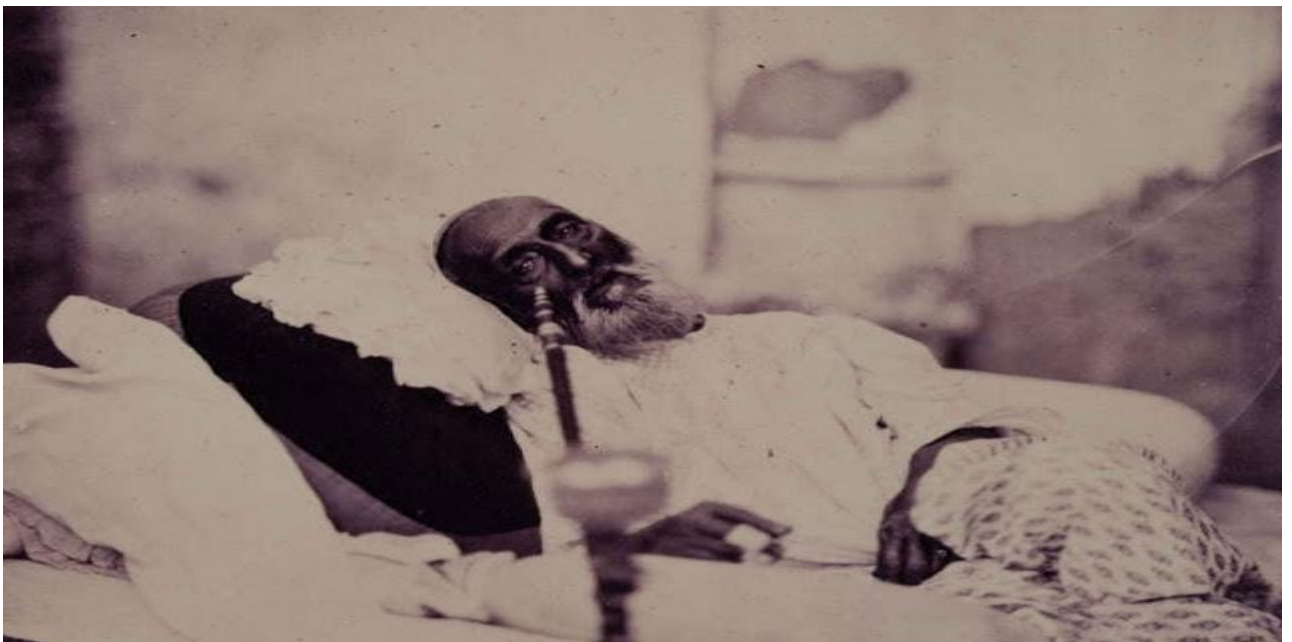


S.NO:	AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
1	THEME	Zafar Mahal-The Last Monumental Structure Of The Mughals
2	SUBJECT	History
3.	LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	Rulers and Buildings
4.	CLASS/LEVEL	VII
5.	OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To generate curiosity about lesser known Mughal Monuments. • To provide information on Zafar Mahal and the structures around it.
6.	DESCRIPTION	Zafar Mahal is one of the last monumental structures built by the Mughals. Located in Mehrauli, New Delhi the building has two components namely, the Mahal or the palace, which was built first by Akbar Shah II , and the Hathi gate that was constructed in the 19th century by Bahadur Shah Zafar II, popularly known as “Zafar”. It has a forlorn history because Bahadaur Shah Zafar wished to be buried next to graves of his predecessors Bahadur Shah I), Shah Alam II , Akbar Shah II (1806–37) and their families in the marble enclosure adjoining the dargah of Sufi saint, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki in the Zafar Mahal precincts.
7	KEY WORDS	Zafar Mahal, Hathi Gate, Bahadur Shah Zafar, <i>Sardgah</i> , Moto Masjid, Bakhtiyar Kaki
8.	CONTENT DEVEOLPER	Mily Roy Anand
9	SUBJECT	Mily Roy Anand

	COORDINTOR	
10	CIET COORDINATOR	Indu Kumar

DO YOU KNOW?

Zafar Mahal is considered one of the last monumental structures built by the Mughals. There is an element of poignancy that is associated with the history of the monument. The last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah II or Bahadur Shah Zafar who was exiled to Rangoon by the British desired to be buried in the precincts of the Zafar Mahal.

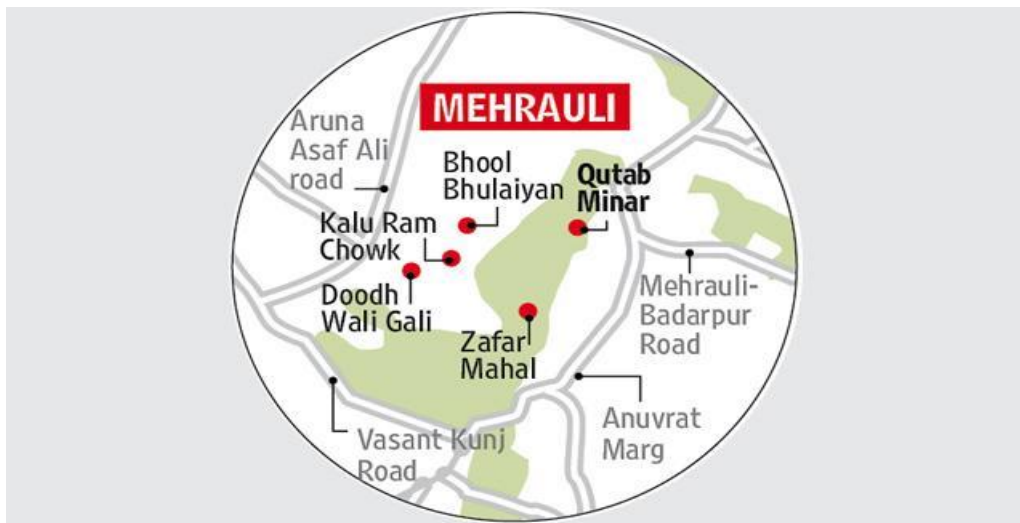


Bahadur Shah II in captivity in Delhi and before his departure to Rangoon

LOCATING ZAFAR MAHAL



Domed pavilion in the courtyard of Zafar mahal



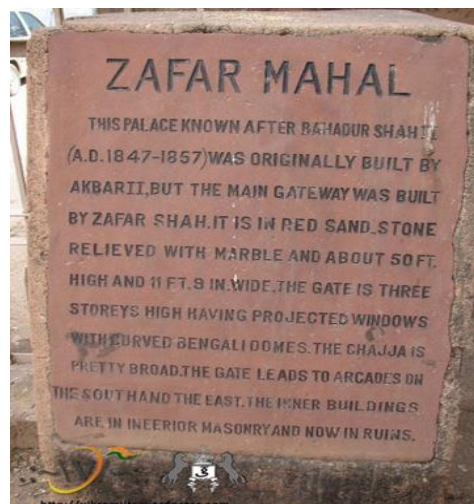
Mehrauli in south west Delhi has acquired fame and historical interest largely due to the presence of the Qutub Minar and other monuments that have been built by various rulers over different periods, thus indicating the continuous occupation of Delhi for more than 1000 years. Distinguished by its rich architectural heritage Mehrauli houses ruins of monuments built by the Tomars, Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Lodhis and Mughals. Amongst the many monuments in the Mehrauli precincts lies the lesser known Zafar Mahal, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar Shah II, during declining years of the Mughal Empire. It is situated about hundred yards away from the from Ajmeri Gate of Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki's *dargah* popularly known as Qutub Sahib.

ZAFAR MAHAL AS SUMMER RETREAT OF THE LATER MUGHALS



Bahadur Shah II enthroned with Mirza Fakhruddin.

While the Qutub Minar was built in honour of Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki, the later Mughals decided to build a summer palace next to the shrine. The building earlier known as Lal Mahal and Rang Mahal was started by Akbar Shah II. His son Bahadur Shah II also known as Bahadur Shah Zafar (Zafar meaning 'victory') renamed it as Zafar Mahal. While Mughal Emperors like Akbar, Shah Jahan and Jehangir built opulent monuments when the Empire was at its zenith, the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar could barely gather finances to build a palace. He only managed to add structures to the existing structure.



ACTIVITY 1

Choose the Correct Answer

CIET : correct answer should flash in green

1. Bahadur Shah Zafar managed to only add structures to the existing Zafar Mahal because of :

(a) Shortage of finances (b) Lack of time (c) Non-availability of artisans

2. Zafar Mahal is located in which of the following places?

(a) Faridabad (b) Mehrauli (c) Tuglaqabad

3. Who among the following actually built the Zafar Mahal ?

(a) Bahadur Shah zafar (b) Akbar (c) Akbar Shah II

4. Zafar Mahal was earlier known as

(a) Lal Mahal (b) Taj Mahal (c) Gol Gumbaz

5. Zafar Mahal is situated adjacent to the *dargah* of which of the following saints?

(a) Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki (b) Nizamuddin Auliya (c) Muinuddin Chishti

THE STRUCTURE



1.



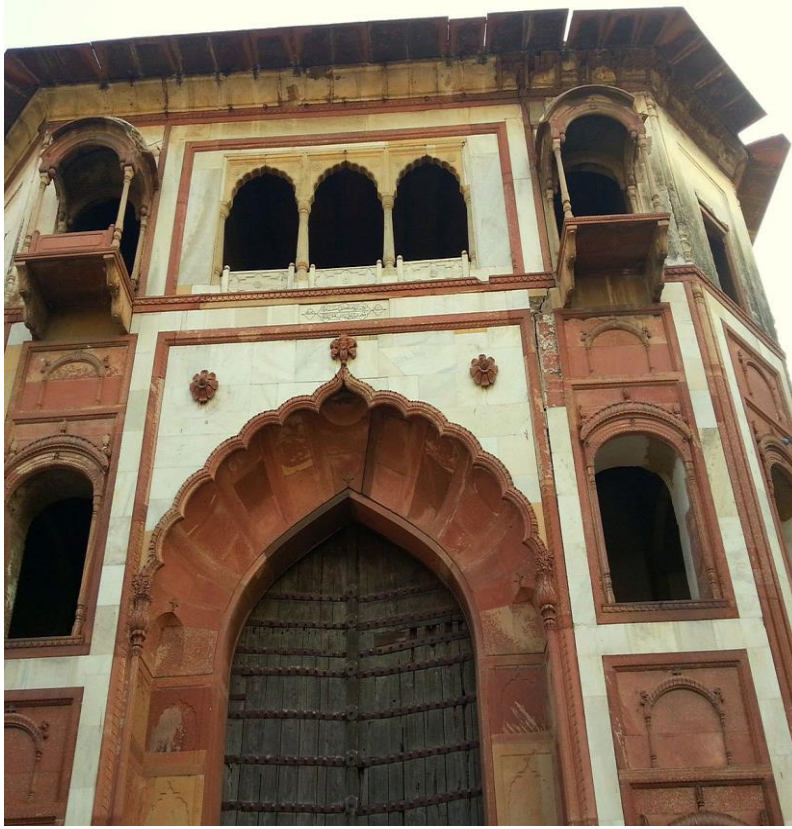
2.

1. Three white domes of Moti Masjid and Dargah of Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki

2. Ruins of Zafar Mahal with Moti Masjid adjoining it

Zafar Mahal is situated about hundred yards away from the from Ajmeri Gate of Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki's *dargah* popularly known as Qutub Sahib. Made of red sandstone and marble, the structure was constructed into two phases. In the first phase a single floor was constructed by Emperor Akbar Shah II. It consisted of some open area, a few rooms, Moti Masjid and Naubat Khana. In the second phase Bahadur Shah Zafar made some additions – another floor, Hathi Gate and a Chajja/Chhatri in the centre. Towards the east is the Pearl Mosque or Moti Masjid built by Bahadur Shah I in 1709 C,E. which has arched entrances .

HATHI GATE



It is an imposing gateway built by Bahadur Shah Zafar as an extension to the existing structure. Made of red sandstone it has arched balconies from where the royal ladies could view processions. The upper balcony has many chambers decorated with marble and inlays. The arches reflect Rajasthani style of architecture.

Etched on a marble slab above the archway is the inscription of Bahadur Shah Zafar. It reads as:

“ When the high gate was strongly built as desired, the heart gave the date of its erection. May the gate of Zafar remain standing”



Upper Storey of the Gate.



Arched Verandah



Chhatri

MOTI MASJID



Made of marble, the Moti Masjid was built by Bahadur Shah I in 1709 C.E. It has three arched entrances, each having a dome or Gumbad. Adjacent to the mosque, are the royal graves.



In a marble enclosure adjoining the *dargah* of Bakhtiyar Kaki , lies an empty grave or *Sardgah* which marks the site where Bahadur Shah Zafar wished to be buried alongside his father in Zafar Mahal. However, in 1858, he was exiled to Rangoon, where he died on 7th November, 1862.

Activity 2

Provided are some facts about Zafar Mahal. Tick the correct answer

CIET: Correct answer should indicate a SMILE.

Hathi Gate was built by Akbar Shah II

Sardgah is the empty grave where Bahadur Shah Zafar wished to be buried

Qutub Sahib is the dargah of Nizanuddin auliya

Zafar Mahal was built as a summer palace

Zafar mahal is made of red sandstone and marble.

Correct Answer

- Sardgah is the empty grave where Bahadur Shah Zafar wished to be buried .
- Zafar Mahal was built as a summer palace
- Zafar mahal is made of red sandstone and marble.

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