

Inspector Rex's Snippet #9

The iron pillar of Delhi

The **iron pillar of Delhi** is a structure 23 feet 8 inches (7.2 metres) high with 16 inches diameter that was constructed by a "King Chandra", probably [Chandragupta II](#) (reigned c. 375-415 CE), and now stands in the [Qutb complex](#) at [Mehrauli](#) in [Delhi](#), India. It is famous for the rust-resistant composition of the metals used in its construction. The pillar weighs over 3,000 kg (7,000 lb) and is thought to have been erected elsewhere, perhaps outside the [Udayagiri Caves](#),^[3] and moved to its present location early in the [Delhi Sultanate](#).



(By Photograph taken by Mark A. Wilson (Department of Geology, The College of Wooster).[1] - Original photograph, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4150061>)

The iron pillar at Delhi has not rusted in the nearly 1,800 years since its construction. Why? (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_pillar_of_Delhi)

The diameter is not uniform and is wider at the bottom.

Comments by Inspector Rex

The Delhi Sultanate (Islamic) 1206-1526 was replaced by the Moghul Dynasty when Sultan Lodi was defeated by Babur at the Battle of Panipat.
(See the Inspector Rex website for the Battles).

When visiting Delhi and of course the well-known iron pillar many years ago, I was encouraged by the locals to put my arms around it to get the fingers of each hand to touch each other – this would bring me great prosperity I was told.
I tried it but just couldn't manage it – I was short by an inch or so!
(And now I am on the pension)