

Safdarjung tomb essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Safdarjung tomb (28° 35'N and 77° 12'E) is situated on Aurobindo Marg near Safdarjung Airport opposite Jor Bagh in New Delhi. Safdarjung tomb is a garden tomb in a marble mausoleum which was built by Nawab Shuja-Ud Daulah, son of Mirza Muquim Abul Mansur Khan entitled Safdarjung. It represents the last phase of Mughal architecture. There are four water canals leading to several smaller Pavilions like Jangli Mahal or forest palace, Moti Mahal or pearl palace and Badshah Pasand or king's favorite. The complex also has a madrasa. The Archaeological Survey of India maintains a library over the main gateway.

The double-storeyed mausoleum built of red and buff sandstone slabs relieved by marble, stands in the centre of the garden and rises on a 3.048 m (10ft.) high platform from the level of garden. The main tomb is about 18.28m (59.97) square, faced by verandah broken by arched openings leading to a series of cells on the inside. The central chamber of the mausoleum is square with eight apartments around. The four apartments are octagonal and the remaining four are rectangular. The main chamber of the tomb accommodates only one cenotaph.

But underground chamber contains two graves in the centre, possibly one of Safdarjung and the other of his wife Khujista Bano Begum. The building over the grave is about 18.28m (60ft) square and is about 27.43m (90ft.) high. In its center there is a room 6.096m (20ft.) square containing a highly polished and beautifully carved marble grave. The ceiling of the apartment is profusely ornamented with incised and plaster work. In the center of northern enclosure wall an arcaded pavilion is built on the raised platform

with late-Mughal features which is almost identical to the ones on the south and east.

Like Moti Mahal, an arcaded pavilion has been raised on high podium in front of the southern face of the mausoleum perched on the southern enclosure wall. The pavilion has beautiful ceilings carved in sandstone geometric patterns.