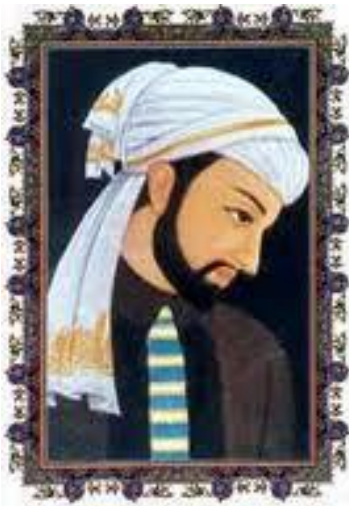




Tughlaqabad Fort



History



Tughlaqabad is considered to be the third capital city of Delhi. The city was named after **Tughlaq dynasty** (1320-1412 AD) that ruled a large part of India from Delhi and the three prominent rulers were **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq**, his son **Mohammad bin Tughlaq** and his nephew **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**. **Khusrau Khan**, the last king of the Khilji dynasty was killed by Ghazni Malik, who later ascended the throne assuming the title Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. He built Tughlaqabad the second fortified city spanning an area of **6.5 km** over a period of **four years** and was divided into: the wider fortified **city area**, originally rectangular in plan, the **citadel** and the adjacent **palace** that once consisted of royal residences. One main purpose to build this massive fort was to resist the threat of **Mongol attacks**.

Architecture of the fort

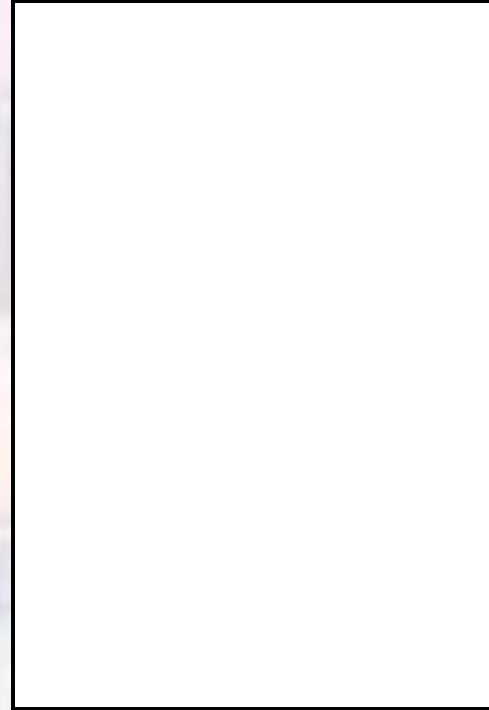
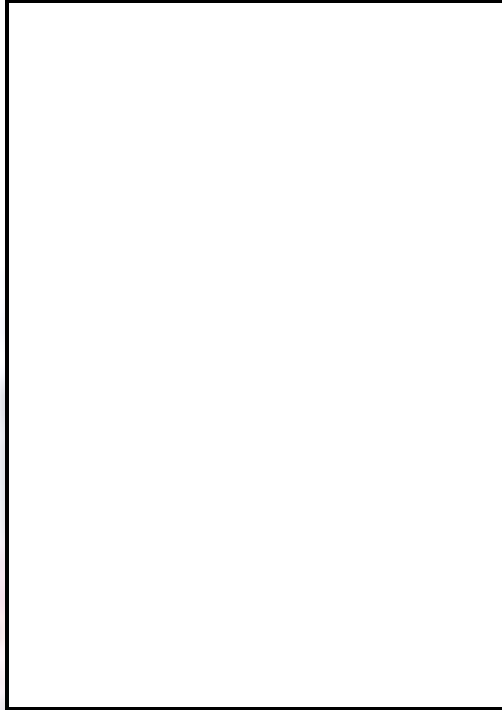
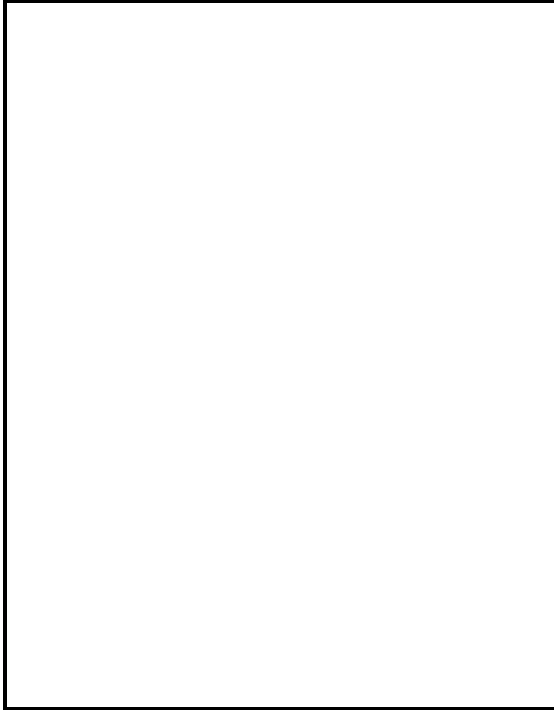
- Tall and remarkable fort built on a rocky hill was surrounded by massive stone fortifications built with **rubble masonry** surfaced over quartzite stone
- **Sloppy** higher walls, **double storied bastions** with numerous silts, gateways are a common feature. It is one of the thickest walls in India is about 10 to 15 ft thick. The city believed to have **52 gateways** of which few remains
- The **main entrance** to the fort today is on the southern side facing the pathway leading to the **tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq**. 13 ft high entrance gate was originally used by Ghiyasuddin to visit the site of his tomb
- **A natural pathway** leads to the citadel which is square in plan

Bastions, gateways, huge thick walls etc are common features of a medieval fort in India. Draw these architectural elements of a fort in the boxes given below

Bastion

Gateway

Fortified wall



Cursed Fort!!!!

THE BUILDING OF THE FORTRESS WAS CONTROVERSIAL. THE BUILDER, GHIYASUDDIN TUGHLAQ A POWERFUL RULER ORDERED ALL THE LABOURERS OF DELHI TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES SOLELY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIS CITY. DURING THE SAME TIME, REVERED SUFI SAINT, NIZAMUDDIN AUILYA WAS BUILDING A BAOLI OR STEPWELL NEXT TO THE DARGAH. THE WORKERS WENT AGAINST THE ORDERS OF THE RULER AND WORKED TIRELESSLY IN THE NIGHT AT THE BAOLI.

DESPITE HIS EFFORTS, THE RULER COULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO HARM THE SAINT. HE WENT OUT ON A MILITARY CAMPAIGN AND WANTED TO PUNISH THE SAINT ON HIS RETURN. THE SAINT DESPITE THE THREAT STAYED IN DELHI AND SIMPLY SAID '***DEHLI DUR AST***' OR 'DELHI IS YET FAR'.

THE RULER NEVER ENTERED THE CITY ALIVE AND WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT WHEN A PAVILION BUILT FOR HIS WELCOME CONSTRUCTED BY HIS SON MOHAMMAD BIN TUGHLAQ COLLAPSED. ACCORDING TO IBN BATUTA, ARAB TRAVELER THE ACCIDENT WAS PLANNED BY MOHAMMAD TO BECOME THE EMPEROR. IT IS SAID THE RULER CURSED THE NEW CITY BY SAYING '***YA BASE GUJJAR YA RAHE UJAD***' OR 'EITHER IT WILL BE OCCUPIED BY GUJJARS OR IT WILL BE A WASTELAND.

IT REMAINED UNINHABITED AND WAS ABANDONED WITHIN A FEW YEARS AFTER ITS CONSTRUCTION.

Unique features

Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq

- Built by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, probably finished by his son, a perfect example of **Indo- Islamic architecture**.
- it was approached by a pathway that originally connected it to the fort which ran over a **water reservoir** but now dry
- The tomb lies inside a **fortified wall constructed with Delhi stone grey in colour** with a **bastion and tomb** stands on a high platform
- The interiors are decorated with red sandstone, **arched borders** and intricate **jali work**
- **Three graves**- one of the ruler, other two belongs to his wife and son

Public buildings

- Some ruined buildings which appears to be various **public buildings** and some were the part of a **palace with large grand halls**

Citadel

- Built high, probably the **private** living and working area for the emperor
- On the one side of the entrance of citadel, there is a small mosque with a **Bengal style roof** or vault dome. According to an inscription, the mosque was built in **1618** by **Sheikh Farid** during the reign of Mughal Emperor, Jahangir. Behind the mosque there was a **large reservoir**



What is Indo- Islamic architecture? Write two main features of this stylized architecture

Another fort -Adilabad fort

BUILT IN THE SAME PERIOD, STYLE, MATERIAL AND CONSTRUCTION, SEEMS TO BE AN EXTENSION OF TUGHLAQABAD FORT, THIS FORT WAS BUILT IN 1327-28 BY MOHAMMAD BIN TUGHLAQ AS A SYMBOL OF HIS OWN MIGHT AND POWER. IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST FORTS IN DELHI WHICH REMAINED UNEXPLORED FOR AND FEW OF THE REMAINING EXAMPLES OF TUGHLAQ-ERA ARCHITECTURE.

Other monuments

- **Tomb of Zafar Khan** whose identity remains unknown
- **Pillared verandah**-is believed to be a **madrassa** (Islamic college)
- **Underground chambers and grain pits** - probably storerooms but were converted into **living quarters**
- **Burj mandal**- a flat top building which has been referred to as **Jahanuma** meaning 'that which shows you the world' as it gave the best view of Tughlaqabad

Architecture of the Tughlaqs!!!

- ❖ **RULED ABOUT 77 YEARS WITH TEN RULERS WHO BUILT MANY CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE ROADS, DAMS, CANALS, STEP WELLS ETC.**
- ❖ **THEIR BUILDINGS HAD 'BATTER' WALLS BUILT WITH EARTH SLIGHTLY SLOPPING INWARDS**
- ❖ **USE OF GREY QUARTZITE FROM DELHI**
- ❖ **THEY FOCUSED ON QUICKLY BUILDING THE STRUCTURES RATHER THAN ON BEAUTY AND OUTER APPEARANCE THAT'S WHY MOST BUILDINGS ARE PLAIN**
- ❖ **BLENDED INDIGENOUS LIKE KALASH, LOTUS BUDS WITH IMPORTED ELEMENTS FROM CENTRAL ASIA LIKE ARCHES . DOMES ETC**

Write down the names of a few notable Tughlaq monuments

1. _____ **2.** _____
3. _____ **4.** _____