

# MOSQUES OF INDIA



**JAMA MASJID, BHILAI**

The Jama Masjid in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh is the largest mosque in the state. The idea of such mosques is to accommodate a large number of people, who can easily congregate to pray together.

This mosque can accommodate 3,000 people at one time. The term 'Jama Masjid' means 'Friday mosque' as this was used by Muslims for their special Friday prayers. The first ever Friday congregation took place in this mosque on 31st March 1967.

Before this mosque was made, people used to pray separately in their homes, but now it is easy for people to get together.



This mosque has a recent history. The Bhilai Steel Plant allotted a plot to the committee it had created for the mosque. This plot was 12,000 square feet.



What makes this mosque unique is the fact that this was the first mosque in the world to have the world's 'Ya Allah' in the Arabic script incorporated in the design. The 80 feet high minar is the 'Ya' and the rest of it is on the wall atop the platform - 'Allah'. It took three years to construct this mosque.

Today, representatives from non-muslim communities visit to wish muslims on Eid and other important festivals as a symbol of inter-religious harmony.



To get an idea of how LARGE this mosque really is, here are its dimensions:

- It is 59 feet tall, including a 16 feet high dome.
- It is 120 feet long.
- It is 100 feet wide.

Next to the mosque, the Eid-gah - the open air enclosure where people congregate is also massive.

- It is 250 feet long.
- It is 230 feet wide.

## ACTIVITIES

Design a religious building of your own with some significant quote incorporated into the design and architecture of the structure. Make your blueprint here:



There are a number of Jama Masjids all over India. In this wordsearch, find the names of the states that have this massive mosque.



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