

= Bara Gumbad =

Bara Gumbad (literally " big dome ") is an ancient monument located in Lodhi Gardens in Delhi , India . It is part of a group of monuments that include a Friday mosque (Jama Masjid) and the " mehman khana " (guest house) of Sikandar Lodhi , the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate . The Bara Gumbad was constructed in 1490 CE , during the reign of the Lodhi dynasty . Its construction is generally attributed to Sikandar Lodhi , and it is believed to have the earliest constructed full dome of any building in Delhi .

The monument is situated near the Tomb of Sikandar Lodhi and Shisha Gumbad . Although the three structures , which share a common raised platform , were all built during the Lodhi reign , they were not constructed at the same time . The intended purpose of the builders of Bara Gumbad is unclear : it may have been intended as a free @-@ standing tomb , but no tombstone has been identified . The area in which Bara Gumbad is situated was formally called Khairpur village .

= = History = =

Bada Gumbad was constructed in 1490 CE , and is believed to have the earliest constructed full dome of any building in Delhi . Its construction is generally attributed to Sikandar Lodhi . A mihrab (prayer niche) in the Friday mosque (Jama Masjid) of the Bara Gumbad gives the date of construction as 900 AH (Anno Hegirae) of the Islamic lunar calendar .

Including the Bada Gumbad , there are four monuments in the Lodhi Gardens ; the other three being Tomb of Sikandar Lodhi , Shisha Gumbad and the tomb of Muhammad Shah (who belonged to the Sayyid dynasty) . The Bada Gumbad is situated approximately 400 metres (1 @, @ 300 ft) southwest of the tomb and 75 metres (246 ft) south of Shisha Gumbad . During the rule of Sikander Lodhi , the Bara Gumbad , the adjacent mosque and the " mehman khana " (guest house) were constructed . The Bara Gumbad is speculated to serve as a gateway to the Friday mosque . However owing to the constitutions date , placement and stylistic differences the theory of gateway is not supported . The purpose and significance of the Bara Gumbad is unknown and to date remains a mystery . The Friday mosque was constructed in 1494 CE . It was the first mosque to be built in a style that first appeared during the Lodhi Dynasty .

Some historians suggest that the Bara Gumbad was built by an unidentified noble in 1490 CE , before being appropriated by Sikander Lodhi in 1494 CE , to provide an entryway to his mosque . Initially , all the monuments were built independently , and were not in one confine . In the early twentieth century , a park was developed , bringing the four monuments in one confine . The park was inaugurated on 9 April 1936 by Lady Willingdon , the wife of Viceroy Lord Willingdon . The park was originally called the Lady Willingdon Park after her , but was renamed to Lodhi Gardens after independence of India in 1947 .

= = Construction and architecture = =

It is speculated that the Bara Gumbad was constructed to provide a gateway to the nearby mosque . Although the structure does not house any tomb , there is a platform in the central courtyard that suggests the structure to be a burial place . The purpose Bara Gumbad is unknown . Bara Gumbad is grouped together with a mosque and " mehman khana " which is a smaller structure with five bays . All the structures are constructed on a 3 metres (9 @. @ 8 ft) high platform , with a total area of 1 @, @ 050 square metres (11 @, @ 302 sq ft) . The platform measures 30 metres (98 ft) (east @-@ west) and 25 metres (82 ft) (north @-@ south) .

Three out of five bays in the mosque have domes whereas the remaining two have vaulted roofs (on mosque and " mehman khana ") . The central bays feature low domes , while the end @-@ bays feature flat roofs . There are oriel windows to the north and south . Both the oriel windows and the tapering minarets appear to anticipate later architectural styles .

The Bara Gumbad is square type construction which sits on a plinth . The mosque measures 20 metres (66 ft) on each side . At the rear , the corners and sides of the mosque feature tall tapering

semi @-@ circular minars . The east , south , and west are decorated , and feature ogee arch openings , which are set into rectangular frames . The architecture combines bracket and lintel beams , blending Islamic and Hindu architectures .

Bara Gumbad is 29 metres (95 ft) high , 20 metres (66 ft) long and 20 metres (66 ft) wide . The walls are 12 metres (39 ft) tall . Like the Shisha Gumbad , the Bara Gumbad is also a single story structure but has an external semblance of spanning in two floors when viewed from outside . Total floor area of Bara Gumbad (excluding the mosque and the guest house) is 361 square metres (3 @ , @ 886 sq ft) .

The dome , the mosque and the " mehman khana " are constructed of red , grey and black stone , including grey quartzite and red sandstone . The interior is elaborately ornamented with painted stucco . Colored tiles , incised carvings , and painted plaster on the mosque are decorated with foliage , flowers , geometric patterns , and Quranic inscriptions .

= = Location = =

The Bara Gumbad is located in and is a part of the Lodhi Gardens in Delhi , India . The village where the monument stands was earlier called Khairpur . The garden is bounded by Amrita Shergill Marg in the west , northwest and north , Max MuellerMarg on the east and Lodhi Road on the south side . Safdarjang Tomb is situated on southwest corner of the Lodhi Garden .

= = Picture gallery = =