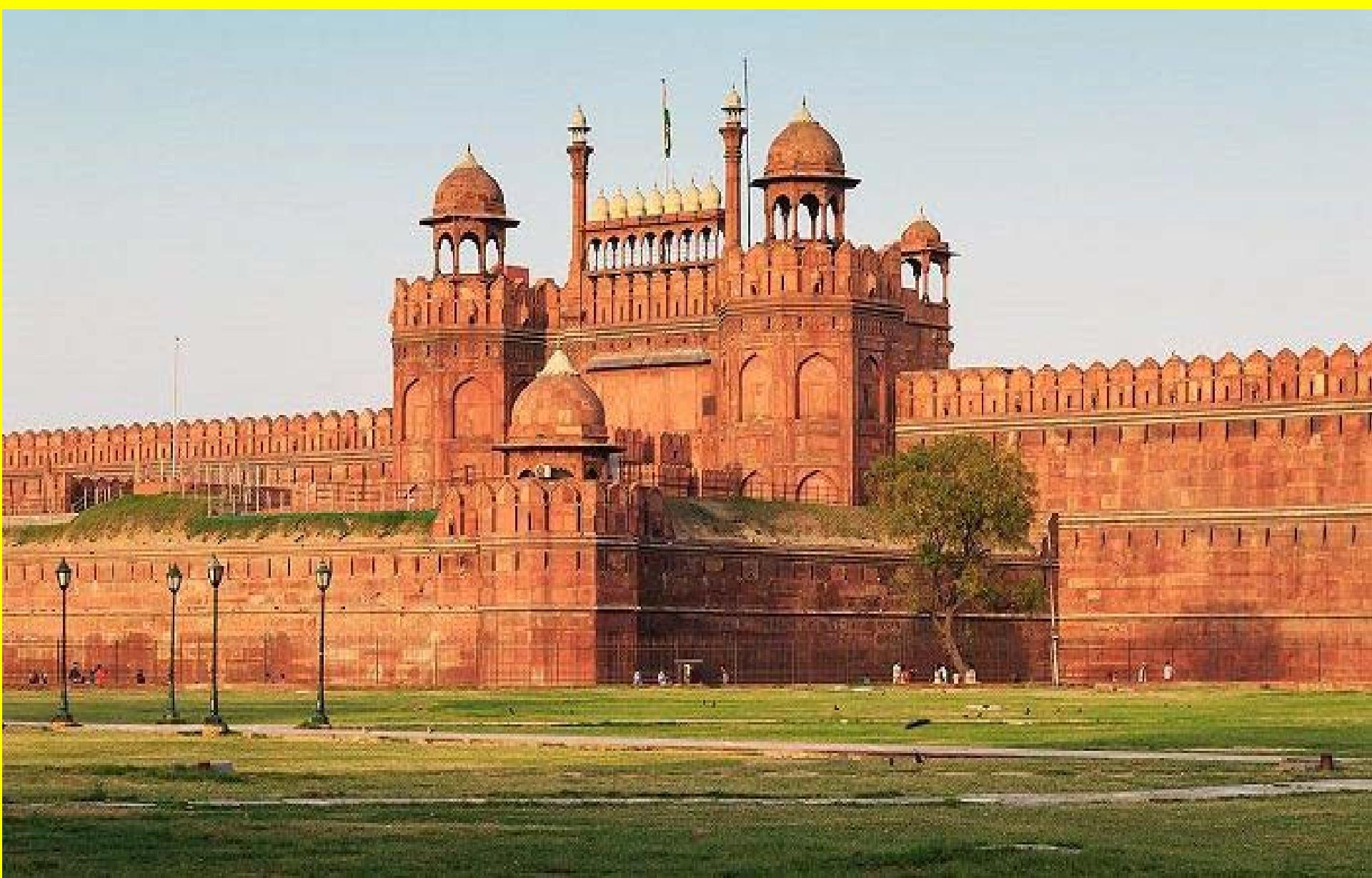


# LAL QUILA/RED FORT COMPLEX



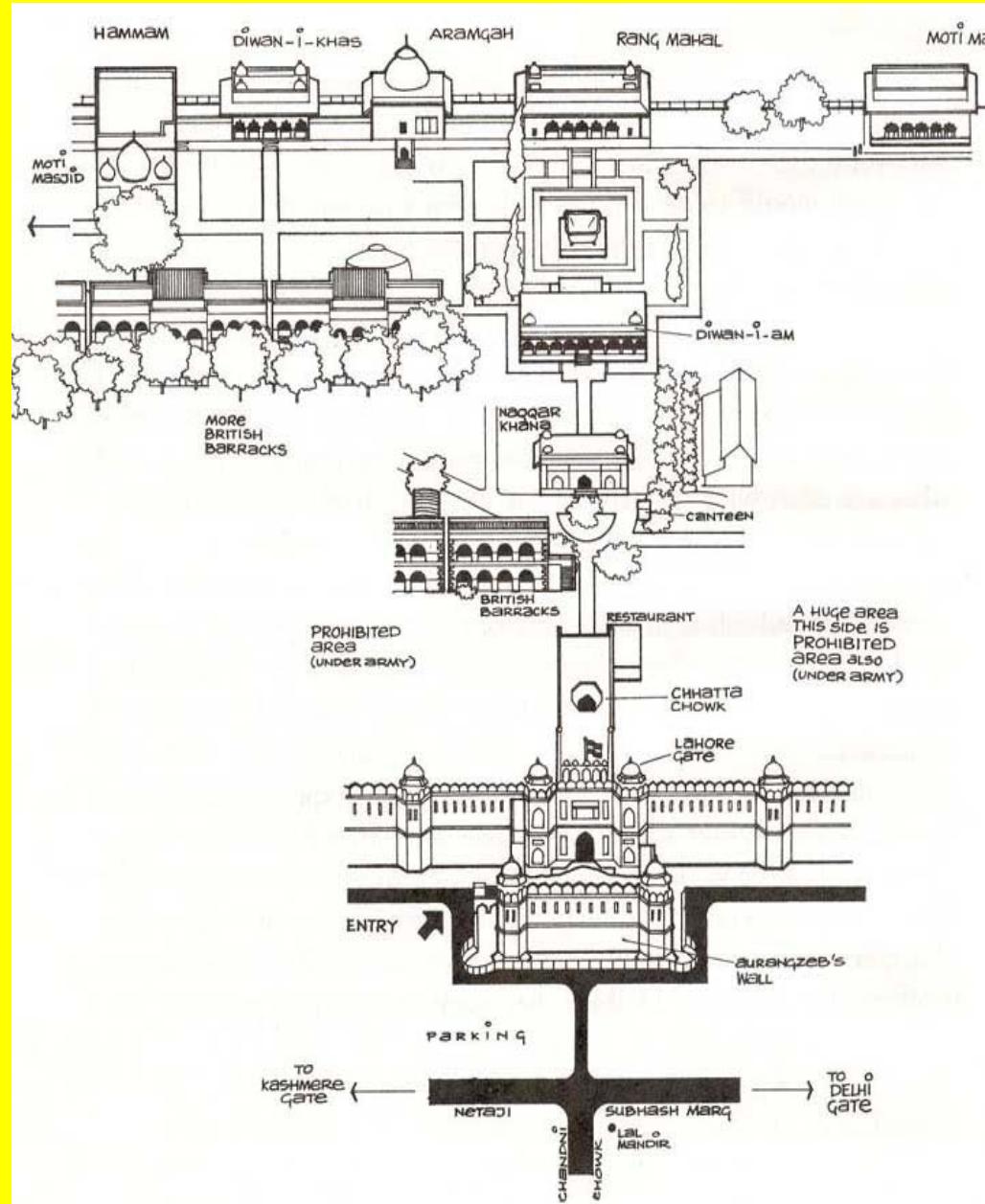
Red Fort, popularly known as Lal Qila, was constructed by Shah Jahan in the 17th Century.

- The fort complex served as the residence of Mughal Emperors for nearly 200 years, until 1857.
- It was designed by architect **Ustad Ahmad Lahauri** and **Ustad Hamid**.
- The fort lies along the Yamuna River.
- Its construction began in the sacred month of **Muharram**, on 13 May 1638, and was completed in 1648.
- It has a perimeter of 2.41km.
- The fort is built using red sandstone and has an oblong octagonal plan.
- It has 2 principal gates – **Lahore Drawaza** and **Delhi Darwaza** along its western and southern sides respectively.

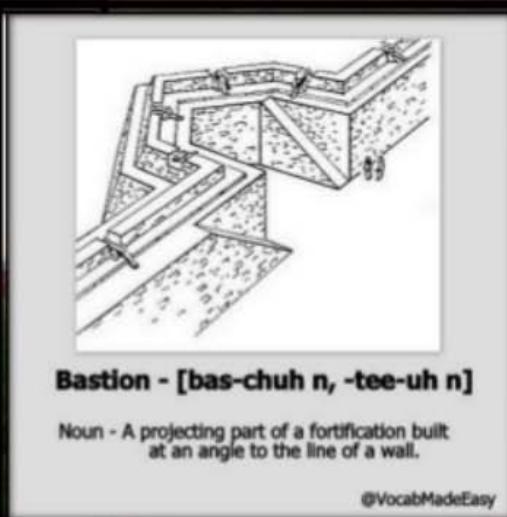
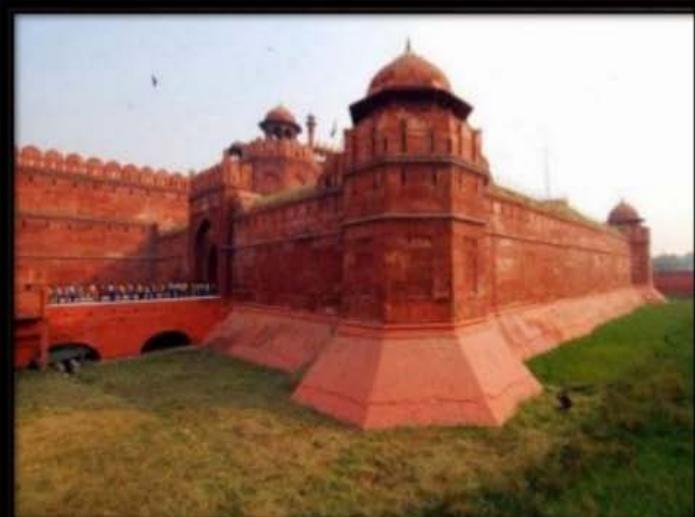
# Key Features

- The fortress is in the shape of a rectangle 900m by 550m.
- The rampart is about 34m high.
- A moat surrounds the rampart.
- Two of five gateways of the fort are three – storeyed structures flanked by octagonal towers.
- These are the Lahori Gate and the Delhi Gate.
- Figures of two huge elephants flank the Delhi Gate.
- The main entrance to the fort is through the Lahori Gate.
- A covered passage with shops on either side leads to the places inside the fort. Rampart - a defensive wall of a castle or walled city, having a broad top with a walkway and typically a stone parapet.

- The Red Fort's boundary walls are asymmetrical to contain the older Salimgarh Fort.
- The fortress-palace was a focal point of the medieval city of Shahjahanabad, which is present-day Old Delhi.
- Its planning and aesthetics represent the zenith of Mughal creativity prevailing during Shah Jahan's reign.



- The Red Fort has an area of 254.67 acres (103.06 ha) enclosed by 2.41 kilometres (1.50 mi) of defensive walls, punctuated by turrets and bastions and varying in height from 18 metres (59 ft) on the river side to 33 metres (108 ft) on the city side.
- The fort is octagonal, with the north-south axis longer than the east-west axis.
- The marble, floral decorations and double domes in the fort's buildings exemplify later Mughal architecture. Turret - a small tower on top of a larger tower or at the corner of a building or wall, typically of a castle



**Bastion** - [bas-chuh n, -tee-uh n]

Noun - A projecting part of a fortification built at an angle to the line of a wall.



**Turret** - a small tower on top of a larger tower or at the corner of a building or wall, typically of a castle

- It showcases a high level of ornamentation, and the Kohinoor diamond was reportedly part of the furnishings.
- The fort's artwork synthesises Persian, European and Indian art, resulting in a unique Shahjahani style rich in form, expression and colour.
- Red Fort is one of the building complexes of India encapsulating a long period of history and its arts.
- Even before its 1913 commemoration as a monument of national importance, efforts were made to preserve it for posterity.
- The Lahori and Delhi Gates were used by the public, and the Khizrabad Gate was for the emperor.
- The Lahore Gate is the main entrance, leading to a domed shopping area known as the Chatta Chowk (covered bazaar).

## Arrow slits Damaaga



- This helmet-like structure, which is often seen alternating with arrow slits, also forms part of the defensive architecture of the fort.
- It's known as a damaaga (a 'damaaga' is a 'nostril'; the name is probably because of the similarity in shape).
- Damaagas were used as outlets to pour burning pitch on enemies trying to scale the wall.
- This odd-looking architectural element, typically positioned high up on the outer walls of the fort.
- The vertical slits in the walls are known as arrow slits or loopholes - because they allowed soldiers inside the fort to shoot arrows at an external enemy from the shelter of the wall.

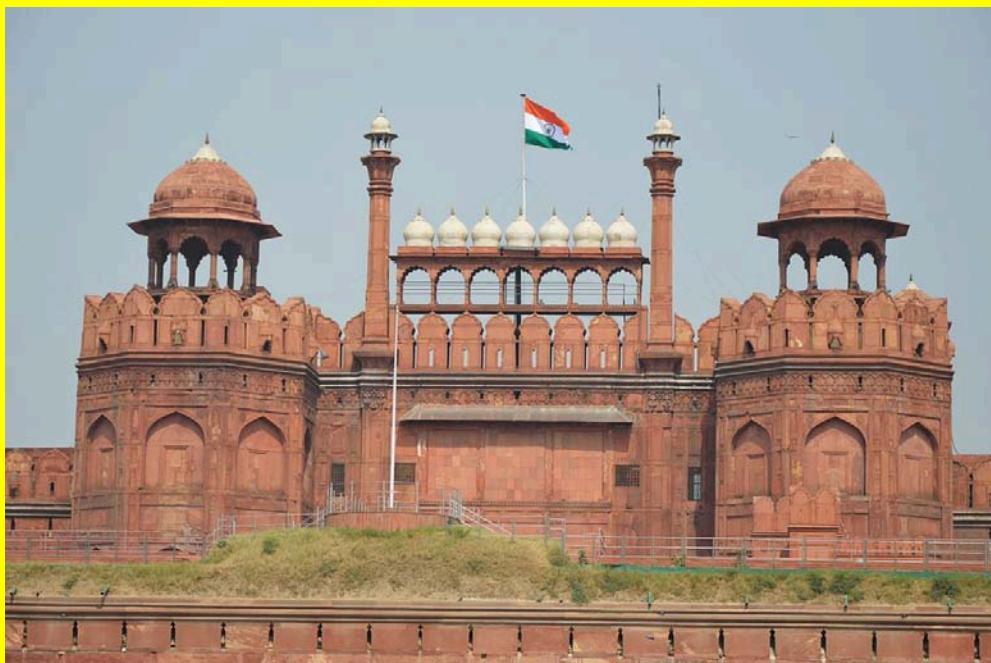
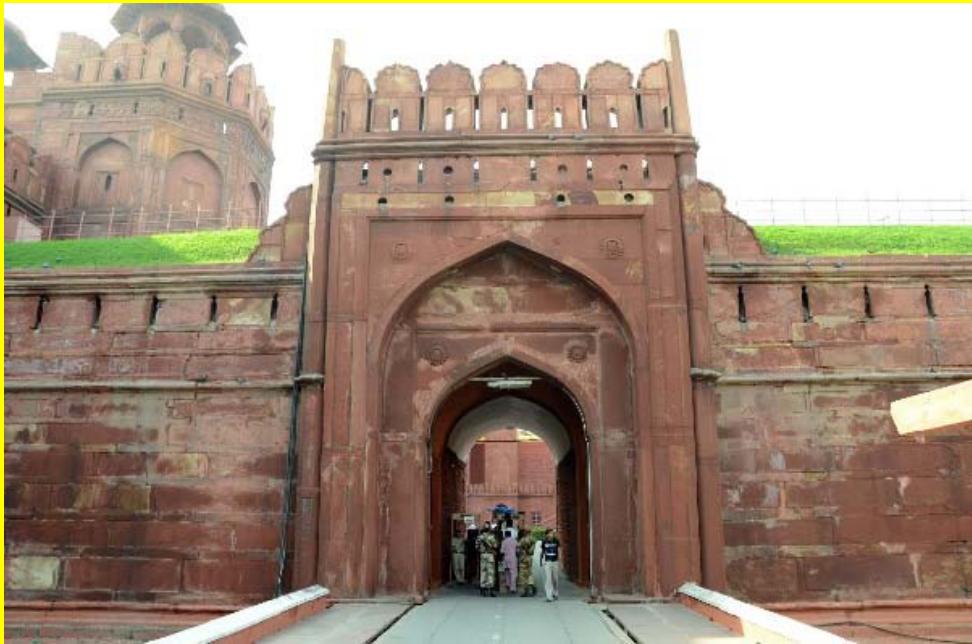
- Another architectural element that had been in use long before the Mughal period was the pishtaq, or niche.
- At its most basic, this is a quadrilateral shelf - like niche let into a wall.
- These started off (like the kanguras and damaagas) as a practical element of architecture: pishtaqs could be used as a shelf, to store items, and to hold lamps to illuminate a chamber.
- Unlike kanguras or damaagas, however, pishtaqs retained their functionality, especially as a receptacle for lamps. In pre-Mughal Delhi, for example, pishtaqs were very common as a form of decoration in mosques.



# Chadar

- Garden pavilions also often incorporated another important feature of Mughal architecture, the chadar.
- A chadar is a stone slope which acts as the bed for a water channel when it descends from a higher level to a lower one.
- The chadar is lightly carved with a pattern of shallow scallops or similar repetitive patterns.
- Water flowing over these ripples pleasingly.



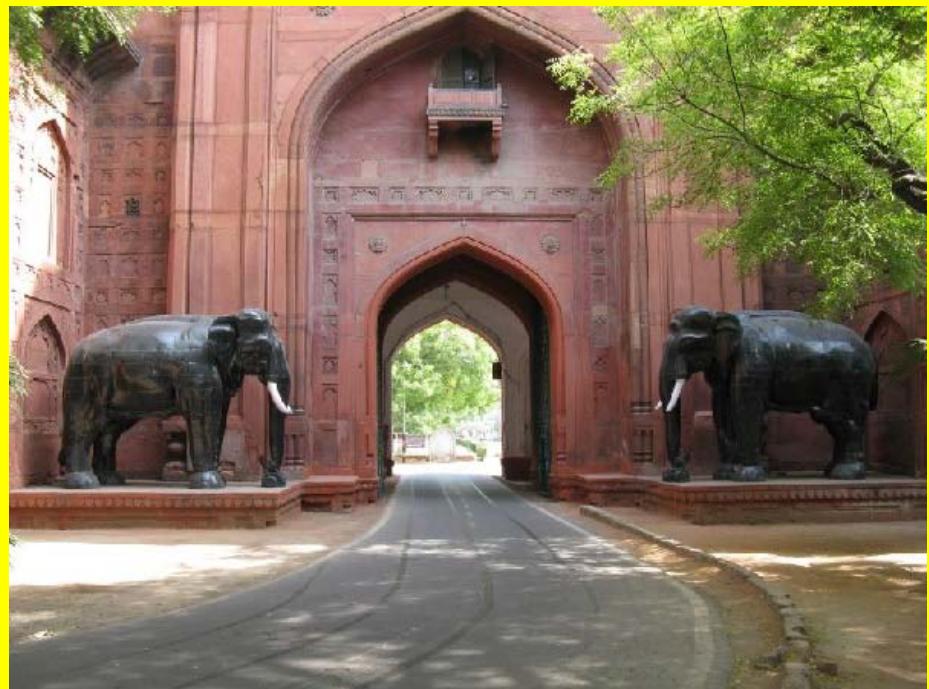


- The Lahori Gate is the main gate to the Red Fort, named for its orientation towards the city of Lahore.
- During Aurangzeb's reign, the beauty of the gate was spoiled by the addition of bastions, Shahjahan described this as "a veil drawn across the face of a beautiful woman".
- Every Indian Independence Day since 1947, the national flag has flown and the Prime Minister has made a speech from its ramparts.
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# Delhi gate

The Delhi Gate is the southern public entrance and in layout and appearance similar to the Lahori Gate.

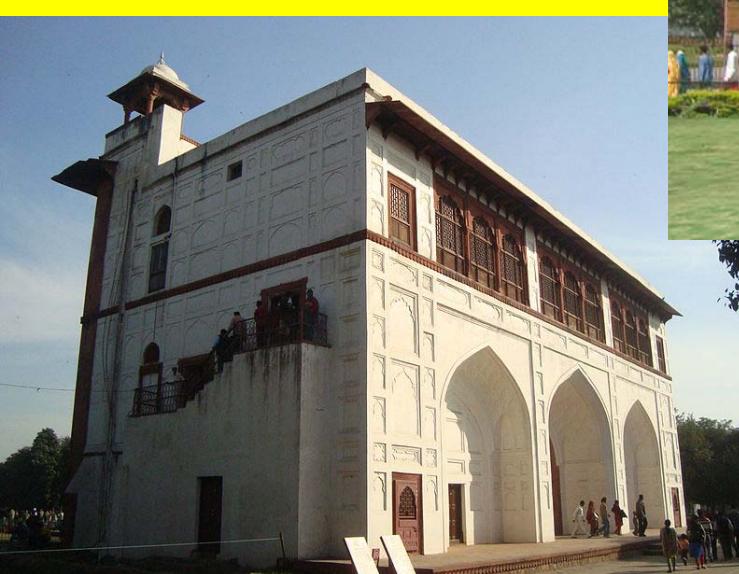
- Two life-size stone elephants on either side of the gate face each other. These were renewed by Lord Curzon in 1903 after their earlier demolition by Aurangzeb.

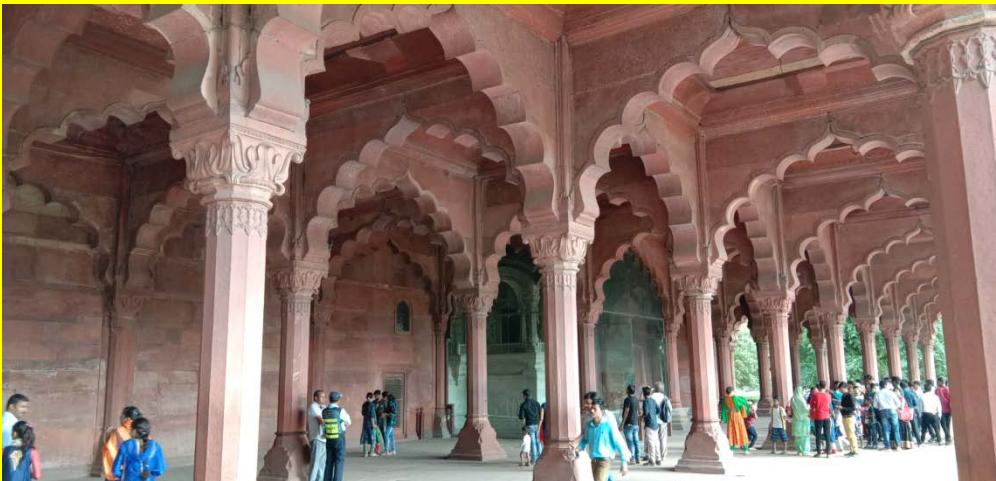
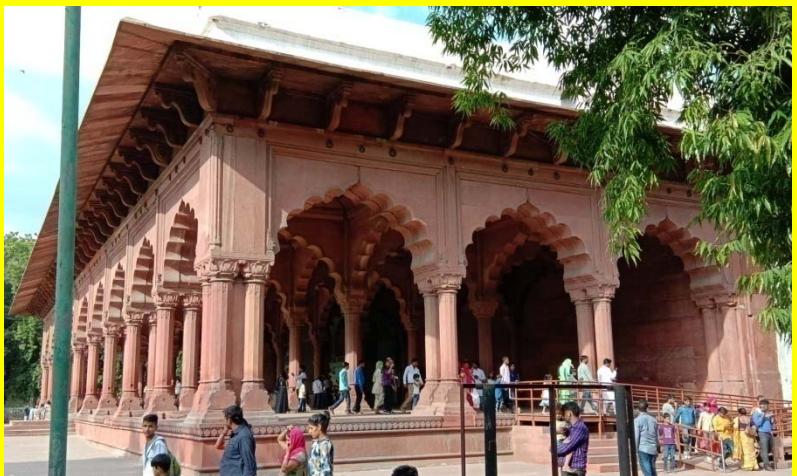


- Adjacent to the Lahori Gate is the Chatta Chowk, where silk, jewellery and other items for the imperial household were sold during the Mughal period.
- The bazaar leads to an open outer court, where it crosses the large north-south street which originally divided the fort's military functions (to the west) from the palaces (to the east).



In the east wall of the court stands the now- isolated Naubat Khana (also known as Nakkar Khana), the drum house. Music was played at scheduled times daily next to a large gate, where everyone except royalty was required to dismount.





- The inner main court to which the Nakkar Khana led was 540 feet (160 m) wide and 420 feet (130 m) deep, surrounded by guarded galleries. On the far side is the Diwan-i-Aam, the Public Audience Hall.
- The hall's columns and engrailed arches exhibit fine craftsmanship, and the hall was originally decorated with white chunam stucco. In the back in the raised recess the emperor gave his audience in the marble balcony (jharokha).
- The Diwan-i-Aam was also used for state functions. The courtyard (mardana) behind it leads to the imperial apartments.

- The imperial apartments consist of a row of pavilions on a raised platform along the eastern edge of the fort, overlooking the Yamuna.
- The pavilions are connected by a canal, known as the Nahr-i- Behisht ("Stream of Paradise"), running through the centre of each pavilion.
- Water is drawn from the Yamuna via a tower, the Shahi Burj, at the northeast corner of the fort. The palace is designed to emulate paradise as described in the Quran.
- In the riverbed below the imperial apartments and connected buildings was a space known as zer-jharokha ("beneath the latticework").

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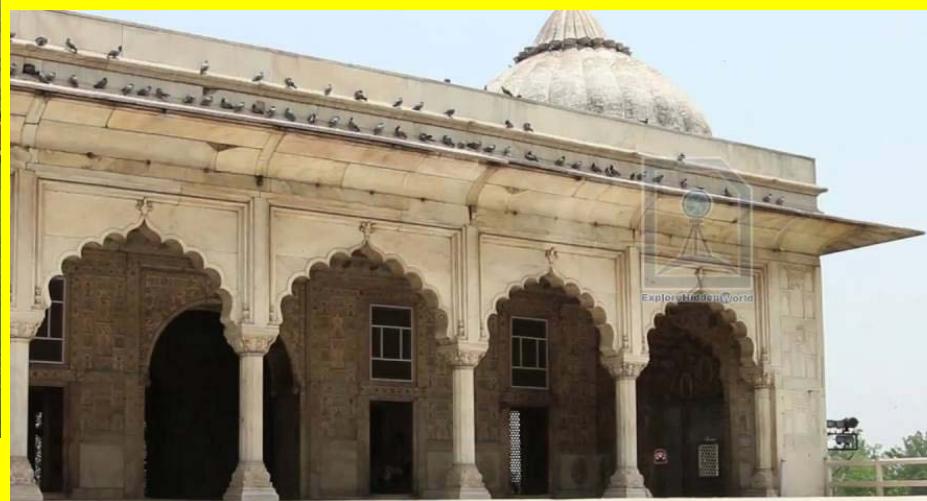
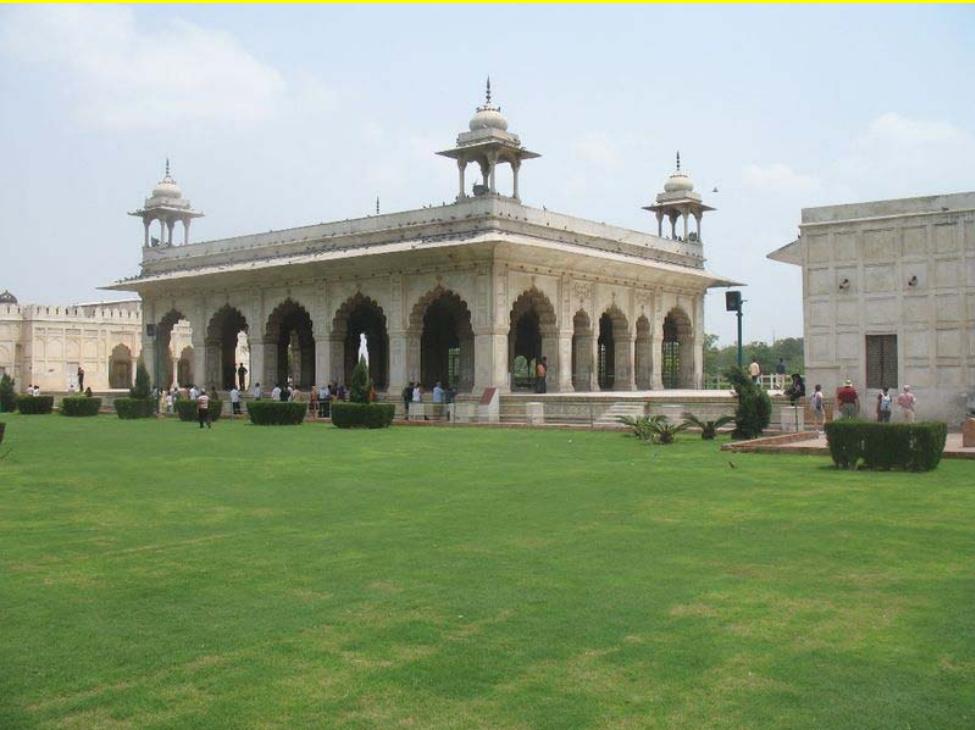
The two southernmost pavilions of the palace are zenanas (women's quarters), consisting of the Mumtaz Mahal and the larger Rang Mahal. The Mumtaz Mahal houses the Red Fort Archaeological Museum.



- The Rang Mahal housed the emperor's wives and mistresses. Its name means "Palace of Colours", since it was brightly painted and decorated with a mosaic of mirrors. The central marble pool is fed by the Nahr-i-Behisht.



The Khas Mahal was the emperor's apartment. Connected to it is the Muthamman Burj, an octagonal tower where he appeared before the people waiting on the riverbank. This was done mostly by all the kings present at that time.



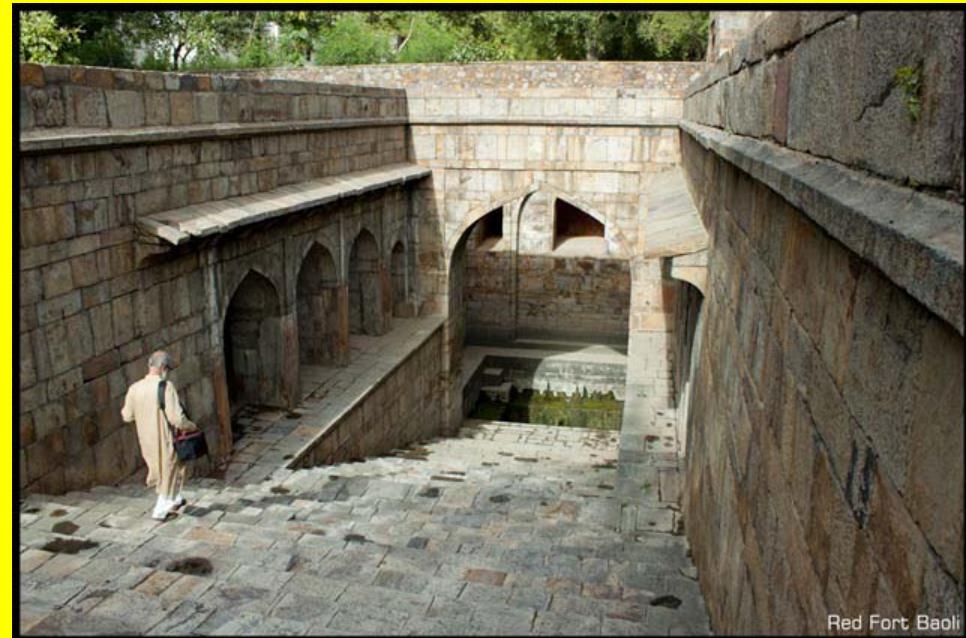
- A gate on the north side of the Diwan-i-Aam leads to the innermost court of the palace (Jalau Khana) and the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience). It is constructed of white marble, inlaid with precious stones. The once-silver ceiling has been restored in wood. François Bernier described seeing the jewelled Peacock Throne here during the 17th century. At either end of the hall, over the two outer arches, is an inscription by Persian poet Amir Khusrow: If heaven can be on the face of the earth, It is this, it is this, it is this.



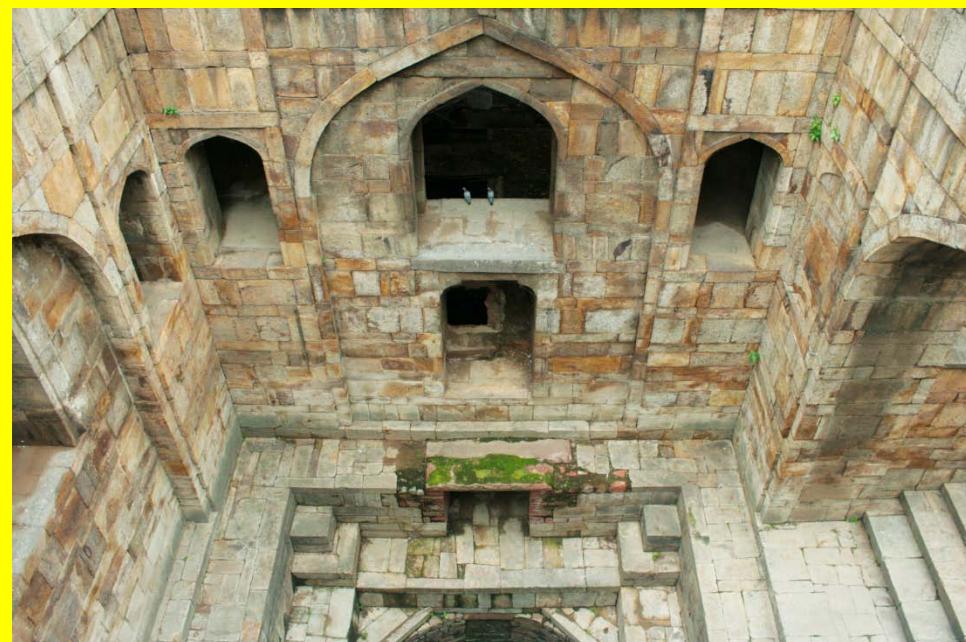
- The hammam were the imperial baths, consisting of three domed rooms floored with white marble.



- The baoli (step-well) at the Red Fort, Delhi The baoli or step-well, believed to predate Red Fort, is one of the few monuments that were not demolished by the British after the Indian Rebellion of 1857. The chambers within the baoli were converted into prison. During the Indian National Army Trials or Red Fort Trials in 1945-46, it housed Indian National Army officers Colonel Shah Nawaz Khan, Colonel Prem Kumar Sahgal and Colonel Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon. Red Fort Baoli is uniquely designed with two sets of staircases leading down to the well.[48]



Red Fort Baoli

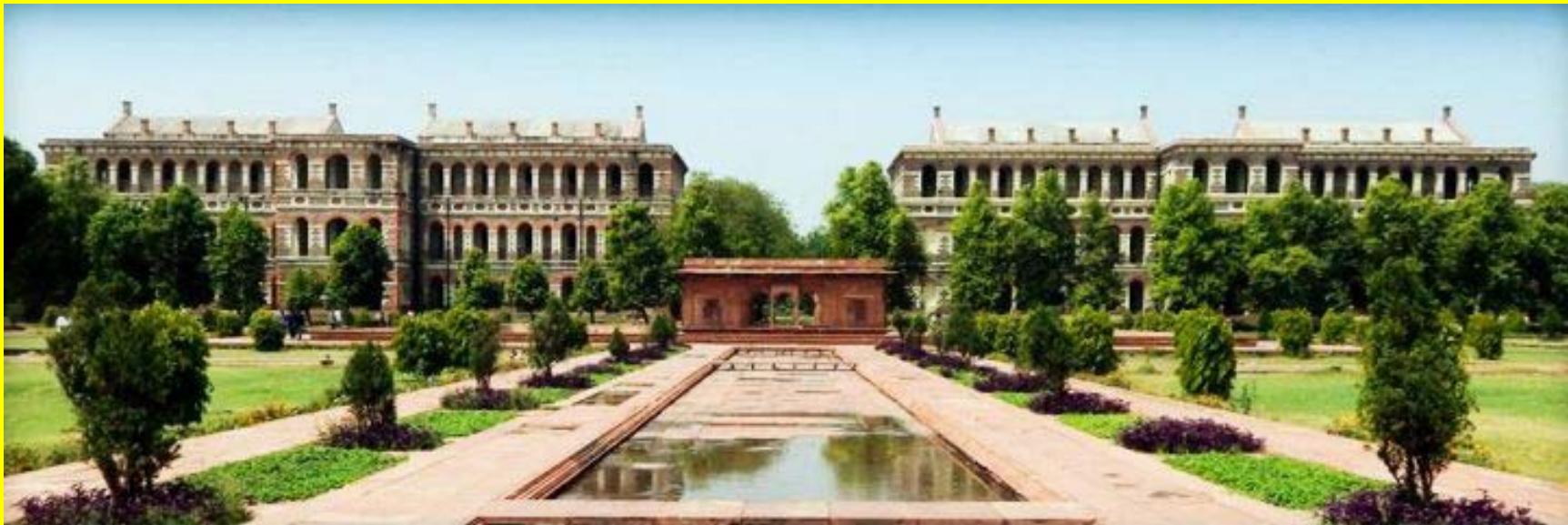




- West of the hammam is the Moti Masjid, the Pearl Mosque. A later addition, it was built in 1659 as a private mosque for Aurangzeb. It is a small, three-domed mosque carved in white marble, with a three- arched screen leading down to the courtyard. The Hira Mahal is a pavilion on the southern edge of the fort, built under Bahadur Shah II and at the end of the Hayat Baksh garden. The Moti Mahal on the northern edge, a twin building, was destroyed during (or after) the 1857 rebellion.



- The Shahi Burj was the emperor's main study of the; its name means "Emperor's Tower", and it originally had a chhatri on top. Heavily damaged, the tower is undergoing reconstruction. In front of it is a marble pavilion added by Aurangzeb.



- The Hayat Bakhsh Bagh is the "Life-Bestowing Garden" in the northeast part of the complex. It features a reservoir (now dry) and channels, and at each end is a white marble pavilion (Savon and Bhadon). In the centre of the reservoir is the red-sandstone Zafar Mahal, added about 1842 under Bahadur Shah II.
- Smaller gardens (such as the Mehtab Bagh or Moonlight Garden) existed west of it, but were destroyed when the British barracks were built. There are plans to restore the gardens. Beyond these, the road to the north leads to an arched bridge and the Salimgarh Fort.

- North of the Hayat Bakhsh Bagh and the Shahi Burj is the quarter of the imperial princes.
- This was used by member of the Mughal royal family and was largely destroyed by the British forces after the rebellion.
- One of the palaces was converted into a tea house for the soldiers.
- Also called as Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya
- Considering the role the Red Fort has played in the freedom struggle Swatantrata Sangram Sanghralaya was set up in one of the double storeyed army barracks in 1995. The museum provides a glimpse of major phases of India's struggle for freedom, from the First War of Independence of 1857 to India's Independence in 1947.
- In the museum, the history of the freedom struggle is depicted through photographs, documents, paintings, lithographs and objects like guns, pistols, swords, shields, badges, medals, dioramas, sculptures etc.