



BURHANPUR

BURHANPUR (Borhānpūr), city in Madhya Pradesh (formerly Central Provinces and Berar), India (21° 18' north latitude, 76° 8' east longitude), on the Tapti river, 275 miles northeast of Bombay. It was founded in 801/1398-99 by the first Fārūqī ruler of Kāndēš, Sultan Nāṣer Khan (r. 801-41/1399-1437); he named it after the Čestī saint Borhān-al-Dīn Ġarīb (d. 11 Šafar 738/8 September 1337; Ġawṭī, tr., p. 90), who had sojourned on the site briefly in 727/1327. Borhān-al-Dīn was one of the spiritual successors to K̄vāja Neẓām-al-Dīn Awliā' (d. 17 Rabī' II 725/3 April 1325, *Sīar al-awliā'*, p. 292). Under the Fārūqīs Burhanpur became the most important city in Kāndēš, a center of Persian and Indo-Persian literature and Sufism; a number of Sufi families from the provinces of Gujarat and Sind were settled there, the latter in their own quarter (Sindhīpura). In the field of Islamic studies it is sufficient to note that 'Alī Mottaqī, who compiled *Kanz al-ommāl fī sonan al-aqwāl wa'l-afāl*, was a native of the city. The poet Mollā 'Abdī Šīrāzī and a Persian ophthalmologist, 'Ayn-al-Ḥaqq Gīlānī (d. 27 Du'l-ḥejja 1003/2 September 1595), were among the Persians living there (Šafīq, *Šām-e ġarībān*, pp. 100, 175). A number of monuments from this period still survive: the ruined fort and palace (Bādšāhī Qaṭ'a, ca. 802/1400), the Bībī mosque (ca. 993/1585), the main congregational mosque (996/1588), and several mausolea.

The Mughal emperor Akbar (r. 963-1014/1556-1605) invaded Burhanpur on several occasions. In 969/1561, Pīr Moḥammad Šervānī (d. 969/1561), a commander in the army of [Bayram Khan](#), ransacked the city (Šervānī, p. 90). In 1010/1601 Akbar defeated Bahādor Shah, the seventeenth ruler of the



Fārūqī dynasty, and incorporated Kāndēš into the Mughal empire (Makkī, tr. Ross, I, p. 78; Elliot, *History of India* VI, pp. 144-46). The province was granted to Akbar's brother Dāniāl, and its name occurs as Dāndēš in the Mughal archives (Makkī, loc. cit.). 'Abd-al-Raḥīm Kān-e Kānān, the illustrious son of Bayram Khan and a renowned poet in Indo-Persian and Hindi, was appointed governor of the twin provinces (*Ā'in-e akbarī* I, p. 358), with his capital at Burhanpur. His court drew many Persian poets and other literary men to the city, some of whom settled there. The poet Moḥammad-Rezā Šakēbī Ešfahānī (964-1023/1556-1614) visited 'Abd-al-Raḥīm in 1018/1609 (Šafīq, p. 142, Ādar, p. 13); the poet, Yūlqolī (or 'Alīqolī) Beg Anīsī Šāmlū, who had been director of 'Alīqolī Khan's library in Herat, joined the court and died in Burhanpur in 1013/1604 (Šafīq, p. 28). Mīrzā Esmā'il Beg Onsī Šāmlū from Herat (d. 1026/1617), also a poet, joined the court at Burhanpur, where he enjoyed the patronage of Anīsī (Eklāš, p. 16).

Burhanpur played a relatively minor political and military role through most of the 11th/17th century. Sir Thomas Roe met Emperor Jahāngīr's son Parvīz there in Šawwāl 1024/November 1615 (*Dictionary of National Biography* XLIX, pp. 89-93; Banī Prasād, chap. X); the prince died in 1036/1626-27 (*Ā'in-e akbarī*, 3rd ed., p. 324), and his mausoleum is among the surviving monuments of the city. Two years later Prince Korram (later Emperor Šāh-Jahān I, 1037-68/1628-57) launched his military expeditions in the Deccan from Burhanpur. Awrangzēb 'Ālamgīr (r. 1068-1118/1658-1707), appointed viceroy of Deccan and Kāndēš in 1046/1636, made Burhanpur his capital. It was there that he met Neẓām-al-Dīn Borhānpūrī (d. 1092/1681), whom he later appointed editor-in-chief of the monumental work on Hanafite law *Fatāwī-e 'ālamgīrī* (Kāzem, p. 87; Moḥammad Sāqī, pp. 529-30; *Nozhat al-ḳawāter* V, p. 420). Throughout the century the city continued to attract Persian literary men, including K̄vāja Aḥmad (or Moḥammad) Dehdār Fānī Šīrāzī (d. 1016/1607); Moḥammad-Rezā Naw'ī Ḳabūšānī (d. Burhanpur 1019/1610), author of the romantic epic *Sūz o godāz*; Taqīā Šūštārī, who wrote a Persian prose version of the *Šāh-nāma* (d. ca. 1021/1612); poet Ḥayatī Gilānī (d. 1015/1608 at Burhanpur; *Ā'in-e akbarī* I, p. 574; Badā'unī, tr., III, p. 304); Moḥammad-Bāqer Ḳorda Kāšānī (d. 1038/1628); Mīrzā Moḥammad-Šādeq Mīnā Ešfahānī (d. 1061/1651), author of *Šobḥ-e šādeq*, who arrived there in 1036/1624; and Mīr Hāšemī Mawlawī Qomī, who came during the period of Šāh-Jahān (Šafīq, p. 284). The famous poet Moḥammad-'Alī Šā'eb Tabrīzī Ešfahānī also lived in Burhanpur for some time (Šafīq, *Šām-e ḡarībān*, p. 159). Shaikh Moḥammad Ġawṭī (d. after 1044/1635) provided a fairly good description of the Sufis of Burhanpur in his



Golzār-e Abrār: Shaikh Ṭāher Moḥammad Sabzavārī (author of *Rawzat al-ṭāherīn* and abridged Persian translations of the *Mahābhārata* and the *Bhāgavata-purāṇa*), Shaikh Solaymān Sayfī, Shaikh ʿĪsā Jond-Allāh, Shaikh ʿAbd-al-Sattār b. Qāsem Lāhūrī, Shaikh Borhān-al-Dīn Rāz-e Elāhī, K̄vāja Moḥammad-Hāšem Badaḳšānī (author of *Zobdat at-maqāmāt* and *Nasamāt al-qods men ḥadāʿeq al-ons*), and Shaikh ʿAbd-al-Laṭīf Borhānpūrī (d. 1060/1649) are only a few of the Sufī holy men and scholars who have left manuscripts in Persian; they are preserved at Sind University, Hyderabad (Pakistan), the libraries of Dargāh-e Pīr Moḥammad in Ahmadabad (Gujarat) and the Great Mosque in Bombay, and Sālār Jang Museum Library, Hyderabad (India).

At the end of the 17th century and through the 18th the city suffered Maratha raids from the Deccan. During this period, in 1141/1728, Neẓām-al-Molk Āṣaf-jāh I (d. 4 Jomādā II 1161/21 May 1748), governor of Deccan and Kāndēš, built a defensive wall around the city. Nevertheless, writers and scholars continued to seek refuge there. Among the Persian and native-born poets who wrote in Persian were Mīrzā Moḥammad-Rafīʿ Bāḍel Mašhadī (d. 1123/1711) author of *Ḥamla-ye ḥaydarī*, who built the Mahmudpura quarter (Efteḳār, p. 38); Saʿd-Allāh Golšan Naqšbandī (d. 1140/1728; *ibid.*, p. 105), a descendant of Mīrzā Alīqolī (Šafīq, p. 262); Moršedqolī Khan Rostam Jang Maḳmūr Tabrīzī (d. 1164/1750, *ibid.*, p. 115); Mīrzā ʿAṭāʾ Zīāʾ (b. 7 Šawwāl 1143/4 April 1731; Šafīq, *Gol-e raʿnā*, p. 244); Moḥammad-Yūsuf Nekhat (d. ca. 1150/1737); and Serāj-al-Dīn Ḥosaynī Awrangābādī (d. 1177/1763; N. A. Fārūqī, in *Noqūš* (Lahore) 136, December 1987, pp. 46-77). Throughout the Mughal period Burhanpur was also famous for brocades, flowered silks, gold and silver embroideries, and other textiles.

Burhanpur came under the direct control of the British government in 1277/1860.

In 1981, according to the census of that year, the population of Burhanpur was 140,986.



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