

= Jama Masjid , Delhi =

The Masjid @-@ i Jah?n @-@ Num? (Persian / Urdu : ????? ???? ??? , Devanagari : ?? ? ??? ????? ???? , the ' World @-@ reflecting Mosque ') , commonly known as the Jama Masjid (Hindi : ????? ?? ? ??? , Urdu : ????? ????) of Delhi , is one of the largest mosques in India .

It was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan between 1644 and 1656 at a cost of 1 million rupees , and was inaugurated by an imam from Bukhara , present @-@ day Uzbekistan . The mosque was completed in 1656 AD with three great gates , four towers and two 40 m high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble . The courtyard can accommodate more than 25 @,@ 000 persons . There are three domes on the terrace which are surrounded by the two minarets . On the floor , a total of 899 black borders are marked for worshippers . The architectural plan of Badshahi Masjid , built by Shah Jahan 's son Aurangzeb at Lahore , Pakistan , is similar to the Jama Masjid .

The mosque has been the site of two attacks , one in 2006 and another in 2010 . During the first , two explosions occurred in the mosque , injuring thirteen people . In the second , two Taiwanese students were injured as two gunmen opened fire upon them .

= = History = =

Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Jama Masjid between 1644 and 1656 . It was constructed by more than 5000 workers . It was originally called Masjid @-@ i @-@ Jahan @-@ Numa , meaning ' mosque commanding view of the world ' . The construction was done under the supervision of Saadullah Khan , wazir (or prime minister) during Shah Jahan 's rule . The cost of the construction at the time was one million Rupees . Shah Jahan also built the Taj Mahal , at Agra and the Red Fort in New Delhi , which stands opposite the Jama Masjid . The Jama Masjid was completed in 1656 AD (1066 AH) . The mosque was inaugurated by an Imam Bukhari , a mullah from Bukhara , Uzbekistan , on 23 July 1656 , on the invitation from Shah Jahan . About 25 @,@ 000 people can pray in the courtyard at a time and it is sometimes regarded as India 's largest mosque . The mosque is commonly called " Jama " which means Friday .

After the British victory in Revolt of 1857 , they confiscated the mosque and stationed their soldiers here.They also wanted to destroy the mosque to punish the people of the city . But due to opposition faced , the demolition was not done .

= = Architecture = =

The mosque has three great gates , four towers and two 40 m high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble . The northern gate has 39 steps and the southern side has 33 steps . The eastern gate was the rural entrance and it has 35 steps . Out of all these gateways , the eastern one , which was used by the emperors , remains closed during weekdays . The mosque is built on a red sandstone porch , which is about 30 feet (9 @.@ 1 m) from ground level and spreads over 1200 square metre . The dome is flanked by two lofty minarets which are 130 feet (40 m) high and consists of 130 steps , longitudinally striped by marble and red sandstone . The minarets consists of five storeys , each with a protruding balcony . The adjoining edifices are filled with calligraphy . The first three storeys of the minarets is made of red sandstone , the fourth of marble and the fifth of sandstone .

The courtyard can accommodate 25 @,@ 000 worshippers and occupies 408 square feet . The mosque is about 261 feet (80 m) long and 90 feet (27 m) wide . The prayer hall measures 61 metre in length and 27 @.@ 5 metre in breadth . It is made up of high cusped arches and marble domes . The cabinet located in the north gate has a collection of relics of Muhammad ? the Quran written on deerskin , a red beard @-@ hair of the prophet , his sandals and his footprints implanted in a marble block .

The floor plan of the mosque is similar to that of the Jama Masjid of Agra . It is covered with white and black ornamented marble to look like a Muslim prayer mat . Beside it , a thin black border

measuring 3 feet (0 @. @ 91 m) long and 1 @. @ 5 feet (0 @. @ 46 m) wide is marked for the worshippers . There are 899 total such boxes . The architecture and plan of Badshahi Masjid which was built by Shah Jahan 's son Aurangzeb in Lahore is closely related to that of the mosque . Before the Revolt of 1857 , there was a madrasa near the southern end of the mosque , which was during the revolt destroyed .

= = Recent times = =

In 2006 , it was reported that the mosque was in urgent need of repair and the then Saudi Arabian king Abdullah , offered to pay for it . The imam said that he had received the offer directly from the Saudi authorities but requested them to approach the Indian government .

In November 2014 , the Shahi Imam Syed Bukhari appointed his son Shaban Bukhari as his successor . However , the Delhi High Court said that this matter had no " legal sanctity " giving no " special equities " to the imam . He created controversy by inviting Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the ceremony and not his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi . He said that " Muslims have not forgiven him for the Gujarat riots " .

= = = 2006 Jama Masjid explosions = = =

On 14 April 2006 , there were two explosions which came soon after Friday prayers and occurred in swift succession . However it was unclear , about how the blasts occurred . Among the casualties , one was in serious condition , whereas other eight people sustained minor injuries . The then imam , Bukhari commented " here is anger among our people but I am appealing to them to maintain calm " .

= = = 2010 Jama Masjid attack = = =

On 15 September 2010 , two Taiwanese tourists were injured after gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a bus parked near gate number three of the mosque . After the attack , the police detained 30 people to question and the area was turned into a fortress because policemen were heavily deployed .

In November 2011 , the Delhi Police arrested six members of the Indian Mujahideen who were believed to be behind the Jama Masjid blast along with the Pune German bakery blast . Sources said that the " ' main man ' Imran " allegedly planted the bomb in a car outside the mosque . In September 2013 it was reported that , Yasin Bhatkal , a leader of the group , along with Assadullah Akhtar , were arrested last month and admitted that they carried the attack with on @-@ the @-@ run Pakistani national Waqas . Yasin said that he was ordered by Karachi @-@ based IM head Riyaz Bhatkal to do the task as the Imam allowed " semi @-@ naked " foreigners inside it .