

DELHI : ANCIENT AND MODERN

We are a very old civilisation, so two or three thousand year old monuments are just part of our daily lives. We drive past the Humayun's Purana Qila without a glance. We take visitors to the Qutub, but seldom wonder how the tallest brick tower in the world was constructed with such primitive tools. Few go to look at Feroz Shah Tughlaq's city, now known as Feroz Shah Kotla, where one of the few remaining Ashoka pillars is sited. Most people think it is a cricket ground. We are reluctant to brave traffic on the way to Tughlaqabad. The exquisite tomb of Princess Jahanara, sister of Aurangzeb, is lost in the byways of Chandni Chowk, with clothes drying on the marble lattice screens. Despite the ravages of time, parts of these structures still survive and are lovingly maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. This calendar is a salute to our history, our culture and our art.



Dear Friends,

For over thirty years I have driven around Delhi, subconsciously registering the many monuments that dot the city. Often I said to myself that I should make the effort to examine them. After all, they are part of my heritage, my culture, my history. Someday I would definitely visit all these places.

But you know how it is. You are always on the way to somewhere else, and usually running late.

As the years went by, these magnificent structures became part of the scenery. The main gate of the Red Fort was a familiar sight. The Old Fort was hidden behind its crumbling walls, the Qutub was not on the way to anywhere and Hazrat Nizamuddin's dargah was buried deep inside the area that bore his name.

'Someday' never happened.

This year's calendar may inspire some of my friends to make the pilgrimage down the road I never trod, to feel the surge of pride in our ancient lineage, appreciating the builders, amazement at the beauty they created and admiration of their ingenuity and technology.

And maybe someday

Burman

Pradip Burman

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gautam Partho Roy graduated from the Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata with a degree in Fine Arts. For over 30 years he has been gaining renown and his exhibitions are great successes.

For several years he has been the only artist for our calendars, because of his versatility and enthusiasm for new challenges. He has used oils for the "Warriors of Light" and "The Nine Durgas", charcoal for the "Great Indians", poster paint for the "Dances of India".

This time, he used pen and ink!

One needs to stare at the sketches to see the incredible detailing of the scenes he has produced and wonder at the life he has infused into these dead monuments.

You may want to go and look at the originals, in order to appreciate the accuracy of the proportions and the reality of the carvings he has faithfully reproduced.

I guess we will be using him next year too, just to see what new medium he is going to try!



Gautam Partho Roy

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Agrasen ki Baoli



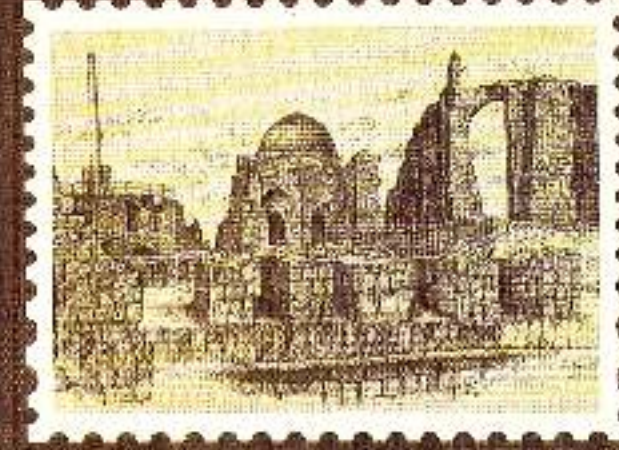
Qutub Minar



Tomb of Hazrat Nizamuddin



Tughlaqabad



Feroz Shah Kotla



Humayun's Tomb

DELHI

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Red Fort



Jama Masjid



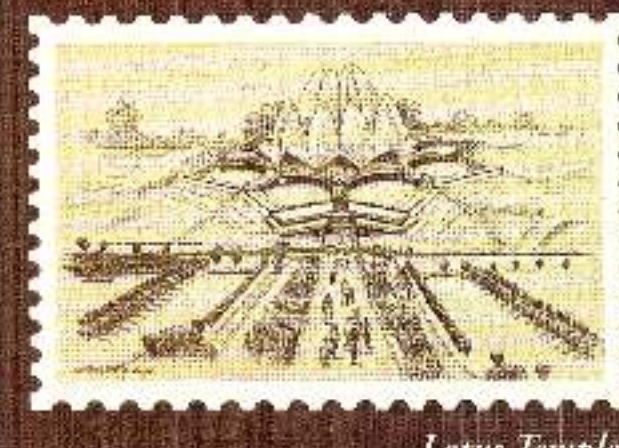
Digambar Lal Mandir



Sis Ganj Gurudwara



Rashtrapati Bhawan



Lotus Temple

Delhi has been built, abandoned, destroyed and re-built. Many believe that our current Delhi is the 11th or 12th city. Indraprastha, the capital of the Pandavs of Mahabharat fame, may have been the actual first Delhi, but there is no historical or archaeological proof. Not surprising, considering that the fabled city was built 3000 years ago.

However, we have archeological proof of only seven cities. These are the cities and their builders in chronological order:

(I) 12th Century : Qila Rai Pithora : Prithviraj Chauhan

(III) 13th Century : Siri : Allah-ud-din Khilji

(V) 14th century : Tughlaqabad : Ghyas-ud-din Tughlaq

(VII) 17th Century : Shahjehanabad (Old Delhi) : Shah Jehan

(II) 12th Century : Mehrauli and Qutub Minar : Qutub-ud-din Aibak

(IV) 14th Century : Ferozabad : Feroz Shah Tughlaq

(VI) 16th Century : Shergarh : Humayun/Sher Shah Suri/Humayun

(VIII) 20th Century : New Delhi : British/Lutyens

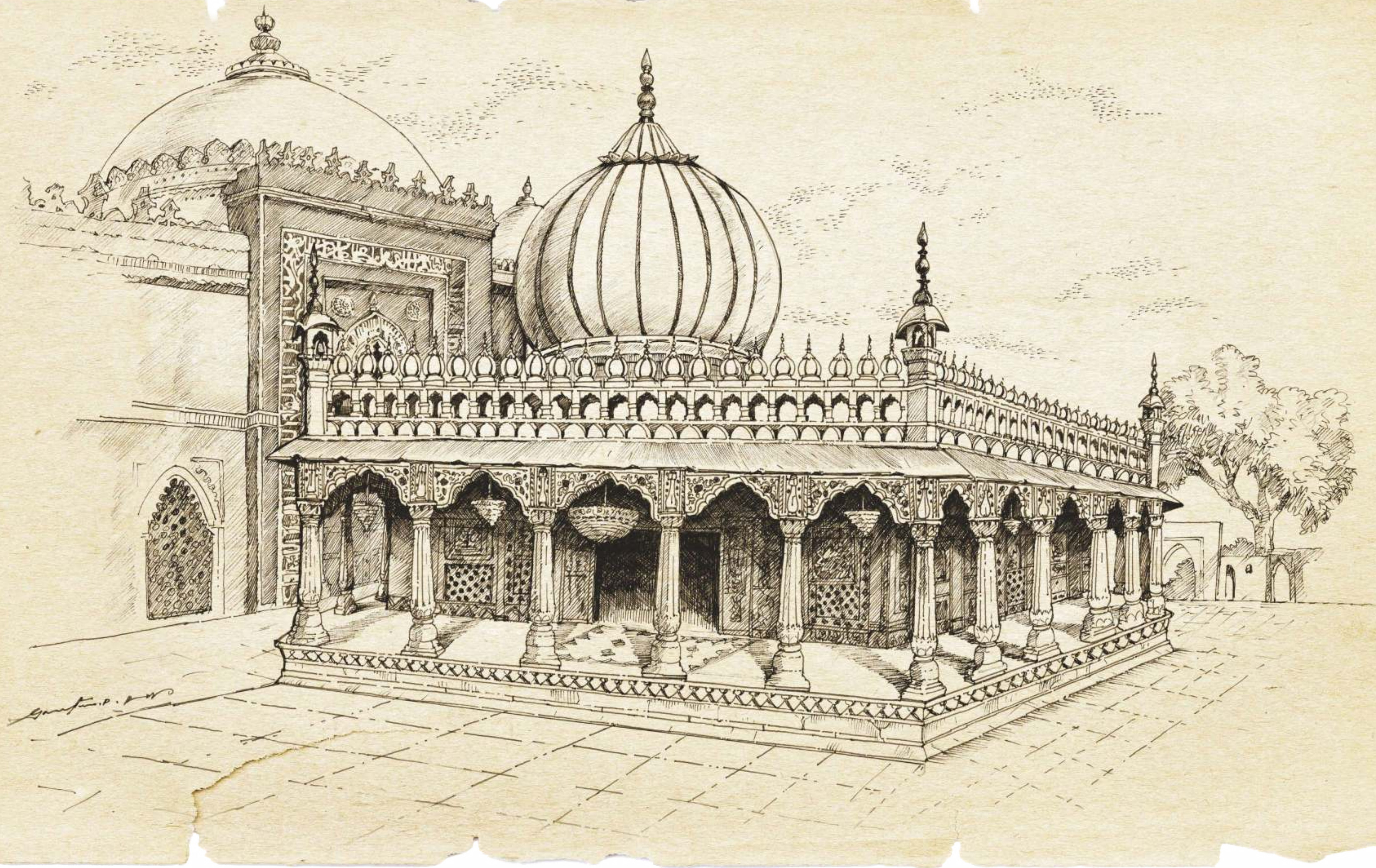
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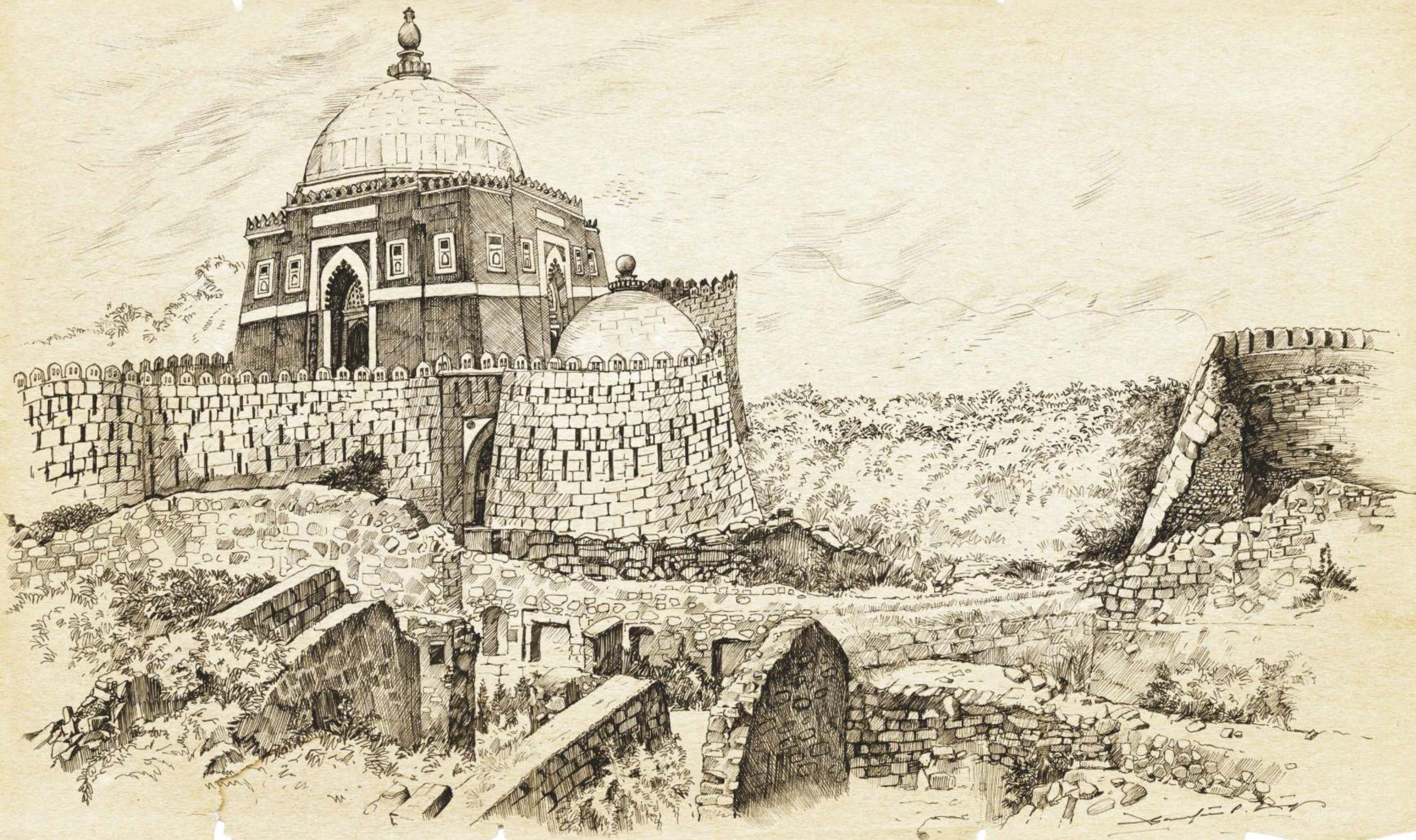
Agrasen ki Baoli : Constructed between 9th and 12th Century



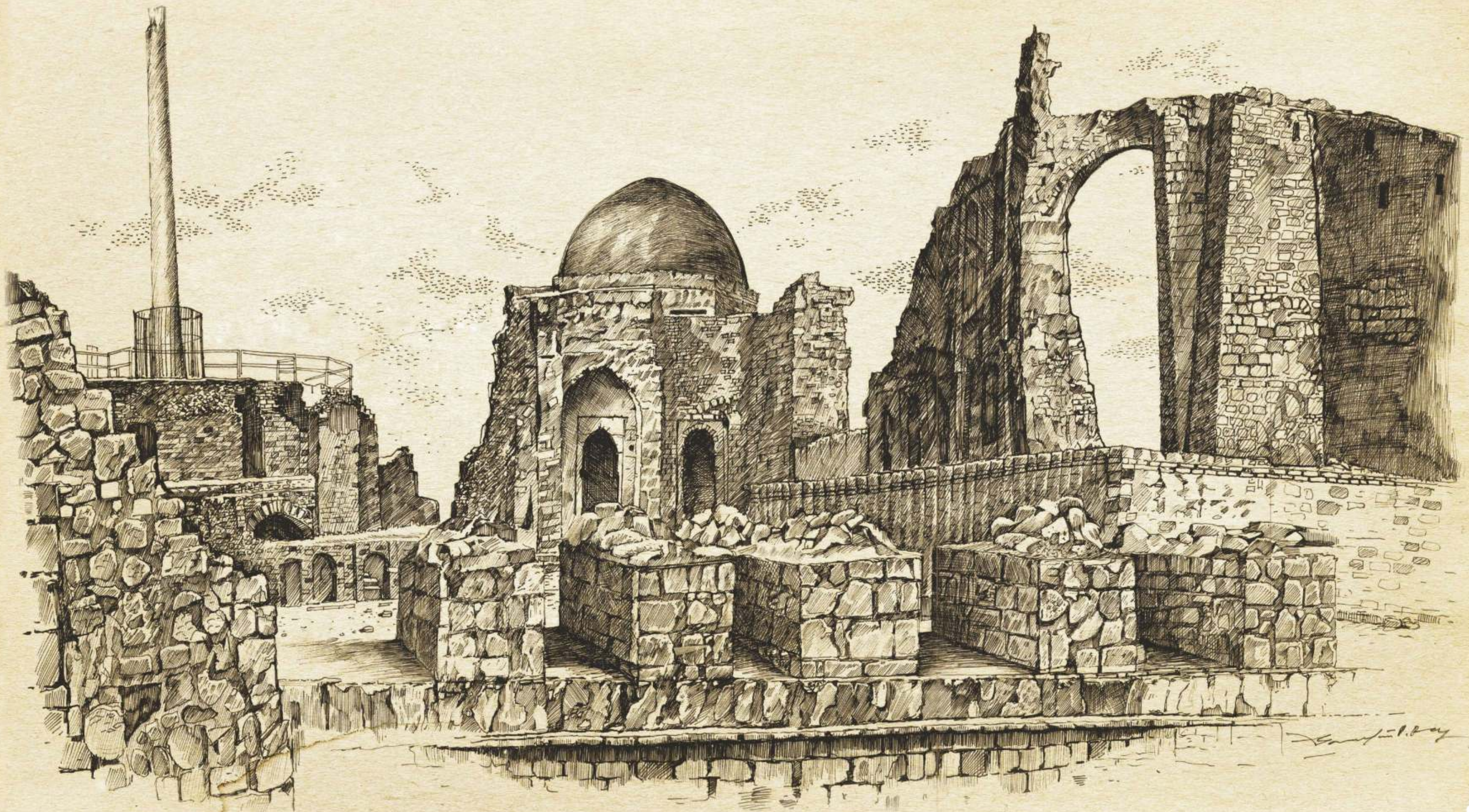
Qutub Minar : Constructed 1200CE



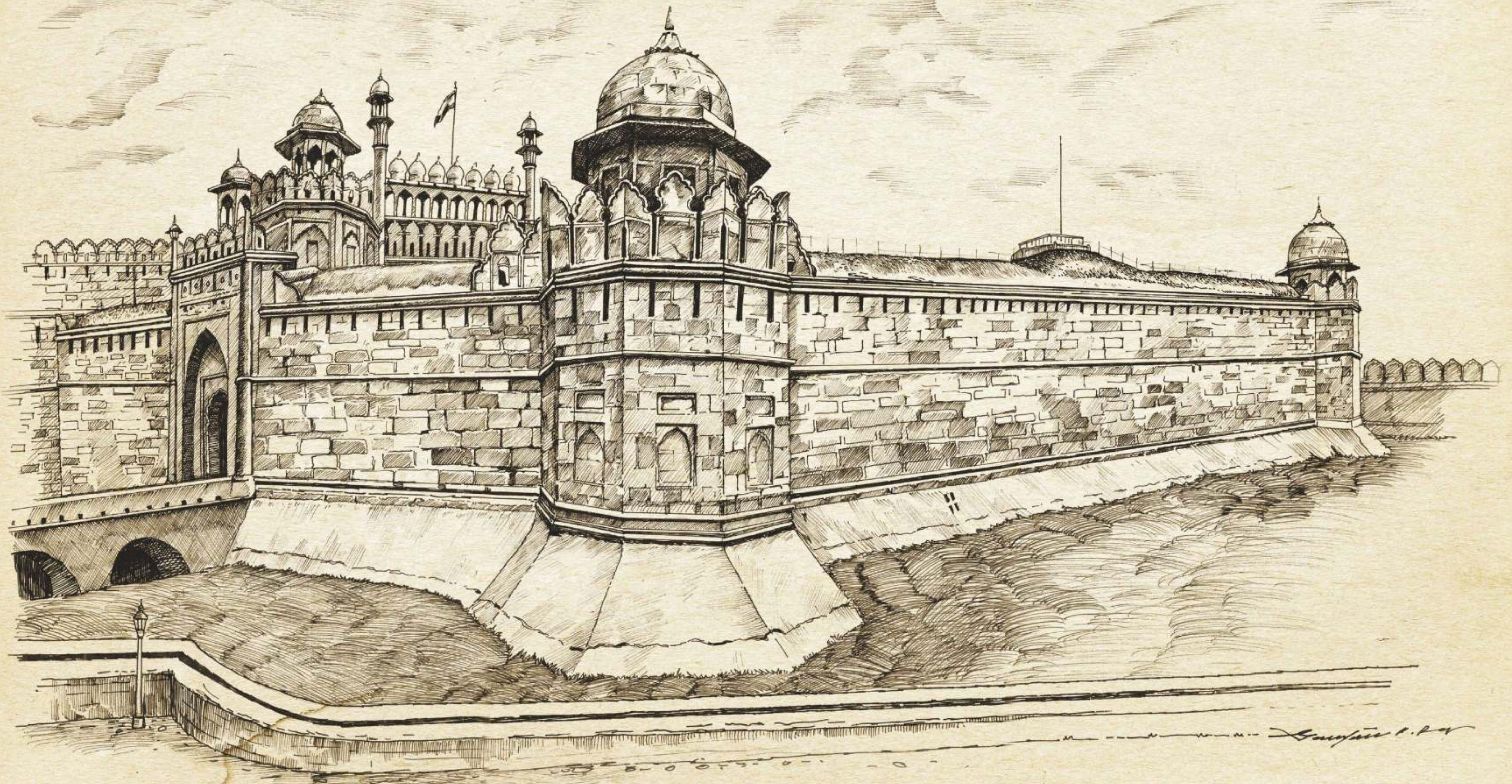
Tomb of Hazrat Nizamuddin : Constructed 1325CE



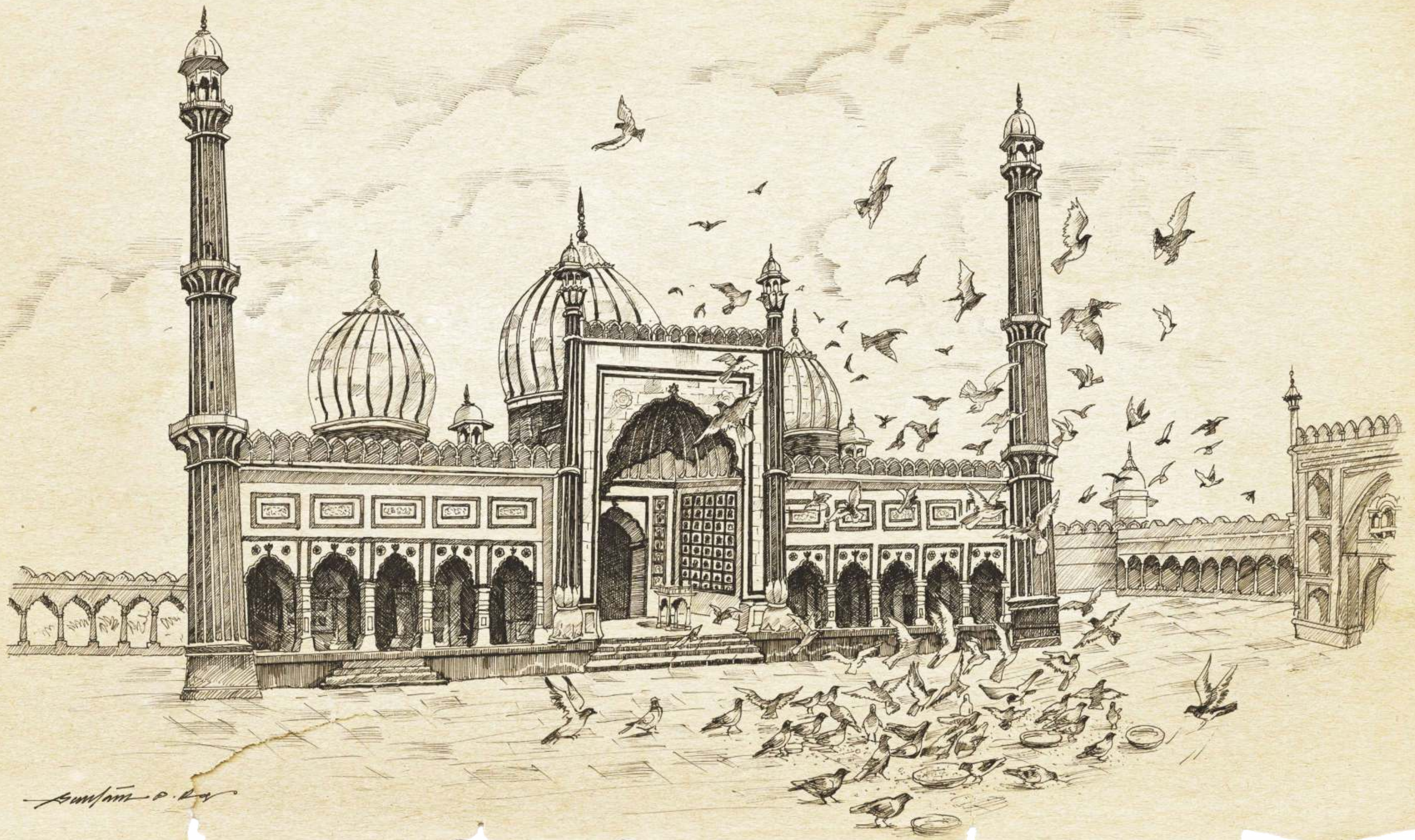
Tughlaqabad : Constructed 1320-1325CE



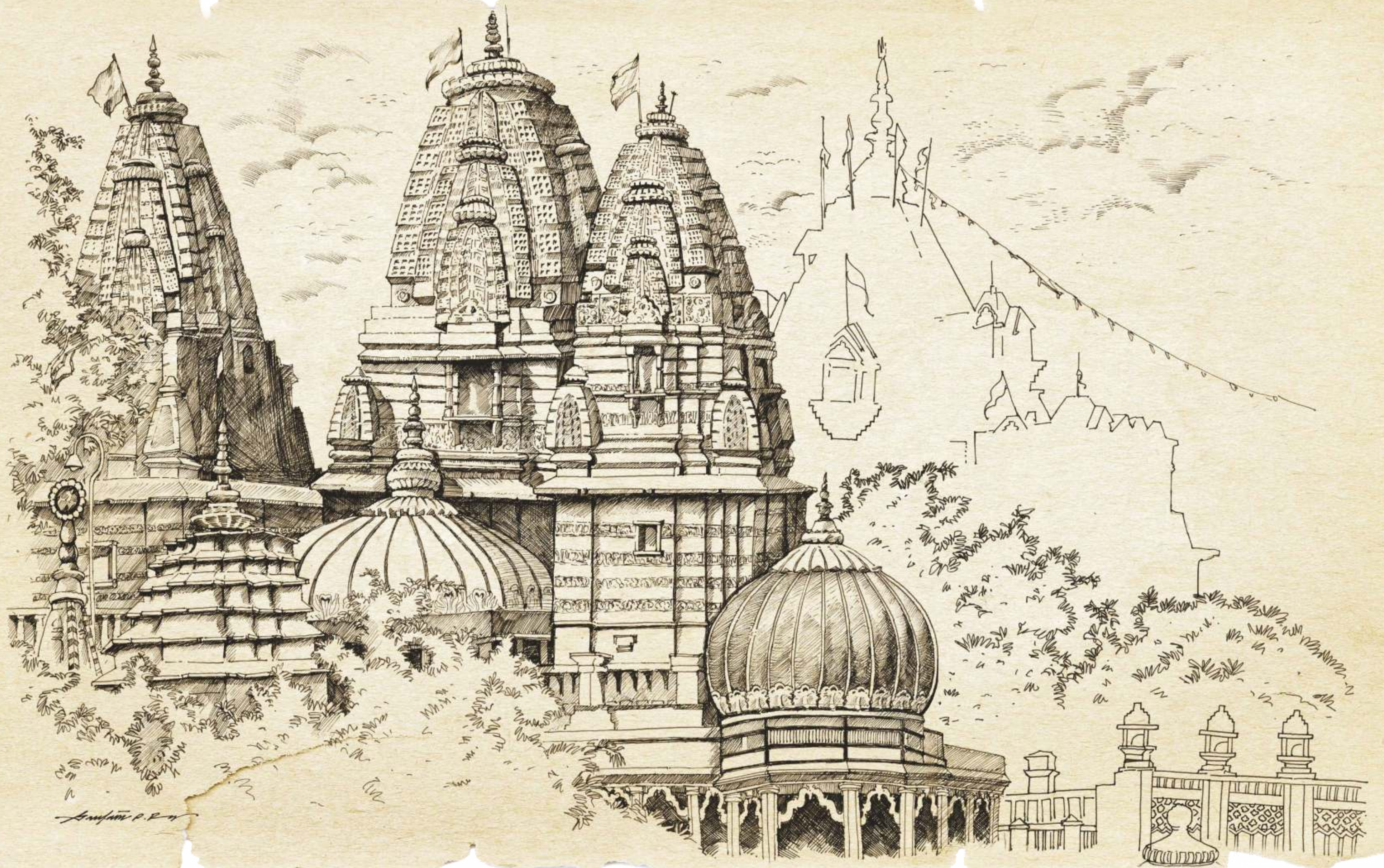
Feroz Shah Kotla : Constructed 1351-1388CE



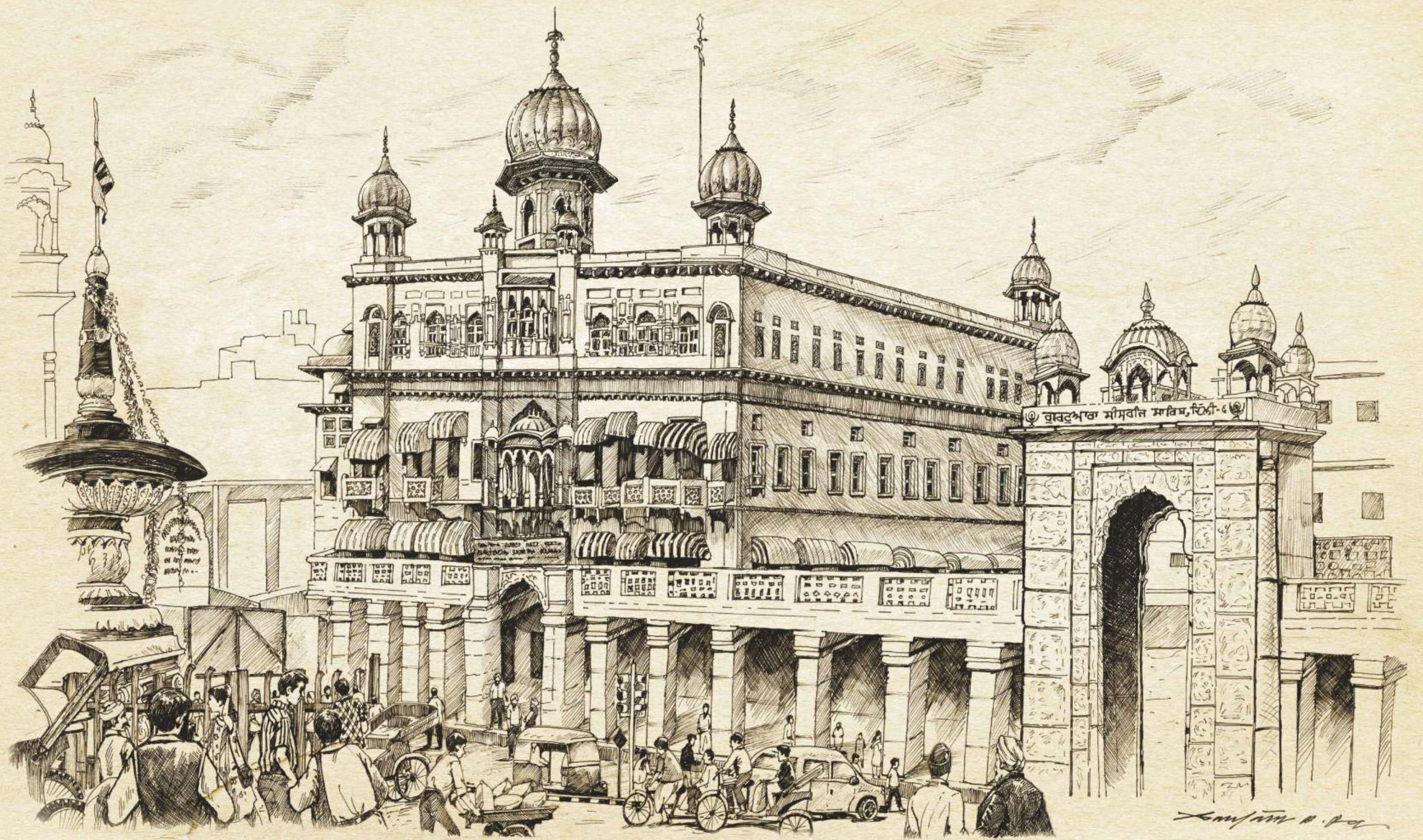
Red Fort : Constructed 1630-1640CE



Jama Masjid : Constructed 1630-1640CE



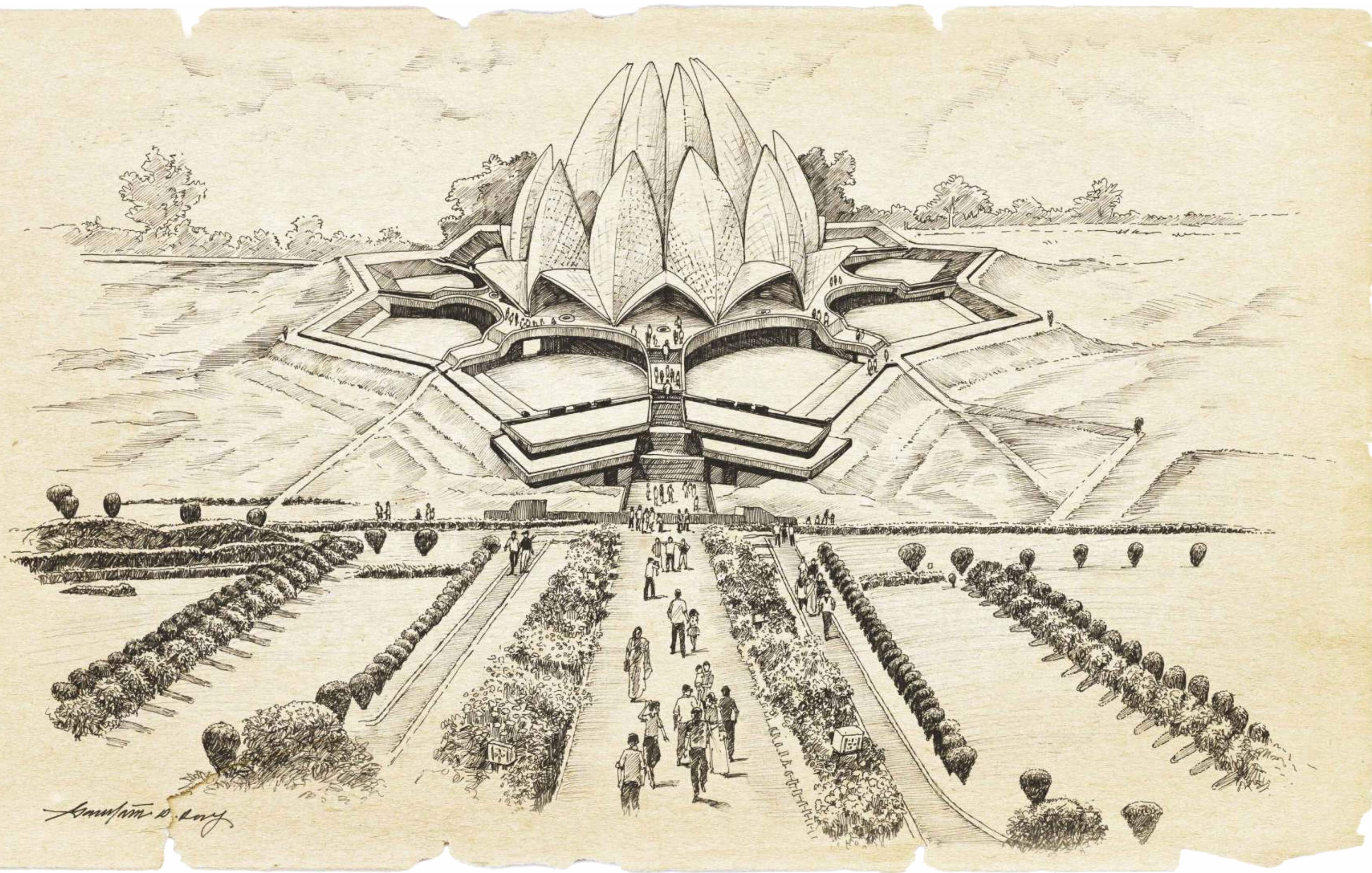
Digambar Lal Mandir : Constructed 1658 - Rebuilt 1947CE



Sis Ganj Gurudwara : Constructed 1783 and re-built 1930CE



Rashtrapati Bhavan : Constructed 1912 -1927CE



Lotus Temple : Constructed 1968CE