

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

जो नपुर:

شرقی استھاپتیہ کی بھومی

Jaunpur

The land of Sharqi Architecture

Superintending Archaeologist
Archaeological Survey of India
Sarnath Circle, Sarnath
Varanasi, U.P.

in Jaunpur

Jaunpur (Lat. 25°24' N, Long. 82°07' E) is located at a distance of about 55km towards north-west from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. River Gomti, Pili Nadi, Sai, Basuhi and Varuna are the main stream that flows from this district.

It is believed that during Epic Period this region was known as "Yamdginpura" which is related to a famous saint "Yamdgin" resided at this place. It was a part of Ayodhya kingdom when Dasrath was the king of Ayodhya of Ikshvaku dynasty. This dynasty produced a number of illustrious kings till the accession of Ramchandra who was the greatest ruler of Ikshvaku dynasty. After that it has become a part of Koshala kingdom. According to Alexander Cunningham-Jaunpur was known by the name of Ayodhyapuram in ancient time and it was ruled by Ikshvaku dynasty. It is also believed and traditionally said that before the Muslim, the place where the Shahi Fort is situated was a Hindu Fort known as Kerar Fort and the Bhar, Rajbhar and Seories tribes were the local ruler in this region. Mr. Ommaney found an inscription in Bundelkhand, which spoke of a Yavanpura on the river Gomti and this he identified as Jaunpur.

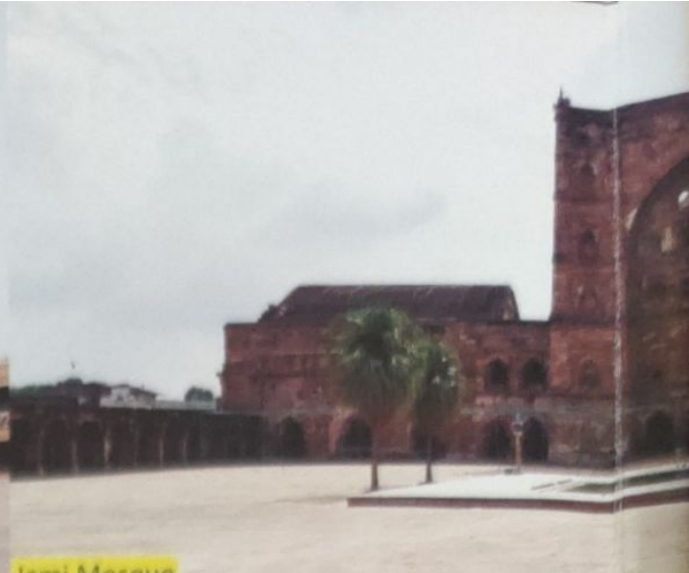
Modern city Jaunpur was established by Firoz-Shah-Tughlaque in 1359 C.E. The present name Jaunpur was framed by Muslim ruler Firoz-Shah-Tughlaque in the memory of Mohammad-Bin-Tughlaque was entitled as "Jauna Khan". Hence, the name of this city was named as "Jaunpur".

During 2nd invasion of Bengal by Firoz-Shah-Tughlaque in 1359 C.E., camped at Jaunpur for six months and founded this city. Jaunpur, which become an independent kingdom in 1393 C.E. (late 14th Century) and Malik Sarwar had been promoted to the governorship of Jaunpur and titled Malik-us-Shark (King of east). After Malik Sarwar his five successor named Malik Mubarak Kuranfal, Ibrahim Shah, Mahmud Shah, Bhikan Shah and Hussain Shah known as Sharqui kings, ruled from Jaunpur for about one hundred years and it was during this period the lofty buildings display an architectural class of its own famous for Jaunpur style and as Sharqui Architecture. This special characteristic of Sharqui architecture is the lofty pylon with sloping walls hiding a single dome. In Sharqui mosque architecture a long stone screen wall is provided in front of central dome with tapering sides are first time seen in the history of mosque architecture in India is only in Jaunpur for which this is famous for.

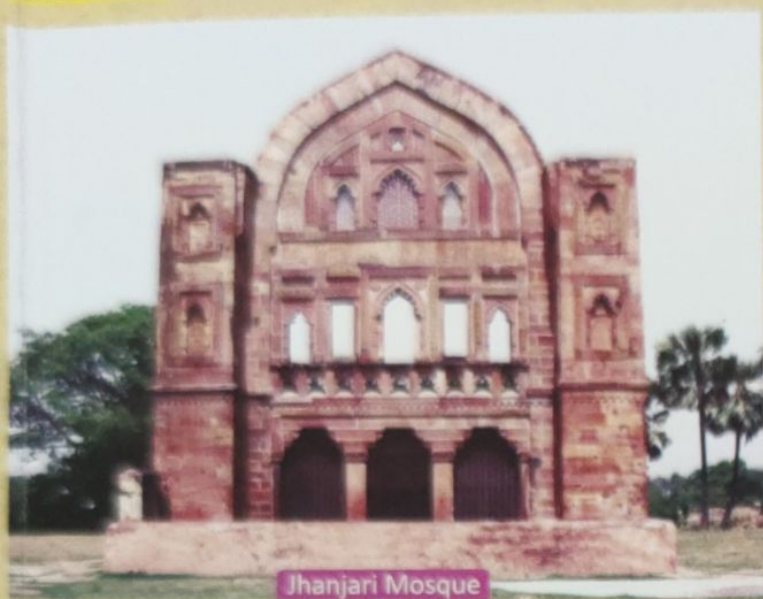
Shahi fort :- The fort was built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq in 1360 C.E. over the ruins of old fort Kerar Kot. The fort is an irregular quadrangle on the left bank of the Gomti, formed by a stone wall built round an artificial earthen mound. Externally the wall are of considerable height, but as the mound occupies only the eastern half, their height from the level of the fort within is not uniform. The only entrance was by a



Atala Mosque



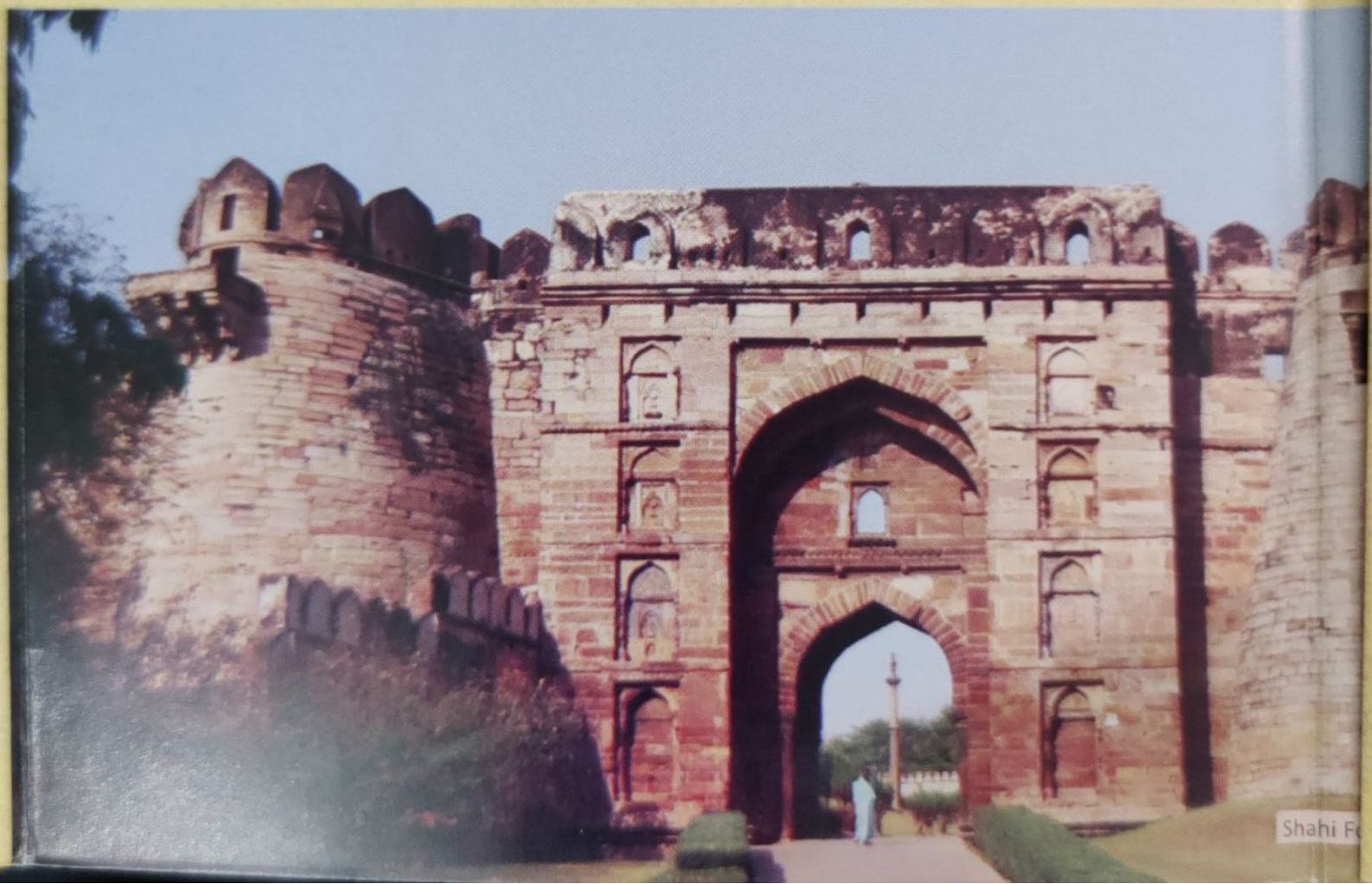
Jami Mosque



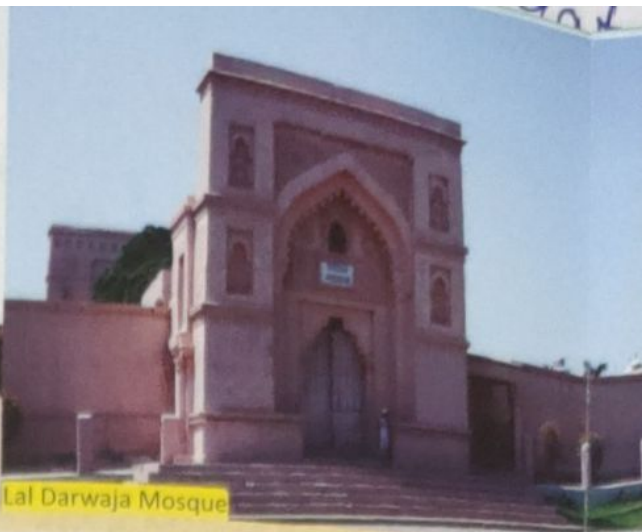
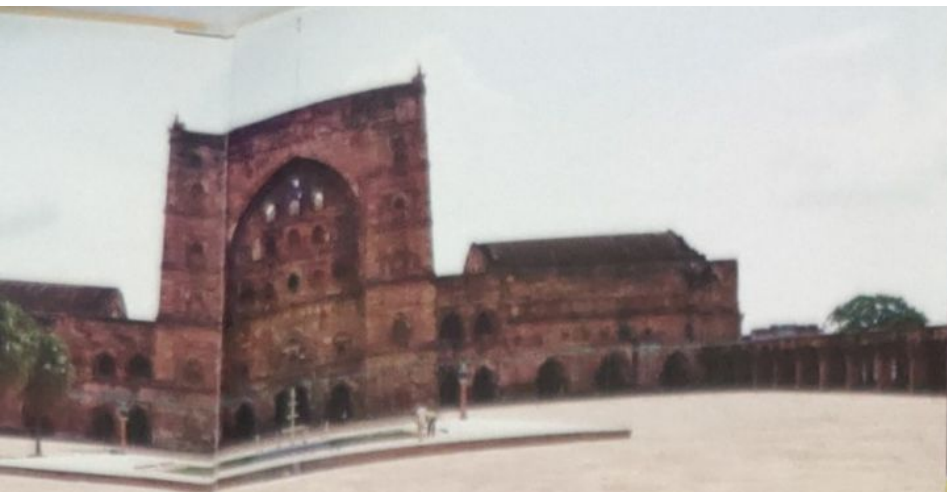
Jhanjari Mosque



Turkish Hammam



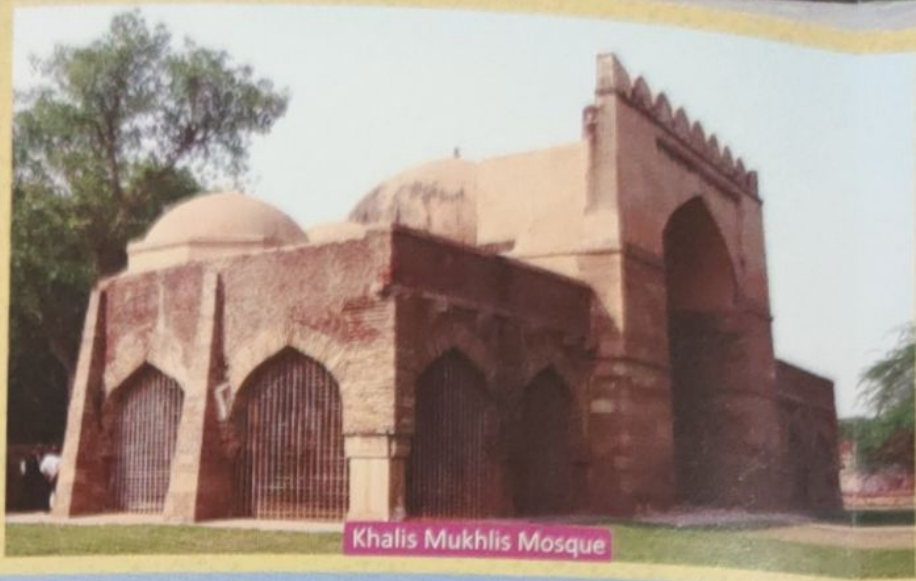
Shahi Fort



Lal Darwaja Mosque



Turkish Hammam



Khalis Mukhlis Mosque



Shahi Fort

gateway on the east. On both sides of the entrance are large projecting piers connected by a lofty stone archway, and divided into four storeys by ornamented string carvings. In the face of each storey is an arched recess containing an inner panel having cusped head ornamented with patera and bell. Over the recess is a flat stone lintel incised with ornament. The gable wall under the main arch is pierced by a small arched opening, below which is a small bracketed cornice is constructed. Below this is another archway springing from moulded capitals crowning the jambs at the angles of the entrance. The lower part of the gateway is strengthened by a heavy plinth of similar design. The top is embattled and loopholed. On the north and south side of the gate is guarded by round loopholed bastions.

Turkish Hammam :- Another significant monument within Shahi Fort is Turkish Hammam. It is known as Bhul-Bhullaiya also. Some part of this monument is underneath the ground. It consist number of small cells and a central hall also. These cells and other up and down rooms and niches were provided for different purpose. This Hammam was used as a great bath with amenities such as entrance gateway, outer gateway, hot and cold water and toilets etc.

Shahi Mosque :- In Shahi Fort a three domed mosque was built in a typical Bengali style with a high sand stone minar standing in front of it, bearing an Arabic Inscription on the minar assigns its construction to Ibrahim Naib Barbak (brother of Sultan Firoz Shah) in 1377 C.E. In this mosque, the outer row of pillars is double, of various designs, and no two columns measure exactly the same. From the back and two side enclosing walls pilasters project, ranging with the columns, but none are attached to the north and south sides of the lateral walls forming the central chamber. The west wall is recessed between the bays, and the recess or mihrab in the fourth bay in the southern arcade is emphasized by angle colonnettes, as is also the middle one in the central apartment. The columns of which the arcades are composed are without bases and vary in design, and it is evident they have been wrought into a façade for which they were never intended. They have been set up at random; capitals inserted upside down, and bases used as caps. Some are octagonal, some squares, other octagonal below, sixteen-sided in the middle and round above.

Atala Mosque :- Atala Mosque is one of the earliest specimens of the Jaunpur style. The Atala mosque is the most ornate and most beautiful mosque of Jaunpur. It consists of a courtyard, on the western side of which is situated a range of buildings, the central one covered by a dome, in front of which stands a gate-pyramid or propylon of almost Egyptian manner and outline. This gate-pyramid

by its elevation supplied the place of a minaret which none of these mosque possess. The three sides of courtyard were surrounded by colonnade; on each face was a beautiful gateway. The archways over the transoms of the small doorways leading to the cloisters are mostly filled in with stone trellis-work, the upper cloisters were also closed by stone lattice screen. The archways over the transoms of the small doorways leading from the lower to the upper cloisters are mostly filled in with stone trellis-work, and there remains evidence that at one time the ends of the upper cloisters were also closed by stone lattice screens. Black marble has been largely used in the decoration of the interior of the grand dome, principally of the arches, mihrabs, architraves etc.

Jami Mosque :- Among the buildings of Jaunpur the Jami mosque of Husain Shah Sharqi is the most splendid mosque. The height of the mosque is more than 60.96m. The foundation of the Jami Mosque was laid in 1438 C.E., "But it was not raised above the level of the ground in 844 A.H. when the king died," as Khair-u-din states. It is said that the date of the completion of the mosque was found in the words Mosque-Jami-us-Sharq, which were engraved on the front of the eastern gate. This would fix the date in 1448 C.E., during the reign of Mahmud Shah Sharqi. But Khair-u-din says that the work was at a standstill during the reign of Mahmud Shah, and was furnished by Husain Shah. It is constructed of stone and brick but principally of stone. Three gates give access to a large court, with a cloister of one store only running round, on the west side of which stands the mosque, the wings double the height of the cloister, the dome of the central wall masked as usual by a propylon. On each side of the central wall is a raised gallery for woman, approached by a stair formed in the piers of the propylon.

Lal Darwaja Mosque :- The sole remaining work of Mahmud's reign is the mosque known as the Lal Darwaja, so called in memory of the "high gate painted with vermillion" belonging to the place which Bibi Raji, wife of Mahmud Shah built a mosque at the same time close by it. It is smallest of the mosques at Jaunpur and stands at some distance to the north-west of the city. The style of the architecture is the same as that of the Jami and Atala mosques. It is constructed of stone and brick but principally of stone. Externally as well as internally, all the walls are of ashlar masonry neatly tooled, with fine joints which are so beautifully worked that in thickness they hardly exceed that of the blade of a knife. Unfortunately this does not apply to the portion recently "restored", which is very inferior in every respect to the original work. Presently it is totally renovated by the Lal Darwaja Mosque

Management Committee.

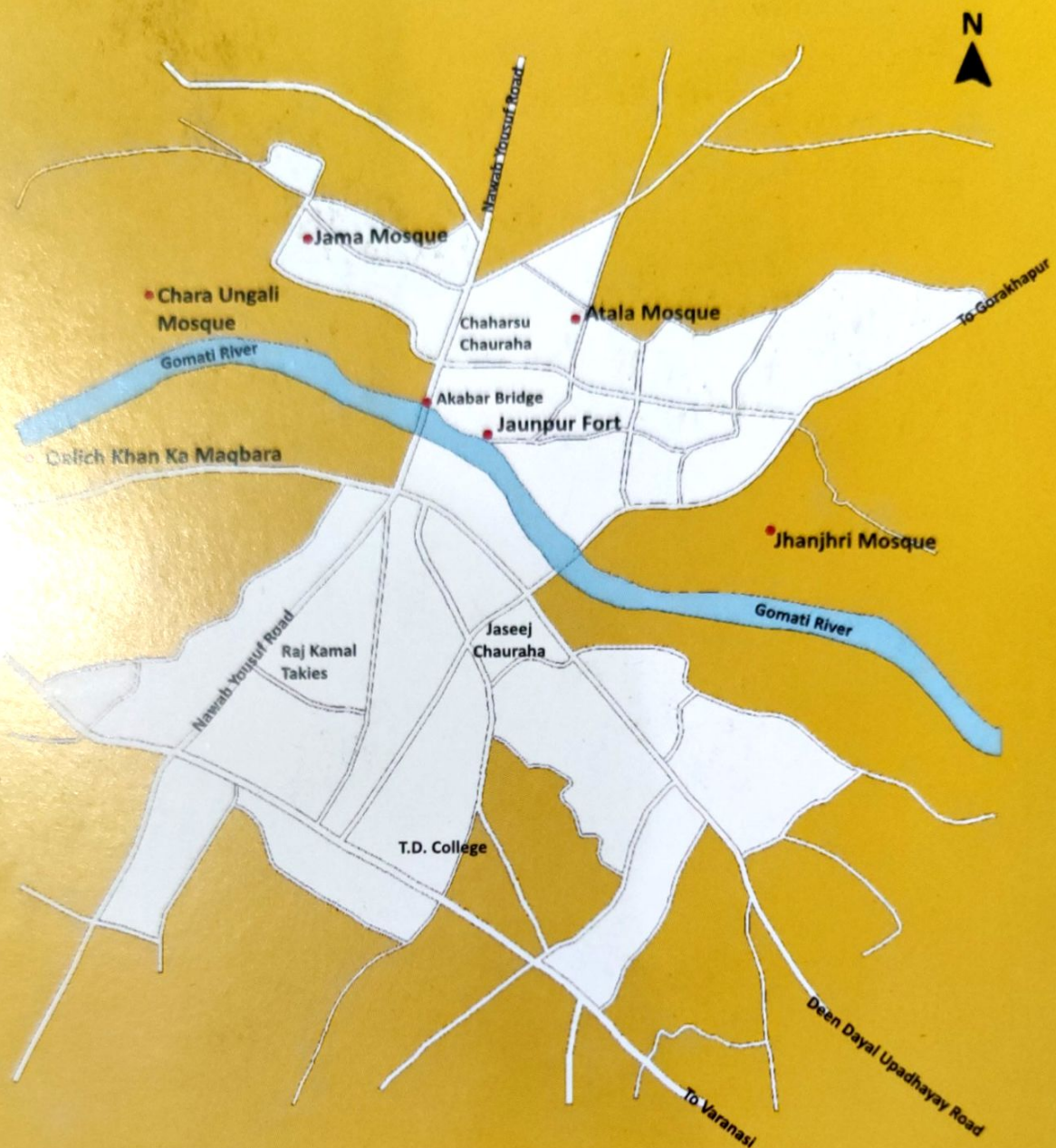
Jhanjari Mosque :- It is commonly known as Jhanjari Mosque on account of the "screen-like" appearance of its ornamentation. Mosque is situated in Sipah Mohallah, Jaunpur. This is the only example of this style in Jaunpur. Because of its highly ornamentation on the mehrab which is also called Jhanjhari, General Cunningham and Fuhrer named the monument as Jhanjhari Mosque.

Khalis Mukhlis Mosque :- This is the mosque Dariba, Khalis Mukhlis or Char Anguli, built by Malik Khalis and Malik Mukhlis, governors of Jaunpur under Sultan Ibrahim Shah and described him in one place as his chief noble. This mosque consists of a domed hall and two wings, the dome masked by a low façade of the character peculiar to Jaunpur, but there is no ornament to break or relieve the somber massiveness of the building. The name by which it is most commonly known is Char Anguli, given it by reason of a stone in the south pier bearing a line three inches long, which should measure four fingers

who so ever be the hand measuring. This mosque was erected for the convenience of Saiyyad Usman, a reputed saint, born at Shiraz, driven from Delhi by the irruption of Taimur.



Pillar of Ibrahim Naib Barbak



Visiting Hours

Opening time of Monuments : Sunrise to Sunset

Entry Fee

For the tourists of India, BIMSTEK and SAARC Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, Maldeev, Pakistan, Afghanistan)

Rs.15/-

Visitors from Other Countries

Rs. 200/-

Free entry for children below the age of 15 years

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Archaeological Survey of India
Sarnath Circle, Sarnath, Varanasi
U.P., 221007

Ph. : 0542-2595007, 2595207

Email : circlesar.asi@gmail.com

circlesarnath.asi@gov.in

Website: www.asisarnathcircle.org