



INTACH

DELHI CHAPTER

Weekly News Clippings – 148

13th April- 19th April

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DARYA GANJ HAS COLONIAL FAÇADE

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)'s Chandni Chowk redevelopment plan may not have taken off even after five years of planning, but that has not deterred the civic agency from moving on to fresh pastures. This time around they are planning to restore the lost glory of New Darya Ganj market area. According to a proposal, the area will be given a facelift on the lines of the makeover in Connaught Place. Vertika Sharma, consultant of the project, said New Darya Ganj was once part of the British Darya Ganj Cantonment. It was, she said, one of the earliest establishments of the British in Old Delhi. "I had submitted a plan to MCD for restoration of the colonial facade in New Darya Ganj. The area from Delhi Gate to Iron Bridge at Netaji Subhash Marg was once part of the British Darya Ganj Cantonment and the existing buildings date back to the 1930s. After the end of the British rule, people started living in the area and soon traders set shop. The area has a colonial feel to it. The arch windows are similar to the ones in Connaught Place," Sharma said. Sharma said work had been awarded and they were working on how the facades would look like after the makeover. She said once sanctioned, the project would be completed in three months. Sharma has proposed that funds for the project, which would cost between Rs 6 crore and Rs 8 crore, could come from the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Additional commissioner (engineering) R K Shrivastav said: "The proposal has been submitted by the consultant and we are working on it. It is an attractive proposal but we will have to take the stakeholders into consideration before going ahead with it. It can only be implemented after the Commonwealth Games 2010." There are around 50 units in the New Darya Ganj market area and according to Gurbachan Singh, president of the Darya Ganj traders association, the market had seen no facelift since 1952. "This market used to be known as Faiz Bazaar before Partition. Most of the shopkeepers in the area settled here only after the Partition. No upgradation work has taken place in the area since 1952," he said. Singh said even basic amenities such as roads and pavements had not been upgraded for over 50 years even though the New Darya ganj market was an essential link between Old and New Delhi. The MCD is now trying to remove the unsightly overhead wires at Netaji Subhash Marg and move them underground.

SOURCE

14th April 2010, Times of India

INTACH, GOVT TO JOINTLY REDEVELOP SHAHJAHANABAD, LUTYENS' DELHI

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) has joined hands with Delhi government's Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRC) to help conserve two contrasting sites in Delhi — Shahjahanabad and New Delhi. While the former was built by the Mughals in the mid-17th century, the Edwin Lutyens-designed New Delhi was conceived during the British rule. According to Intach officials, the two areas today function as smaller parts of the dynamically developing capital. "Conservation of these historic precincts must take into account city's myriad problems. Intach Delhi Chapter has been spearheading a campaign to get Unesco's world heritage city status for Delhi and a considerable amount of work has been done in this regard. India does not have a world heritage city and if Delhi gets this prestigious inscription, it will not only help boost tourism but economic development too," said A G K Menon, convenor, Intach Delhi Chapter. Intach will hold a two-day conference this weekend to identify steps that can be taken to help the government make a case to nominate the capital as a world heritage city. Speaking at a conference, Pooja Joshi from SRC said the government was looking to Intach for guidance in terms of living heritage — commonly found in Old Delhi. Intach chairman major general (retd) L K Gupta spoke about the trust's collaboration with the government to pursue their common goal of protecting heritage. Officials said the third master plan for 2001-2021 gives priority to the renewal of Shahjahanabad. Many proposals for its upliftment, including shifting of industries and reducing density by introducing schools, parks, health centres, etc, and widening of roads, remain largely unimplemented. The updated MPD recognizes these problems and recommends the identification of 'special areas' where it would be possible to advocate planning standards that are different from those applied in the rest of the city. Lutyens's Bungalow Zone in New Delhi, say experts, must also be considered for conservation and has become an important agenda for town planning. It was listed among the 100 most endangered sites worldwide in 2002 by World Monuments Watch. Despite being designated as conservation area in successive master plans of Delhi, no major conservation programmes have taken up here.

SOURCE

14th April 2010, Times of India

GLOBAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS SHAHJAHANABAD REVAMP

Shahjahanabad and New Delhi -- the first was built by Mughals as their capital and the other by the British in the early 20th century. Conserving these historic precincts offer major challenges to city planners and administrators. Debating and discussing the issues involved in the conservation of these heritage precincts without compromising on development would be the agenda for a two-day international conference to be attended by among others, Charles Lutyens, descendant of Edwin Lutyens, who designed the New Delhi. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is organizing the conference on the 'Conservation of Shahjahanabad and Lutyens Bungalow Zone: Contrasting Conservation Imperatives for the Growing Metropolis of Delhi' on April 17-18. "While working towards making Delhi a world-class city, let us not break the old and create something new," INTACH Delhi convenor Prof A.G.K.Menon told reporters. "The recommendations coming out of the two-day brain-storming would ultimately go towards lobbying to develop the national capital as a 'UNESCO World Heritage City'," INTACH's new chair- persons Maj Gen (Retd) L.K.Gupta said.

SOURCE

14th April 2010, Hindustan Times

TALL EARNINGS OF QUTUB MINAR

Qutub Minar, one of the three World Heritage Sites in Delhi has emerged as top revenue earner by way of entrance fee for 2009 and also the only monument among the three to witness an increase in number of visitors over last year. With earnings of Rs 10.42 crore by way of entrance fee, Qutub Minar comes a close second after Taj Mahal with nearly Rs 15 crore revenue while Agra Fort come third in the list with Rs 9.25 crore for 2009.

The revenue earned by the Red Fort in the same duration is Rs 5.5 crore while that collected at Humayun's Tomb is nearly Rs 4.9 crore, according to data released by the Ministry of Culture, the nodal Ministry for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) that protects and maintains the heritage monuments. The revenue earned by entrance tickets is a direct reflection of the number of visitors at each monument. Explaining the drop in visitors at the Red Fort, ASI Director (Monuments) A.K. Sinha said the number of visitors at any given monument is governed by several factors like economic slowdown. "However, for Red Fort, the main problem is lack of parking facility. We have got many complaints about it from various quarters. "A new parking site on the south side of the monument is almost complete said Sinha. Another factor that affected the number of visitors at the heritage sites was the overall decrease in tourists' arrival in India last year, specially soon after Mumbai's terror attack, the Ministry of Tourism had said earlier. Ratish Nanda from Aga Khan Trust for Culture, which has partnered with ASI for the conservation of Humayun's Tomb pointed out: "Humayun's Tomb is the only site in India that receives higher foreign visitors compared to Indian visitors. So the overall drop in number of foreign tourists to India is possibly the reason in decline in number of visitors there. "The Qutub Minar has better parking facilities and the overall ambience has improved over the years, Sinha said.

SOURCE

14th April 2010, Hindustan Times

EYE ON HERITAGE STATUS FOR DELHI, INTACH PLANS CONFERENCE

IN an effort to prepare a concerted roadmap towards getting the World Heritage City status for Delhi, conservation architects and town planners from across the globe will come together at a two-day conference to be held in the Capital on April 17 and 18. As April 18 is the World Heritage Day, the recommendations made during the seminar will be compiled on the day. These will serve as a guide for holistic redevelopment and conservation of the city's heritage. The Delhi Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a heritage body that has been spearheading a campaign to get the World Heritage status for Delhi by UNESCO will organise the international conference in association with the Delhi government's Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation. The international conference 'Contrasting conservation imperatives for the growing metropolis of Delhi' will focus on the conservation of Shahjahanabad and Lutyens' Bungalow Zone. Talking about INTACH's change of focus to issues related to conserving specific historic precincts within cities, INTACH (Delhi) Convenor A G K Menon said: "The conference will focus on two contrasting sites in Delhi -Shahjahanabad, built by the Mughals as the capital of their empire in the mid-17th Century, and New Delhi, designed by Edwin Lutyens and conceived as the capital of the British colonial government in the first half of the 20th Century." "As historic precincts they offer major challenges to city managers. Conserving these historic precincts must take into account the myriad problems of the city at the national, state and local levels," he added. Pooja Joshi from the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation said awareness is as essential as restoration and conservation. "The public should be proud of the city and its heritage," she said. The conference marks a shift from focussing on individual monuments to looking at cities in their entirety. "In a bid to make Delhi a world-class city we have often tried to look at models that are alien. This will be an effort to look at the city itself and then develop a model. We need to stop dealing with our heritage by keeping monuments in a museum-like way," Menon said.

SOURCE

14th April 2010, Indian Express

DELHI MOST POPULAR AMONG FOREIGN TOURISTS

Delhi is the top destination for foreign tourists as it has a number of heritage buildings, says an Evalueserve Study report of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI). Delhi attracted 23.4 lakh foreign tourists in the year

2008. Apart from the national capital, tourists also fancy Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Northeastern states are emerging as leisure, rural and adventure tourism spots, the report added. In addition to a number of heritage sites, healthcare centres and business hubs in the city, along with the four satellite cities --- Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad --- attract a large number of foreigners. However, limited land availability for tourism projects and inadequate number of hotel rooms are a major drawback for the city. The report said Maharashtra was the close second with 20.6 lakh visitors followed by Tamil Nadu (20.3 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (16.1 lakh) and Rajasthan (14.8) lakh tourists. Maharashtra rides on Mumbai's popularity. Pune is also popular among foreigners as it has emerged as an education and IT services hub. Other major cities in the state include Nashik, Aurangabad and Nagpur. The 720 - km long coastline, the Konkan hills, ancient cave temples and the Vidarbha forests are some of the major tourist attractions in the state. Tamil Nadu, only a fraction behind Maharashtra, with its beaches, hill stations, heritage sites, temples, wildlife and rural life, offers a wide array of opportunities for tourists. Some of the major cities in the state, include Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Salem. The state is gaining popularity for its medical services, thereby attracting a large number of medical tourists. Uttar Pradesh is a popular tourist destination due to the presence of a large number of religious and historical sites.

SOURCE

15th April 2010, Tribune

"GUARD YOUR LEGACY"

In view of the upcoming World Heritage Day INTACH HECS organized a poster making competition for school children here on Thursday. As many as 35 public and government schools participated in the competition. Each school was represented by three students, accompanied by a teacher. The theme of the competition was "Save our heritage".

SOURCE

16th April 2010, Hindu

INDIAN ART & CULTURE INSPIRES GAMES DESIGNS

From ancient Mughal architecture to rural Sanjhi work, the Delhi Games 2010 are gearing up to be the ambassador of Indian culture. As the countdown to Commonwealth Games 2010 begins, there are plans galore to promote not only the city but also India's art and heritage. And leading the branding exercise for the Delhi Games is the invite that will be sent to the heads of the Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs) — a raw silk scroll that is embedded with kundan and other semiprecious stones, designed with ancient in-laid work, all rolled up into richly decorated brocade box. Said Sangeeta Welingkar, additional director general (image & look) of the organizing committee, "In every edition of the Commonwealth Games, the invite reflects the cultural heritage of the host country. Since we have based our branding campaign for the Delhi Games on the art and culture of India, it was decided that the invite should look like a piece of the ancient multi-cultural heritage of our country." The invite, which will be sent to all participating 71 countries by the end of this month, is not the only conscious effort to ground the Delhi Games on the cultural past of the country. Besides, the Games logo which takes off from the Ashok Chakra, all logos and silhouettes used in the sporting events at the venues will be based on designs that are a reflection of Sanjhi work, a paper cutting and stencil art form from Uttar Pradesh used to tell stories. That's not all. The graphic design used as background for many of the Games-related logo is derived from Mughal architecture, especially the "jaalis" that abound in this form. Added Welingkar, "The silhouettes are really interesting, as they span across all the sport events and will be used for branding exercise in other areas as well." The OC is also in talks with civic agencies to use the logos — like Shera and the sanjhi silhouettes, as street adorning. While billboards may take the message across, the OC is also planning to use these logos as body wrap on to buses, trains and the Metro. Said a senior OC official, "Talks are on with the agencies for the branding exercise." Officials said plans were also in the offing with the Northern Railway to have a special body wrap for trains along with a special train during the Commonwealth Games between Delhi and Agra. Added the official, "The plan is to have an exhibition train from May onwards that will sport the Games body wrap."

SOURCE

18th April 2010, Times of India

TAKING LEGACY TO NEXT LEAGUE

Coming as a boost to Delhi's heritage, the Commonwealth Games has helped raise fund allocation for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). ASI, which otherwise got a paltry Rs 2-3 crore a year for upkeep of 174 monuments, has got Rs 25 crore to spruce up 46 monuments. In run-up to the Games, legislative action has helped hundreds of monuments to be notified by MCD and NDMC, and 92 to get protected status from the state Archaeology department. While ASI and smaller heritage conservation organizations have over the past years focused on protection, conservation and restoration of monuments, this year marks a shift in approach. ASI plans to take forward the initiative to involve communities and neighbourhoods to adopt heritage structures in their vicinity and help protect them. The likes of INTACH, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation are making concerted efforts to develop living heritage of the city. Focus on areas like Nizamuddin, Shahjahanabad, Mehrauli, Lutyens' Bungalow Zone to link the diverse heritage of Delhi and develop it as a World Heritage City.

SOURCE

18th April 2010, Indian Express

HERITAGE PLAN DRAFTED TO CHAMPION DELHI'S CAUSE

WHEN Edwin Lutyens planned New Delhi as a garden city almost a century ago, the Edwardian architect had intended it to serve as a regal capital. The architecture still makes us proud, but it has been named among the most endangered heritage sites by the World Monument Fund. Lutyens' cityscape is in danger of being obliterated by commercial development and the pressure of accommodating an ever increasing population. But as INTACH and several other conservationists mull over strategies to revive the Lutyens' Bungalow Zone (LBZ), Charles Lutyens, a member of the Lutyens Trust and the great nephew of Edwin Lutyens, chooses to stay optimistic. On one of his many visits to Delhi - this time to attend INTACH's two day conference on conservation of LBZ and Shahjahanabad -he says not much seems to have changed in the past 10 years. Lutyens is on a "forced stay" in Delhi till Tuesday as flights to the West remain grounded due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland. Asked if he thinks that the zone is being well preserved, he answers in the affirmative. "The high-rises must have been an administrative decision," he says. "The development work in and around the area, especially the Delhi Metro is stupendous. So its positive effects seem to far supersede whatever loss it has created," he says. Working from 1912 to 1931, Lutyens forged a new style of architecture, combining neo-classical style with accents borrowed from India's Mughal and Buddhist past. "The LBZ is not just about buildings. The pattern of streets, the trees make it unique. Conservation will mean reviving not just buildings but the whole precinct," he says. Talking about the proposed conservation and whether it will protect the master planner's legacy, he says: "Not much has been lost in the LBZ yet. The conservation and the consequent world heritage status will further help protect the heritage site."

SOURCE

19th April 2010, Indian Express

HERITAGE TO GET A REFIT

Two hours on foot is all you need to get a lesson on nearly 1,000 years of Delhi's magnificent history. The walk will leave you fascinated and somewhat disillusioned. Fascinated at the more than 65 small and large heritage monuments, structures and ruins that stand on the 100-acre Mehrauli Archaeological Park, southeast of the World Heritage Site of Qutub Minar. Disillusioned at the state of maintenance of some parts of the park. Apart from the irreversible ravages of time, the site has suffered considerable damage due to the multiplicity of agencies looking after the monuments at the one-of-its-kind site in the Capital. While parts of the park are beautifully landscaped,

some pockets are eye sores. The boundary wall is broken at several places. The Mehrauli villagers use the park as a thoroughfare to reach Anuvrat Marg. There is a drain on the southern side, and several open sew- ers/manholes dot the landscape. But, things are slated to change. Recently, the Delhi State Department of Archaeology issued a preliminary notification for more than a dozen monuments at the Park. Further, at a meeting of the DDA's Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation, it was decided that the park would be given to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for "better administration and upkeep". While the land is DDA's, the ASI takes care of some of the important monuments such as the Tomb and Mosque of Jamali Kamali and Rajaon Ki Baoli in the park. The meeting, headed by the LG, was attended by DDA's vice-chairperson, chief architect and other members of the Foundation apart from ASI officials. But in typical DDA style, things are moving slowly. "The modalities are being worked out," DDA spokesperson Neemo Dhar said. "The Lt Governor, unhappy with the way things were, decided that the Park be handed over to the ASI for better maintenance," Prof A.G.K. Menon, convenor, Delhi chapter of conservation body Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), said. Since the area falls under the buffer zone of the World Heritage Monument, the ASI officials are happy. Now they are waiting for the actual transfer to happen. But even before it is implemented apprehensions are being expressed about its implementation. "The main problem is its maintenance," pointed out lawyer Usha Kumar, a pro-heritage monuments activist. "Look what has happened to the conservation work by INTACH. If ASI can do it, well and good, but they need more money and man power," she added. It impresses... and it appalls Author William Dalrymple spoke to Nivedita Khandekar about the park. Excerpts: This is one of my favourite places. I often take my friends there. It has the potential of being the most spectacular archaeological sites in South Asia. I am always impressed by the mon- uments. Half of the archaeological park is well kept but the southern end is a mess. There are deposits of rubbish, bin bags and there is a huge open sewer. When I took the British Deputy PM there, he was impressed by the Jamali Kamali mosque but I was embarrassed when we reached the southern side. It needs sensitive landscaping and international quality conservation. Good to know that ASI will now take care of the park. However, this can be no guarantee. Many of their monuments are in disgusting state of neglect. The ASI should spend more money and manpower. I am hopeful the large number of visitors at the Qutub Minar can be taken to the Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Dalrymple is the author of The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty, and has written extensively about Delhi Guest House Built around the same time as Metcalfe's Canopy and the Bridge Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan Early 17th century, archaeological value A* Rajon Ki Baoli Built in 1506, this is a step well of archaeological value A Metcalfe's Canopy Built in 1840, this is a landscape structure of archaeological value B* Tomb of Khan Shahid (Son of Balban) Built in 14th century, this is a value B archaeological structure Tomb of Balban Khan Built 1286, this has been graded as archaeological value A Mosque and Tomb of Jamali Kamali (Jamali was a great traveler and poet in the 1490s) Built in 1528-29; archaeological value A Metcalfe's Boathouse Lodhi period monument of archaeological value B

SOURCE

19th April 2010, Hindustan Times

HERITAGE FUTURE RESTS ON PAST

On World Heritage Day, it was perhaps apt that international experts and conservationists from Intach came together to deconstruct Delhi's heritage, both imperial and Mughal, as a springboard for Delhi's bid for the tag of a world heritage city. Said convenor of the Intach Delhi Chapter, prof A G K Menon, "We signed an MoU with the government of Delhi in 2008 to work towards declaring Delhi a world heritage city. Since then we have been working on various projects and sites to ensure the same can be forwarded by the central ministry to Unesco for consideration." On Sunday, as experts came together to discuss Imperial Delhi and its significance in the urban development taking place as part of the Intach seminar on conservation of Shahjahanabad and Lutyens' Bungalow Zone, it was apparent that Delhi's status as a heritage city rests on not only the distant Mughal past but also the architecture of British India. And that conservation is the key to getting the world heritage tag. Speaking about Edward Lutyens' Imperial Delhi, Dr Mervyn Miller, international expert on town planning and

'Garden City' movement, said, "The three-pronged design of the central vista, with the points being the memorial arch (India Gate), the palace (Rashtrapati Bhawan) and the business district (Connaught Place) is based on the same lines as some of the greatest architectural designs in the world." Prof Jane Ridley of the Lutyens' Trust said, "Both political and architectural history of Imperial Delhi need to be conserved." It's not just the British, however, who have left behind an architectural legacy. While the government has made efforts to conserve the character of Lutyens' zone, former DDA chief architect A K Jain admitted that a redefinition of the zone is perhaps needed to conserve the city's heritage. "To ensure that the common man also embraces the city's heritage, conservation and development has to be devolved from just the central and so-called elite sections," added Jain. It's a point that prof K T Ravindran, head of DUAC, also made as he spoke of defining an urban design framework as well as negotiating densification within the low-rise, medium-density format of the Lutyens' zone. **HIGHLIGHTS OF DELHI'S HISTORY** The capital's character is perceived to be an amalgamation of the 'City Beautiful' concept, American in origin, & the 'Garden City' layout, a British landscape design Developed as a city between the two world wars, Delhi is considered one of the most elaborate inter-war settlements Lutyens' zone conservation started in 1988 — when building norm notification came out. However, Shahjahanabad has not been at the forefront of the govt's conservation efforts The 'Garden City' character took shape much before Imperial Delhi's architectural designs. Shalimar Bagh — one of the biggest gardens — was laid out in 1653 by Shah Jehan's wife At one point, over fourteen gardens existed within the Red Fort complex

SOURCE

19th April 2010, Times of India

CHANGES IN LUTYENS' ZONE POSITIVE, FINDS HIS GREAT NEPHEW

WHEN Edwin Lutyens planned New Delhi as a garden city almost a century ago, the Edwardian architect had intended it to serve as a regal capital. The architecture still makes us proud, but it has been named among the most endangered heritage sites by the World Monument Fund. Lutyens' cityscape is in danger of being obliterated by commercial development and the pressure of accommodating an ever increasing population. But as INTACH and several other conservationists mull over strategies to revive the Lutyens' Bungalow Zone (LBZ), Charles Lutyens, a member of the Lutyens Trust and the great nephew of Edwin Lutyens, chooses to stay optimistic. On one of his many visits to Delhi - this time to attend INTACH's two day conference on conservation of LBZ and Shahjahanabad -he says not much seems to have changed in the past 10 years. Lutyens is on a "forced stay" in Delhi till Tuesday as flights to the West remain grounded due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland. Asked if he thinks that the zone is being well preserved, he answers in the affirmative. "The high-rises must have been an administrative decision," he says. "The development work in and around the area, especially the Delhi Metro is stupendous. So its positive effects seem to far supersede whatever loss it has created," he says. Working from 1912 to 1931, Lutyens forged a new style of architecture, combining neo-classical style with accents borrowed from India's Mughal and Buddhist past. "The LBZ is not just about buildings. The pattern of streets, the trees make it unique. Conservation will mean reviving not just buildings but the whole precinct," he says. Talking about the proposed conservation and whether it will protect the master planner's legacy, he says: "Not much has been lost in the LBZ yet. The conservation and the consequent world heritage status will further help protect the heritage site."

SOURCE

19th April 2010, Indian express

WORLD HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATED

The ASI Delhi circle, today organized World Heritage Day at Red Fort complex. On this occasion, students of Tagore International school and Deshbandhu College participated in the debate, easy writing drawing and extempore competitions.

SOURCE

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