large Anglo-Indian residence, combining European planning with features suited to the Indian climate. The building occupied a commanding position on the Delhi Ridge, offering wide views of the surrounding landscape. Its elevated location also contributed to its strategic military importance during the Revolt of 1857.

The house is characterised by spacious rooms with high ceilings that improved ventilation and helped maintain cooler indoor temperatures. Deep verandahs surround the building, providing shade and protection from the harsh sun while creating comfortable transitional spaces between the interior and exterior. These features were common in colonial residences of the period.

Although the structure has undergone several alterations to accommodate its present use as a hospital, some original architectural elements remain visible. The vaulted ceiling of the entrance porch is one of the few surviving features from the nineteenth-century building. Successive additions and modifications have changed much of its original appearance, but the surviving portions continue to reflect the design principles of early colonial architecture in Delhi. Today, the historic core forms part of a much larger institutional complex.

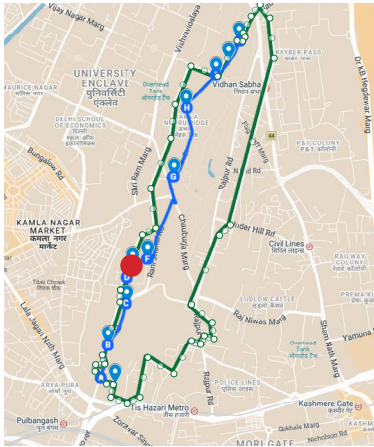
Significance

Hindu Rao Hospital is significant for its association with both Delhi's colonial history and the Revolt of 1857. Its later conversion into a military hospital and eventually a public hospital demonstrates the **continued adaptation of historic buildings to serve changing public needs**. Today, Hindu Rao Hospital remains a living heritage site where a structure once associated with colonial administration and military history continues to serve the city through healthcare.

Present Condition

The original building has been extensively modified through repeated hospital expansions. Only a few historic architectural features, including the entrance porch vault, survive. Continued conservation is needed to preserve the remaining heritage fabric while accommodating the hospital's ongoing functional requirements.





Coordinates:

28°40'34.39"N, 77°12'43.99"E

You are on a trail

Follow this [route!](#)



Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Pul Bangash Metro Station (approximately 2 km)
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: No entry fee
- Access: Interior access is restricted.
- Nearby Landmarks: Pir Ghaib, Ashokan Pillar, Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh), Hindu Rao Hospital

Old Baoli

MPD Zone
Jurisdiction

C
Archaeological Survey of India



Historical Background

Firoz Shah's Baoli is located near the Pir Ghaib monument on Delhi's Northern Ridge and is believed to have been constructed during the reign of Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388 CE). The stepwell was likely built as part of a larger hunting lodge or recreational complex established by the Sultan outside Firozabad, the city founded by him in the vicinity.

Like many stepwells of the period, the baoli served as a dependable source of water for travellers, royal hunting parties, and people living in the surrounding area. Its location on the Ridge, where natural water sources were limited, made it an important structure for the storage and management of water.

Although the baoli has remained dry for much of the year in recent decades, it still collects rainwater during the monsoon season, demonstrating its original purpose as a rainwater harvesting system. Over time, the structure fell out of regular use and access to its lower levels was closed for safety reasons. Despite its ruined condition, the baoli continues to provide valuable evidence of the advanced water management systems developed during the Tughlaq period.

Architecture

The baoli is a deep stepwell constructed primarily of random rubble masonry, a building technique commonly used during the Tughlaq period. While much of the structure is now covered with vegetation, its substantial depth and robust construction remain visible from above.

The lower portions of the baoli preserve several characteristic features of Tughlaq architecture, including stone walls and pairs of supporting pillars that once formed part of chambers surrounding the water reservoir. These chambers may have provided shaded spaces for visitors and helped support the structure.

One of the most intriguing features of the baoli is an underground tunnel extending approximately 193 metres from its northern end. The tunnel is around 2.15 metres high and includes ventilation shafts and doorways along its length. Although its exact purpose remains unknown, it may have served as a service passage, escape route, or part of the water management system. The combination of the deep well, surrounding chambers, and underground passage reflects the engineering skills and planning implemented during the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq and were possibly intended for supplying water to Kushk-i-Shikar or Jahan- Numa palace of Firoz Shah.

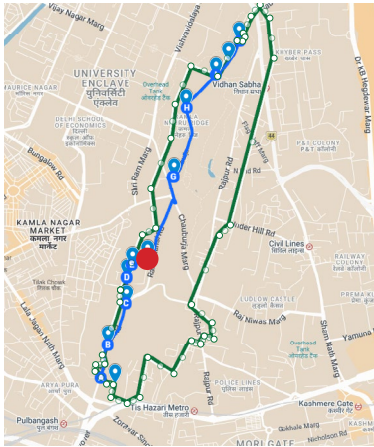
Significance

Firoz Shah's Baoli is an important example of medieval water architecture in Delhi and illustrates the emphasis placed on water conservation during the Tughlaq period. The mysterious underground tunnel further enhances the monument's historical significance. Although its original function has not been conclusively identified, it highlights the complexity of medieval engineering and continues to attract archaeological interest. Today, the **baoli serves as a reminder of Delhi's rich tradition of sustainable water systems and the importance of conserving these historic structures for future generations.**

Present Condition

The baoli is currently inaccessible, and much of the structure is covered with vegetation. It remains dry for most of the year, filling only during the monsoon. Continued conservation and vegetation management are essential to preserve its historic masonry and underground features.





Coordinates:

28°40'35.79"N, 77°12'47.80"E

You are on a trail

Follow this [route!](#)



Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Pul Bangash Metro Station (approximately 2 km)
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: Free entry
- Photography: Photography is restricted as the monument lies within the premises of Hindu Rao Hospital.
- Nearby Monuments: Ashokan Pillar, Firoz Shah's Baoli, Hindu Rao Hospital, Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh)

Pir Ghaib

MPD Zone

Jurisdiction

C

Archaeological Survey of India



Historical Background

Pir Ghaib is one of the few surviving structures of the hunting lodge, or Kushak-i-Shikar, built by Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq (r. 1351–1388 CE) on the Northern Ridge of Delhi. The lodge formed part of the extensive royal woodlands known as Jahannuma, meaning “World Displaying” which served as a retreat for hunting and recreation.

Historical records suggest that the building was constructed around 1373 CE following the death of Firoz Shah’s favourite son, Fateh Khan. According to contemporary accounts, the Sultan’s courtiers encouraged him to resume hunting and outdoor activities to help him recover from his grief. While parts of the structure may have existed earlier, the complex appears to have been expanded during this period.

Sometime later, certainly before the 19th century, the structure came to be associated with a mysterious saint, whose sudden disappearance is said to have given the structure its name, Pir Ghaib, meaning “The Vanished Saint”. In the mid-19th century it was also used as a survey station for taking baseline measurements for the Great Trigonometrical Survey, and in 1857 as a battery for mounting of guns.

Architecture

Pir Ghaib is built of Delhi quartzite rubble masonry, typical of Tughlaq architecture, and occupies one of the highest points on the Delhi Ridge. The structure displays the typical sloping, or battered, walls of the Tughlaq period, giving it a strong and fortified appearance. British era addition of reinforcing buttresses point to its 19th century use for the Trigonometrical Survey and as a battery in 1857.

The ground floor contains several interconnected rooms and narrow passages arranged around a central plan. Small chambers on the eastern and western sides provide access to additional rooms towards the north and south. A narrow staircase leads to the upper level, where an eastern verandah opens into two rooms featuring circular openings in their ceilings. At the southern end, two steep staircases connect the first floor to the roof terrace. Some of these features were most likely later additions by the Survey of India officials, particularly the holes in the ceiling which may have been used to erect measuring poles. These distinctive architectural features make Pir Ghaib one of the most unusual surviving monuments on the Ridge.

Significance

Pir Ghaib is an important monument that

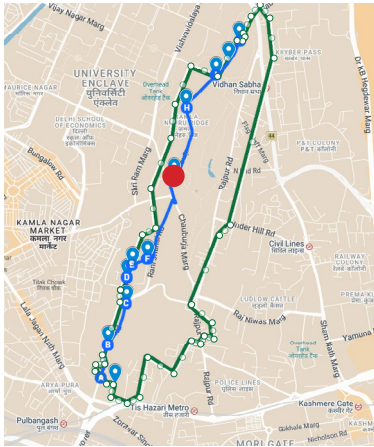
reflects the architectural innovation and cultural interests of the Tughlaq dynasty.

The monument’s name and the traditions surrounding the “vanished saint” and underground tunnels have added layers of folklore to its historical significance. The 19th century developments bring its history into the colonial period, testifying to a long timeline of reuse and adaptation.

Present Condition

Pir Ghaib survives as the principal remnant of Firoz Shah’s hunting lodge, with later additions. The structure is generally stable and accessible, though parts of the original complex have disappeared. Regular conservation and controlled visitor management are necessary to protect its historic fabric.





Coordinates:

28°40'54.29"N, 77°12'54.41"E

You are on a trail

Follow this [route!](#)



Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station (approximately 1.5 km)
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: Free entry
- Nearby Monuments: Pir Ghaib, Ashokan Pillar, Firoz Shah's Baoli, Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh)

Chauburja Mosque

MPD Zone

Jurisdiction

C

Archaeological Survey of India



Historical Background

The Chauburja Mosque is located on the Northern Ridge of Delhi and dates to the reign of Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388 CE). Despite its present name, historical evidence suggests that the structure was originally built as a mausoleum rather than a mosque. Over the centuries, it underwent several additions and modifications, particularly during the late Mughal and early British periods, when it likely acquired its present form.

The name Chauburja, meaning “four towers/domes,” refers to the four domes that once crowned the building. Though only one of these survives, they gave the monument its distinctive identity.

The monument also played a role during the Revolt of 1857. Owing to its strategic location on the Delhi Ridge, British troops used the structure as a battery, to mount large guns that could be directed towards the Indian forces that continuously attacked them. During that conflict the building suffered considerable damage as it was shelled by the Indian side. Today, the Chauburja Mosque remains an important reminder of the many historical layers that have shaped Delhi’s built heritage.

Architecture

The Chauburja Mosque is a two-storey structure built primarily of random rubble masonry, a construction technique widely used during the Tughlaq period. The building contains several interconnected chambers. A staircase at the western end provides access to the upper storey.

Additions to the structure were made in the late Mughal period, including arched openings and domes at the four corners, from which the monument derives its current name. During 1857, some of these features, such as three of the domes, were destroyed. At the same time extensions and buttresses were added to strengthen it for the purpose of supporting heavy guns.

The eastern side of the structure has suffered considerable deterioration over time, while later alterations have added historic layers that contribute to its complexity. Important features of the Tughlaq-period construction, including its thick masonry walls, simple ornamentation, and solid proportions, contrast with Mughal construction in brick, and later rough stone work from the colonial era.

Significance

The Chauburja Mosque is significant because it illustrates the **changing use of historic buildings over several centuries**. Originally

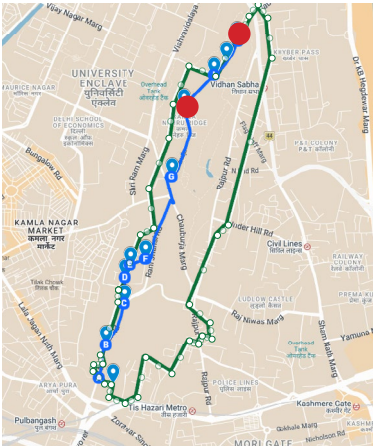
constructed as a mausoleum during the Tughlaq period, it was later adapted into a mosque, and finally a battery, demonstrating how monuments often evolved to meet the needs of different communities and periods.

The historic layers so clearly seen on this monument also testify to the changing landscape and use of the ridge – a hunting ground in the Tughlaq and Mughal period, and as a strategic post in the colonial period.

Present Condition

The eastern side of the monument has experienced significant deterioration, although conservation work has stabilised parts of the structure. Continued maintenance is required to protect the surviving masonry and preserve the monument’s architectural and historical significance.





Coordinates:
28°41'24.63"N, 77°13'11.17"E
28°41'09.58"N, 77°12'57.80"E

You are on a trail

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- Visitor Information**
- Nearest Metro Station: Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station (approximately 1.5 km)
 - Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
 - Tickets: Free entry
 - Location: Approximately 300 metres north-east of the Flagstaff Tower, along the main trail within the Kamla Nehru Ridge Reserve.
 - Nearby Monuments: Flagstaff Tower, Hindu Rao Hospital, Chauburja Mosque, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh), Pir Ghaib

Northern and Southern Guard Houses

MPD Zone

Jurisdiction

Notification No.

C

Department of Archaeology, GNCTD

DAHMASR Act 2004 (No. F. 14(33)/LA-2004/273)- 13,14



Historical Background

The Northern and Southern Guard Houses were built around 1828 CE as part of the British military establishment on Delhi's Northern Ridge. Constructed during the development of the British cantonment, the buildings were strategically positioned along the route leading to the Flagstaff Tower, an important signalling station overlooking the city.

Although often described as garden pavilions because of their modest scale and architectural style, the guard houses also served practical military purposes. Historical accounts suggest that they functioned as lookout posts, guard stations, and checkpoints for soldiers and visitors travelling through the Ridge. At a basic level they would have provided shelter to soldiers patrolling the ridge, and storage for their arms and ammunition.

The structures gained particular importance during the Revolt of 1857, when the Northern Ridge became the principal British defensive position during the Siege of Delhi. Situated close to the main battlefield, the guard houses likely supported military observation and communication between defensive positions. Although small in size, they formed part of a larger network of military infrastructure that included the Flagstaff Tower, Hindu Rao House, and other strategic buildings,

reflecting the British use of the Ridge as a fortified military landscape..

Architecture

The Northern and Southern Guard houses are simple, single-storey masonry structures built in a restrained colonial style. Nearly identical in design, both buildings have a rectangular plan and are constructed of random rubble masonry, using locally available Delhi quartzite stone. Their modest scale reflects their functional purpose rather than any ceremonial role.

Each guard house consists of a single rectangular chamber enclosed by thick masonry walls that provided strength and thermal comfort. The buildings are distinguished by their pedimented roofs, a classical architectural feature commonly used in British colonial buildings of the early nineteenth century. The simple elevations are largely unornamented, with carefully proportioned openings that provided light, ventilation, and clear views of the surrounding landscape.

Located on opposite sides of the approach to the Flagstaff Tower, the two structures were positioned to overlook movement along the Ridge. Their elevated setting enhanced their effectiveness as observation posts while also allowing them to blend into the surrounding landscape. Despite their small size, the guard

houses represent well-preserved examples of early colonial military architecture in Delhi.

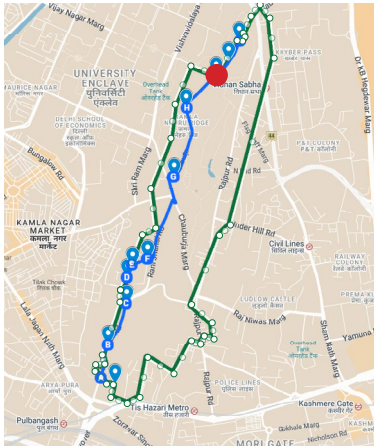
Significance

The Northern and Southern Guard houses are significant as surviving examples of the military infrastructure established by the British on Delhi's Northern Ridge during the early nineteenth century. Together with the Flagstaff Tower, Hindu Rao Hospital, Chauburja Mosque, and other nearby structures, they help interpret the evolution of the Ridge from a natural landscape into a strategically important military and historic precinct.

Present Condition

The guard houses remain structurally well preserved within the North Ridge Reserve Forest. Although protected by their location, continued conservation and careful management of the surrounding landscape are important as urban development has significantly reduced the extent of the historic Ridge.





Coordinates:

28°41'16.74"N, 77°13'05.30"E

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Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station (approximately 1.5 km)
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: Free entry
- Nearby Monuments: Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh), Hindu Rao Hospital, Pir Ghaib, Ashokan Pillar, Chauburja Mosque

Flagstaff Tower

MPD Zone
Jurisdiction

C
Archaeological Survey
of India



Historical Background

The Flagstaff Tower was built in 1828 by the British as part of the military cantonment established below the western slopes of Delhi's Northern Ridge. Constructed on one of the highest points of the Ridge, the circular tower served as a signal station, allowing visual communication between military outposts. At the time, the Ridge had much less vegetation than it does today, making signals from the tower visible over long distances.

The monument is best known for its association with the Revolt of 1857. On 11 May 1857, as the uprising spread through Delhi, British officers, civilians, women, and children gathered at the Flagstaff Tower hoping that military reinforcements would arrive. When no immediate assistance came, they fled from the Ridge and travelled north towards Karnal for safety. This event marked one of the earliest episodes of the Siege of Delhi, making the tower an important landmark in the history of the revolt.

Today, the Flagstaff Tower stands as one of the few surviving British military structures on the Ridge and serves as a reminder of Delhi's colonial past and the events of 1857.

Architecture

The Flagstaff Tower is a circular masonry structure designed primarily for military observation and signalling. Its elevated position on the Northern Ridge provided clear views of the surrounding landscape, allowing signals to be transmitted across the British cantonment and neighbouring areas.

The tower is built of stone masonry with a simple yet functional design. A winding staircase at its centre leads visitors to the roof terrace, where a flagstaff once stood, giving the monument its name. The rooftop offered an unobstructed vantage point for observation and communication.

Although intended as a utilitarian structure, the tower incorporates several decorative architectural features. These include moulded cornices, battlement-like parapets, and recessed arched niches that add visual interest to the otherwise plain exterior. The thick masonry walls provide structural stability while maintaining a cool interior. The circular plan, combined with its commanding location, reflects the practical military architecture of the early nineteenth century. Despite its modest scale, the Flagstaff Tower remains one of the most recognisable colonial-era monuments on the Delhi Ridge.

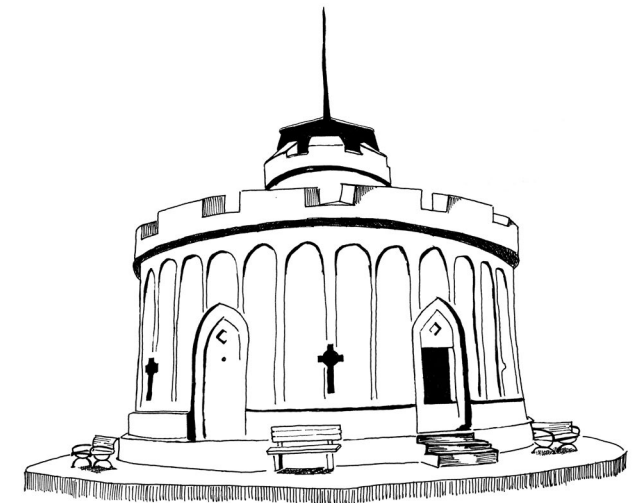
Significance

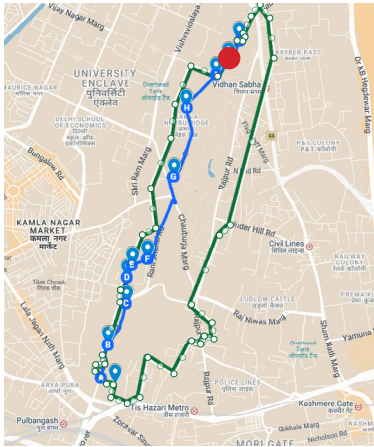
The Flagstaff Tower is one of the most

important colonial monuments associated with the Revolt of 1857. It symbolises the beginning of the British response to the uprising in Delhi and is closely linked with the dramatic events that unfolded during the early days of the Siege of Delhi. Today, the monument is valued both for its historical associations and its architectural character. It offers visitors an **opportunity to understand the military history of the city and the lasting impact of the events of 1857.**

Present Condition

The Flagstaff Tower is well preserved and remains open to visitors. Routine conservation has helped maintain its masonry and architectural features, though continued monitoring and maintenance are required to address weathering and visitor impact.





Coordinates:

28°41'20.19"N, 77°13'08.33"E

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Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station (approximately 1.5 km)
- Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
- Tickets: Free entry
- Nearby Monuments: Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial (Ajitgarh), Hindu Rao Hospital, Chauburja Mosque, Pir Ghaib

Enclosure containing the Grave of Lt. Edwards and Others

MPD Zone
Jurisdiction

C

Archaeological Survey of India



Historical Background

The enclosure containing the grave of Lieutenant Edwards and others is a small colonial memorial associated with the Revolt of 1857, one of the most significant events in India's history. The monument commemorates Lieutenant Edwards and several other British personnel who lost their lives during the uprising in Delhi. Although limited historical records survive regarding the identities of all those buried here, the enclosure reflects the heavy casualties suffered during the conflict. The Northern Ridge became the principal British military position during the Siege of Delhi, and numerous temporary cemeteries and memorials were established for soldiers and civilians who died in the fighting. This grave enclosure is one of the surviving reminders of those events. It was constructed to honour the deceased and to preserve their memory within the military landscape of the Ridge.

Unlike larger memorials erected after the revolt, this enclosure is modest in scale and

serves as a personal record of the individuals who died during the conflict. Today, it forms part of the wider network of colonial monuments that document the history of the Siege of Delhi and the lasting impact of the events of 1857.

Architecture

The grave enclosure is a simple funerary monument designed in the restrained style commonly adopted for British military cemeteries during the nineteenth century. The burial ground is enclosed by low masonry walls that clearly define the memorial space while protecting the graves within.

The principal feature is the commemorative gravestone marking the burial of Lieutenant Edwards and others who died during the Revolt of 1857. The monument relies on simple proportions and durable masonry rather than elaborate ornamentation, reflecting the practical nature of military memorials constructed during periods of conflict.

The enclosure occupies a quiet setting within the Northern Ridge, where the surrounding vegetation creates a solemn atmosphere appropriate to its commemorative purpose. Although architecturally modest, the monument is an important component of the Ridge's historic landscape. Its simplicity allows visitors to focus on its historical associations and the human stories

connected with the Siege of Delhi rather than on decorative architectural features.

Significance

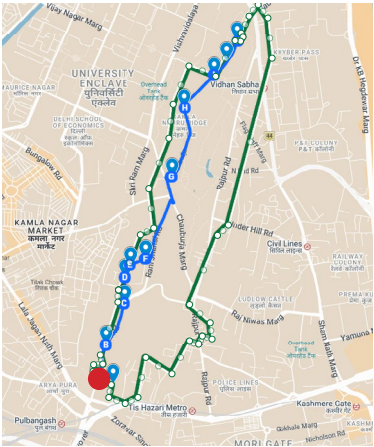
The grave enclosure is significant as a memorial to individuals who lost their lives during the Revolt of 1857. The monument contributes to the broader understanding of the Northern Ridge as a historic military landscape. Today, **the enclosure serves as a place for historical reflection and reminds visitors that the events of 1857 affected people on all sides of the conflict.**

Present Condition

The grave enclosure survives in a stable condition within the North Ridge. Continued maintenance of the masonry, inscriptions, and surrounding landscape is necessary to preserve the monument and ensure that its historical significance remains clearly understood.

Site of Siege Battery- Untraceable

MPD Zone **C**
Jurisdiction Archaeological Survey of India



Coordinates:
28°40'08.18"N, 77°12'39.44"E

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Follow this [route!](#)

Visitor Information

- Nearest Metro Station: Pul Bangash Metro Station (Red Line) – approximately 1.5 km away
- Timings: Open area; accessible throughout the day
- Tickets: Free entry
- Nearby Monuments: Nicholson Cemetery, Kashmere Gate, Ludlow Castle, Qudsia Bagh, St. James' Church

The tentative location for the site has been marked on the map, however, no remains can be found as of today.



Source: Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

Historical Background

Established during the Siege of Delhi in 1857, a major episode in the Revolt of 1857, Sammy House Battery was one of the important British siege batteries. The battery was a part of the British artillery positions created to bombard the walls of Shahjahanabad before the final assault. Located east of the present-day Police Lines Hospital, it was strategically placed to target the Mori Bastion of the city walls. Historical records identify it as No. 1 Right Attack Battery, directed by Lieutenant F. R. Mansell of the Royal Engineers and commanded by Major James Brind of the Royal Artillery. The site represents an important chapter in the military history of Delhi and reflects the planning and engineering employed during the siege that ultimately led to the capture of the city by British forces.

The site of the Siege battery now bears the following inscription: "Battery, Sammy House, Major Remington Tank, R.A. commanding armament 89 pounds, to command ground near Mori Bastion."

Architecture

Unlike a permanent monument, Sammy House Battery was built as a temporary military fortification constructed specifically for the 1857 siege. The battery consisted of a carefully prepared artillery platform protected by earthworks and defensive embankments. These embankments absorbed enemy fire while allowing British artillery to operate safely. The layout included space for artillery crews, ammunition storage, and communication with nearby siege positions. Although the original structures have not survived, the site remains significant for its military layout and strategic location. Today, an archaeological marker commemorates the position of the battery with an inscription describing its commanding officers, armament, and military objective, preserving the memory of one of the principal artillery positions used during the assault on Delhi.

Significance

Sammy House Battery marks an important site for the Siege of Delhi (1857), a turning point in India's First War of Independence. The battery played a crucial role in breaching the city's defenses by directing sustained artillery fire towards the Mori Bastion. Its location illustrates the carefully planned network of siege batteries established around Shahjahanabad before the final assault. The site also reflects the technological and

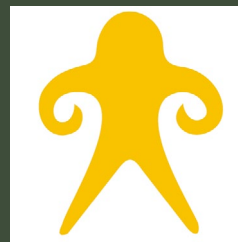
engineering aspects of nineteenth-century warfare, where artillery positioning was essential to military success. Together with nearby sites such as Kashmere Gate, Nicholson Cemetery, Ludlow Castle, and Qudsia Bagh, Sammy House Battery forms part of the larger heritage landscape associated with the events of 1857.

Present Condition

The original siege battery no longer survives. Today, the site is marked by a commemorative inscription installed by the Archaeological Survey of India, preserving the location of the battery and its role during the Siege of Delhi.

*DELHI DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY*

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