

10.0 CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE

10.1 CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE

Delhi is a historical city whose remnants are spread right from Mehrauli to Shahjahanabad. Large number of monuments are scattered all over Delhi. The built heritage of Delhi is an irreplaceable and non-renewable cultural resource. Besides being part of life for many, it has educational, recreational and major tourism potential. It enhances Delhi's environment, giving it identity and character. It encompasses culture, lifestyles, design, materials, engineering and architecture.

The Heritage Resources include symbols of successive civilisations and cities that came up over the millennia, historic buildings and complexes, historical gardens, water engineering structures and their catchments, the remains of fortified citadels, places for worship and for the deceased, historic cities and villages, unearthed heritage and their components.

Surveys conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1911 identified 1321 historical monuments, sites and buildings. Out of these, 170 monuments have been declared as protected. In addition MCD, NDMC and State Archaeological Deptt. have published lists of Heritage Buildings

While preparing any layout plans, these should be suitably incorporated. In case of major monuments it is necessary that the surrounding area should be identified in the layout/detail plan, and should have building controls in relation to height, material and spread of the monuments.

10.2 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The agencies concerned with the protection of Delhi's Built Heritage are ASI, GNCTD,

State Archaeology Deptt, NDMC, MCD, Cantonment Board and DDA.

Built heritage of Delhi needs to be protected, nourished and nurtured by all citizens and passed on to the coming generations. It is suggested that with the aim of framing policies and strategies for conservation, appropriate action plans may be prepared by all the agencies. These should include promotion of conservation of the civic and urban heritage, architecturally significant historical landmarks, living monuments, memorials and historical gardens, riverfront, city wall, gates, bridges, vistas, public places, edicts and the ridge. It will also be necessary to maintain close interaction and coordination between all these agencies keeping in view the following objectives and requirements.

- i. Maintain and update a database.
- ii. Develop organizational capacity for heritage management.
- iii. Define all the applicable Terms
- iv. Listing of Heritage Buildings based on the following criteria:
 - (a) The age of the building;
 - (b) Its special value for architectural or cultural reasons or historical periods
 - (c) Its relevance to history
 - (d) Its association with a well-known character or event
 - (e) Its value as part of a group of buildings
 - (f) The uniqueness of the building or any object or structures fixed to the building or forming part of the land and comprised within the curtilage of the building.
- v. Prepare guidelines for development, redevelopment, additions alterations, repairs, renovations and reuse of the heritage buildings.
- vi. Implementing programmes for education and awareness

10.3 HERITAGE ZONES

Heritage Zone is an area, which has significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of buildings, structures, groups or complexes united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The following areas have been identified as Heritage Zones:

- i. Walled City of Delhi, Shahjahanabad
- ii. Central Vista
- iii. Nizamuddin and Humayun's Tomb Complex
- iv. Mehrauli area
- v. Vijay Mandal – Begumpur – Sarai Shahji – Lal Gumbad
- vi. Chirag Delhi

However more areas can be added to this list based on studies.

10.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Archaeological Park is an area distinguishable by heritage resource and land related to such resources, which has potential to become an interpretive and educational resource for the public in addition to the value as a tourist attraction

All decisions regarding Built Heritage in general and Archaeological parks in particular should be based on evaluation of authenticity. As per the NARA Declaration it can be derived from a variety of sources of information like, form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other internal and external factors

The following areas have been designated as Archaeological Parks:

- i. Mehrauli Archaeological Park
- ii. Tughlaquabad Archaeological Park
- iii. Sultan Garhi Archaeological Park

Other areas can be added to the list on the basis of studies.

10.5 SPECIAL CONSERVATION PLANS

Each local body/ land owning agency should formulate “Special Development Plans” for the conservation and improvement of listed heritage complexes and zones. Alteration or demolition of any building is prohibited in the listed heritage complexes and zones without the prior approval of the Competent Authority.

The Government of India has amended Building Byelaws 1993, wide Clause 23 and inserted a chapter on ‘Conservation of Heritage Sites including Heritage Building, Heritage Precincts and Natural Feature Areas’. The development plans/ schemes shall conform to the provisions of the same.