

SHIFTING OF CAPITAL

from

Kolkata to New Delhi



News Paper Clipping

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1911, a very different story

ABHILASH GAUR

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

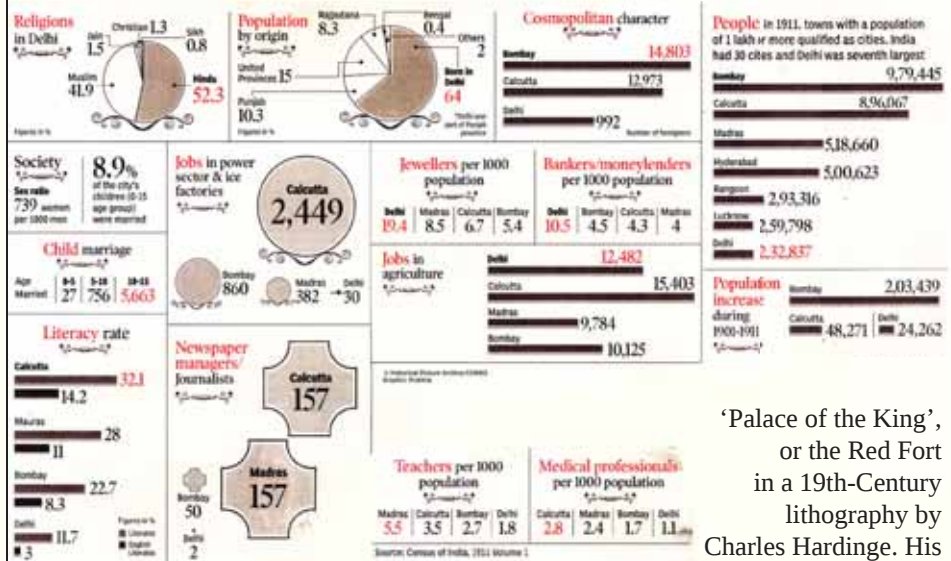
It's been a 100-year race and the outcome is absolutely poetic. Delhi, completing a century as capital of India, is once again its largest and most populous city, ahead of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras—all hand-reared products of the Raj.

But a hundred years ago, few would have put their money on Delhi. Its sunset started in the 18th century, turning into one interminable night after the events of 1857, when the British systematically avenged themselves upon it.

Delhi in 1911 was still a scarred city. Meanwhile, younger rivals were thriving. Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were already the country's three biggest cities, with Bombay touching the million-mark. Delhi's erstwhile subject-cities—Lucknow and Hyderabad—had outgrown it too. Delhi lagged in literacy and medical facilities—only 3% of the population could read English. Few foreigners were drawn to it (Meerut had 2,162 while Delhi had 992). Its economy was heavily agrarian, and modern trades like power generation and news publishing had few takers.

As a city, Delhi was way behind its time. For example, one of the occupational heads in the 1911 census is: "Toy, kite, cage, fishing tackle etc makers, taxidermists etc". The listed products symbolize a medieval-decadent lifestyle. Bombay with 979,445 people had only 61 workers in this trade, while Delhi had 230 for its 232,837 residents.

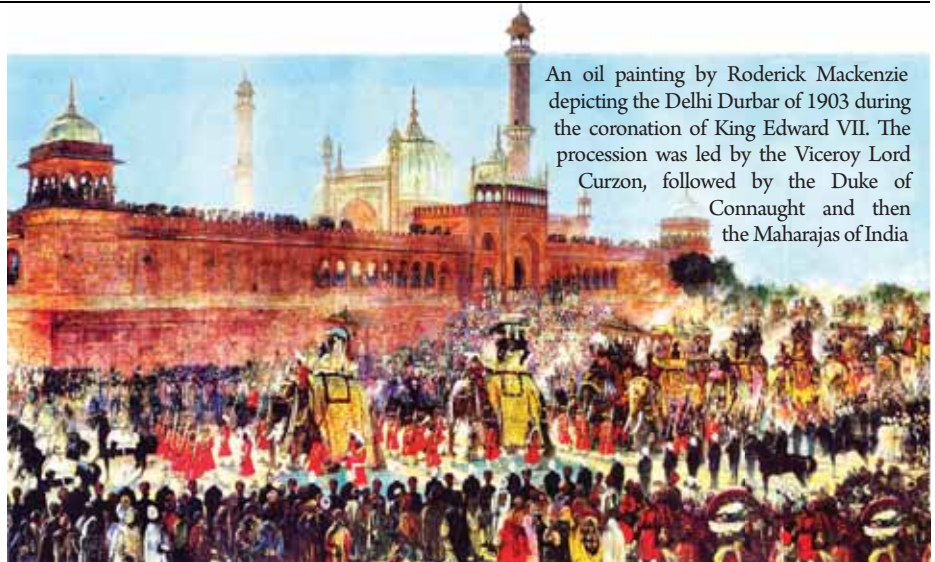
All that is history A century on, 1911's has-been city is happening like never before.



'Palace of the King', or the Red Fort in a 19th-Century lithography by Charles Harding. His namesake and son was India's viceroy from 1910 to 1916



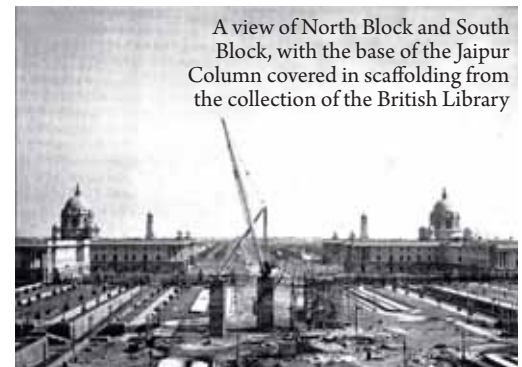
A panoramic view of Delhi from the Lahore Gate of Red Fort, painted by Mazhar Ali Khan in 1846. Fine writing at the bottom of the image includes names of the areas depicted. The work is from the collection of the British Library, London



An oil painting by Roderick Mackenzie depicting the Delhi Durbar of 1903 during the coronation of King Edward VII. The procession was led by the Viceroy Lord Curzon, followed by the Duke of Connaught and then the Maharajas of India

As the Capital celebrates its centenary, an exhibition sources maps from the 19th century, images from the royal courts and early 20th century as tribute to its past!

Delhi, 100 years of history



A view of North Block and South Block, with the base of the Jaipur Column covered in scaffolding from the collection of the British Library



HT Delhi 100 Conclave

As the Capital turns 100, Hindustan Times presents New Delhi 100 Conclave, a platform to solicit, debate and document the views and ideas of eminent stakeholders in the city. Present at the conclave will be dignitaries including Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit and experts such as AGK Menon and OP Jain, among others. When: December 15 Where: Shahjahan Hall, Taj Palace Hotel, Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakypuri Timings: 6.30pm onwards



A map of Shahjahanabad by a Delhi cartographer made in 1846-47, is one of the most accurate of the maps of the city from before its destruction in 1858. From the British Library, London

It's on here

What: Delhi, Red Fort to Raisina
 When: December 15-24
 Where: Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Janpath

 **NEAREST METRO STATION: Rajiv Chowk**

Delhi
 Red Fort to Raisina



Edited by: JP Losty
 Publishers: Roli Books
 Price: ₹2,975

Damini Purkayastha
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Hundred years ago, on December 12, a grand congregation of royalty and British soldiers assembled at the Delhi Durbar as King George V proclaimed Delhi as the new Capital of Imperial India. Celebrating the centenary, are a series of exhibitions across town and even a special conclave with leaders organised by Hindustan Times. One such event is the exhibition, Delhi: Red Fort To Raisina, curated by Pramod Kapoor of Roli Books. The exhibition, which kicks off at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts on December 15, brings together over four centuries of visual history,

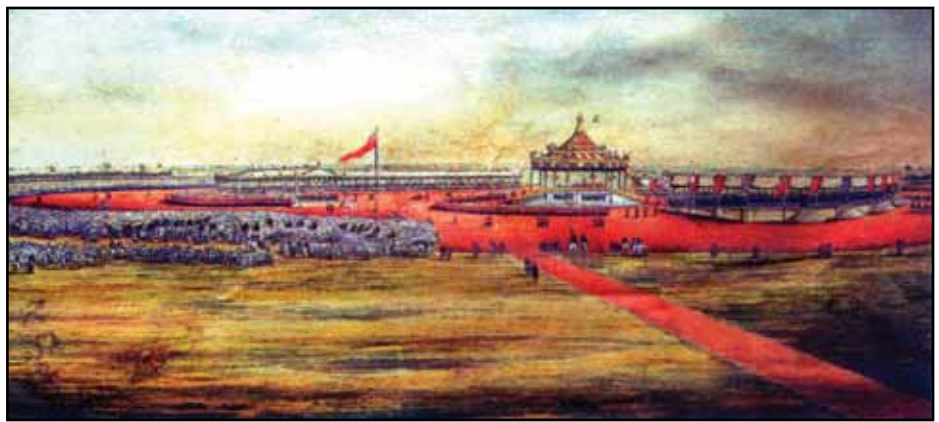
from the time of Mughal emperors to more recent images of Lutyens Delhi covered in scaffolding. "It's the 100th anniversary of the Capital and we always knew that we wanted to do something, and thought a seminal pictorial exhibition like this has never really been done before. 80% of the exhibition is based on our book Red Fort to Raisina, which launches tonight, and about 20% has been sourced just for the show," says Kapoor, who has spent the last two months putting the exhibition together. The collection has paintings, watercolours, maps and documents from the British Museum in London, Bibliotheque Nationale

de France, France, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, royal houses of Rajasthan, private collections and other museums around the world. "There are 114 images in the exhibition and most are really rare works which have never been in India before," adds Kapoor. One of the oldest

works in the exhibition dates back 1630s, there's also an image of emperor Shahjahan as he enters Shahjahanabad when it was declared the Capital in 1648. One of the most interesting pieces is a 20 metre long panorama of Old Delhi, which was painted in 1840. There's also an image

of the east face of the Red Fort which was painted in 1774 by a Faizabad draughtsman, and some images from the albums of drawings done by Sita Ram for Lord Hastings in 1814-1815. At the moment, the exhibition is on till December 24, but Kapoor is hopeful that it may travel to other locations

at some point in the future. "The exhibition is supported by the Delhi Government and it has works that anyone would be proud to display, so let's see what happens," he says.



(Left) Watercolour of emperor Shahjahan made in 1650 from the British Museum, London; (Above) A painting of one of the first British imperial durbars held in the city, at amphitheatre north of Shahjahanabad. From the Red Fort Museum in Delhi

Continue the celebration with more cultural events taking place in the city

Red Fort to Raisina Hill

A solo exhibition by artist Vikram Kalra titled 'Red Fort to Raisina Hill-The making of New Delhi', displays black and white sketches depicting the transfer of power from the dusty lanes and bylanes of Shahjahanabad to Raisina hill. Sketches of important buildings which existed during the Mughal period and the British period from 1800 to 1911, will also be displayed. "It's a tribute to the city of my birth, it has been the seat of power for our nation for ages," says Kalra. The exhibition is on till December 15 at Foyer, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road.



Daastan-e-dilli

This cultural exposition will commemorate the centenary celebrations of the city being the national capital with an exhibition titled "Timeless Delhi" and a dance recital by Shovana Narayan and other musical events. The exhibition will showcase the evolution of the Capital from historic Indraprastha around 1,200 BC to a vibrant 21st century metropolis through works by painters of the British East India Company. Opening on December 14 at Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhavan Gallery, IP Estate.



Celebrating 100 Years of Delhi

This group comprising artists Alka Raghuvanshi, Aruna Vasudev, Bikash Poddar, Kana Lomror, Ruchi Singhal and Tejinder Kanda, will evoke nostalgic memories about the cultural heritage of the city. On display will be a collection of 15 Intaglio prints of the beautiful historical heritage sites in Delhi, 'Virasat' by Dattaraya Apte and 21 pen and ink drawings on Old Delhi by Vikram Kalra. On till December 23 at The Claridges, Surajkund, Shooting Range Road, Faridabad.



HT Delhi 100 Food Festival

A delectable dish at ₹100 seems like a treat possible only in the good ol' days. To resurrect the glorious past and celebrate 100 years of Delhi, Hindustan Times has organised Delhi 100 Food Festival till December 31, where the city's celebrated cuisines will be served at ₹100 each. The participating restaurants include 50 restaurants of the city that have created a special dish each, either in main course or starter or dessert. For the entire list of restaurants, log on to: www.hindustantimes/delhi100foodfestival.com.



new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

As the Capital turns 100 today, over the next three days HT brings you the best of the New Delhi 100 series that looked at the defining moments in the life of the city

FIRST OF A 3-PART SERIES: 1911-1931



Photos: GETTY IMAGES

100 years of GLORY

FLASHBACK Exactly 100 years ago - Dec 12, 1911 - King George V had announced the shifting of the Capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi

Sidhartha Roy and Manoj Sharma
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NEW DELHI: In the winter of 1911, Delhi was just another dot on the political map of British India, a modest provincial town and small commercial centre still recovering from the scars of imperial retribution after the 1857 uprising.

On December 12, 1911 the city hosted the Delhi Durbar - the biggest tamasha of the British Raj — near Burari. Though Calcutta was the capital of British India then, Delhi had hosted two Durbars before, in 1877 and 1902. It was, however, the first time that the royal couple, King Emperor George V and Queen Mary, was present at the coronation celebration.

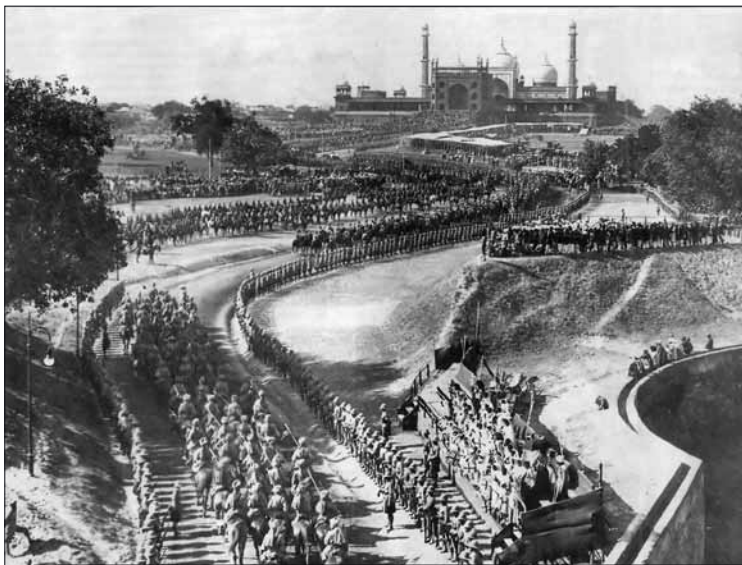
A city of tents, with a railway network of its own, had come up over an area of 25 square miles in the north west part of Delhi, to be called Kingsway Camp later. Apart from the presence of the royal couple, the Durbar was

special for another reason. It was here that King George V announced the shifting of the Capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi, a decision known only to the top echelons of the British regime till then.

As the Durbar ended, the long task of building an imperial capital began. The government machinery, however, shifted to the new Capital by March 1912. A temporary capital with modest buildings came up at Civil Lines, including a circuit house, council chamber and office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Edwin Landseer Lutyens, known for designing country houses in England, was entrusted with the job of planning the new city. Along with his old friend Herbert Baker and a team of architects, Lutyens set about the task of finalising a site for the new capital.

The new capital was supposed to come up at the site where the Durbar was held and a foundation



DURBAR PROCESSION

The 5-mile-long royal procession before the Durbar touched Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Chandni Chowk before reaching Kingsway Camp. King George V was supposed to ride a bedecked elephant but he refused and rode a horse. Delhiites missed the slightly short George V in his marshal uniform. The King later complained of a 'chilly reception'

3 lakh	9 lakh	20 yrs	13.07 cr	2.3 lakh
Visitors attended the Delhi Durbar	Pound Sterling was spent on organising the Durbar	Time taken to build New Delhi	Rupees spent to build new imperial Capital	Population of Delhi in the 1920s

stone was laid by George V.

Lutyens found the site swampy and prone to flooding, apart from being too 'flat and boring'. He roamed around Delhi's countryside and finalised the area near Raisina Hills. Its undulating surface meant the buildings would be built at a height, making them imposing. The area was largely uninhabited except for villages such as Malcha.

After the proclamation of Delhi as the new capital, it took 20 years of planning and construction for New Delhi to come up. The axis of the city was formed around the three grand buildings — Government House

(Rashtrapati Bhavan), Secretariat and Council House (Parliament House) — at one end and the All-India War Memorial (India Gate) at the other end of the central vista.

On February 10, 1931, Viceroy of India Lord Irwin inaugurated New Delhi at 11 am. The decision to shift the Capital of India changed the course of Delhi's history. But in the two decades it took to build the Capital, the fate of British Empire itself had changed. By 1931, a transition of power was imminent and within 16 years, New Delhi was going to become the seat of power of an independent India.

Shifting of Capital from Kolkata to Delhi.

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

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FIRST OF A 3-PART SERIES: 1911-1931



THE ROYAL COUPLE

King Emperor George V and Queen Mary observe a show of pageantry from the Red Fort ramparts. In the foreground are decked-up young Indian Princes, who were called 'Pages'. Soon after the Durbar ended, the King, an avid hunter and stamp collector, rushed to the Nepal border on a tiger hunting expedition while the Queen visited Taj Mahal.



QUICK RECAP



Jan 1: The first of the series



Jan 3: Shifting of the Capital



Jan 4: Why Delhi was chosen as Capital



Jan 5: The building of a new Capital



Jan 6: A new Capital taking shape



Jun 6: About Rashtrapati Bhawan

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

29,000

Workers were employed to
build Government HouseTIMELINE
1911-1931

A look at the significant events and developments that shaped the Capital city from 1911 to 1931



■ Edwin Lutyens:
chief architect

1911

BEGINNING: George V and Queen Mary arrive in Delhi on Dec 7 and the Delhi Durbar is held on December 12, where George V announces shifting of the Capital from Calcutta to Delhi

FOUNDATION: On December 15, the foundation stone for the new Capital is laid at the site of the Durbar, now known as Kingsway Camp.



■ A railway line was laid for the project.

1912

ALERT: A failed assassination attempt on Viceroy Lord Hardinge prompts the government to heighten security in Delhi and increase manpower of the police. All fruit trees in Chandni Chowk are also cut down,

PLANNER: Edwin Lutyens arrives to plan the new city, soon to be joined by his old friend Herbert Baker.

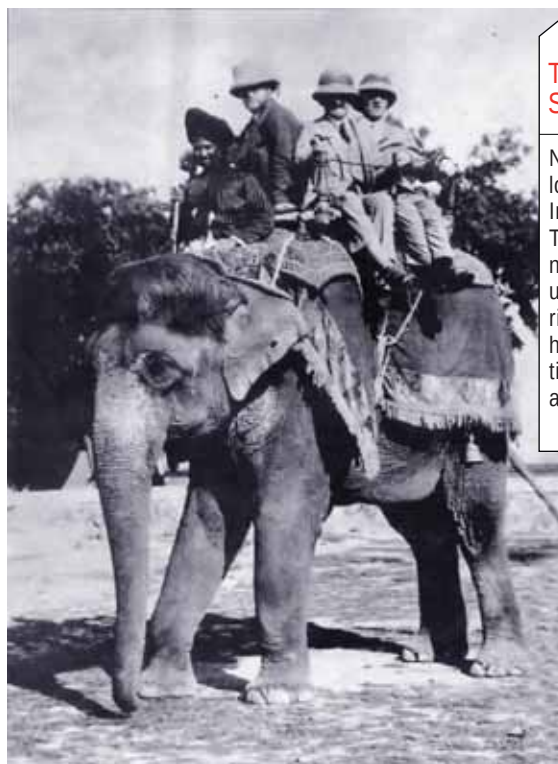
TAKEOVER: The Imperial government takes over the Delhi Tehsil and Mehrauli area from the Punjab Government.

CIRCUIT HOUSE: The Circuit House becomes the temporary Viceregal lodge, which would later house the Delhi University's Vice Chancellor.

SECRETARIAT: A secretariat building is constructed to accommodate the central government.



■ Hillocks around Raisina Hills Photo: INDIAN RAILWAYS



Photos courtesy: NEW DELHI: MAKING OF A CAPITAL, ROLI BOOKS

THE HUNT FOR A
SUITABLE SITE

New Delhi architect Edwin Lutyens looked for a suitable site for the new Imperial Capital atop an elephant. The rocky and thickly vegetated area near Raisina Hills made it difficult to use a motor vehicle. Lutyens hated riding the elephant, and said this to his wife in letters that spoke of how tiring mounting the elephant was, along with sketches of how he did it.

FOUNDATION
STONE IS LAID

The foundation stone for a new Capital was laid on December 15, 1911, at Kingsway camp, North Delhi, where New Delhi was expected to come up. But an expert committee comprising architects such as Edwin Lutyens decided otherwise. They found the site swampy and vulnerable to floods. The stones were later placed in the secretariat buildings.

RASHTRAPATI
BHAWAN

The Government House (now Rashtrapati Bhawan), designed by Edwin Lutyens, was built to house the Viceroy. The most impressive feature was its dome. It was Lutyens' most cherished project. About 29,000 workers toiled for eight years at any given point of time. 4.5 million bricks and 7,500 tonnes of cement was used. The cost: `1.4 crore.



new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

1290sq miles
is the area that was acquired
for the 'Delhi enclave'



1914

SETBACK:

Britain enters the first World War and work on the construction of New Delhi is stopped due to fund crunch.



■ The Viceroy's House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan).

1918

FAST TRACK:

Work on New Delhi resumes as Lutyens puts his plans on ground.

1922

LEARNING CENTRES:

University of Delhi is established with three colleges, St. Stephens', Hindu and Ramjas.

Photo: INDIAN RAILWAYS



■ A party at the old Viceregal Lodge.

1924

MEDIA MOMENT:

The Hindustan Times is launched in Delhi

Photo: INDIAN RAILWAYS



■ Fairy queen, the world's oldest steam locomotive, in the mid 1920s.

1931

FINALLY:

New Delhi is inaugurated by Lord Irwin, who unveils the four dominion columns at the Central Secretariat.



INAUGURATION OF A CAPITAL

Twenty years after it was founded, Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India, formally inaugurated New Delhi on February 10, 1931. To mark the event, the Viceroy inaugurated the four dominion columns with a 31-gun salute. The celebrations lasted two weeks with the Viceroy hosting garden parties and polo matches. About 5,000 guests attended the event.

CAPITAL IDENTITY

India Gate is the iconic structure that everyone identifies with New Delhi. The India War Memorial (as it was originally called) is dedicated to Indian soldiers who died in WW1. Designed by Edwin Lutyens, the foundation stone of the memorial was laid on February 10, 1921, by the then Duke of Connaught, and inaugurated in 1931 by then Viceroy Lord Irwin.



HEART OF THE CITY

A central business district was part of the original plan of British Imperial Capital. The British wanted a new Capital, which could serve as shopping, entertainment and fine dining hub. The construction of Connaught Place designed by Robert Tor Russell - was started in 1929. The inspiration came from The Royal Crescent in the city of Bath in England.



DELHI DURBAR | From uncertainty over dates to red tape and conspiracy theories, many variables threatened to derail George V's Coronation Durbar almost to the last weeks

Stunning durbar almost didn't happen

Abhilash Gaur | TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In February 1912, a show titled 'The Durbar in Kinemacolor' was running to packed houses at the New York Theatre. The New York Times of February 25 reported that the first week's attendance was "even beyond the expectation of the management". More than the novel colour cinematography, what gripped audiences was the substance of the footage.

The Coronation Durbar of 1911 was a stunning spectacle. But it was held in an atmosphere of intrigue, with London almost expecting an assassination attempt on the king. So, when a rumour went out on December 15, three days after the Durbar, that the king had been killed, it spread like wildfire from America to Aus-

THE DELHI PROCLAMATION DEALT A BODY BLOW TO THE CALCUTTA PROPERTY MARKET AND ALSO PRECIPITATED A RECORD FALL IN GOVERNMENT BILLS. IN JUST TWO DAYS, THEIR PRICE FELL 8 ANNAS AND 3 ANNAS RESPECTIVELY

tralia. Only later, it emerged that a telegram to a newspaper office enquiring about the veracity of the rumoured assassination was taken for news by the telegraph staff, and passed



DARSHAN AT RED FORT: A "sea of upturned faces", "great procession of colour", a sight "seen nowhere else in the world" is how The Times of India reported December 13's Jharokha Darshan event at the Badshahi Mela a day later

on as such over the wires.

Meanwhile, the British machinery showed a lassitude comparable to our Commonwealth Games preparations. NYT reported from London on January 15, 1911: "The India Office here has not begun to make any preparations for the event, important as it is... A highly placed official said, 'The coronation at home comes first and until we have got the arrangements for that over, we cannot hope to...give much attention to a function yet a year distant'."

Yet, such was the public enthusiasm to witness the Durbar that rates for a night's stay in Delhi went through the roof. The official committee (OC, like CWG's organizing committee) offered tents at \$10-22 per day while rooms in buildings cost

\$29-39. Reservations could not be made for a block of less than 20 days, and two-thirds of the money had to be paid in advance before August 1.

Then, news came in August that the Durbar may be called off as "the King himself has now suggested the abandonment of the ceremony, in view of the prevailing drought and famine, and the terrible ravages of the plague". That did not happen, but by October there was talk



ALL THE KING'S MEN: The royal couple with their Indian ADCs

10 DAYS IN DELHI

Dec 7 | Royal couple arrive at Salimgarh Station inside Red Fort; greeted with 101-gun salute. Leave for Imperial Camp in a procession

Getty Images



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN NOBILITY PAY HOMAGE THE KING AND QUEEN AT THE DURBAR

Dec 8-11 | King meets Indian royals; lays first stone of memorial to father, King Edward VII; watches polo and football

Dec 12 | King and queen leave for Durbar in an open landau drawn by four horses. After the ceremonies, he announces transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi

Sandeep Katari



KING GEORGE V

Dec 13 | Garden party in Red Fort, followed by jharokha darshan when the royals 'reveal' themselves before the people

Dec 14 | Review of troops; queen decorated with Order of Star of India

Dec 15 | Royal couple lay first two stones of new capital

Dec 16 | King and queen depart for Nepal and Agra respectively from Salimgarh

of the royal couple not attending the Durbar in view of the security threat. Speculation also started about whether the queen should take the crown jewels beyond British shores. There was no precedent for it, even though many agreed the queen needed to outshine the Indian maharanis.

Her jewel plans in jeopardy, the queen divested the coming event of some more colour by declaring that she would not ride an elephant or

let the king mount one. For the Empire's propaganda machinery, nothing could be worse than sending the king amidst his Indian subjects without the advantage of a lofty elephant. It would destroy whatever effect they hoped to conjure. But the queen was quite inflexible, so the subject was not pursued.

Finally on November 11, the royal couple set sail for India. They were accompanied by three cows "from the Home

Farm, Windsor" to be "milked every morning and afternoon by a dairyman from that farm. In case (he) is taken ill, a sergeant of Marines, who is a skilled dairyman, will take his place."

While the royals had an uneventful journey, "large sums of money and Christmas and other presents in connection with the Coronation Durbar were stolen" from a train in Macon, France. The loss amounted to £120,000.

There were other losses as well. On December 5, a magnificent pavilion on silver poles, built for the king's reception, burnt down. And during the rehearsal for the king's entry, a large store of fireworks beside the Yamuna was gutted. But these setbacks were nothing in comparison to the scale of the extravaganza that played out in Delhi a century ago. Words can't describe it, although the Kinemacolor reels can.

Petrol just 30p a litre, but speeding could cost Rs 100

Abhilash Gaur | TNN

Remember the days when phone calls were made with an eye on the watch? The third minute used to be the cue to wind up a local call. A century ago, visitors to the Coronation Durbar of George V did much the same thing while making phone calls from post offices. The only difference then was that a three minute call cost 4 annas (25 paise) against Rs 1.2 now.

Of course, 4 annas was a big deal in those days when an (imperial) gallon of petrol cost a rupee and 6 annas, or just over 30 paise a litre. That was the government's contract rate with Burma Oil Co for the entire duration of the Durbar.

While petrol was cheap, drivers had to be careful as the police were strict and the penalties steep.

For the first instance of reckless driving, you could be fined Rs 100, and subsequent

offences were compounded at Rs 200. The fines for other offences, such as speeding, were Rs 50 for the first instance and Rs 100 thereafter.

The speed limit? Just 12

CARRIAGE CHARGES

(Fixed for Nov 15-Dec 24, 1911)

1st Class

5/hr or
40/10 hrs

2nd class

4/hr or
30/10 hrs

3rd class (palki)

3/hr or
20/10 hrs

**3rd class
(tumtum & tonga)**

1.5/hr

4th class (ekka)

1/hr

miles per hour (19 kmph).

Fresh whole milk that was sold by weight was a little more expensive, but nothing

like the Rs 37 a litre that you pay today. Milk from the military dairy specially established for the Durbar cost 2 annas and 6 paise per pound (454 grams), approximately 40 paise per litre. Cream cost Re 1 per pound while fresh table butter could be bought for Rs 1.25 per pound, which is the Rs 147.

These prices are all the more remarkable because they were fixed for a celebration in a makeshift tent city. If you've ever bought a burger and cola in a stadium, you will appreciate this: refreshment coupons for the Durbar were sold in a booklet worth Rs 5, and refunds on unused coupons were given till December 21—a week after all cultural and sporting activities had ceased. Who gives a refund nowadays?

Priced at Re 1, the admission ticket to the archaeological exhibition in Red Fort would seem prohibitive, but the show was meant only for the elite. Other than that, go-

ing sightseeing or attending the games did not cost much. Ekkas were the cheapest and lowest class of personal transport and cost Re 1 per hour.

If even that was too much, you could travel ordinary class in the broad gauge trains for 4 annas per trip. Return trips in the Durbar Railways' upper class were also relatively affordable Rs 4. However, trips in first-class horse carriages were fairly expensive—Rs 5 per hour or Rs 40 for a day.

At the polo grounds, tickets to the Durbar polo, hockey and football tournaments were affordably priced. While entry to the ordinary enclosures was free up to the semi-finals, 8 annas was the charge for finals. In the elite Enclosure A, a membership ticket entitling the holder to watch every sport and match cost Rs 30 for men, and Rs 15 for women. It came with the added perk of three free tea tickets.

abhilash.gaur@timesgroup.com

Royal gifts: Phones, trains and electricity

Photos: Alkazi collection of Photography



LIGHTER MOMENTS: The last of Delhi's 'light' railways - built on the 2'6" narrow gauge - disappeared in the 1970s. But at the time of the Durbar, they were an important part of the transport infrastructure, with space for 230 persons each

Nineteen-eleven was the year that got Delhi back in the race with M Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The arrival of George V and his Durbar gave the languishing Mughal capital its first shot at modernity. So, 2011 is not just the centenary of Delhi as capital of India but also marks 100 years of telephony in the city.

Delhi's first phone service started with the Central Telephone Exchange in the Coronation Durbar telegraph office. Common people could make calls from all post offices, barring the three at Wazirabad, the Mall and Prince's Road. Talking of post offices, they certainly were more businesslike 100 years ago. Most of them worked 10 hours a day (8am to 6pm) but stamps were available for 13 hours (7am to 8pm) and telegrams could be sent from 7am to 9pm (14 hours).

Telephones, though, were only one of the many improvements the city experienced in the run-up to the Coronation Durbar. For the common man, the new railway lines, a large power generation unit and water treatment facilities made a more significant difference.

The city got a new suburban railway for the Durbar — aptly called

the Durbar Railway — but even the old broad gauge and 2'6" narrow gauge lines were upgraded. The old Delhi-Ambala-Kalka line, for instance, was doubled from Sabzi Mandi station to Wazirpur junction, where it linked with the new Durbar lines. Likewise, the old Southern Punjab Railway line was doubled from Brewery Cabin to Shakurpur. A new terminal station — Hamilton Road — was also built to decongest the other main stations. Trains ran at 15-minute intervals on both broad gauge and narrow gauge lines but while the bigger trains carried 1100 passengers, the 'light' trains had a capacity of only 230.

Augmentation of electricity supply was another Durbar milestone. Until before the Durbar, the city was powered by a lone 2MW diesel generator installed at Lahori Gate. But the installed power capacity more than doubled when a coal-fired steam turbine became operational at the Central Power House on Alipur Road. The 3200-horse power turbine generated 2.4 MW of electricity, good enough to light up 72,000 bulbs. During the Durbar, 100 miles of road length was lit up using 10,000 poles and 900 miles of copper wire.

Arrangements were also made to supply potable water to the entire camp population. A filtering plant with



FULLY CHARGED: 10,000 electric poles were set to light up a 100-mile length of the city's roads

a capacity of 5 million gallons a day was installed solely for the use of the Durbar camps. Laid end to end, the mains measured 51 miles while the branch lines added up to another 50 miles.

To cater to the multitude of Durbar visitors, a modern dairy with a daily capacity of 25,000 pounds of milk (roughly 11,300 litres) was established on the Najafgarh Canal Road under the supervision of the Military Farms department. It had facilities for separating milk, pasteurizing, steam sterilizing and cold storage. The dairy's herd of 2,000 milch cattle was tended by 400 men, including 60 Europeans.

For other supplies, a Central Market was established on the Mall, near the new power house. Like the post offices of that era, this market, too, opened early despite the freezing cold weather. Provisions were sold from 5.30am to 9pm. The main building stocked wines and spirits, tobacco and medicines, and also had space for tailors and saddlers. The building next door sold food products, mainly for a European palate—bread, cakes, biscuits, jams and jellies, besides flour, rice and grains. Yet other stores dealt in eggs, fish and meat.

The Durbar also introduced the city to better sanitation and medical arrangements. Sweepers and scavengers were kept on their toes to maintain hygiene in the tent city that lacked

sewerage. Three segregation hospitals were setup to treat infectious diseases besides the two civil hospitals at Jama

Masjid and Rajpur Village that treated other serious diseases. The animals arriving in the city were also monitored

by veterinary inspectors for contagious diseases.

It was quite a transformation for a city that

only a few months ago had reported just 255 medical professionals in the Census of 1911.

10 days, 1111 booms

Abhilash Gaur | TNN

The 10 days of George V's stay in Delhi were the noisiest in half a century. After the siege in 1857 when fort and houses alike shook to the boom of cannon, the city had become conditioned to a regulated calm. But the first-ever royal visit in 1911 exposed it to the imperial salute — 101 cannons fired in succession — repeatedly.

The only cannon-fire Delhi hears now is the presidential salute of 21 guns on Republic Day. But during the royal visit the imperial salute was fired 11 times, a total of 1,111 booms.

The aural barrage started at 10am on December 7, as the royal train from Bombay chugged in with George V and Mary. Guns on Red Fort's ramparts fired in a sequence of 34-33-34 with troops lining the road from the fort to the Ridge filling the gaps with feux de joie or running fire from rifles. This was a variation on the stock imperial salute that was heard as the royals started for the Ridge in a procession. This time, the guns boomed from the Ridge.

Next afternoon, another 101 booms starting at 2.55pm announced that the king

and queen had started from Red Fort to unveil a tablet for the memorial of George V's father, the late Edward VII. Hardly had ears stopped ringing when another barrage started at 3.30pm to announce that the tablet had been unveiled.

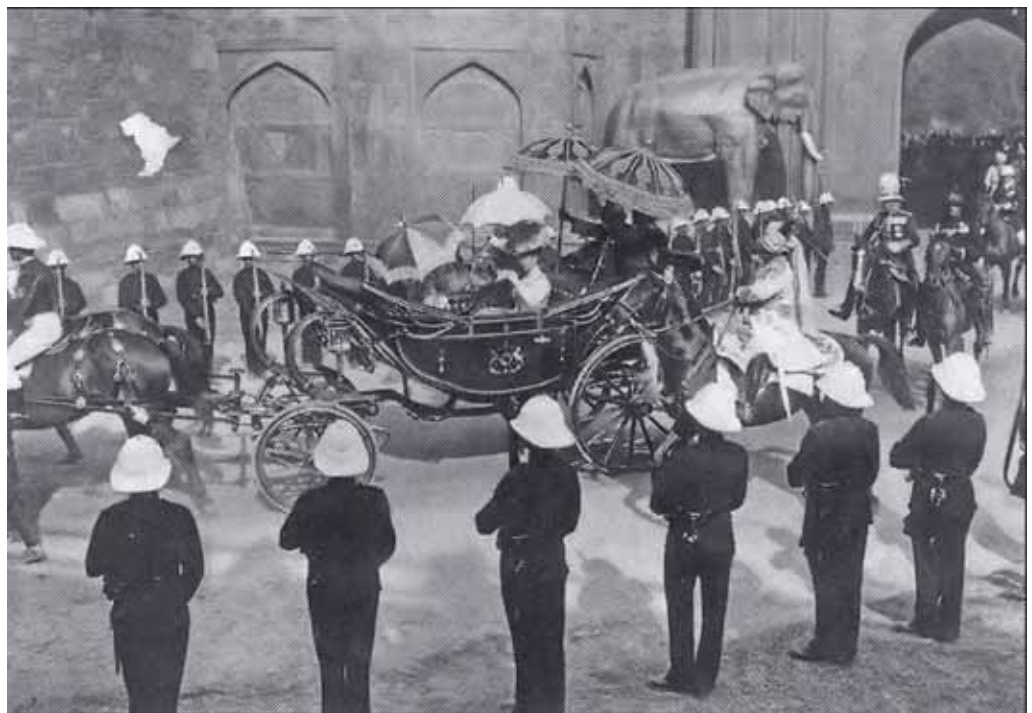
The next three days were free of grand ceremonies and the cannons were rested. But December 12 was Durbarday and the city heard the imperial salute thrice. First around 12 noon as the

royals arrived at the Durbar amphitheatre; again after the royal proclamation was read, and finally when the king and queen left the ground at the close of ceremonies.

On December 14, the king reviewed troops near Badli ki Serai, and the guns opened up at intervals of three seconds as he approached the review ground at 10am. Evening brought the 34-33-34 variation with feux de joie.

After a quiet Friday when the new capital's first two

stones were laid, the day arrived for the royal couple's departure. As George V and Mary reached Red Fort, guns on the Ridge opened up in a 34-33-34 salute interspersed with two feux de joie. And as the king's train chugged out of Salimgarh Bastion, the last imperial salute of 101 guns was fired, announcing the return of Lord Quiet to the city.



IMPERIAL SALUTE: Outings of King George V and Queen Mary, such as this state procession through Red Fort, were greeted with a salute of 101 cannons

ROYAL NEGLECT | *Delhi got six years to conserve Coronation Park but when the centenary came by, it had nothing to show on the ground*

Century scored as city drops catch

On a day when Delhi completed 100 years as capital of modern India, the ground where this historic decision was announced — Coronation Park in north Delhi — looked its old shambolic self. Termed by many as the ‘junkyard of history’ for its collection of five imperial idols on pedestals, the park was to be conserved to a plan conceived more than six years ago.

However, it will not be ready for visitors for at least six to eight more months. It was in 2005-06 that the concept of conservation of Coronation Park was first conceived.

“At that time, we outlined that as we have up to five years before New Delhi’s 100th birthday, the Coronation Park can be developed also as a cultural centre for north Delhi. The park had immense historical significance and we saw huge potential, despite the garbage dumps, defaced statues and neglected grounds. Tourists still went to the place solely because they wanted to see where the Durbar was held and where New Delhi was proclaimed capital of British India,” said a senior INTACH official. At that point of time, the park was under Central Public Works Department (CPWD). “There were some hiccups initially as



THE PITS: At the Coronation Park, works ranging from drainage to paving are pending but the authorities claim it will be ready in eight months. (Below) The marble statue of George V

certain sections felt that working at Coronation Park would be seen as bowing to the former Imperial powers. It was months before we were able to convince people that celebrations at Coronation Park would be a celebration of Delhi’s history,” said officials. Delhi Tourism started warming up to the idea and asked the NGO INTACH to prepare a concept proposal. Talks shifted to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) when ownership of the 49 acre park was shifted to them in 2007.

“The facelift plans were divided into three major components — landscaping, interpretation centre and conservation of coronation pillar

and statues. Only landscaping

CAPITAL CENTURY

work is going on and conservation of statues will start in a day or two,” said a source.

DDA had earlier said the interpretation centre would be ready by next March but officials now say it will take up to a year. Apart from this, other planned projects like the VIP parking and water body will not be taken up at all. DDA officials blamed problems in tendering and the extended monsoon for the delay “The first tender for landscaping did not mature so we

had to invite a second tender in May. After that we could not work on the landscaping for three months during the monsoon,” said a senior DDA official. “The fact is one can’t ignore the contribution of Coronation Park to Delhi’s history. This is where decisions like the building of New Delhi were made and this is where the shape of the whole nation changed. The park will be a major attraction for visitors during the centenary year and, even if delayed, the conservation of the park should

be completed at the earliest,” said a top official of Archaeological Survey of India. Three Durbar-



rs were held at park—the first in 1887, the second in 1903, and the final one in 1911. In December, 1911, King George V and Queen Mary themselves came here to make two impor-

tant declarations. The first was that the Capital of British India would be shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, and the other was the annulment of the Partition of Bengal. They also declared

that India would now be ruled directly by the King and Queen of England, thereby ending the rule of the East India Company. Also, Coronation Park has the largest and tallest statue of

King George V, adorning as it does a lofty pedestal. The statue was moved here in the mid-1960s from a site opposite India Gate in the centre of New Delhi.

A milestone missed in December haze

Monday marked 100 years of George V's Coronation Durbar, and nature faithfully mirrored the event's vague imprint on Delhi's memory. Through the noon haze, the obelisk commemorating the location of the royal pavilion, where the king-emperor sat as his coronation proclamation was read out, was barely visible from Ring Road. Even stepping inside Coronation Park—49 acres of pits, puddles and treacherous paving—brought no rush of emotion.

The city didn't warm to the occasion, the government was manifestly cold to it, but some open-minded citizens decided

ground turning the corner. But it's going to be a long turn, another six months at the least.

The Empire, though, was able to move heaven—its steel frame a.k.a. bureaucracy—and earth faster. Arrangements for the grand assembly were completed in a year.

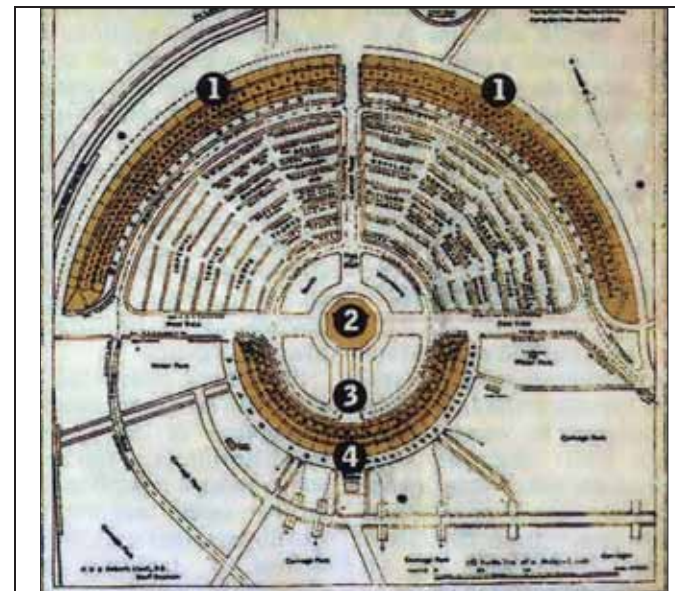
What was Coronation Park like on December 12, 1911? A bird from above would have seen a vast smiley. Not static yellow but a moving mass of scarlet and khaki—the arena was packed with 20,000 troops. The 'head' of the assembly was an amphitheatre with space for over 50,000 commoners.

Think of the domed pavilion where George V and Queen Mary sat (today's obelisk) as the nose. The common stands were drawn in a semicircle of 240-yard radius to the north. Some 12,000 invitees sat in another semicircular theatre (the smile) of 120-yard radius to the south.

Between the royal pavilion and the VIP stands another large tent, simply called shamiana, where the royals arrived and received homage. It was here, not in the pavilion, that the king-emperor announced the decision to return the capital to Delhi.

And what was the Durbar all about? Pageantry, show of might? Yes, but the ruse was George V's wish to make it known "in person to all his loving subjects in India" that his coronation had been

FIRST VISIT LAST DURBAR



- 1 The commoners' stands had space for more than 50,000 but only 18,000 benches; 6,000 places were reserved for children
- 2 Coronation Park's obelisk marks the site of the royal pavilion. The proclamation of coronation was read out here
- 3 The king received homage from native princes in this shamiana; also made the Delhi announcement from it
- 4 Invited guests sat in this amphitheatre, 120-yards away from the royal pavilion. There was space for 12,000

WHAT WAS THE CORONATION PARK LIKE ON DECEMBER 12, 1911? A BIRD FROM ABOVE WOULD HAVE SEEN A VAST SMILEY. NOT STATIC YELLOW BUT A MOVING MASS OF SCARLET AND KHAKI—THE ARENA WAS PACKED WITH 20,000 TROOPS

to celebrate the centenary with a hot meal for the park labourers and anyone else who cared to join, like Seattle-based writer Brian Paul Bach.

Bach — unusual for a tourist but not a history buff — has been to the Park several times, starting 20 years ago when it was an "unkempt ground where people practised driving". He said he felt happiest this time seeing the

solemnised in Westminster Abbey on June 22.

As he sat under the shamiana, maharajas rivalled each other in a display of fealty. Some bowed, others laid swords at his feet while the chiefs of Sikkim and Bhutan approached touching mud



EMPEROR: George V was the only British monarch to attend a Durbar in Delhi

to their heads. Theirs was a flawless show but the rough homage of the laity after the Durbar's close was more touching. After the imperial suite left, the people "rushed down by thousands from the mound... and prostrating themselves, pressed their foreheads against the marble steps." Delhi's Durbar age was over.

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

The once imperial Capital of India has turned 100. HT brings you the best of the New Delhi 100 series that looked at the defining moments in the life of the city.

SECOND OF A 3-PART SERIES: 1932-1969

TIMELINE
1932-1969

A look at the significant events and developments that shaped the Capital city from 1932 to 1969

1932

CINEMATIC BEGINNING:

Regal Cinema is opened.

1933: The central business district of Connaught Place is completed.



■ A Lutyens' bungalow. PHOTO COURTESY: ROLI BOOKS, NEW DELHI, MAKING OF A CAPITAL



■ The front page of HT on August 15, 1947.

1934

LODGED IN THE HEART:

Nirula's Hotel, initially called Hotel India, opens in CP.

NEW INN-INGS: The Imperial hotel, built on Queensway, is completed

1936

FOR ART'S SAKE:

Dhoomimal, Delhi's first private art gallery, is opened by a Walled City family.

1939

CITY'S NEW MIGRANTS:

World War 2 breaks out and New Delhi sees a huge influx of British and American soldiers.

1940

BOOKED: Ahmed Ali's 'Twilight in Delhi' is published: it laments the disappearing old Delhi culture.

1945

VICTORY PARADE: CP sees an Allied victory parade with tanks at the end of World War 2.

HALL OF FAME: Odeon cinema opens

1947

AUG 15: Delhiites throng Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament in celebration.

PARTITION: Delhi sees a large influx of refugees, which changes the Capital forever.

1948

KILLED IN COLD BLOOD: On January 30, Mahatma Gandhi is shot at Birla Mandir



■ Hyderabad House

BIRD'S EYE VIEW
OF THE CITY

It was only by 1939 that New Delhi could fully emerge as a city. It now comprises Connaught place, Parliament House, the Viceroy House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan), the Central Secretariat, the Imperial Hotel, along with elite residential colonies. Meanwhile, Delhi's population rose by nearly 40% in a decade post 1931.

GETTY IMAGES

QUICK RECAP



Witness a *Capital* Change

UNVEILED The new Capital remained a ghost town for almost a decade after its inauguration in 1931. But the Second World War, India's independence and Partition changed the contours of New Delhi.

Sidhartha Roy and Manoj Sharma
manoj.sharma@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After 20 years of construction work, New Delhi was unveiled to the world in 1931. But the spanking new Capital, with its grand buildings and wide vistas, remained a ghost town for almost a decade.

The older part of the city, on the other hand, was bursting at the seams. Earlier plans to build the new Capital envisaged a harmony between it and the existing city. This idea, however, was junked with the British determinedly cutting off the mingling of the two except for buffer areas like Paharganj and Daryaganj. What was the city before 1911, had become 'walled city' by 1931.

Though the new city had everything chalked out to take care of the needs of an imperial government, it lacked life. This is where Connaught Place came into the picture. Work on Connaught Place,

New Delhi's own Piccadilly Circus, began only in 1929, when all the other major buildings were already taking shape. The complex started gaining popularity during mid-1980s.

The contours of New Delhi also changed with the advent of the Second World War in 1939. New industries came up to cater to the needs of war and with it came migrant labourers. Hutments came up near the Secretariat for war time offices. In mid-1940s, housing for government employees also came up in the Lodhi Colony area.

Independence and Partition acted as a catalyst for Delhi's drastic change. Nearly five lakh refugees poured into the city, which was not prepared for the population explosion. The refugees moved into every inch of available space and took up any work they could find. Despite odds, the Punjabi spirit was indomitable. The enterprising refu-



CENTRAL POINT OF THE NEW CAPITAL

By the 1940s, the reputation of Connaught Place had spread far and wide. It had high-end shops that could give those in European high streets a run for their money. These shops, owned by suave English-speaking owners, sold high quality imported goods and were popular with the royalty, top businessmen and civil servants. PHOTO COURTESY: NDTA

gees boosted trade and once settled, the new residents of Delhi stamped their cultural dominance on the city.

The post-Independence era of 1950s also saw a slew of construction activity. The public buildings and mass housing projects that came up in this period gave shape to the New Delhi we know today.

Apart from the challenge of creating infrastructure for New Delhi's growing needs, there was also a need to create indigenous architecture that would express the progressive ethos of the time. Utilitarian modernism became the template for almost all government buildings built at the time and the acute fund crunch also resulted in the austere facade of these structures.

Post-Independence, the city also witnessed a cultural renaissance thanks to Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, who took a keen interest in promoting Indian classical arts and theatre. The 1950s and '60s inarguably, the defining decades of New Delhi as the cultural Capital of the country, saw the building of several top class auditoriums and art galleries such as Sapru House and Rabindra Bhavan.



CITY'S FIRST GRAND HOTEL

The Imperial was built in the style of downtown hotels in America. It was then the tallest building in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936 at a grand ball in the presence of 15,00 guests. The hotel got its name from Lady Willingdon, who took personal interest in choosing the interiors of the hotel.

PHOTO COURTESY: FAMOUS HOTELS.ORG

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL

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CONCLUDING PART: 1970-2011

TIMELINE
1970-2011

We take a look at the significant events and developments that shaped the Capital city from 1970 to 2011

1970

HALL OF FAME: Chanakya Cinema opens.

1971: Delhi Transport Undertaking taken over by Centre and renamed Delhi Transport Corporation



■ AChanakya Cinema, which was later demolished.
Sanjeev Verma / HT PHOTO

1974

FOR ART'S SAKE: Delhi Urban Arts Commission is set up

1976: Noida is established by Sanjay Gandhi



■ CP's outer circle

1977

THROWN OUT: Coca Cola is thrown out of Delhi and the native Campa Cola starts production.
1878: Palika Bazaar opens

1980

EXHIBIT: Pragati Maidan is built
DEADLY PURSUITS: Sanjay Gandhi dies in a crash in Chanakyaपुरी

100 things essentially
DELHI

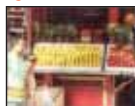
5 FAVOURITE HANGOUTS

- 1 **India Gate lawns** Free entry and fav place for papajis, mamajis
- 2 **Dilli Haat** Handicrafts, cuisines of India under one roof
- 3 **Food courts** Easy on the pocket, offers great variety
- 4 **Connaught Place** Central for everyone in Delhi
- 5 **Local pan shops** Great addas for brainstorming or even for 'bird watching'



5 FAVOURITE DRINKS

- 1 **Banta** Lemon-soda I drink to escape heat
- 2 **Khamba** One whiskey bottle, hic!
- 3 **Shikanji** Sweet-salty drink is a fav
- 4 **Juice** No other metropolitan has juice-culture like Delhi does
- 5 **Machine ka thanda paani** `1 per glass, working classes' favourite water cooler



5 THINGS TO SHOW OFF

- 1 **Pin Code** A south address is chic
- 2 **Cars** The bigger, the better
- 3 **Reading Kalka in Metro** Makes you look intellectual
- 4 **Label of branded clothes** Never mind even if they stick out of the collar of your shirt
- 5 **Where your kids study** study No less than a Modern School or DPS RK Puram would do sir ji.



5 WAYS TO TRAVEL

- 1 **Metro** Favourite mode of transport
- 2 **DTC** Swanky ride, crowd a turn-off
- 3 **Autos** Love to hate drivers, can't do without them either
- 4 **Cars/ motorcycles** Faster and personal, never mind the traffic snarls
- 5 **German seva** CNG-powered, filthy rides out of Delhi urban villages



New Delhi comes of age



CHANGING CONTOURS OF CP

In the 70s, there was a scramble among businesses to acquire a space in Connaught Place. But CP alone could not meet the rising demand for commercial space. So many Lutyens' bungalows on Barakhamba Road and Curzon Road gave way to the city's first high-rises such as Kailash Building, Himalaya House, Kanchenjunga Building and others. By the late '70s, downtown New Delhi had acquired a skyline.

N. THYAGARAJAN/HT.

1982

FIRST BIG OPPORTUNITY: Asian Games are held in Delhi
FOUR-WHEELED WONDER: The first Maruti 800 hits city roads

1984

DELHI'S JOY RIDE: Appu Ghar, city's first amusement park, opens

1986

MONUMENTAL: Lotus temple is inaugurated



■ Palika Bazar,

HT PHOTO.

5 FAVOURITE MARKET

- 1 **Karol Bagh** Ideal shopping Place
- 2 **Kamla Nagar** K. Nags fav for students
- 3 **Lajpat Nagar** Overcrowded but cheap option for Indian wear
- 4 **Sarojini Nagar** College girls flock here for dirt cheap, export surplus clothes
- 5 **Chandni Chowk** Shadi shopping, electronics, books-you name it, Chandni Chowk has it.



5 BEST PLACES FOR FAKES

- 1 **Palika** CDs, fake pen drives, watches...
- 2 **Janpath** Fake banded clothes
- 3 **Gaffar Market** Cell phones found even if they are not launched in India
- 4 **Lajpat Rai Market** Extremely popular with electronics goods enthusiasts
- 5 **Sarojini Nagar** Again, a great option for inexpensive clothes



5 DELHI SHORT FORMS

- 1 **CP** Short and sweet, everyone knows it
- 2 **SN** Sarojini Nagar's hip name
- 3 **Auto** May not be automatic
- 4 **KLPD** We don't use unparliamentary language in this paper
- 5 **Medical** For the uninitiated and the elite who do not travel by buses, it stands for AIIMS



5 FAVOURITE LANDMARKS

- 1 **Mother dairy** Every area has one, never goes unnoticed
- 2 **Mandir** Not just a place to worship
- 3 **Metro pillars** Changed the way we search for address
- 4 **Aggarwal sweets** Old-fashioned but works fine
- 5 **Roundabout** Classic way of describing address- next lane on right after gol chakkar



5 FAVOURITE PASTIMES

- 1 **Eating peanuts** Winters, peanuts go hand in hand
- 2 **Window shopping** No gender bias, this
- 3 **Playing cards** Everybody loves them
- 4 **Knitting sweaters** Keep you warm and time to gossip in the sun
- 5 **Ogling** Boys do it openly but girls area bit discreet



5 THINGS TO IDENTIFY WITH

- 1 **Jagrans** They keep you awake all night
- 2 **Free passes** We all love free entries
- 3 **Hanging out of DTC bus** Overcrowded buses. No problem ji
- 4 **Haggling with auto driver** Bargaining never hurts. Plus they don't charge by meter anyway
- 5 **Dropping names** The Capital loves its powerful people and the advantages they come with.



MODERN AND HAPPENING

It was only in the 1970s that the Capital settled down and acquired a character. South Delhi emerged, Asian Games changed the city and then satellite towns such as Gurgaon and Noida took the pressure off the Capital

Sidhartha Roy and Manoj Sharma
■ manoj.sharma@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Partition and the influx of refugees changed the contours and demography of New Delhi. It was during 1950s and 60s when several housing, institutional and public buildings came up in a city that was still grappling with the huge burden put on it.

It was only by the 1970s that the Capital settled down and south Delhi truly came into its own. Areas like Hauz Khas, Green Park and South Extension came up at this time. The markets in South Extension and Greater Kailash had a more modern look and were patronised by the ever increasing populace of south Delhi.

Many people, who were

residing in the walled city till then, also moved into newly developed areas like Greater Kailash I and II and Safdarjung Enclave.

It was the ninth Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982 that almost brought the Capital into the 21st century. The landmark event changed the city's landscape and skyline. In the run-up to the 16-day event, New Delhi saw the construction of modern flyovers, wide roads and state-of-the-art stadiums that propelled the city's growth by a decade. The Games also brought colour televisions into Indian drawing rooms.

With its ever increasing population and expanding boundaries, the Centre decided to gift Delhi the status of state-hood. Delhi got its own legislative assembly and its first elected government was

chosen in 1993. Delhi, however, still has a multiplicity of authorities and the fight for full statehood continues.

The 1980s and 90s also saw the emergence of satellite towns like Noida and Gurgaon. In the next few decades, these two suburbs would not only absorb the pressure on Delhi's infrastructure but also come into their own. While the city kept expanding going beyond its boundaries, it was the Delhi Metro that integrated Delhi-NCR. Starting with a small corridor in 2002, the Metro now has a network of 190 kms and growing.

From being rocky, barren piece of land in 1911, a ghost town in the 1930s and a staid and sarkari city till the 1950s, New Delhi has today become a buzzing town with its gleaming Metro, glitzy malls and

multiplexes as well as grand hotels and restaurants.

DELHI'S FIRST BIG EVENT: ASIAN GAMES

In the 1970s, South Extension became one of the most happening places of the Capital. It had garment shops, bookshops and restaurants which were different from those in Connaught Place in terms of window display and interiors, which had a modern look. Even GK-I's M-block market boasted of shops and restaurants that had a huge list of patrons.
KK CHAWLA/HT PHOTO



DELHI'S FIRST BIG EVENT: ASIAN GAMES

The Ninth Asian Games, held in the Capital in 1982, were a landmark event that changed the city's landscape and skyline. In the run-up to the 16-day event, the Capital saw the construction of flyovers, wide roads and state-of-the-art stadiums. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, was the main venue, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

SN SINHA/HT PHOTO



THE CAPITAL'S OFFICIAL RIDE

Before 1971, buses run by the Delhi Transport Undertaking (DTU) formed the backbone of the city's public transport system. But DTU, part of the MCD, did not ensure a smooth ride. So, in 1971 DTU was incorporated and rechristened Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). The Central government took over its assets and liabilities. It was taken over by the Delhi government in August 1996.

VIRENDRA PRABHAKAR/HT PHOTO

QUICK RECAP



new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL



■ Appu Ghar

HT PHOTO

1990

CASTE SYSTEM: Mandal Commission protests rock Delhi.**1991:** Delhi Legislative Assembly Act passed, followed by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act.**1992:** Redlines operate in Delhi for the first time.

1993

STATEHOOD Delhi gets a legislative assembly.**1994:** Dilli Haat is started.

■ An overcrowded DTC bus.

1997

THEATRICALS: Country's first multiplex PVR Anupam opens.**1998:** Construction of Delhi Metro begins.**1998:** Onion prices hit ₹60 a kilogram, widely held as the reason for the collapse of the BJP govt. Sheila Dikshit-led govt comes to power.

1961

IN MOTION: India's first 70 mm theatre, Sheila, opens.**1962:** Delhi's gets its first master plan.100 things essentially
DELHI

5 DELHI MONUMENTS

- 1 **Qutub Minar** Enduring sign of everything Delhi
- 2 **Red Fort** Ignites a patriotic fervour
- 3 **India Gate** Mark of honour and sacrifice
- 4 **Jantar Mantar** Hotspot for demonstration
- 5 **Lotus Temple** An architectural marvel, it represents a confluence of all religions.



5 THINGS WE LIKE TO EAT

- 1 **Chholey bhaturey** It's everyone's lunch
- 2 **Gol gappey** The spicier, the merrier.
- 3 **Chaat** A riot of a dish
- 4 **Butter chicken** It's finger lickin' good
- 5 **Rajma chawal** A delhite's staple diet. We were born to eat



5 THINGS NO MORE THERE

- 1 **Phatphati** And when they plied, they crawled.
- 2 **Trams** Err... Were they there? In old Delhi.
- 3 **Tehzeeb** The Delhiite has no manners
- 4 **Chor Bazaar** Has now permanently shifted to palika Bazar
- 5 **Double decker buses** Have now turned into plastic toys.



5 THINGS DELHI NEEDS

- 1 **Civic sense** people, this is not your spittoon.
- 2 **Women's safety** Need we say more?
- 3 **Heart** Feel for Delhi, it's your home after all
- 4 **Chivalrous men** No we don't want to make friendship with you.
- 5 **Culture** Let's bring back the mellifluous Qawwali and Hindustani Classical days back



METRO-POLITAN CITY

Delhi Metro, which started its journey in 2002, not just changed the way Delhiites commute, but also became a symbol of the city's march into the future. Earlier this city also got the sleeker Airport Express Metro, which connects the swanky Terminal 3 of IGI Airport to the heart of the city.

HT PHOTO



REVV AND ZOOM

Inaugural Indian F1 Grand Prix held in Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida was a grand success. It was a defining moment in Indian motor sport and proved India has the ability to host a major sporting event. The venue had a capacity of more than 1,00,000, and there were hardly any seats empty.

HT PHOTO



1964

CALLING CARD: Number of telephone lines in Delhi crosses 50,000 mark

1966

DEVELOPMENT: Delhi Metropolitan Council is established.**MARKET:** Super Bazaar, the first supermarket in the country, opens near Connaught Place.

1969

NEWEST ENTRANT: Nirula's pipes out the first softie from an automatic machine.**EXPANDING CITY:** Hauz Khas, Green Park and South Extension are developed by DLF Group.**UNIVERSITY:** Jawaharlal Nehru University is established

■ TV Tower in Pitampura, N-W Delhi.

THE SMALL BIG CAR

Harpal Singh and Gulshanbeer Kaur of Delhi became the first proud owners of the first Maruti 800 car in 1983. The couple bought the car for ₹47,500 and its keys were handed to them by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Maruti 800 fuelled a car revolution in the country and became a symbol of status for the Indian middle class in the 1980s.

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL



CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE

PVR Anupam in Saket was the first multiplex of the country. It was launched in June 1997 as joint venture between Priya Exhibitors Private Limited and Village Roadshow Limited. A whole new cinema-viewing experience, it was an instant hit with Delhites and can be credited with starting a multiplex revolution in the country.

HT PHOTO

5 THINGS WE CARRY

- 1 **Panni** Give us the damn poly bag
- 2 **Metro Smart Card** Car Keys are passe
- 3 **Visiting card** Preferably with Ashok Stambh
- 4 **Comb in back pocket** No one likes 'I've emerged from a tornado' look.
- 5 **Gold chain** Ideally four. We carry on Bappi Lahiri's legacy.



5 THINGS WE AVOID

- 1 **Traffic jams** "Yaar abhi to bahut jaam hoga."
- 2 **Going to police station** Thaane ke chahhar laga ke lag gayi hai.
- 3 **Standing in a queue** "Arre? Itti lambi line?"
- 4 **Paying challan** "Kuch le-de ke ho sakta hai kya?"
- 5 **Get caught drinking in your car** "kya scene sir? 'Caro-bar' karne chalein?"



5 TYPICAL DELHI HABITS

- 1 **Urinating** On every wall, tree, corner
- 2 **Honking** As often as using brakes
- 3 **Parking anywhere** Sapce crunch, you see
- 4 **Adjust kar lo** Metro, bus, or office, anywhere.....
- 5 **Abusing** Using the choicest of words, and the weirdest of sexual fantasies



DELHI GETS A FACELIFT

After seven years of planning and controversies, the CWG event took place in October last year with a grand opening ceremony that was witnessed by millions. The star attraction of the spectacular ceremony that mesmerized the world was the '50 crore helium balloon. The opening ceremony helped repair some of the damage caused by controversies in the build-up to the Games.

HT PHOTO

MORE ON THE WEB

hindustantimes.com/newdelhi100

5 PLACES TO EAT

- 1 **Bangla sahib ka kada prasad** With lots of ghee
- 2 **Pandara road** Expensive though expansive
- 3 **Karim's (Jama Masjid)** Tall though tiny
- 4 **Prabhu ki chaat, UPSC** Prepared by God's own cooks
- 5 **Paranthey waali gali** Everything tastes good



5 FAVOURITE LOVE SPOTS

- 1 **Buddha Jayanti park** Bliss with your lover
- 2 **Nehru Park** Nice place- in winter
- 3 **Metro stations** Not so busy ones, mind you.
- 4 **Kamala Nehru Ridge** From one generation of DU lovers to the other.
- 5 **Safdarjung Tomb** Has its own parking and tickets. Cool place to 'officially' hang cut at



5 DELHI TERMS

- 1 **Thulla** A term for anyone in Khaki.
- 2 **Abey oye** Version of 'Your attention please'
- 3 **Bhaiyyaji** Girlspeak for just about anyone
- 4 **Tu jaanta nahi hai mai kaun hoon?** Enough said
- 5 **Jugaad** From F1 ticket to even fixing your leaking tap, there's a fix for everything



Delhi celebrates its centenary year

This year Delhi celebrates its centenary year as the capital of India. Since it came into existence the city has been the centre stage of politics, economics, sports, art & culture, etc and has grown to be a cosmopolitan metropolis.

On December 12, 1911 Britain's King George V declared Delhi as India's new capital, replacing Calcutta (now Kolkata), at a gathering of British and Indian royalty. Hundred years have passed since and this year Delhi celebrates its centenary year as the capital of India. Since it came into existence the city has been the centre stage of politics, economics, sports, art and culture, etc and has grown to be a cosmopolitan metropolis.

However, converting Delhi into India's new imperial capital was a challenging task. The planning and building of a new Delhi in the aftermath of the 1911 announcement, and the character of plan-ning for Delhi after indepedence; the role of India's rulers in the evolution of modern Delhi; and the ways in which such political masters either neglected or enhanced the heritage character of the city has been a point of debate.

To begin with, building the new city took some 20 years. By 1912 the architects who designed New Delhi — Edwin Landseer Lutyens and his old friend Herbert Baker as his collaborator — too had been commissioned. Due to its unique landscape the Raisina hill became the preferred location for the construction of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On December 15, 1911 King George V and Queen Mary laid the foundation stone for New Delhi at Kingsway Camp,



Coronation Park. In 1931 New Delhi was formally inaugurated by British India's Governor-General Lord Irwin. Most of New Delhi's major structures were completed, including Rashtrapati Bhavan or the Presidential Palace, the All India War Memorial, now called India Gate and retail center Connaught Place.

On the eve of India's Independence, towards midnight of August 14, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India addressed the nation with his famous speech Tryst with Destiny. Nehru hoisted the tricolour at Red Fort on August 15, 1947 the day India gained Independence.

The partition of India and Pakistan, finalised in the Indian Independence Act, led to an influx of migrants to the city, especially from Sindh and Punjab regions of Pakistan.

In 1956 New Delhi was given the status of a Union Territory. In 1957 Delhi Development Authority while in 1958 the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was set up as the local administrative bodies.

In 1982 the city got international recognition for hosting Asian Games.

The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the

Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Act gave Delhi its own legislative assembly, though with limited powers

Known to have several historical mon-uments Delhi added another feather in its cap in 1993 when Humayun's Tomb became the first monument in the city to be declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. Delhi also boasted two other world heritage sites: the Red Fort and the Qutub Minar complex.

The first line of the Delhi Metro was inaugurated by Atal Behari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India on December 24, 2002.

The Commonwealth Games held in the national capital in October 2010 gave the city a rapid makeover with the widening of roads, the construction of a number of flyovers, the opening of a new airport, among other improvements.

In spite of so many highs and lows Delhi continues to attract people from ail over the world and remains the dream destination for those who want to make big in life. In layman's language Delhi loves to be tagged as 'Dilli Dilwalon Ki'.

new delhi 100

CENTENARY OF THE CAPITAL



■ The five panelists - (from left) AGK Menon, Pavan K Varma, Sheila Dikshit, moderator Pankaj Vohra, Mark Tully and OP Jain - during the discussion at the Conclave on Thursday.
SANJEEV VERMA/ HT PHOTO

No full stops in Delhi: CM

HT NEW DELHI 100 CONCLAVE Sheila Dikshit says that despite all the constraints, Delhi has managed to grow

NEW DELHI: According to Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, Delhi is one of the most comfortable cities to live in despite its burgeoning population and pressure on amenities such as road, water, power and transport.

"It is a mini India. People from all over the country come and live here. Every body wants a small place here. Jo yahan aata hai woh wapass nahi jana chahta hai" said the three-time chief minister of Delhi. "It is a modern and a heritage city at the same time,"

Dikshit said at the Conclave organised by Hindustan Times to celebrate 100 years of New Delhi. Dikshit also added that despite many challenges in wake of limited space — which is a huge limitation for Delhi — and the lack of its own natural resources, Delhi

has managed to grow.

"Despite limited space, Delhi has not gone high-rise. We have space on ground and we don't feel claustrophobic. With active participation of people we are one of the greenest cities. With 192km of Metro and modern low floor buses, Delhi is constantly adapting," she said.

"There are no full stops. You have to go on and on to meet the challenges of Delhi. We have to grow," Dikshit added. "I want people to exclaim with wonder when they see Delhi. It will happen only when we are able to put smiles on the face of everyone who comes here," she said. Dikshit, however, accepted that traffic and health are some of the bigger challenges the city is facing.

With the expansion of the na-



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■ Executive Director, HT Media Ltd, Benoy Roychowdhury presents Sheila Dikshit a picture of her younger days.
RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

tional capital region (NCR) and seamless movement of people between Delhi and satellite towns, Dikshit said the NCR should be one common economic zone. "The

NCR board is a toothless body. We need to take decisions on development quickly and decisively. There is a dire need to give back to the city that has

nurtured so many" she said.

With trifurcation of MCD, Dikshit said the government

will be able to administer the city better. "After municipal elections in April next year, the

people of Delhi will witness a sea change in municipal administration," she said. Divya

Jaitley was the emcee of the event.

 5 Key issues	 Pavan K Varma Author and India's ambassador to Bhutan	 OP Jain Founder of Sanskriti foundation, a cultural organisation	 Mark Tully Author and former New Delhi Bureau Chief of BBC	 AGK Menon Noted architect and conservation consultant
1 Is vertical the way to go for Delhi	A holistic view of the city needs to be taken. We need to ensure that just one part of it - the NDMC area - does not end up as its pampered core.	Yes, but it has to be planned properly. Take Dwarka as a good example of the vertical growth. So we can go vertical but without killing open space.	Yes, to some extent. But we need to ensure that whatever we do for development does not get in the way of the beauty of Delhi, its history and culture.	It's a bad idea. It will kill the breathing space. Why do we need high-rises when we can absorb people by building well planned low-rises?
2 How can we ensure that urbanisation and heritage go hand-in hand?	If we forget the past, we can never plan effectively for future. This problem can be addressed only when 'municipal apartheid' ends. There are too many agencies.	Delhi can't function without urbanisation but not at the cost of heritage. We have to urbanise the city around heritage, not over it.	Delhi's heritage should be given space to breathe freely. Their environmental attributes need to be preserved. A shift from the city's 'car culture' is warranted.	Heritage is as important as urbanisation. We can't overlook it. We must expand the city, but we should also try to get Delhi the status of a world heritage city.
3 What needs to be done to bridge the gap between Delhi and NCR?	The need of the hour is uniformity in administration. Delhi goes beyond Lutyens' Delhi. Those at its peripheries need to identify with it too.	All three governments - Delhi, Haryana and UP - have to be on the same page. We can't have different policies for Noida and Gurgaon and Delhi.	A beginning has already been made in the form of the Metro, but more needs to be done. A suburban railway system needs to be encouraged.	We need to have everyone on board first. Today, Noida follows a different policy and Faridabad something else. Satellite towns have to grow accordingly.
4 How do we inculcate a sense of belonging among Delhiites?	There is a feeling that step-motherly treatment is meted out to those residing in its extremities. We need to encourage a feeling of greater ownership among them.	We all come from different states and it takes time to adjust. The idea is to make people feel they are a part of Delhi. That can be done through culture and heritage.	There's been a massive expansion in Delhi's cultural activities, in which people can participate for free, and a lot of internationalisation of its culture along with India's.	For that we need to link Delhi with its heritage. Today, a Delhiite relates himself to almost everything Delhi, but heritage. We all are stakeholders in the Capital.
5 How do we deal with the vast, unplanned component of Delhi's population?	Delhi is nothing but a collection of postal addresses. Those at its peripheries need to be made to feel as much a part of it as possible.	If Metro could happen to Delhi, we can do a lot to make it a better city. The unplanned parts could be developed by providing better amenities.	Delhi is far better in terms of migration than other cities. While we need to ensure each of its residents is happy, the same needs to be ensured for all Indians.	Nothing is unplanned. The only difference is that some areas were planned and other came up organically. We need to have a better framework.

Life and times in Delhi

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: New Delhi has completed 100 years as the Capital of India. To commemorate this occasion, Hindustan Times had launched a special editorial series in January this year.

Moreover, HT has now come out with a special coffee table book, 'New Delhi 100: Centenary of the Capital, 1911-2011'. The book has been brought out in collaboration with Delhi Tourism.

The coffee table book was

unveiled by Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit at the New Delhi 100 Conclave on Thursday.

The book was presented to her by Editor-in-Chief of Hindustan Times Sanjoy Narayan. The book incorporates parts of the New Delhi 100 series published in the past one year, and more. It aims not only at chronicling the history of the Capital but to also inform, celebrate and

engage Delhiites with their shared history.



■ Cover of 'New Delhi 100: Centenary of the Capital'.

The book has been divided into 10 chapters, each chapter exploring the 10 decades between 1911 and 2011. From the Delhi Durbar of 1911, where shifting of the capital from Calcutta to

Delhi was announced, to the rise of a new Capital from the rocks and rubble of Raisina Hills; from the tremors of

Partition to its emergence as a mega metropolis in the 21st century — the book captures New Delhi's story in lucid language and dazzling pictures. Between its covers, the book showcases an array of brilliant pictures, many of them not published before. The pictures have been painstakingly sourced from HT archives, government archives and even private collections.

Each chapter of the book has interesting anecdotes and a page dedicated to highlights of the decade.

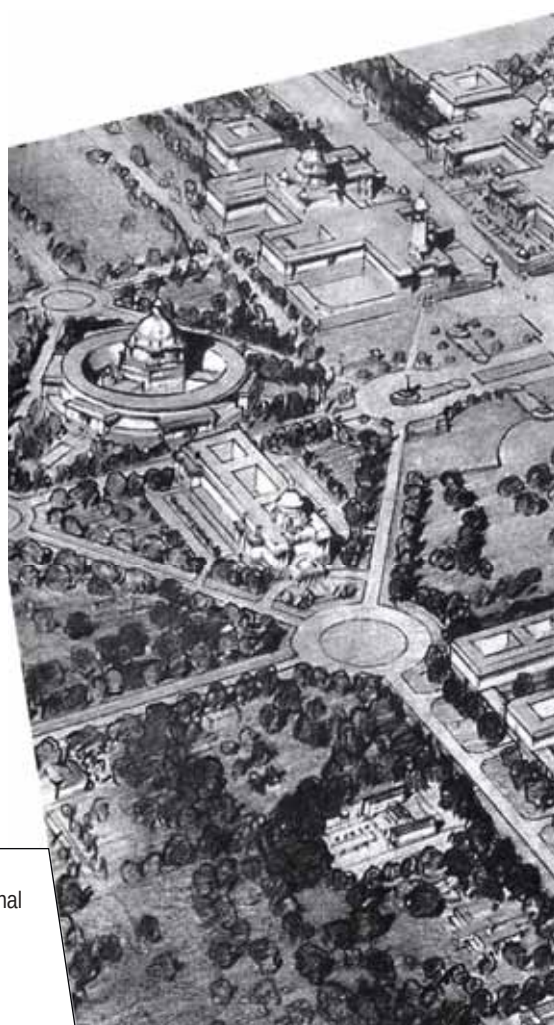


■ Delhi lost many people in the communal riots that followed the Partition. Many Muslim families migrated to a totally unfamiliar landscape and thousands poured in, seeking refuge.

AP PHOTO

■ (Right) A drawing rendering of an 'aerial perspective of the proposal' and Lutyens' hexagonal plan for the new Capital.

CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE: MEDD COLLECTIONS



the next

Anna Effect ▼

Ayodhya Film Festival ▼

Football Season ▼

7
DAYS

The government, that is anxious to blunt **ANNA HAZARE'S ANTI-GRAFT CAMPAIGN**, has decided to introduce the Lokpal Bill in Lok Sabha on Tuesday



On the death anniversary of freedom fighter **ASHFAQULLAH KHAN**, a three-day film festival will begin in Faizabad-Ayodhya on Monday



The ball has started rolling for a season of football at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi. The national football league, **I-League**, will kick off on Friday

Cool gadget ▼



Lumia 800 is hitting the markets this week. Result of Nokia's partnership with Microsoft, the phone is

an attempt by the two companies to wrest back some mojo from iPhone and Android

Sound Track ▼



The audio of Tamil flick '3', which has generated tremendous hype with the track **KOLAVERI DI**, crooned

by actor Dhanush, will be released on Friday at a grand function in Chennai

Atul Sethi | TNN

The headquarter of the Archaeo-logical Survey of India (ASI) — on New Delhi's Janpath — is buzzing with activity. The organisation, which has the mandate of protecting the country's vast archaeological heritage, is preparing to celebrate 150 years of its existence. A string of events starting December 20 have been planned. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will inaugurate the celebrations that'll include international conferences, lectures by distinguished archaeologists and outreach programmes.

The man coordinating the celebrations, the agency's director general Gautam Sengupta, says he is excited at the prospect of taking the ASI to the next phase. But he's also aware of the monumental challenges he faces (see interview), which are many.

Even after a century-and-a-half of its existence, the ASI has struggled to live up to the premise on which it was started. Instead of emerging as an organisation of excellence that sets world standards in preserving and showcasing India's rich historical past, it has functioned as yet another sarkari department, caught in bu-reaucratic sluggishness and operating at an antiquated pace.

"ASI's biggest problem is bad management," says OP Jain, convener of the Indian

A FUTURE for the PAST



Anindya Chattopadhyay

National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)



IN SAFE HANDS? A damaged structural panel at an ASI-protected site in Karnataka, depicting Ashoka with his two wives

and founder of the Delhi-based Sanskriti Foundation. "It doesn't run like a professional organization, with clear goals and accountability. There's little initiative to get things done, since it would mean more work, which nobody wants to do."

It's not as if the ASI isn't aware of its problems. It admitted its shortcomings to a committee set up by the PM under the chairmanship of former Union law minister Veerappa Moily. The biggest issue, it claimed, was manpower, pointing out that its current staff strength does not permit deployment of even a single person on fulltime basis at more than two-thirds of

On Tuesday, the Prime Minister will kickstart the 150 year celebrations of the Archaeological Survey of India. As the custodian of the country's heritage gets set to enter a new phase, Sunday Times tracks the challenges it faces

its monuments. With 3,676 monuments under its care, this means that virtually 75% of its monuments are unguarded. In order to augment its manpower, the agency told the committee, it will need to create additional posts of 10,000 monument attendants.

Hiring this additional manpower would mean an expense of a few hundred crores. Then there's need for specialists—apart from the attendants—who can help in conservation.

But would merely getting in additional staff solve the agency's problems? Chances are that they might simply end up as a burden on the exchequer unless they are trained properly and develop a love for heritage. For instance, when Sunday Times visited the Rani Kamalapati Mahal in Bhopal recently, the scant disregard for the monument was evident even as there were plenty of workers and ASI staff. The top two floors of the 18th century palace was a makeshift home for the workers, while the rest of what was earlier a seven-storeyed structure was a bath and wash

area.

Historian Nayanjot Lahiri, a member of the Moily committee, says the ASI's record in preservation and conservation is far from inspiring. She cites the instance of the Buddhist stupa site at Kanganahalli in Karnataka as a case in point. "The state of the conservation here makes one cry. This is a site where the sculptures of Ashoka are of the highest quality but they have been kept in a pathetic state."

It's not as if the agency is not capable of doing good work in restoration. Heritage management consultant Amita Baig points out several cases where the ASI has done a world-class job. "One only has to look at archival pictures to see the appalling state of most of our heritage, when the ASI came into existence. They have done seminal work in bringing these back from the edge of extinction," she says.

But over the past few decades, battling its myriad problems seems to have taken its toll. According to the ASI's own submission last year, 249

of its protected monuments were encroached or physically occupied by squatters. At Chennai's Fort St George, for instance—the first British settlement in India—the agency has been struggling for years to secure the fortress and clear traders who have set up shops tucked into the inner walls.

Training and staff morale are other major issues. An archaeologist working with the agency says there aren't enough avenues for in-house training. Also, promotions are sporadic. "The career path within the ASI is not clearly defined, which often leads to loss of enthusiasm among promising archaeologists," says KN Dikshit of the Indian Archaeological Society.

Morale is also low at the ASI's Institute of Archaeology once considered a premier centre for learning the craft. "The quality of the faculty as well as students graduating from it have gone down considerably," points out Jain.

Sengupta says he is aware the agency needs to invest in its manpower urgently and

HISTORY KEEPER

ASI is the world's biggest state-run archaeology body

- It functions under Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- It takes care of 3,676 monuments spread across 24 circles within the country
- 116 of its monuments are ticketed
- It earned Rs 87.8 crore in ticket sales last year

also reach out to people more in order to showcase their work—an area where they have been woefully inadequate. But many feel that good intentions should be followed up with a time-bound action plan. "Being the largest government organisation doing archaeology anywhere in the world, the ASI is an important part of the country," says Lahiri. "What it needs is less celebration and more introspection. It needs a route map to rejuvenate the legacy it seems largely to have abandoned."

atul.sethi@timesgroup.com

With reports from Sandhya Soman in Chennai, and Jamal Ayub in Bhopal

'Encroachment of monuments is a law & order issue'

The first professional archaeologist to head ASI after almost 17 years of bureaucrats at its helm, Gau-tarn Sengupta, who took charge as DG in 2010, talks about the roadmap ahead with Atul Sethi

Lack of sufficient manpower is often cited by the ASI as the reason it's not able to function to its optimum. How is it being addressed?

We are in the process of augmenting that. The government has sanctioned senior-level positions as well as posts of monument attendants. But we also want to promote people from within the organisation so that there is vertical mobility at all levels. A number of monuments have been encroached. There are allegations that the ASI simply turns a blind eye to it. That's not true. Encroachment is a very serious matter for us. The ASI is greatly concerned that

heritage structures are protected, but ultimately encroachment is a law and order issue. The support of law enforcement agencies - police, district administration etc, is required.

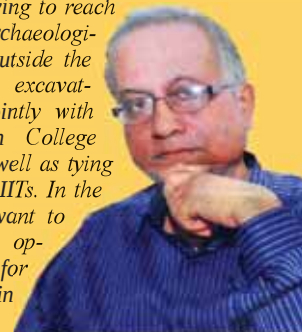
The ASI is perceived as bang too slow. Excavation reports like the Harappan site of Dholavira have not been published. There is also no update on when a database of India's monuments will be made available by the National Mission that was set up for this purpose.

I am aware of the backlog. But much of it will be cleared during the 150-year celebrations. Many excavation reports are being released during this time. We've also revived our prestigious journal *Ancient India* after 40 years. As for the National database of monuments, it is an ongoing exercise. There is no date fixed for its completion, since nobody knows the range

of data yet. There are thousands of monuments spread across the country. Collating them is a huge task.

What is your focus currently?

My immediate priority is to increase the professional content of the organisation. In this process, I'm trying to reach out to the archaeological world outside the ASI. We're excavating sites jointly with the Deccan College in Pune as well as tying up with the IITs. In the process, I want to create more opportunities for people within the ASI.



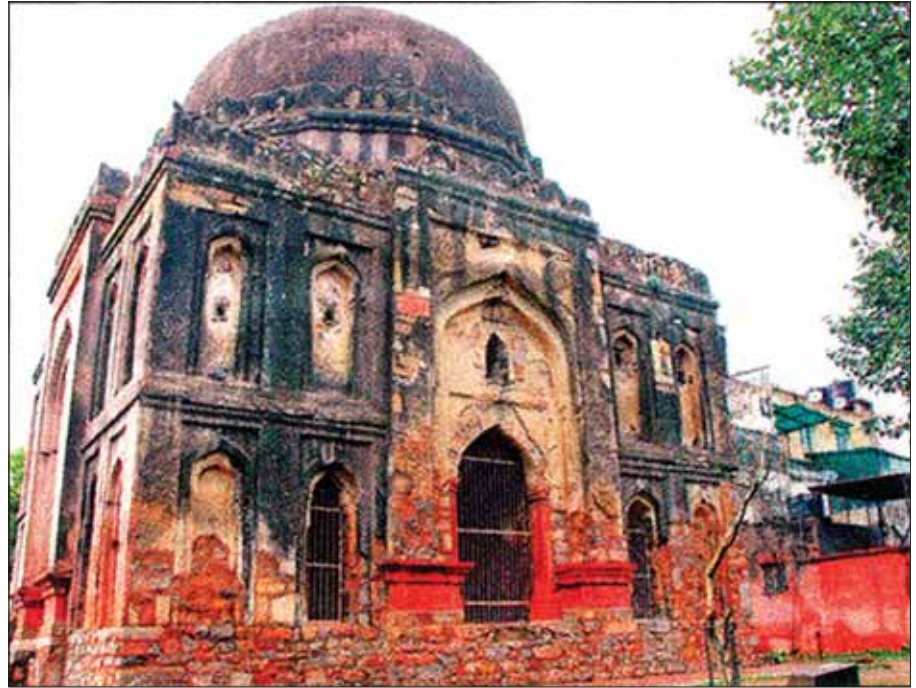
Repair nod: Hope floats for houses in heritage zone

Richi Verma | TNN

New Delhi: People living close to centrally protected monuments in the city can heave a sigh a relief as the newly formed National Monuments Authority (NMA) has begun issuing no-objection certificates on pending applications. The applications for minor repairs have been taken up on priority and culture ministry sources said about a dozen NOCs have been issued.

It has been a long wait for people who live within 300m of the protected monuments after the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010, was passed in March last year. According to it, permissions for any kind of constructions — minor or major — within 300m of a monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) umbrella can come only from the proposed NMA. The law had stripped ASI of any such authority leaving residents of such houses with no other option but to wait for setting up of NMA.

“Two part-time and one-full time members were appointed last month and along with the member-secretary the functioning of NMA started in November. A number of applications are awaiting approval with NMA from all over the country. Public projects apart, the number of applications where people



END OF WAIT: NMA has issued a dozen NOCs since it was set up in Nov

urgently need to make repairs in residential houses falling in a prohibited or regulated zone were also growing. There were instances where some people had rented accommodations elsewhere till they got an NOC from NMA. Such cases are being taken up on priority” said a source.

ASI stopped issuing NOCs from January 23, 2010, and the delay in setting up

of NMA had given rise to cases of unauthorized constructions. ASI sources said on an average, they received one complaint of unauthorized constructions daily. “In a growing urban city like Delhi, people living in areas like South Ex, Hauz Khas, Panchsheel have been affected as they live close to a protected monument,” said an official.

WHEN THE STATE MEETS RELIGION

Deities and religious forces provide providentially dependable supports: so also do religious functionaries



ANTHONY GIDDENS

Akbar's ideas remain relevant...they suggest the need for scrutiny of the fear of multiculturalism'



AMARTYA SEN

When India is said to be a secular state, it does not mean that we as a people reject the relevance of religion to life. It means that the State protects and respects all faiths...



DR S RADHAKRISHNAN

I do not expect India of my dreams to develop one religion that is to be wholly Hindu or wholly Christian or wholly Mussalman, but I want it to be wholly tolerant, with its religions working side by side with one another



M K GANDHI

Whatever introduces genuine perspective into piecemeal and shifting episodes of existence... any activity pursued on behalf of an ideal end against obstacles, and in spite of threats of personal loss, because of conviction of its enduring value is religion in quality



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Nehru is prepared to be "a humble camp-follower of religion" in this sense

FLASHBACK

Nehru and secularism

Initially, Jawaharlal Nehru seemed to believe that secularism meant indifference to religion. Soon, he realized this model might not work for India and defined secularism as equal protection to all religions by the state. The state would provide equal respect to all faiths. The key thing was being even-handed

The Somnath episode

An early challenge to secularism involved reconstruction of Gujarat's Somnath temple

- ▶ Sardar Patel, as dy PM, pledged Centre would rebuild the temple
- ▶ The Cabinet, presided over by Nehru, decided to rebuild it at govt cost

- ▶ Gandhi told Patel money should be collected from the people for this
- ▶ President Rajendra Prasad installed the deity on May 11, 1951

Khilafat & Congress

- ▶ In 1920, Congress under Gandhi joined the Khilafat stir, a pan-Islamic agitation to protect the Ottoman Empire
- ▶ Muslim leaders and Gandhi joined hands
- ▶ They launched a Non-cooperation movement - a nationwide campaign of mass, peaceful civil disobedience
- ▶ This sealed a Hindu-Muslim bond

Who's Afraid of Swami & Friends?

REACH OUT MANTRA | As the political atmosphere vitiates and the Congress is accused of arrogance and exclusion, multiculturalism could bring the party closer to a large and influential section of opinion

Srijana Mitra Das | TNN

Look around you. The world is shaking with indignation. Across nations, classes, religions and ethnic groups are quivering with anger over being denied a, fair share in the pie or—sometimes more grievous—not being adequately heal'd. Novel, surprising methods of protest are emerging each day From monks immolating themselves to students occupying streets, sects spewing virtual hatred to governments banning billowy burqas, bombs delivered like flowers to embassies or dropping out of friendly skies — these are volatile times, filled with violence but offering promise. The last emanates from a philosophy that looks inwards and reaches outward. This is 'multiculturalism', a political embrace of opposites, a strategic celebration of difference.

Sensing the dangers of other paths, political parties in the West have begun following precisely this. But India's largest and oldest political formation, the Congress, remains resistant

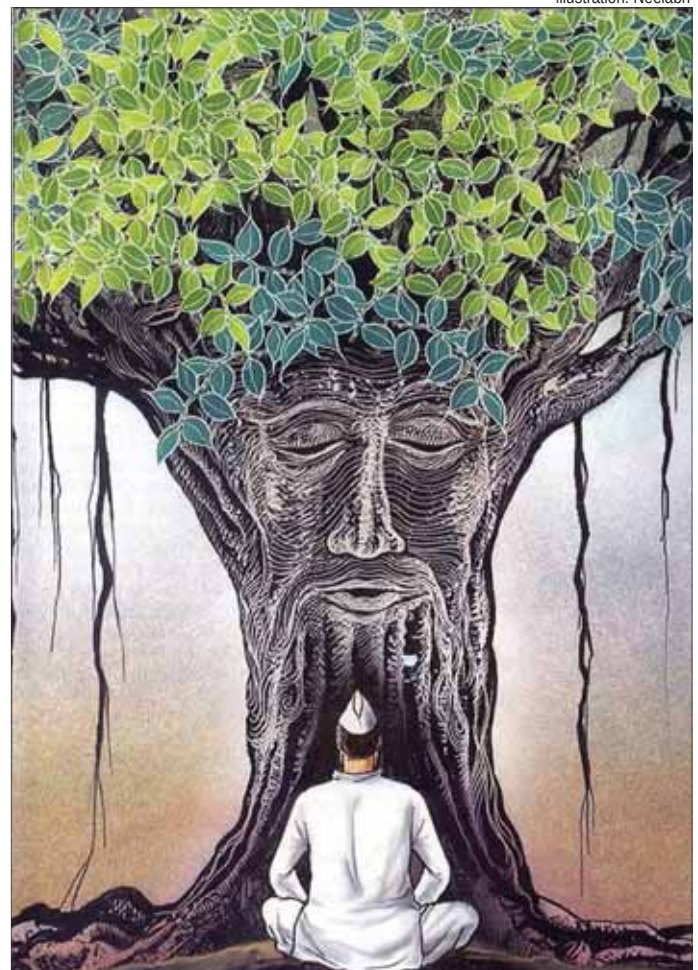


Illustration: Neelabh

to its multicultural moment — side-stepping great advan-

FLASHBACK

Gandhi and Anandamayi Ma

- ▶ Anandamayi Ma met Gandhi at his Sevagram Ashram
 - ▶ Gandhi addressed her as Mataji while Anandamayi Ma addressed him as Pitaji
 - ▶ Gandhi took her in his arms like a child and she buried her face in his chest
 - ▶ Among her devotees later were Kamala Nehru and Indira Gandhi
- Rajiv-Longowal Accord**
- ▶ Rajiv Gandhi began talks with Akalis believing it would solve the Punjab problem
 - ▶ In 1985, Rajiv signed the Punjab Accord with Sant Longowal, a religious figure and Akali Dal chief
 - ▶ The government concerned many Akali demands
 - ▶ Ban on Sikh Students' Federation lifted
 - ▶ It was decided that polls would be held
 - ▶ The day Longowal announced Akalis would join the polls, he was assassinated

The Babri Masjid dispute

- ▶ Sankaracharya of the Kanchi Math was involved in the dispute
- ▶ PV Narasimha Rao drafted him as a negotiator with Muslim groups

The Deoraha Baba

- ▶ Holy man who lived in Deoria on a tree settled on the bank of the Saryu
- ▶ He blessed devotees with his feet
- ▶ He never ate and said he had emerged from water
- ▶ President Rajendra Prasad was a devotee
- ▶ Rajiv Gandhi too was blessed by him
- ▶ Arjun Singh was also a devotee

tages. A Parsi tale elucidates: When they first arrived from Iran in the eighth century, their ship sailing into the western port of Sanjan ruled by king Jadhav Rana. the Parsis were not welcomed. Kept anchored, their vessel nudged about by Sanjan's waves, Jadhav finally sent the Parsis a glass of milk full to the brim. The message was clear: There was no space for them. But the Parsis' spiritual leader returned the glass — having added sugar. His

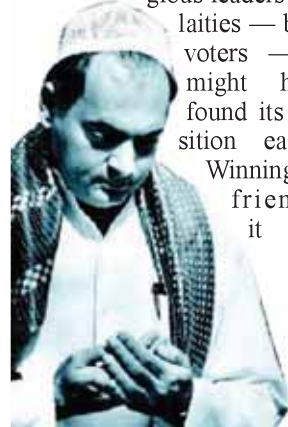
SPIRITUAL LEADERS TODAY ARE MARKEDLY INCLUSIVE, ADVOCATING NORMAL LIVES AND OFTEN LEADING THE BATTLE AGAINST ISSUES SUCH AS CORRUPTION AND INJUSTICE

message: We won't disturb your population, but we will sweeten your lives.

This communication holds true today of the relationship the Congress shares with those it considers its opposites — spiritual groups and their leaders. If it wishes to sweeten its own political life when this is getting noticeably sour — and possibly gain an edge over rivals snapping at its heels — the Congress could avail of multiculturalism and reach out to those at distant poles. The party is no stranger to this practice, having once been the 'banyan tree' of Indian politics, giving shade to all and sundry' listening, absorbing, respecting. From those broader-minded days to now, when the Congress incorrectly positions multiculturalism against secularism, it is evident the party has forgotten its past. Instead of growing more expansive with age, it has grown narrower, failing to gauge the country's changing moods. This is harming the Congress most.

● WINNING FRIENDS, INFLUENCING PEOPLE

Take one scenario. The recent move to inject FDI into domestic retailing lies in tatters, the BJP having voiced the supposed fears of small traders, fuelled by its certainty of being Indian mercantilism's sole representative. Now imagine this: If the Congress made friends with swamis and friends — substantial followings of professionals, students, peasants, artists, swathes of industry what Machiavelli termed 'ecclesiastical principalities' — it would not have found itself so isolated when trying to explain FDI. Instead, sharing cordiality towards religious leaders and



laities — both voters — it might have found its position easier. Winning? friends, it

would influence people. Not turn them towards an eager opposition.

Other benefits could accrue. Hearing views from those it considers different would introduce fresh air to the group that went from banyan tree to AC room, guarded by lackeys, entered by children of political privilege. Such derisively-titled 'baba-log' could have rich encounters with another kind of baba-log, the latter growing from a fertile earth of troubles, tragedies, hopes and dreams millions of ordinary people experience. Which political party would not want the advantage of hearing such representatives speak?

Early after Independence,

Congress leaders kept communications with spiritual leaders. Indira Gandhi admired Swami Vivekananda and interacted with Anandmayi Ma. Congressmen Arjun Singh and Giani Zail Singh visited UP's Deoraha Baba who blessed the Giani by tapping the latter's head with his foot, outraging

OUR SECULARISM

- ▶ Secularism in India did not emerge, unlike in Europe, as a result of a struggle against authority of church
- ▶ In Europe, it carried within itself an atheistic trend
- ▶ It implied an indifference towards religion, if not antagonism to it
- ▶ In India, religion has always been at the centre-stage of social life
- ▶ Secularism here conceived as a philosophy giving equal respect to all religions
- ▶ Congress was to be all-inclusive
- ▶ Three of its presidents came from minority communities: Badruddin Tyebji from Mumbai; W C Bonnerjee, a Christian, and Dadabhai Nawroji, a Parsi
- ▶ The Ulema, who were struggling against British rule, readily supported it
- ▶ This secularism, a multi-religious concept, was adopted by Congress as an all-inclusive philosophy

many watching the thus-consecrated President while others engaged with spiritual philosophers like Rajneesh and J Krishnamurthy. During the early 1990s, P V Narasimha Rao's regime approached the Sankaracharya of Kanchi to act as a mediator in the Babri Masjid dispute. Considering how despite the mosque's destruction and the ensuing riots, religious leaders in Ayodhya stayed cordial enough to share the transport to court hearings, deploying a familiar figure like the Sankaracharya could have been one key to this con-

GREAT MINDS

Dhamma-Ashoka

IT took the bloody battle of Kalinga with over 100,000 deaths to turn

Ashoka into the extraordinary emperor history knows him as.



The feared third century autocrat turned Buddhist, adopted non-violence as state policy, limiting hunting and promoting vegetarianism. Ashoka built stupas, sprinkled inscriptions emphasising kindness across his huge empire, addressed citizens as a father and incorporated pluralism. He came to be known as Vhamma-Ashoka, the follower of dharma - and one of India's greatest rulers.

Mahabali Akbar

THE 16th century Mughal was one of India's most powerful - and most liberal - rulers.

He adopted the pluralistic Sufi notion of Sulah-kul



or 'peace to all' as state policy, rolled back the jizya tax imposed on Hindus and gave generous grants of land to Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh groups. Deeply influenced by Jain monks, he gave up eating meat while shocking conventional theologians by developing Din-e-Elahi, a new school of religious thought which combined the best of diverse faiths.

tention.

● DISASTROUS COMMUNITY POLITICS

Except it was done so poorly. By the late 1980s, the Congress approached spiritual leaders with half the heart it once employed. A possible reason was Indira Gandhi's disastrous dalliances with community politics, deploying populist Hindutva in Punjab and Kashmir through the 1980s, miscalculations causing crisis among majority and minority groups, Sikh and Muslim sections pushed to the state's margins as noted by Asghar Ali Engineer. When the Congress mixed broad spiritualism with narrow community calculations, the results were catastrophic. After his mother's assassination, Rajiv Gandhi's discomfort with religion was evident. Yet, he tried — using Sant Harchand Singh Longowal for the Rajiv-Longowal Accord in 1985.

But Rajiv's other attempts were less confident. To placate Muslims, he allowed the banning of Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses and the scrapping of the legal order entitling divorced Muslim women to maintenance. In 1986, trying to compete with shrill Hindu sections, he threw open the disputed Ayodhya site, permitting a 'shilanyas' there — a terrible miscalculation. As the Hindu right organized the transport to Ayodhya of 'sacred' bricks from villages and towns, the Congress sensed doom, erroneously withdrawing from sadhus and sants flocking to Ramjanmabhoomi. The BJP moved in for the kill, appropriating charismatic religious figureheads and their 'ecclesiastical principalities' — adding ammunition to a demolition drive, the fall-out of which we're dealing with 19 years later.



WHEN WORLDS MET: 1. Dalai Lama and Nehru after he fled Tibet

● SPIRITUALISM GOES SECULAR

In this light, Rahul Gandhi's recent moves touring the Vindiyachal temple, the Ravidas temple, the Golden Temple are steps in the right direction. "History begins," writes E H Carr, "when men think of time in terms not of natural processes...but specific events they can influence." Rahul may have understood the dangers of flirting with religion. However, another development makes his choices simpler — spiritual figures have grown secular today. Where once swamis, pirs and sants advocated renunciation or confrontation, encouraging followers to

lose themselves in the jungles of asceticism or close ranks within society, today's spiritual leaders encourage regular living and battling exploitation and corruption. They teach physical and mental exercises towards better lives, lessons open to all — regardless of community. This shift in spiritual figures — transcending tight boundaries through a supple language of yoga, philanthropy and meditation — makes them ideal sources for a mass-based party. By ignoring them, Congress is playing into opponents' hands — and overlooking an incredible intellectual history.



WHEN WORLDS MET: 1. Dalai Lama and Nehru after he fled Tibet | 2. Indira and Nehru with thinker - President Radhakrishnan | 3. Indira Gandhi on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi



● A RICH AND FLEXIBLE PAST

The Congress' origins do stand moored in a secularism that abhorred bringing religion into public space. Although many leaders, like G K Gokhale and

Maulana Azad, observed faith deeply, bringing religion onto a shaky public platform trying to unify a young nation was considered divisive. Most Congress leaders came from a Western-

educated urbane class, influenced by the West's moment of modernity when church and state separated. While the Congress' great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, stepped over this separation of spiritualism and statecraft, he remained the only one doing so. Mohamed Ali Jinnah scarred the party using religious identity for political gain, unleashing violence. A horrified Nehru enforced a clear separation in Independent India.

But secular Nehru was also a flexible statesman, welcoming the Dalai Lama in 1959, the latter seeking refuge from Chinese attacks after walking over the Himalayas for 14 days. As the Dalai Lama began internationalizing the Tibetan cause, Nehru did not demand that lie limit blending

spiritual strength with political leadership. Invoking Nehru's name to brush religious groups off the Congress' sher-wani reflects a mistaken understanding of how he saw his civilization. There was a context to Nehru's secularism. Today, that context has changed. Writing of post-modern Western societies, Anthony Giddens says, "Deities and religious forces provide providentially dependable supports: so do religious functionaries." It's no coincidence Giddens was lead philosopher powering Tony Blair's regime which re-invented British multiculturalism and opened Downing Street to Diwali and Eid.

Such celebration, all heart, no bias, was a nation-building

notion Indian thinkers developed ages ago. In the 1950s, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan wrote about Indian secularism not meaning a rejection of spiritual concerns. Instead, it meant respecting all faiths, ensuring religion isn't exploited for political gain, it's practised in freedom, its ideal goal being 'sarva-mukti'. Coming from the President of India, these views hardly reflect a nation — or a Congress party that looks contemptuous of spiritualism and its representatives. Radhakrishnan's philosophy echoed Emperor Akbar's 16th century imagining of Indian secularism, composed of the finest principles of each faith, their tenets understood through engagements with spiritual leaders.

As Amartya Sen writes, "Akbar's ideas remain relevant... they suggest the need for scrutiny of the fear of multiculturalism."

It is time the Congress takes heart and begins its own multicultural moment. One possible step is assuring India's spiritual — Deobandis to Digambarites, Arain to Agnes — that it values their beliefs and respects their philosophers. Three potential gains are the Congress saving itself from shrinking into a smaller shell. Replacing narrow community politics with wider humanitarian discourse, the party could defy communalism's ghosts. And finally, engaging with people of faith, it might just take away one of its opponent's main advantages.

THE MAGICIAN METAPHOR

M K Gandhi combined spiritualism and politics — achieving a revolution

He was India's first mass political leader with the ability to bring peasants, housewives, students and businessmen into the streets to join the struggle for freedom. He was also one of history's most intuitive politicians with the ability to divine how much of the daily could mix with the divine for the results to be extraordinary.

It was precisely this ability of his, reaching out to the good nestled in every soul using a language of spiritualism which transcended religion and nation, that made Gandhi so attractive around the world. Perhaps this is exactly why, although we have seen numerous leaders with great charisma follow him, India still has only one Mahatma all its own.

Here's a look at some of the most powerful strategies M K Gandhi adopted, which involved a blend of spiritualism with statecraft — or perhaps, a refusal to separate the two.

FASTING | Gandhi's strategy of

starving himself — whether over the plight of hungry mill workers in Ahmedabad in 1918, for an end to caste-based electoral rules in 1932 or for horrific communal violence to stop in 1947 — always yielded coherent political dividends. It wasn't just the consequences of

**THOSE WHO SAY
RELIGION HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH
POLITICS DO NOT KNOW
WHAT RELIGION IS**
Mahatma Gandhi

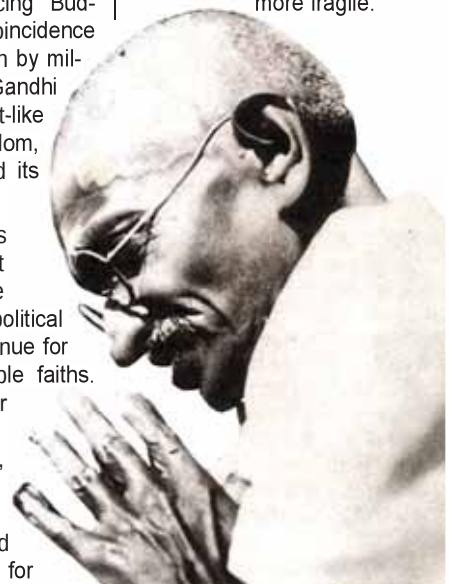
Gandhi starving himself though — it was also the tool that was immediately familiar to persons from religions as diverse as Hinduism, Islam, Jainism and Christianity. The idea of refusing to partake of or live in a world that could not be bettered was as ancient as it was revolutionary. And Gandhi knew this.

MARCHES | Gandhi's long marches, most famously to Dandi

in 1930, derived directly from the wanderings of Sufis, the tribulations of Hindu ascetics, but resulted in tangible political gains like salt taxes being lifted or the quest for 'purna swaraj' declared. As he traversed on foot over vast and tough terrain, thousands joined the frail being, in his garb resembling a renouncing Buddhist monk. It was no coincidence that Gandhi was known by millions across India as 'Gandhi baba', a familiar saint-like figure striving for freedom, liberating a nation and its soul.

MEETINGS | Gandhi's morning and twilight meetings were more than an exchange of political ideas — they were a venue for prayer involving multiple faiths. One of the first clear vestiges of India's multicultural moment, the meetings began with fiery discussions on freedom and ended with quiet prayers for

peace, invocations made to a universal divine known as Ishwar and Allah together to bestow serenity upon all. It is of tragic irony that Gandhi was assassinated by a religious fanatic at precisely such a meeting — which makes the significance of such a gathering even more powerful, even more fragile.



FILLING THE RED FORT'S BLANKS

What was Red Fort like in the days of the Mughals? No living person knows. The British levelled most of its buildings and a wide swathe of the city outside within five years of the 1857 Uprising. But a large panorama painted in 1846 and published now provides the answers...

Red Fort's vaunted Diwan-i-Khas and its famous boast — if there be paradise on earth, this is it... — are a short walk away from Salimgarh Bastion, where King George V arrived for his Durbar 100 years ago. But the State Procession that followed his entry hurried the king away from the hall, out of Delhi Gate and into the city.

right. Razed palaces, arcades and cloisters had left behind the long, empty brackets of space to his left.

The Red Fort George V saw was like a poem with most of its lines missing. It's the same with us, who wrap up a visit in under an hour to spend four hours shopping in Chandni Chowk. Returning to the fort's heyday is not possible, but a new book offers a glimpse into the palace of the

Photos reproduced from Delhi 360°/Roli Books

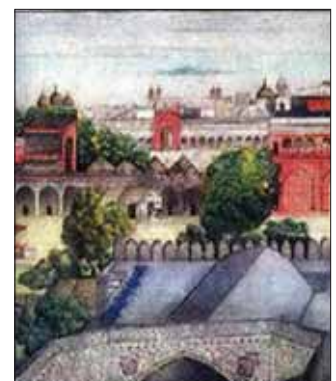
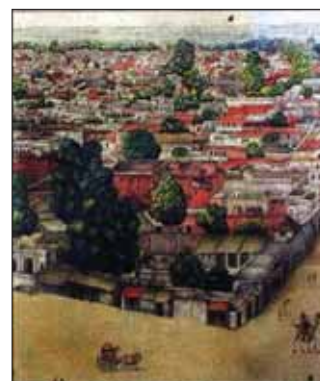
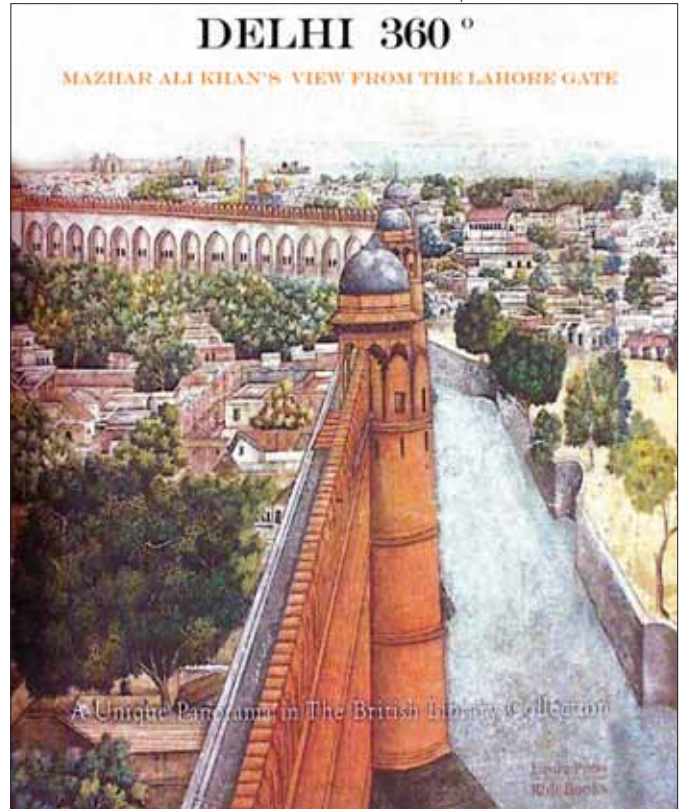


BIRD'S EYE VIEW: A sentry stands in the north cupola of Red Fort's Lahore Gate; Khan painted from the south cupola. Yamuna is in the background

Riding a horse under the winter sun, George V had time merely to mark the fort's sparse grandeur and discrete pavilions, and wonder why it had been called the noblest palace in the world for so long. What he probably didn't know was that most of the 'Exalted Palace' travellers raved about for two centuries had been swept away. Gone was the sparkling canal that divided the very road he took out of the fort. Houses of the salatin (royal descendants) had made way for the new lawns to his

last Mughal and the surrounding city that Zauq and Ghalib loved and lived in.

JP Losty's *Delhi 360°* (Roli Books) reveals the Red Fort and Shahjahanabad of the Mughal dynasty's dying years through artist Mazhar Ali Khan's panorama, "A Picture of the Imperial City of Shahjahanabad Drawn from the Lahore Gate of the Exalted Fort". Acquired by the British Library at a country auction in 1981, the painting is signed November 25, 1846, and is an important historical



record.

The Mutiny happened in 1857 and by 1863 the British had cleared a large swathe of the city that lay within firing range (450 yards) of the fort

walls. Most of the palaces and buildings within the fort were also demolished in the name of security. So, Khan's panorama captured the fort and the city in their swan song,

and in massive detail.

Measuring 66.5cm high and 490.8cm wide, the panorama is the equivalent of a 455-megapixel shot when printed at 300 dots-per-inch photo quality. The only way to produce such a photo-real historical record in the 1840s was by faithfully recording every line of street, roof and pillar with brush and paint.

From his observation deck under one of Lahore Gate's chhatris (cupolas), Khan swept his gaze first north (towards the ticket counters) and then clockwise, till he had traced a unique 360° view. The roughly 5-metre water colour panorama was painted on five sheets and pasted together as a scroll longer than an average apartment bedroom.

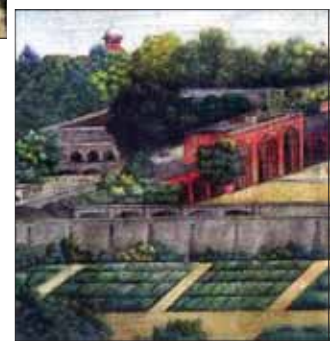
More than its age, the panorama is important for what it shows. The fort is fully built up. It is no longer true

to Shahjahan's aesthetic, but a living, thriving space nonetheless. Outside, the city is more orderly built and leafy than what you see today. Trees ring it from the north all the way to Fatehpuri Masjid on the west. There are trees even on Chandni Chowk's median. Of traffic there is little, and squalor none, but the last may be the artist's disinclination to sully his canvas.

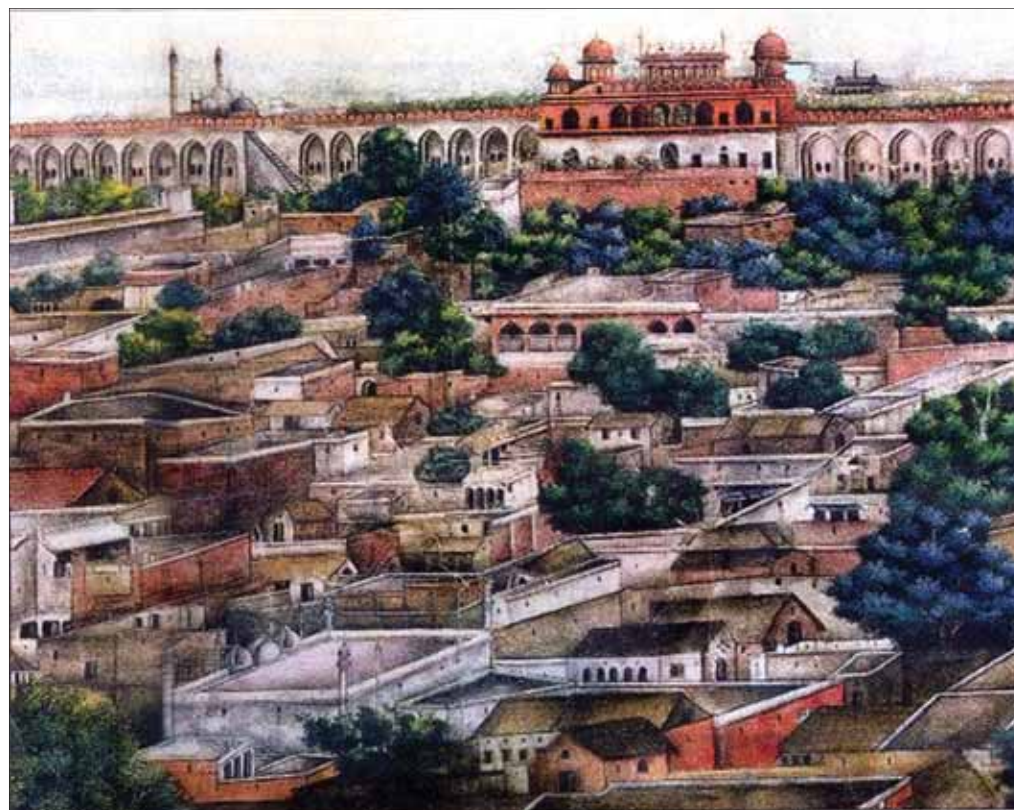
At first glance, nothing but the fort's august gates is recognisable. There is so much between them that no living person has seen. For instance, the very intricate decorations of Chhatta Bazaar's walls. They are now lost under layers of white paint. Immediately to the right is a spread of houses for the salatin. Moving on, the Naqqarkhana has a large, enclosed court with three-arched gateways to the north and the south. In fact, gates, arcades



THE RED FORT GEORGE V SAW WAS LIKE A POEM WITH MOST OF ITS LINES MISSING. IT'S THE SAME WITH US, WHO WRAP UP A VISIT IN UNDER AN HOUR. *DELHI 360°* OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE PALACE OF THE LAST MUGHAL AND THE SURROUNDING CITY THAT ZAUQ AND GHALIB LOVED



ALL LOST: A Wide & well-ordered Chandni Chowk, Red Fort's vegetable beds, and houses of the salatin and Chhatta chowk's decoration are all lost



MOST OF THE FORTS BUILDINGS WERE RAZED BY 1863

and cloisters regularly frame, link and also curtain the fort's different quarters. Another surprise is the white Diwan-i-Aam beyond Naqqarkhana. The hall's pearly plaster finish was stripped off early in the last century, exposing its red sandstone.

The painting also shows Shahjahanabad in relation to the older relics. Monuments such as Kotla Firoz Shah, Humayun's Tomb, Purana Qila, and the farthest, Qutab Minar, are duly marked out.

Studying Khan's panorama will leave you a little wistful, for the lost splendours of Red Fort, the city's easy pace, its leafy environs, the Yamuna's wide expanse — and the horizon. Once upon a time, earth and sky met all around Delhi.

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THE EVOLUTION OF A WORLD-CLASS CITY

▶ DIPTI SRIVASTVA

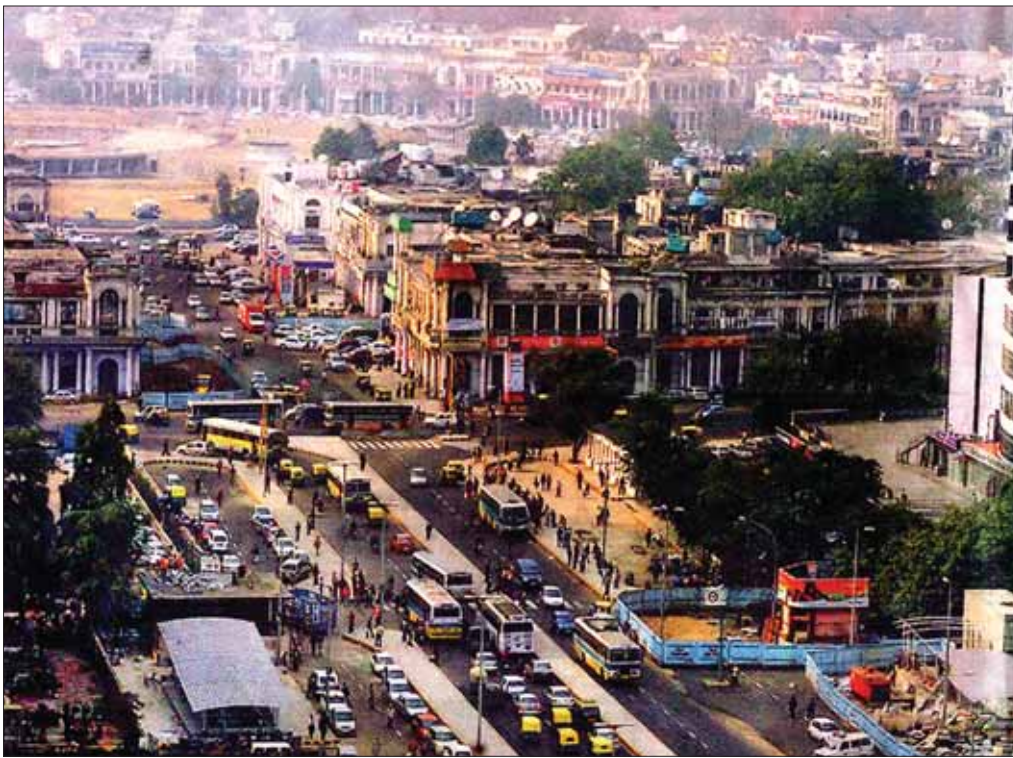
As Delhi completes 100 years as the capital of India, it's time to reflect on the journey the city has gone through over these years. Not an easy task over though to encapsulate an entire era of a city in a few lines or paragraphs. The way the capital has evolved is extraordinary and its growth has been the

became not only the political capital of India, but also an important administrative unit of the Indian government. In other words, it is the centre of Indian democracy which rules the nation. Apart from the historical monuments like the Red Fort, Purana Quila, Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Jantar Mantar and India Gate, the rather new entrants like Lotus Temple make it a most sought

about Delhi is how the city's ancient, medieval and modern history mingles and rubs shoulders. Examples of these are everywhere to see. For instance, the ancient Asokan pillar that stands in Feroz Shah Kotla, is a place we associate with a sports stadium nearby." No other city in India has had the pride of hosting two most important international sports events—Asiad in 1982 and

Since the time of King George to present day, the capital city has definitely come a long way. The city is famous not only for its pregnant history and rich heritage, but also for its culture and tradition

the Commonwealth Games as far as city infrastructure is concerned. Talking about the rapid pace of development taking place in the city, cultural activist Diwan Singh Bajeli says, "A lot of construction is going on. It is difficult to recognize Delhi if you are coming to this town after 10 years." Besides, to maintain the green reputation of Delhi, one million trees were planted this year. With places like India International Centre, India Habitat Centre, National School of Drama, Mandi House, Triveni Kala Kendra and Kathak Kendra, the cultural activities in the town have risen multi-fold in the past few years. Music, literature, drama and art have got a new meaning and a new destination. "Because of MNCs and corporate bodies from all over the world, an elite class has emerged. Delhi has been culturally enriched and exceptional work is going on in the fields of dance, drama and theatre. There is a tremendous growth in cultural activities. Very soon it will emerge as the topmost cultural hub of the world," Bajeli adds. The impact of various cultures has influenced the culinary preferences of the residents also. Today Delhi can boast of eateries famous for multi-cuisine savouries. If we have Old



political, cultural and religious hub for many rulers since ages. But it was on December 12, 1911, that the National Capital of the then colonized India was shifted by the British from Kolkata to Delhi, re-establishing the city as the political centre for the British Empire in the country. After getting Independence in 1947, the city

after city with local as well as global tourists. Apart from its architectural and archeological importance, the Trade Fair, book fairs and Auto Expo attract visitors from other towns. As author and member of faculty of the history department at the University of Delhi, Professor Upinder Singh, puts it, "What I find wonderful

Commonwealth Games in 2010. A number of stadia, flyovers, better roads and transport facilities before the Asian Games changed the skyline of the city altogether. The developments also included the erection of Tyagraj Stadium. But that was only a beginning. What started off at the time of Asiad '82 went further during

Delhi, known for traditional delicacies, we also have many leading chains from across the globe and designated outlets for cuisines from different parts of the world.

With the emergence of Metro Rail for local transport, Shatabdi, Rajdhani and other trains for inter-state connectiv-

ity and T3 terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport for global connectivity, Delhi has truly become world class. The state-of-the-art T3 terminal is one of the most important aviation centres of the country. "Delhi is a city which has an amazing historical heritage. It is very important for Dilli-

wallahs to be more curious and concerned about the history all around them and to feel that they too have an investment in its protection and preservation," aptly points out Professor Upinder.

Well, with a skyline replete with historical monuments and architectural marvels; new

roads like Ring Road Bypass, flyovers like Barapulla, which is an engineering marvel in itself, bridges, healthcare, education and transport facilities, added with the economical and cultural growth of the residents, Delhi today is definitely a fine example of a modern historical city.

BHOPURA-LONI ROAD IN TATTERS

► MUNNA MISHRA

Government is instructing GDA, Awas Vikas and UPSIDC to explore options to execute housing and industrial schemes in these areas expeditiously, the road to Loni points to sheer callousness on the part of GDA. The road reminds one of the primitive age. Residents of these areas claim that the road is not even fit for traveling by bullock cart. But, the GDA officials seem to be in hurry to clear the last bill of the contractor who had constructed the road without fixing any responsibility. The road is lying in a shabby condition with having thousands of potholes dotting the whole 7 km stretch, which gives the commuters knee-jerk and bone breaking experience every day. The issue is bound to take political overture during the ensuing election, say the residents of the areas.

Idrish Mohammad, who runs a motor mechanic shop

along the road says, only two years ago the road was laid afresh giving hope of a bright future and residents were happy, but our hope got dashed sooner than we had expected. Within two months of constructing the road, the road started tearing down at several places.

It is quite interesting that this road is the main connectivity to Delhi border and residents who have been crossing either side of the border only crib and curse their fate. Several public representations to the GDA when did not move the GDA officials, these aggrieved residents, approached the then district magistrate Hirdesh Kumar and sought his intervention, which finally led to the GDA repairing this road last year. But again the repair work which was carried half-heartedly, the patch even worsened further.

The road was carpeted at a staggering cost of Rs.12 crore and the argument was put forward by the GDA that the road

has influx of heavy vehicles so the road needs to meet a certain standard, says the residents of this area.

The residents now feel surprised as to how the road got damaged in such a quick succession in two months, and what accountability was fixed for the contractors who had constructed this road? The residents are not ready to buy the argument that the road gets damaged due to heavy vehicles as they say that the GT Road, Link Road, NH 24, NH 58 all have high influx of vehicles but roads are quite good as quality were not compromised with. The residents alleged that the GDA officials are indulging in corrupt practices and are not paying any heed to their request. When this reporter asked the GDA VC, Narendra Kumar Choudhary to comment on the residents' allegation, he replied that the residents are free to hurl any allegations, but we at our end know that on the intervention of then collector we had re-

paired this road but if the road is getting damaged we cannot do anything now. We did not have maintenance clause when we awarded the contract.

When this reporter asked the GDA chief engineer to comment on the development, R.K. Singh replied that, the road was led during the time of former chief engineer so, he cannot comment on what quality mechanism was put in place and how such poor quality road was constructed. We have also received several representations so we are trying to locate the contractor and ask him to get the road repaired before his last financial installment is cleared. Sources also said that the contractor is putting pressure on the GDA officials to clear the last segment of bills which is withheld with the GDA, as with the change of guard some investigation might be carried against him. But the GDA officials were tightlipped on who the contractor was.