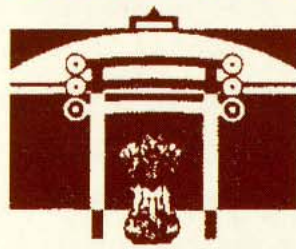


# SAFA MASJID

Ponda



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



प्रत्नकीर्तिमपावृणु

**Archaeological Survey of India**  
Goa Circle, Church Complex, Old - Goa.



*General view of Safa Masjid*

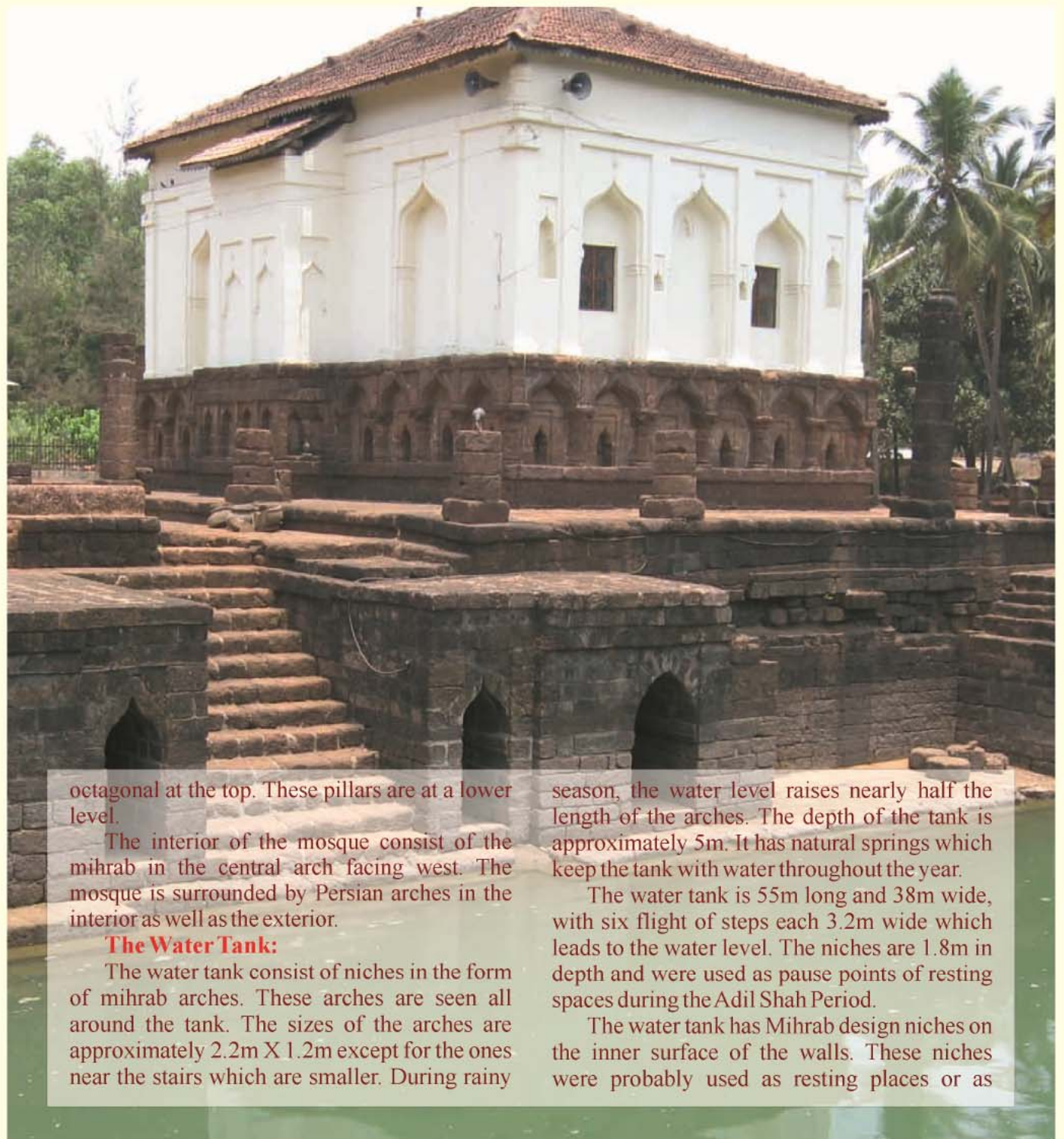
Built by Ibrahim Ali Adil Shah in 1560 A.D. Safa Masjid is situated in Ponda, a taluka place in South Goa District.

Between 400 A.D. –1470 A.D. Goa was under different rulers like the Bhojas, the Chalukays, the Rashtrakutas, the Kadambas, Vijayanagar and the Bahmani. In 1490 A.D. the Bahmani Kingdom was spilt into five divisions of which the Adil Shahis were one of the independent Kingdoms who ruled Bijapur as well as Goa. These rulers were responsible for the construction of Old Secretariat at Panaji which was previously known as the Adil Shahi's Summer Palace. They had built many other remarkable structures which were later destroyed when the Portuguese invaded Goa in 1510 A.D.

Safa masjid is rectangular in shape and consist of a water tank in the south. The water tank has natural springs. It consists of six flights of stairs all around it. The mosque is built of locally available laterite stone. It has a 2.4m high decorated laterite plinth. The mosque has triple arched facade. Externally it has arches on all the four sides.

The mosque is relatively small and consist of a single prayer hall with no columns. It measure 13.8m X 8.8m. and has a flight of stairs coming up to 2.4m high. It has a mihrab projection of 1.2m. The walls are 60cms thick.

The mosque is on a platform of 40cms high, surrounded by 10 octagonal laterite pillars. It has two major pillars in front which is square at the base and



octagonal at the top. These pillars are at a lower level.

The interior of the mosque consist of the mihrab in the central arch facing west. The mosque is surrounded by Persian arches in the interior as well as the exterior.

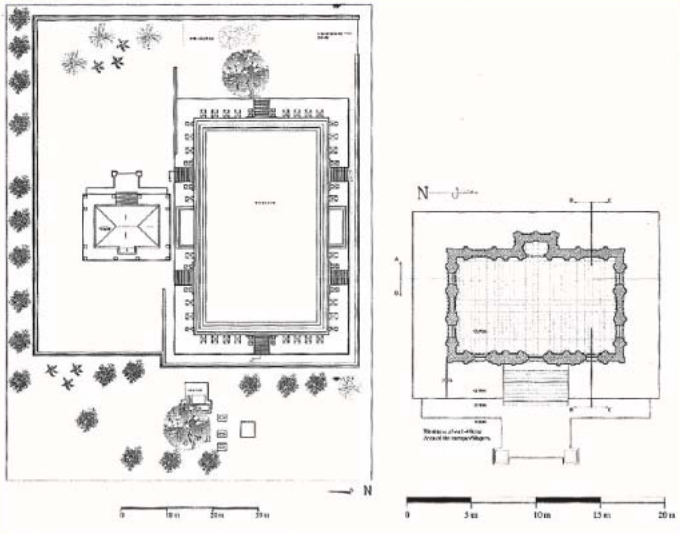
#### **The Water Tank:**

The water tank consist of niches in the form of mihrab arches. These arches are seen all around the tank. The sizes of the arches are approximately 2.2m X 1.2m except for the ones near the stairs which are smaller. During rainy

season, the water level raises nearly half the length of the arches. The depth of the tank is approximately 5m. It has natural springs which keep the tank with water throughout the year.

The water tank is 55m long and 38m wide, with six flight of steps each 3.2m wide which leads to the water level. The niches are 1.8m in depth and were used as pause points of resting spaces during the Adil Shah Period.

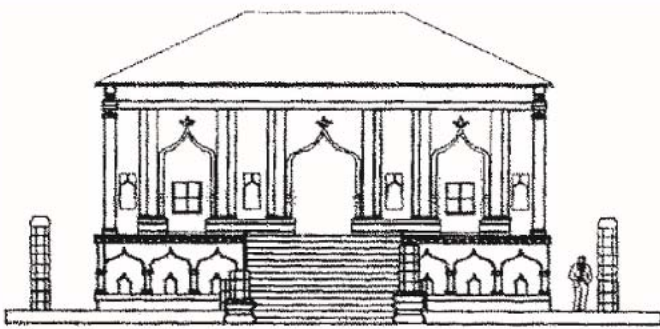
The water tank has Mihrab design niches on the inner surface of the walls. These niches were probably used as resting places or as



*Plan; Safa Masjid, Ponda.*



*Front view of the Masjid.*



*Front elevation.*

*Curtsey : Tinusha Pereira*

hammams during Adil Shahi period. The tank is associated with the masque. At present the tank is used for ablution as well as Community well and a resting space.



*View of the persian arches on the exterior of the Masjid.*

## APPEAL

- The Archaeological Survey of India Solicit the Cooperation from all in preserving rich cultural heritage and to keep the Monument neat and clean.
- Help us to preserve the heritage for posterity.
- Don't mis use the precincts of the Monument
- Appreciate the efforts being made by Archaeological Survey of India in preserving the National Heritage for posterity.

Published by :  
**Superintending Archaeologist**  
 Archaeological Survey of India  
 Goa Circle Church Complex, Old - Goa.  
 Ph. No. : 0832-2285871, 2285302