

My City  
My Heritage My  
Chhatrapati  
Sambhaji  
Nagar



# Explorers Book

Activity Book  
for Children



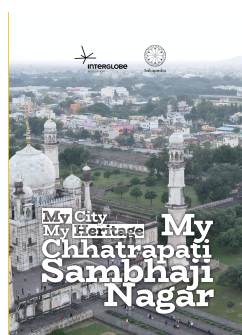
Founded in the 17th century by Malik Ambar, the African Peshwa of the Nizam Shahis, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (previously Aurangabad) has been a crucial centre for architecture, arts and crafts, and politics in the Deccan. From the intricate water management infrastructure that still forms the city's skeleton, to its street food inflected by Yemeni influences, the city is full of many pleasant surprises.

So prepare to be surprised, whether by its rare weaving traditions or caves as captivating as nearby Ajanta! This Activity Book will try to walk you through the landscape of the city through interesting quizzes, puzzles, and illustrations. Think of these less as a test of your knowledge, but more as a tour of the city from a distance. And whether you're a crafts enthusiast, aspiring urban planner, or budding art historian, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar has something for everyone!



#### Discover More:

Learn about Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar with curated articles, numerous recommendations with the **MCMH My Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Booklet** and **2 heritage trails** on [www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-chhatrapati-sambhajnagar](http://www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-chhatrapati-sambhajnagar)



\* **skeleton** |  
**skeh·luh·tn**

You may know this as a word for the bone structure of animals, but it doubles up as a neat metaphor—for any basic structure, even that of a city!



#### Size:

A3 (29.7 cm x 24 cm)

This document  
(25cm x 35.3 cm)

#### Title:

My City My Heritage My Chhatrapati  
Sambhajnagar: Explorers' Book

#### Publisher:

Sahapedia

#### Supported by:

InterGlobe Foundation (IGF)

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# Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Through Time

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar's rich and vibrant past continues to colour its present. So, here is an exercise for the history buffs! Listed here are some important events in its history, but the years are all wrong. Your task is to match the event to the correct year, forming an accurate timeline. The first one gets you off to an easy start (when were Aurangzeb or Chhatrapati Sambhaji alive?), but other options are trickier. Let's see if you can look beyond your years!





Malik Ambar founded the city as Khadki, laying the foundation for what would later become Aurangabad.

The city is officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, replacing the name Aurangabad.

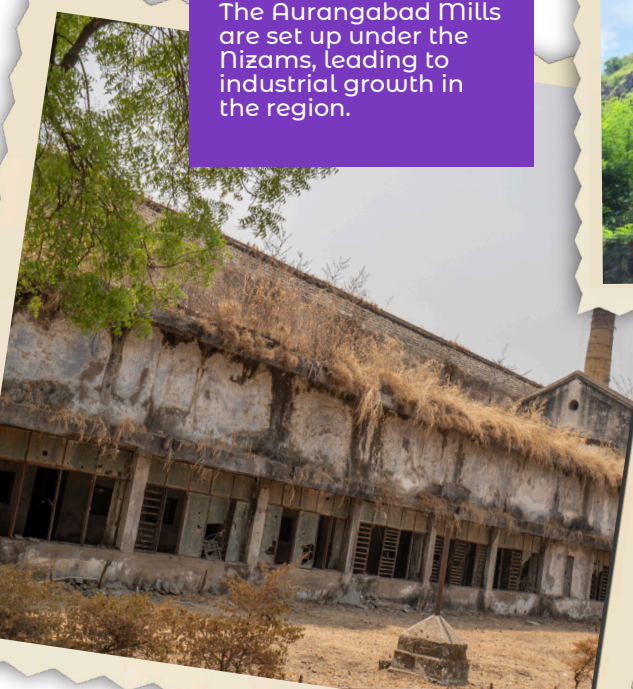
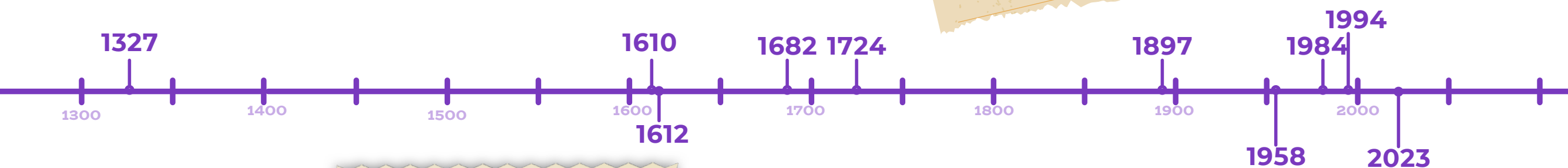


Bhadkal Darvaza is built by Malik Ambar, commemorating his victory over the Mughal governor of Gujarat.

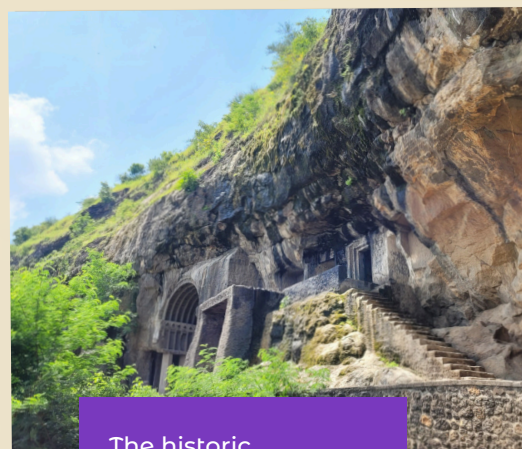


Mughal emperor Aurangzeb fortified the city, constructing walls and several of its famous gates during his Deccan campaign.

The Nizams of Hyderabad took control of the city after the weakening of Mughal power in the Deccan.



The Aurangabad Mills are set up under the Nizams, leading to industrial growth in the region.



The historic Aurangabad Caves are declared a protected site by the Archaeo-logical Survey of India.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, bringing settlers, traders, and artisans.

The city was incorporated into the Indian Union, following Hyderabad's merger with India.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University is established, marking a significant step in higher education for the region.



Match the events to the correct years.





# Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Trivia

From a tomb complex compared to the Taj Mahal in its grandeur to culinary influences unique to the city, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has a rich tangible and intangible heritage. Here's a quiz that tries to show you all that Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has to offer.

The questions range from easy to somewhat tricky. But don't sweat it even if you don't get something right! The point is to showcase and imbibe as much information as you can.

# Heritage Quiz



## Easy

- Why is Aurangabad called the 'City of Gates'?
  - It was once a major trade center
  - It had many stone gateways as part of its fortifications
  - It was known for its palace architecture
  - It had the largest number of temples in Maharashtra
- Which ruler's decision to shift the capital led to the introduction of *Himroo* weaving in Aurangabad?
  - Aurangzeb
  - Muhammad bin Tughluq
  - Akbar
  - Nizam-ul-Mulk
- The word *Himroo* is derived from which language?
  - Sanskrit
  - Persian
  - Arabic
  - Marathi
- What is the main raw material used in traditional handmade papermaking in the village of Kagzipura?
  - Bamboo pulp
  - Cotton thread
  - Palm leaves
  - Animal skin
- What does the name Kagzipura mean?
  - Village of weavers
  - Settlement of papermakers
  - Land of scholars
  - Market for books
- What is the most famous meat dish in Aurangabad that dates back to Mughal times?
  - Rogan Josh
  - Gosht Qaliya
  - Chicken Biryani
  - Malabar Parotta
- Who was the Bibi-Ka-Maqbara built in memory of?
  - Mumtaz Mahal
  - Dilras Banu Begum

- Jahanara Begum
- Noor Jahan

- How old are the Aurangabad Caves?
  - 500 years
  - 1000 years
  - 2000 years
  - 3000 years

## Intermediate



- Himroo* fabric was originally developed as a more affordable alternative to which luxurious textile?
  - Banarasi silk
  - Kinkhab brocade
  - Pashmina wool
  - Chanderi cotton
- What does the term *naqshbandi* refer to in *Himroo* weaving?
  - The preparation of designs on threads before weaving
  - The final polishing of woven fabric
  - The washing process to soften fabric texture
  - The dyeing process to add natural colors
- How do artisans add floral patterns or neem leaves to handmade paper?
  - By **embossing** designs after the paper is dry
  - By embedding dried flowers and leaves between two layers of pulp
  - By painting the designs with natural dyes
  - By carving the designs with fine knives

- Which four gates in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar were built facing the cardinal directions?
  - Kala Darvaza, Bhadkal Darvaza, Bulund Darvaza, and Roshan Darvaza
  - Delhi Darvaza, Paithan Darvaza, Mecca Darvaza, and Jalna Darvaza
  - Naubat Darvaza, Kat-kat Darvaza, Noor Darvaza, and Jaffar Darvaza
  - Mahmood Darvaza, Mir Adil Darvaza, Khooni Darvaza, and Naukhandia Darvaza
- The eight dangers depicted in the Avalokitesvara sculpture in Cave 7 are also known as what?
  - Mahasattva
  - Mahabhaya
  - Mahashakti
  - Mahadeva
- Which gateway was built by Malik Ambar to commemorate his victory over the Mughals?
  - Rangeen Darvaza
  - Naubat Darvaza
  - Bhadkal Darvaza
  - Barapulla Darvaza
- What type of garden layout does Bibi-Ka-Maqbara follow?
  - Rock Garden
  - Char Bagh
  - Hanging Gardens
  - Botanical Garden

✱ **emboss** | em•baws  
To stamp or carve a raised design onto a surface, like paper or stone. It is the opposite of "embed"—so figure out what it means!



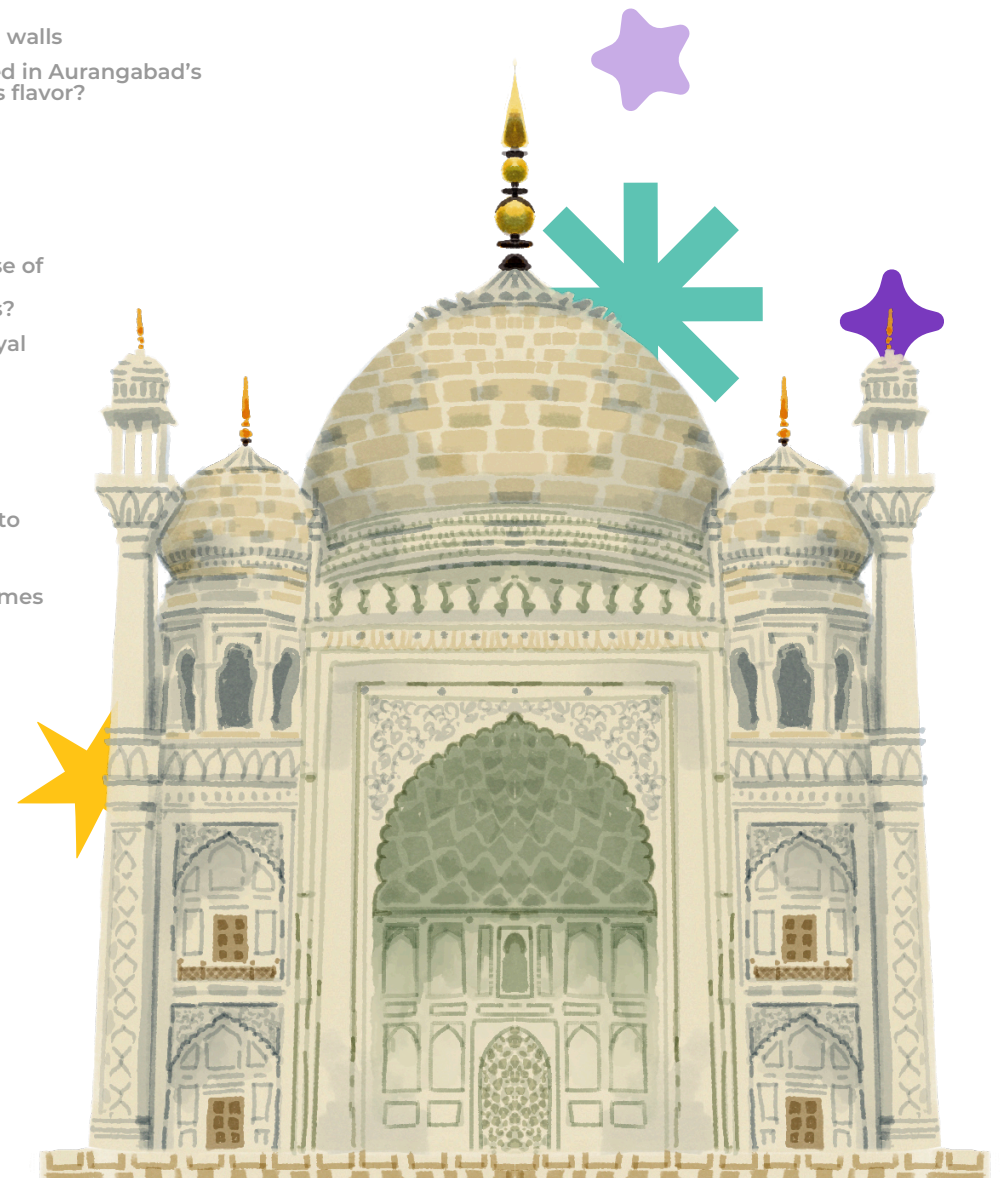


# Heritage Quiz

16. What is the primary building material used in the construction of the minarets at Bibi-Ka-Maqbara?
- Black basalt
  - Red sandstone
  - Marble
  - Granite

## Difficult

17. Why does Himroo fabric exhibit a three-dimensional effect?
- Due to high-density thread weaving
  - Overlapping silk and cotton threads in a double-layered structure
  - Use of metallic dyes
  - Special heating techniques during weaving
18. Which Mughal structure in Aurangabad was once guarded by the Delhi Darvaza, Mecca Darvaza, Naubat Darvaza, and Rangeen Darvaza?
- Bibi ka Maqbara
  - Naukhanda Palace
  - Qila-e-Ark
  - Panchakki Complex
19. What unique feature does the Mahmud Darvaza have in comparison to other gates?
- It was built at an acute angle to a bridge instead of at right angles
  - It has three separate entrances
  - It is the tallest gate in the city
  - It is the only wooden gateway in Aurangabad
20. What is the height of the minarets at Bibi-Ka-Maqbara?
- 50 feet
  - 60 feet
  - 72 feet
  - 100 feet
21. How many fountains are present in the reservoirs at Bibi-Ka-Maqbara?
- 50
  - 61
  - 72
  - 100
22. What structural feature of Bibi-Ka-Maqbara enhances its visual impact, similar to the Taj Mahal?
- A grand staircase at the entrance
  - Its elevated platform of 19 feet
  - A central wooden dome
  - The use of bronze-plated walls
23. Which unusual spice is used in Aurangabad's Gosht Qaliya to enhance its flavor?
- Star Anise
  - Marking Nuts
  - Sumac
  - Szechuan Pepper
24. What was the main purpose of the Naubat Darvaza in Aurangabad's fortifications?
- It was the gate where royal announcements were made with drums
  - It served as an exclusive entrance for foreign dignitaries
  - It functioned as a secondary trade route into the city
  - It was used for secret military movements in times of war



# Capturing Aurangabad Caves

## Create Your Own Nature Postcard!

The Aurangabad Caves are a hidden gem nestled in the hills overlooking the city. These rock-cut caves, carved between the 2nd and 6th centuries CE, are filled with intricate sculptures and stunning depictions of Buddhist traditions. Imagine stepping into these ancient chambers, where history, art, and spirituality come alive!

### Your Task:

1. **Draw Your Scene:** On the blank side of the postcard, create a vivid illustration of your chosen cave scene in the Aurangabad Caves. Pay attention to the carvings, the play of light and shadow, and the natural setting around the caves.
2. **Describe Your Experience:** On the lined side of the postcard, write a short message sharing your experience and why this place resonates with you.





\* **serene** | suh·reen  
Calm; used to describe  
something soothing and  
at peace

## Hints for Your Postcards

### Cave Interiors::

- Depict the **serene** statue of the Buddha in meditation, surrounded by intricate carvings.
- Notice the beautiful pillars, each adorned with elaborate designs of deities, floral patterns, and mythical beings.
- Capture the cool, shaded interiors contrasting with the bright daylight outside.

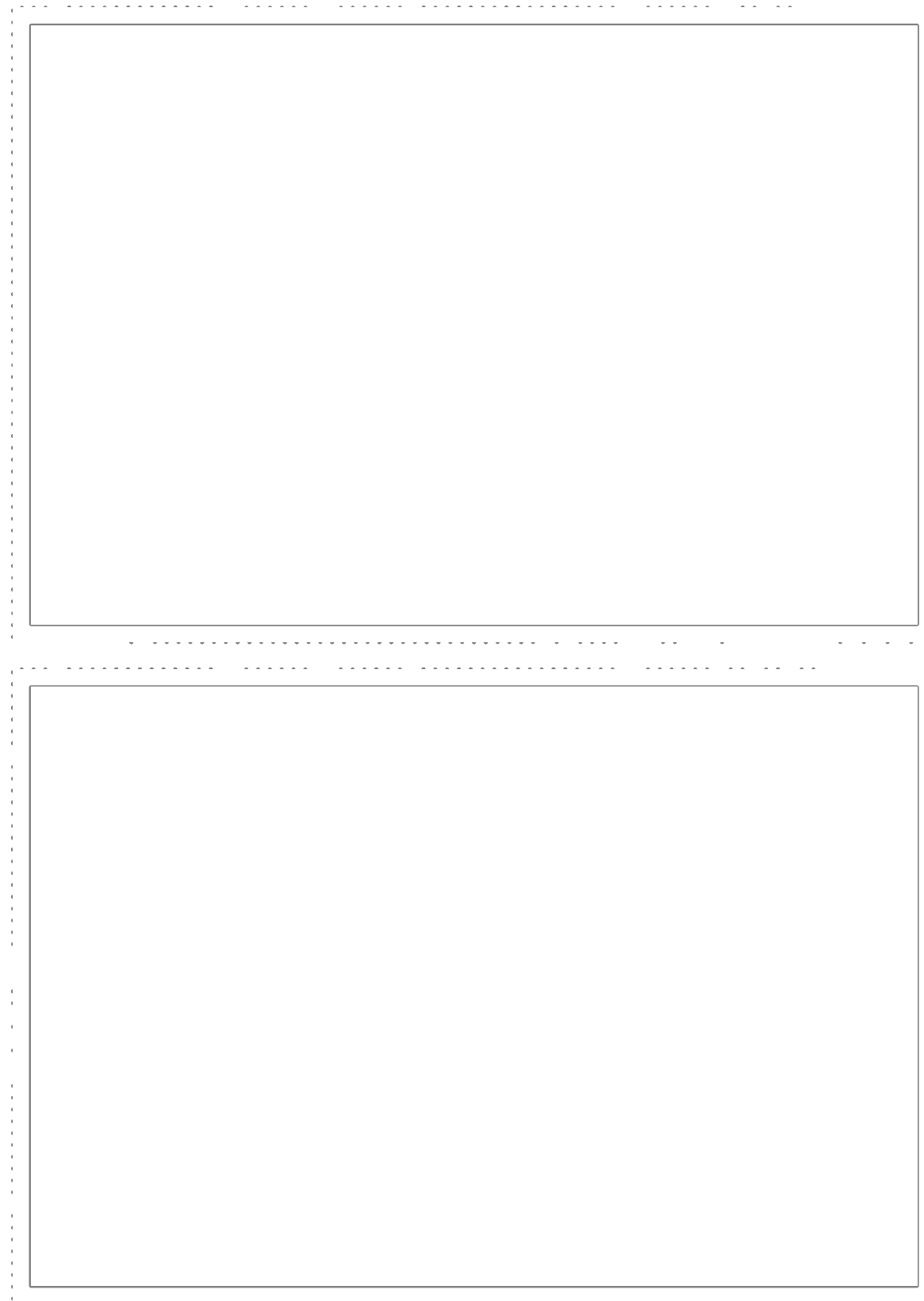
### Cave Entrances and Surroundings:

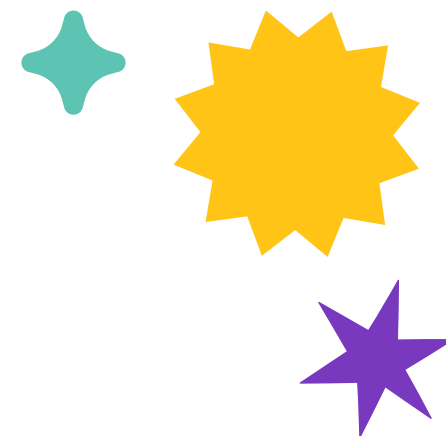
- Draw the rugged hill slopes with the cave entrances carved into the rock.
- Include the panoramic view of Aurangabad city visible from the hilltop.
- Show the lush greenery that surrounds the caves, with occasional birds soaring above.

### Sculptures and Artwork::

- Illustrate the exquisite figures of Avalokiteshvara, Tara, and celestial beings.
- Notice the details in the poses and expressions of the sculptures, each telling a story.
- Add the flowing robes, ornate jewelry, and intricate hairstyles seen in the carvings.

**Draw in the inner box and cut along the dotted line.**





### Don't forget to include...

- Where is it? (Example: Aurangabad Caves, Cave 7, Hilltop Overlook)
- Subject of your illustration! What do you see? Describe what you see, hear and feel.
- Message (Why do you love this place? What makes it special and why would you like to share it with someone else?)

**Cut along the dotted lines and carefully paste the backs of the two sides together to create the final postcard.**

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# Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Mapped

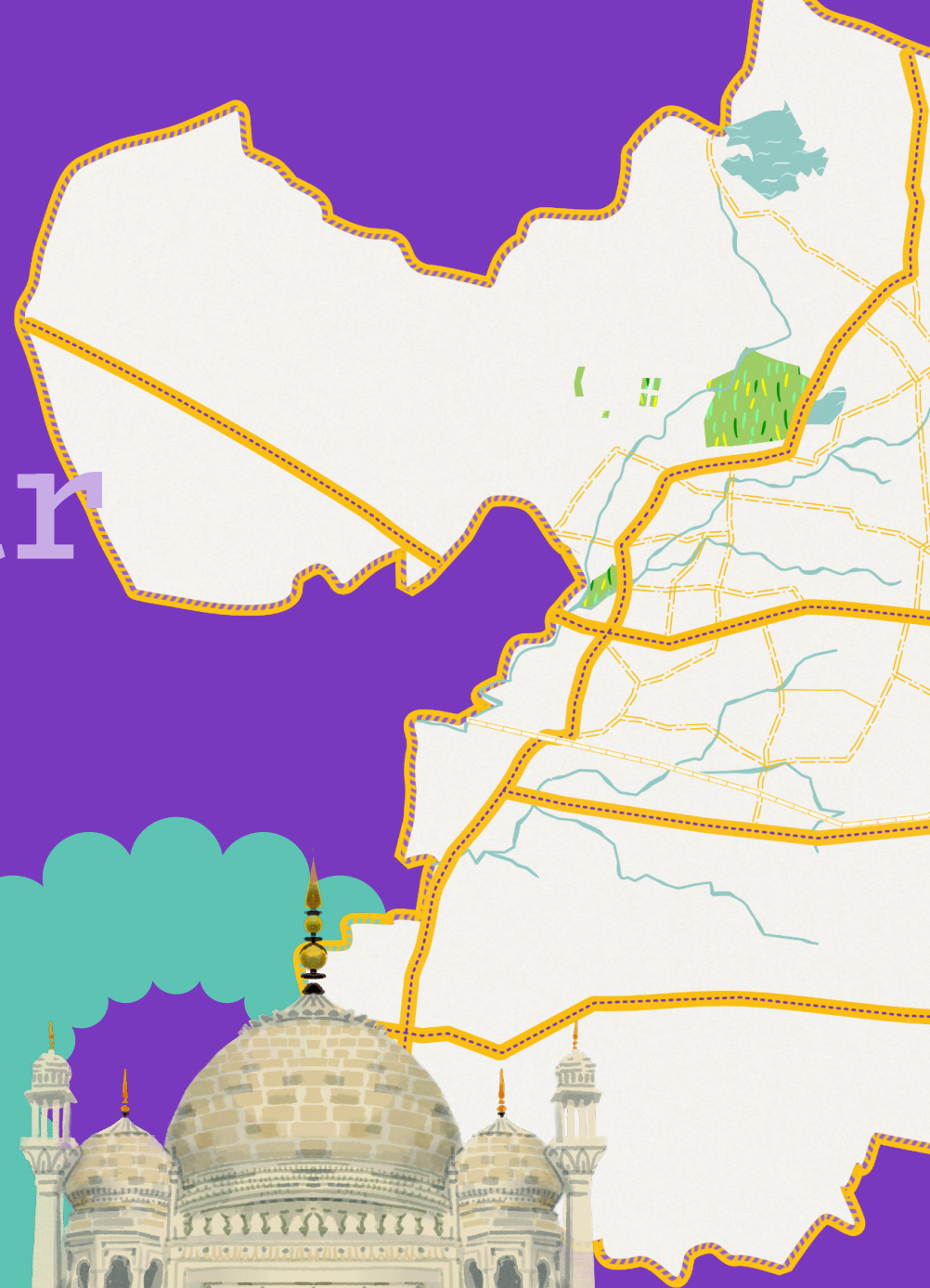
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has been a center of history and culture in the region for centuries. From the ambitious structures and water systems of Malik Ambar, the architectural expansion of the Mughal era to the industrial growth in the Asaf Jahi era—the city's streets, markets, and monuments tell the stories of its dynasties.

In this activity, we will use a map to trace the region's historic sites. From the majestic Bibi-ka-Maqbara to the fortified gates of the city, from the Daulatabad Fort, let's explore the places that made the region a significant cultural hub.

Through this mapping activity, we will uncover the region's historical depth, exploring its built heritage and sites that have stood the test of time.

## Instructions

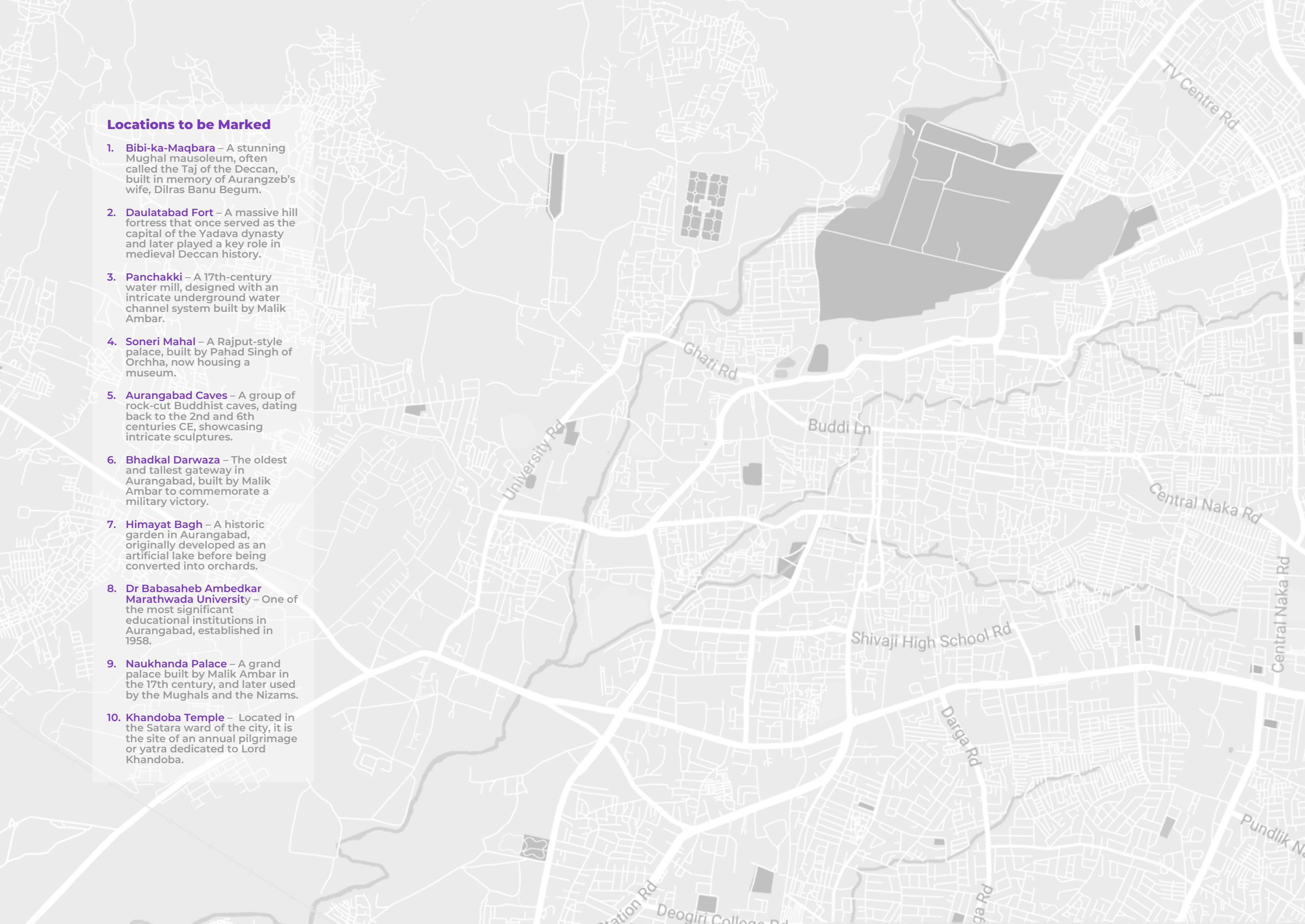
- Look at the list of historic locations provided.
- Match each location with its correct spot on the map.
- Draw a small icon or sketch to represent the landmark (e.g., a shield for Daulatabad Fort).





## Locations to be Marked

1. **Bibi-ka-Maqbara** – A stunning Mughal mausoleum, often called the Taj of the Deccan, built in memory of Aurangzeb's wife, Dilras Banu Begum.
2. **Daulatabad Fort** – A massive hill fortress that once served as the capital of the Yadava dynasty and later played a key role in medieval Deccan history.
3. **Panchakki** – A 17th-century water mill, designed with an intricate underground water channel system built by Malik Ambar.
4. **Soneri Mahal** – A Rajput-style palace, built by Pahad Singh of Orchha, now housing a museum.
5. **Aurangabad Caves** – A group of rock-cut Buddhist caves, dating back to the 2nd and 6th centuries CE, showcasing intricate sculptures.
6. **Bhadkal Darwaza** – The oldest and tallest gateway in Aurangabad, built by Malik Ambar to commemorate a military victory.
7. **Himayat Bagh** – A historic garden in Aurangabad, originally developed as an artificial lake before being converted into orchards.
8. **Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University** – One of the most significant educational institutions in Aurangabad, established in 1958.
9. **Naukhanda Palace** – A grand palace built by Malik Ambar in the 17th century, and later used by the Mughals and the Nizams.
10. **Khandoba Temple** – Located in the Satara ward of the city, it is the site of an annual pilgrimage or yatra dedicated to Lord Khandoba.





This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Character Sketches From The Past

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar has been home to many rulers, warriors, artisans, and traders who shaped its history. Through their voices, we can glimpse what life was like in different eras. Choose a character and craft a detailed character sketch based on their life, thoughts, and experiences.

## **Your Task:**

1. Choose a Character: Pick one of the figures below or create your own.
2. Describe Them: Who are they? What do they do? What era do they belong to?
3. Write in First-Person: Let them tell their own story in their own voice.
4. Draw or Imagine Their World: What do they see around them? What do they wear? What are they thinking?

\* **chaitya | chai•tyuh**  
A shrine for worship typically associated with Buddhism, with archedroofs and crescent doorways typical to the structure

## Character Sketch Examples

### The City's Founder (Early 1600s)

"I was born in Ethiopia, but my destiny brought me to the Deccan. Once a military slave, now a kingmaker, I have built this city on the rocky banks of the Kham River. The Mughals call me a thorn in their side—I call myself the protector of the Deccan. I have built strong walls, grand palaces, and a city that will stand long after I am gone."

### An Architect of Bibi-Ka-Maqbara (Late 1600s)

"I have studied the works of Ustad Ahmad Lahori, the master of the Taj Mahal. Now, I am building a tomb for Dilras Banu Begum, the wife of Emperor Aurangzeb. To me, it is a monument of its own grace, incomparable to the Taj. As the marble gleams in the sun, I wonder—will they remember the hands that carved its beauty?"

### A Poet from the Mughal Court (1700s-1800s)

"The streets of Aurangabad whisper poetry to me. I sit in the gardens of the city, reciting verses of love and longing to the noblemen who sip their sherbets. Wali Dakkhani also walked these streets, laying the foundation of Urdu poetry. I wonder—will my verses echo beyond these palace walls?"

### A Himroo Weaver in Nawabpura (1700s-1800s)

"My hands have woven dreams into silk and cotton. This Himroo shawl will be sent to Hyderabad, its patterns as intricate as the stories of my ancestors. My forefathers came here centuries ago, bringing their knowledge from Persia, and under the Nizams, our craft thrived. But times are changing—cheaper machine-made cloth threatens our livelihood. Will my children still weave, or will our looms fall silent?"

### A Sculptor Carving the Aurangabad Caves (2nd Century CE)

"My chisel strikes the rock, shaping the stories of the Buddha into stone. Generations will pass, but these caves will endure. We are carving viharas for the monks, **chaityas** for worship, and intricate figures of Bodhisattvas. The dust settles on my skin as I work by the dim glow of an oil lamp. Someday, people will marvel at our work—but will they know the names of the hands that carved them?"

## Your Turn!

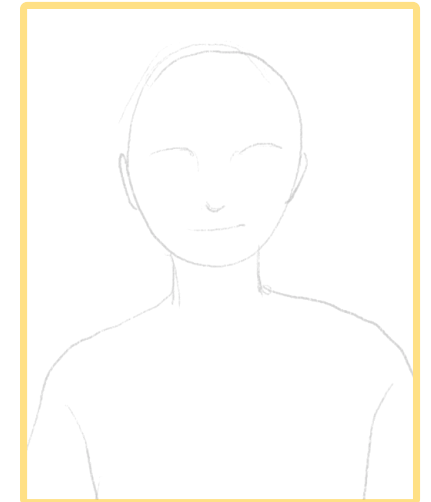
If you could step into the past, who would you be? Would you be a warrior? An artist? A ruler? A traveler?

Name:

Time Period:

Description:

Story:



## Draw their Portrait

What does your character look like? Use this base sketch to give your character the features, attire, and expression you visualise.



**Draw their world:**



# Answers

## A. CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR THROUGH TIME

1. 1327 – Muhammad bin Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, forcing mass migration and bringing artisans and traders to the region.
2. 1610 – Malik Ambar founded the city as Khadki, laying the foundation for what would later become Aurangabad.
3. 1612 – Bhadkal Darvaza is built by Malik Ambar, commemorating his victory over the Mughal governor of Gujarat.
4. 1682 – Aurangzeb fortifies the city, constructing walls and several of its famous gates during his Deccan campaign.
5. 1724 – The Nizams of Hyderabad take control of the city after the weakening of Mughal power in the Deccan.
6. 1897 – The Aurangabad Mills were set up under the Nizams, leading to industrial growth in the region.
7. 1958 – Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University was established, marking a significant step in higher education for the region.
8. 1984 – The historic Aurangabad Caves are declared a protected site by the Archaeological Survey of India.
9. 1994 – The city is incorporated into the Indian Union, following Hyderabad's merger with India.
10. 2023 – The city is officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, replacing the name Aurangabad.

## B. HERITAGE QUIZ

1. b) It had many stone gateways as part of its fortifications
2. b) Muhammad bin Tughluq
3. b) Persian
4. b) Cotton thread
5. b) Settlement of papermakers
6. b) Gosht Qaliya
7. b) Dilras Banu Begum
8. c) 2000 years
9. b) Kinkhab brocade
10. a) The preparation of designs on threads before weaving
11. b) By embedding dried flowers and leaves between two layers of pulp
12. b) Delhi Darvaza, Paithan Darvaza, Mecca Darvaza, and Jalna Darvaza
13. b) Mahabhaya
14. c) Bhadkal Darvaza
15. b) Char Bagh
16. c) Marble
17. b) Overlapping silk and cotton threads in a double-layered structure
18. c) Qila-e-Ark
19. a) It was built at an acute angle to a bridge instead of at right angles
20. c) 72 feet
21. b) 61
22. b) Its elevated platform of 19 feet
23. b) Marking Nuts
24. a) It was the gate where royal announcements were made with drums



# Stickers

