

Raja's Chhatri near Bordha Ghat

Burhanpur was a military centre during the period of Aurangzeb. Mirza Raja Jai Singh while returning from the Deccan campaign in 1666 died here. A Chhatri was constructed by the order of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in the honour of the memory of Raja jai Singh over his remains. The Chhatri was built of stone over a high platform on the bank of the river Tapti, four miles away from Burhanpur. It was an excellent pavilion having beautifully carved pillars and denticulate arches displaying the composite architectural characteristics of the Rajputs and the Mughals.



Raja Jai Singh Chhatri

Tomb of Adil Shah Faruqi

The Tomb of Adil Shah is adjacent to the tomb of Nasir Khan. Some tombs of Faruqi queens and kings are also situated here. Tomb of Adil Shah Faruqi was built in the 15th century A.D. on a high platform is square from outside and octagonal from inside. The tomb of Adil Shah Faruqi is tastefully carved and the interiors of the tombs (dome) are decorated with paintings made in fresco technique. The tomb has some Persian inscriptions which are partly obliterated by white wash and plaster.



Tomb of Adil Shah & Nadir Shah Faruqi

Tomb of Nadir Shah Nawaz Khan

The tomb of Nadir Shah Nawaz Khan also known as Nasir Khan, was built over a high platform, square in plan with flat facades relieved by shallow central projection bays. It is surmounted by a drum imposed on a high octagonal drum base. Originally a continuous projecting chajja cornice carried on carved brackets shaded each front, which has now disappeared. Above the chajja is a deep parapet divided by a subsidiary string course and the lower portion contains a frieze of shallow mehrab shaped panels. It has three arched openings with perforated stone screen piercing each façade except the west, which accommodates the mehrab.



Entrance fee for visiting monuments
 Rs 5/- for Indian Nationals and those from SAARC and BIMSTEC Countries and Rs.100/- for other nationals.
 Free for persons up to 15 years.
Timing: Open all days from sunrise to sunset.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

BURHANPUR

A historical city

The historical city of Burhanpur is situated on the north bank of the river Tapti and is 65 km south-east of Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. Burhanpur was founded in 1399 AD by a Prince of Faruqi dynasty from Khandesh. The new city was named Burhanpur in honour of the famous saint Burhan-ud-din of Daulatabad. It is hilly but partly covered by an extensive open plain. The early history of Khandesh extends from 150 BC but Abul Fazl says that "in ancient times the territory was a waste and few people lived in the fortress of Asir." During the 5th century AD it was conquered by the Andhras who later on were succeeded by the Chalukyas. According to Farista, Khandesh was a Rajput state with Asirgarh as its principal fortress before Alauddin Khilaji's invasion of Deogiri in 1294. The kings of Faruqi dynasty of Khandesh ruled it for over 200 years. The Kingdom was annexed to the Mughal Empire by Akbar in 1601 AD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
 Bhopal Circle

Burhanpur formed the chief seat for the government of the Deccan provinces of the Mughal Emperor till Shah Jehan moved the capital to Daulatabad in 1635. Mumtaz Mahal died at Burhanpur in 1631 A.D. when Shah Jahan was on campaign in Deccan. With the downfall of the Mughals it passed into the hands of the Nizam of Hyderabad, who later by the treaty of 1760 AD. gave it to Peshwa Bajirao and subsequently in 1778 it was handed over to the Scindias. In 1803, it was captured from Daulat Rao Scindia by a detachment of General Wellesley's army. Later, after the restoration of peace it was again taken over by the Scindias. It was besieged and captured for a second time by the British in 1819, as Appa Saheb Bhonsale of Nagpur and the Panderi Chief, Chitu had sought shelter here. During the days of the Great Uprising of 1857, detachment of Gwalior contingent, then occupying it, waited for an opportunity to break into revolt but soon other detachments of infantry and cavalry disarmed the rebels.

The site is mentioned in the Ain-e-Akbari where it is described as a large city. Sir Thomas Roe also visited the site in 1614 and found only the prince's house impressive.

There are several monuments in the town in which a palace, built by Akbar, called the Lal Kila or the Red Fort, and the Jama Masjid or Great Mosque, built by Ali Khan of the Faruqi dynasty, in 1588. Besides these numerous tombs of Faruqi dynasty, Mosques and Hammams are noteworthy structures in the town.

Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan

The tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan (locally known as Pehalwaan Sahab) was built during the reign of Jehangir. The original name of Shah Nawaz Khan was Mirza Iraj and he was the elder son of the Khan Khanan. He played an important role in the military enterprise of the Deccan during the time of Jehangir and he passed away early in 1619 when he was only of 44 years.



Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan

The Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan is built over a raised platform measuring 106x105 feet on the Charbag pattern. The main building of the tomb is 71x71 feet. External part of the building is built of dark to greyish stones and the inner is built of brick with lime mortar. It is a double storeyed building, the ground floor of which is 38x38 feet. The door opens on the southern side. The walls have arches on the east and west with rectangular lattices (Jalis) of stone. Around the central chamber, there are verandahs having three doors. The pillars of the verandahs

Adjacent to the verandahs, are 4 apartments of 16x16 feet at the four corners with two door openings to the verandah. All around the tomb is a parapet wall and on all four corners are octagonal bastions of 26 feet in diameter. The tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan combines in it, features borrowed from different styles. Its square design is derived from Gujarat, while the pinnacles are similar to Tughlaq structures of Delhi. The dome is borrowed from Lodhi and foliations from Bijapur. This tomb is a rare specimen of architecture in Khandesh and is regarded as a master piece of the region.

Tomb of Begum Shuja and other remains

Among the Mughal rulers, Shah Jehan was the master builder. His building activities had begun when he was a prince. He laid the foundation for exquisite buildings at Burhanpur. He has also built the tomb of Begum Shuja, charming palaces of Bagh-i-Alam Ara and the palatial buildings of Gauhar Begum. The tomb of Begum Shuja stands outside the fort wall beyond the Itwara gate. It was built over a raised fluted circular plinth. It is built of stone and plastered with shell lime. The walls of the tomb are decorated with fresco paintings of kings and the dome resembles a kharbuza (Muskmelon) in shape.



Tomb of Begum Shuja

Bibi Sahib's Masjid and Compound

Bibi Mosque built by one of the queens of Faruqi kings probably between 1520 to 1540 AD. It is simple rectangular in plan over 132 feet long, 48 feet broad and the walls are 4.5 feet thick. The roof of mosque was supported on four rows of square pillars. The large dome of the mosque springs from the octagon built of beams and pillars.



Bibi Sahib's Masjid

It is of closed variety, and its front wall has a large central archway, flanked on both side by substantial three storied minarets. These minarets are square at the bottom, octagonal and sixteen sided in the middle and circular at the top. The minarets are provided with balcony type oriel windows in their upper storeys and are crowned by rounded dome.



Tomb of Begum Shuja

The Palace situated in the Fort

The palace of the Faruqi king called Badshahi quila was built in the beginning of the 15th century AD. by Adil Khan I, on the right bank of the Tapti. Only its remains and those of the palaces and mosques inside it still exist. Burhanpur was a city of gardens and most of the mosques had a large cistern with fountains. In view of the large population an elaborate system of water works was constructed by the Mughals at Burhanpur.

Hammam

During the Mughal rule in Burhanpur many structural additions were made to the Shahi fort. In the same premises the Hammam enclosure contains one of the best relics known as Zenana bath (also known as Shah Jahani Hammam) of early Mughal Iranian style. It was constructed during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. It consists of three rooms having dome style roof, a marble floor built in Turkish style.

There are large number of fresco paintings in the grand ceilings. The bath bears a contemporary inscription, recording that a public bath was constructed by the order of the Khan Khanan, under the supervision of Muhammed Ali Kark.



Shahi Fort