This thesis is planned such that it dispenses with the conventional form of dividing the argument into serial chapters. The main body of the thesis is structured into two parts dealing with the two main types of public buildings covered here. The actual thesis is, however, preceded by an introductory essay surveying briefly the evidence available on the nature of public works in India as well as in other parts of the world. Some general observations on the socio-political implications of public buildings in medieval India have been added at the end of the thesis by way of a conclusion.

The discussion on the sources used in this thesis has been included in the introductory essay. The bibliography, given at the end, is arranged in alphabetical order and has three main sections viz. sources, modern works, and periodical literature. The accounts of European travellers are included in the section on sources. The bibliography lists only works that have been actually referred to in the thesis.

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