

The *Bands* and Sluices of the Sultanate Period in Delhi

—Historical Studies on the Sites and Monuments
of the Delhi Sultanate Peirod (IV) —

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The construction works for the utilization of water are one of the most interesting subjects in the historical study of the monuments of the Delhi Sultanate period. There still remain in Delhi area a number of wells and *baolis*, *bands* and sluices, and big or small reservoirs which belong to the pre-Mughal times. The Mission for Indian History and Archaeology, University of Tokyo, undertook a series of intensive researches on some of these monuments during the winters of 1959-60 and 1961-62. The results of the investigations are to be published in an official report. In the present article, the author discusses various historical problems concerning the remains of the *bands* and sluices in and around Delhi. The monuments described and discussed in this article are as follows :

Bands

Band I at Tughluqabad (Fig. 1)
Band II at Tughluqabad (Fig. 2)
Band III at Tughluqabad (Plate I-A;
Fig. 4)
South Wall of Jahānpanāh (Figs. 6,
7)
Band at Mahipalpur (Plate II-A;
Fig. 8)
Band on the Station Road (Fig. 9)
Band at the Būli Bhatiyārī kā Maḥal
(Fig. 10)

Sluices

Sluice I (Fig. 1)
Sluice II (Fig. 2)
Sluice III (Plate I-B;
Figs. 15, 16, 17)
Satpulah (Figs. 18, 20)
Sluices I; II (Fig. 22)
Sluice (Figs. 9, 23)
Sluice (Fig. 24)

- Band in the campus of the University
of Delhi (Fig. 11)
- Band in the garden of the Nehru
House (Add. Fig. A)
- Band to the South of Wazirabad Sluice (Plate II-B; Figs.
(Fig. 12) 25, 26)
- Band at Malcha (Fig. 13)

In the first half of the article the author gives a brief description of each of these monuments and analyzes its geographical condition, while in the second half he studies the few written materials available on the construction of the *bands* as well as the agrarian policies of the Tughluq rulers, and reveals the backgrounds of the construction of these dams and sluices and its historical significance.

The main points of discussion are: (1) multipurpose utilization of water for the fortified city of Tughluqābād; (2) the south wall of the city of Jahānpanāh which also served as an embankment, and the aims of its construction; (3) historical significance of the construction works of the early Tughluq rulers in the history of the utilization of water in the Sultanate period; (4) chronological problems of the construction of the south wall of Jahānpanāh and the Satpulah sluice. (The *Band-i Sīri*, or *Band-i Āb-i Sīri* mentioned in the *Tārīkh-Firūz Shāhi* of Ziyā' al-Din Baranī is also discussed in connection with these chronological problems); (5) To identify some of the existing *bands* with those mentioned in 'Afif's *Tārīkh-i Firūz Shāhi*; (6) various objectives of the construction of *bands* and sluices in the reign of Firūz Shāh Tughluq.

Some additional remarks were made by Prof. T. Yamamoto on his observation during his short stay in Delhi in December, 1964, on the dam near Anangpur (Add. Figs. B and C), and on the "*Shikarghat*", a house on the Band in the garden of the Nehru House.