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# DELHI GATE

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Delhi gate is the one of the strategic gate of the Aurangabad city which lies on 19° 53' 38" N and 75° 20' 04" E. In Aurangabad city, it is located on the Major State Highway no. 8 which connects to Jalgaon Road. Dr. Salim Ali Lake is located towards the Northeastern side of the Delhi Gate whereas the Divisional Commissioners office is located towards the Southeastern corner.

Delhi gate is the largest gate built by Aurangzeb. It is not only large in size but also appears attractive among all the gates built in the Deccan area so far. It is located towards the Delhi Town that is towards the north end of the Aurangabad city. Through this gateway Aurangzeb marched towards Delhi in rebellion against his father Shahjahan. After marching through the gate he encamped at Arsul (Harsul) in a sarai (now central Jail) and nearby area where he halted for ten days. Then he started from Aurangabad on 5th February 1658 to challenge the throne. In March 1666 Shivaji accompanied by

Sambhaji and a body of one thousand select troop marched to Agra on Aurangzeb's invitation through this gateway.

The gate is a two storeyed structure. The façade which provides the main entrance into the city of Aurangabad faces north. It has two octagonal bastions on either of the sides and a pointed arch in between for entry and exit which encompasses another smaller pointed arch with a wooden door. The interior of the arch contains two small rectangular opening on the either sides which posed as guardrooms. Above the parapet wall of the arch is a battlement with numerous entablatures. On the two sides of the main arch are two turrets that rise up till the top of the battlement.

The bastions have rectangular gun points on the first storey followed by an octagonal battlement and eight pillared Chhatri with a domical ceiling terminating in a finial on top. The chhatri is adorn with cusped arches.

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