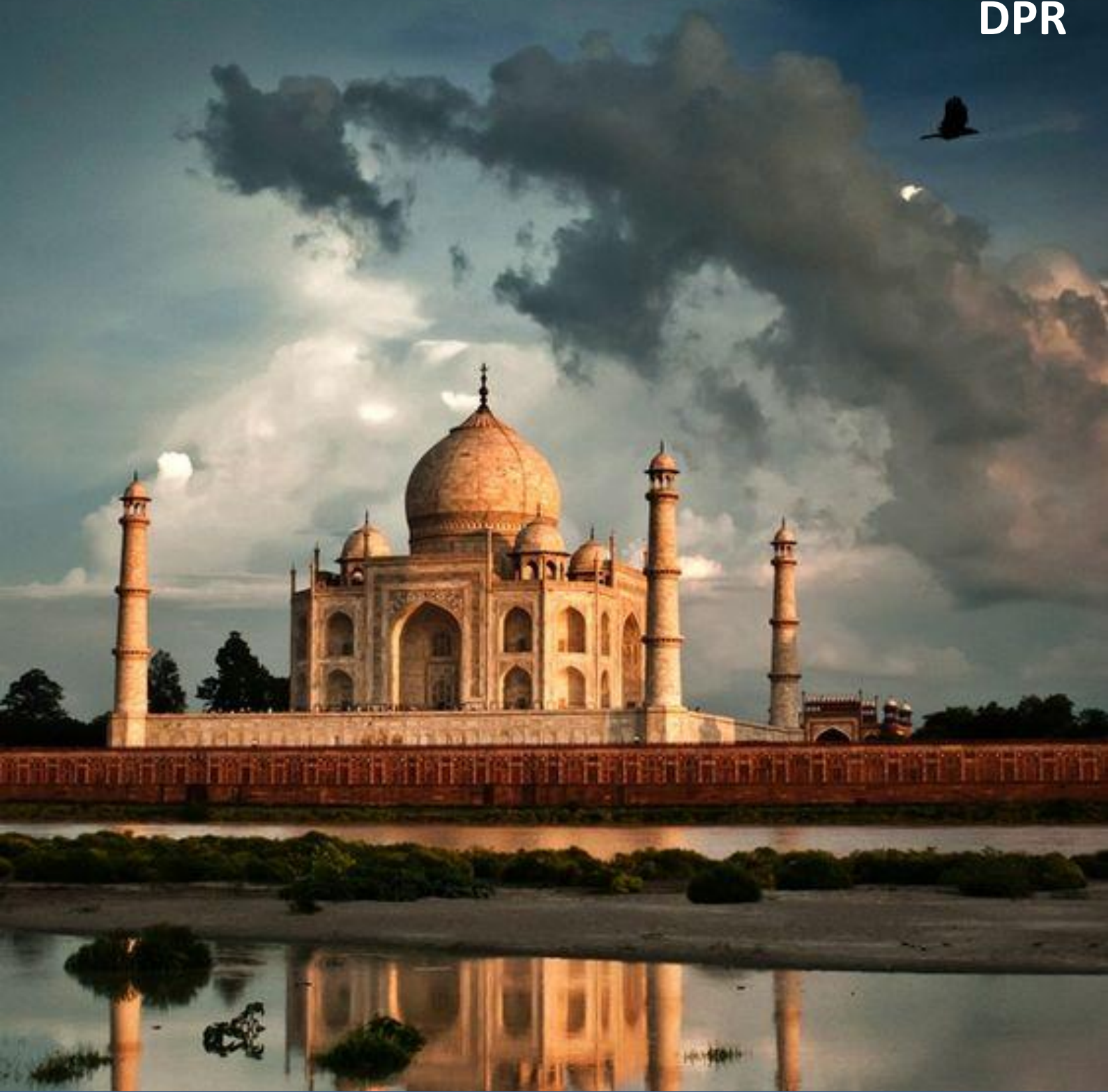


Agra Smart City Mission

Development of Heritage walk

DPR



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1. Introduction

Agra City and its lesser known heritage

Agra is historically the crossroads of Indian civilisation. Emperor Akbar described it as the “emporium of the traffic of the world”. Even today Agra is the crossroads for products and people traversing the country. Located as it is in the heart of India, the city has played a pivotal role in the history of India and has been the seat of ruling empires for many centuries. The city of Agra is dotted with several historical buildings and sites which are a testimony to its rich history and culture. The built heritage, which is a part of our cultural heritage is a priceless non-renewable resource that is seriously threatened today.

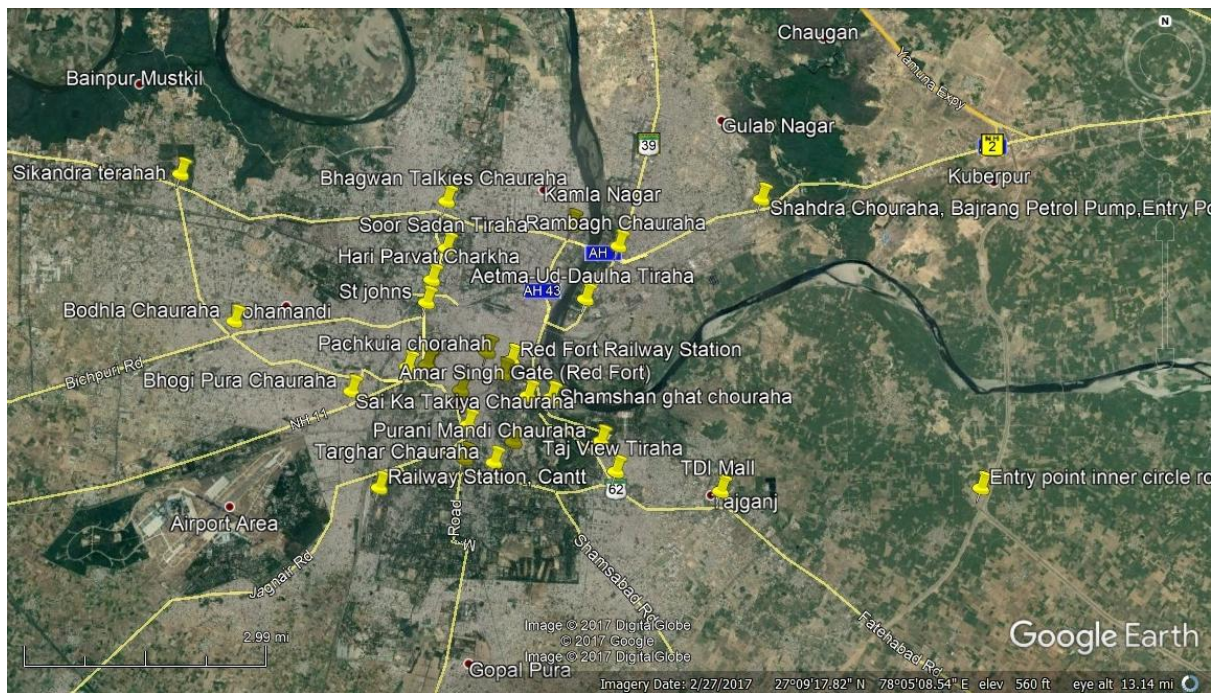


Figure 1 Heritage Monuments of Agra

It is our duty to conserve and enhance our cultural heritage. The Archaeological Survey of India protects many important and famous monuments in the city. However, the lesser known monuments and unprotected historical structures, remain largely neglected, threatened by urban pressures and even eliminated with time. Since the policy framework for protection integrated conservation is a developing area in our country, it is essential to take responsibility of the lesser known heritage as it is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the city. Rapid changes in the environment also necessitate a focussed approach to the management of these structures and their vicinity.

Much of the loss in the historic building stock can be attributed to lack of information about the structures, especially the unprotected ones and their significance. It is important to understand the significance and values as per management guidelines of cultural heritage sites to formulate a comprehensive approach for their enhancement and revitalisation. The guidelines identify “intrinsic values” of the structures as those attributes that are physically part of the structure and its environment. These attributes are related with the setting, design, material and workmanship. Some of these values are historical value, archaeological value, architectural value and associational value. On these parameters some structures have been selected in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal. The second step is to assess the present condition of the site the risks affecting it.

2. Improvement of vicinity of Monuments

2.1 Brief profile

Improvement of vicinity of lesser known heritage monuments including Kali Masjid, Diwanji ka Maqbara, lesser known heritage Dargah of Lal Bukhari, Teli pada mosque. The Project namely Improvement of vicinity of lesser known heritage monuments has been conceived as part of Area-Based Development (ABD) under Agra Smart City Proposal. Improving the vicinity of lesser-known heritage monuments would revive the old charm of the buildings and will create additional tourist destination. It has been envisaged that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) shall provide Technical and Administrative support. Some of the proposed monuments are under the ambit of ASI and others are heritage of significant importance. It has been proposed to revitalize the lesser known monuments, organizing heritage walks (Walking/ Heritage Trail) around such monuments, LED lighting of the area, etc.



Figure 2 Monuments around TAJ MAHAL

2.1.1 Kali Masjid

The Kali Masjid also known as Kalan Masjid is located at Dusshera Ghat Road on the east gate of Taj Mahal, Tajganj ward at Agra. It is set within raise garden within the ASI premises. The Sandali Begum burz lies to its east. The mosque is visited by the local people and was built in 16-17 century. It is a three bay mosque built in lakhori bricks with red sandstone finish. The bays are surmounted with pointed doms and lotus finials, a typical feature of Mughal Architecture.



Figure 3 Kali Masjid

2.1.2 Diwanji ka Maqbara

Deewan ji begum's tomb is a historical monument of Agra built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1631. This monument is located near the Paktola lake in the Tajganj area. Deewanji Begum was the mother-in-law of Shahjahan i.e. Mumtaz Mahal's mother.

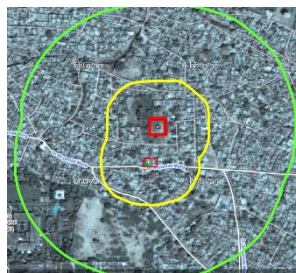


Figure 4 Diwanji ka Maqbara

2.1.3 Teli para mosque

Teli Pada mosque is an unprotected monument. It is located on the Shilpgram road in Tajganj area.



Figure 5 Teli para Mosque

2.1.4 Fatehpuri Masjid

This was built as a remembrance for one of the wives of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. Fatehpuri Masjid bears a strong resemblance with the Fatehpuri Masjid built by Fatehpuri Begum in Chandni Chowk, Delhi. This mosque is located outside the West gate of the Taj Mahal and faces the Tomb of Fatehpuri Begum to the East. Open for namaz (prayer) and other religious rituals, this red sandstone mosque is built on a rectangular platform with a central dome and four minarets on the edges.

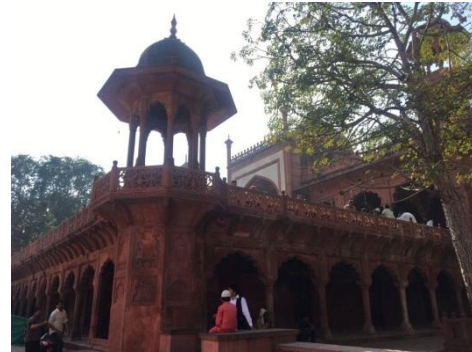


Figure 6 Fatehpuri Masjid

The mosque has distinguishing elements of Mughal architecture such as cusped arches and fluted columns. The construction system is a combination of the arcuate and trabeated construction systems. It is used by the people of Tajganj as well as of surrounding areas. It is a protected monument and included within the Taj Mahal Complex.

2.2 Studies done earlier (review of project reports)




Although the above-mentioned monuments are rich in terms of historical essence, their current dilapidated condition and poor surrounding makes them unpleasant and unwelcoming to the tourists visiting the city. As depicted in the following images, these monuments are characterised by:



- **Cobbled- Streets**
- **Open drains on both sides of the streets**
- **Overhead cables**
- **Unpleasant odour on access road**
- **Dilapidated conditions of select buildings**

2.3 Bottlenecks we can anticipate

During site visit Consultants has visited lesser known monuments and below are some observations:

Table 2-1: Existing condition of lesser known monuments

SN	Name of the Monuments		Existing Condition
	Fatehpuri Masjid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor restoration is required • Surrounding Landscaping required • Structure are not properly illuminated • Algae formation on façade of Masjid • Effort required to make the tourist visit the Masjid • Abutting to Restaurant, can be revitalized with organized eating outlet.
2.	Diwanji Begum's Maqbara		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow Lanes Leads to the Monument • No signages available • Tourist used to visit but with guide • ASI protected Monument • Open drainage leads to bad odour • No clear Pathway to the Monument • Interiors and exteriors of Monument are not properly maintained. • Free movement of domestic animals, stray dogs makes it difficult to access. • Surrounding built environment needs upliftment.
3.	Diwanji ka Maqbara		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow Lanes connecting the Monument • No signages available • Tourist used to visit but with guide • Monument is currently locked by ASI with no name Plate • Surrounding private areas used as dumping yard • No clear Pathway to the Monument with no lighting. • Interiors of Monument are ill maintained

SN	Name of the Monuments		Existing Condition
4.	Kali Masjid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signages available but not visible • Tourist visit accidentally • Surrounding areas used as construction dumping yard • Soft scape abutting the Monument are ill maintained • Monument need restoration with adequate and planned Lighting
5.	Dargah of Lal Bukhari		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located East side of Taj mahal • Signages and transportation unavailable • Tourist visit accidentally • Surrounding areas are encroached by temporary residential structures • Electric wiring are visual eye soar • Abutting of Mosque require hardscape and softscape. • Need of Lighting in and around Mosque.

3. Heritage Walk

3.1 Brief Profile

Almost every city in India has a legacy of its own. Many of these legacies, however, have been fading away with time. Agra city is no different. This old city has a lot of interesting history and culture hidden in its existing urban fabric. Heritage walks, concept-driven travels that are quite popular is one of the measures which aims to unearth the hidden essence of Agra and monuments and capture their intangible heritage.

This chapter discusses the lesser known heritage monuments and Taj Ganj heritage walk which will create awareness among tourists about the city and its people from a cultural perspective. The heritage walk is proposed to be conducted around the old market area comprising of the little known as well as the must-visit landmarks of Agra such as Fatehpur Masjid, Kali Masjid, Lal Bhukhari and the Taj Ganj Area. Besides these the tour will also stopover at the famous Shiva temple, street bazar, historic well Shakti temple, flower market etc. Visits to these markets where people shop and their places of worship are highly recommended.

The second walk will be in the Taj Ganj area exploring old temples and monuments along with old wells and bazaars. These walks will help tourists to mingle in the crowds & begin to experience down town Agra, visit the Shiva Temple shall be navigating through the narrow lanes selling articles used for adornment of images of Gods & Goddesses while gazing in admiration of the decorated facades in the spice market.

The chapter will cover important components of the heritage walk like:

1. Proposals for heritage walk
2. Challenges to heritage-based urban development
3. Urban form and architectural Identity
4. Streets and Chowks
5. Bazaars
6. Typology of facades
7. Temples
8. Water structures
9. Public open space and Gardens
10. Public buildings and memorials

3.2 Lesser Known Monument Walk 1

The tour will start from location A that is Fatehpur masjid heading towards Kali masjid and end at Lal Bhukhari covering total distance of 1.5 kms and average time of 1:30 hrs.

3.2.1 Fatehpuri masjid

Fatehpuri Masjid was built in 1650 by Fatehpuri Begum, one of emperor Shahjahan's wives who belonged from Fatehpur Sikri, and the mosque at Taj Mahal is also named after her. The British had auctioned the mosque after the 1857 war to Rai Lala Chunnamal for Rs. 19,000 whose descendants still live in the Chunnamal haveli in Chandni Chowk and have preserved the mosque. Later in 1877 it was acquired by the government in exchange for four villages and was restored to the Muslims at the Delhi Durbar when the British allowed the Muslims back in Old Delhi.

The mosque is built using red sandstone and has a fluted dome with mahapadma and kalash on the top. Flanked by minarets, the mosque has a traditional design with the prayer hall having seven-arched openings. The mosque has single and double-storeyed apartments on the sides. The central portion is flanked by three arches on each side

Figure 3-1: Fatehpuri Masjid



Coming under the lesser known monument, this place is not visited by tourists as much. It requires proper landscaping, upgradation of surroundings and restoration of the monument building.

3.2.1 From Fathepuri masjid to Kali masjid

The walk from Fathepuri masjid to Kali masjid is of 800 meters through the local streets. One can find small scale markets selling handicrafts, local merchandise along the trail. Tourist will require crossing a famous chowk (roundabout) known as Kutta Park in order to reach Kali masjid. The place is bustling with activity of “rehris” and local traffic throughout the day and is as busy at night as it is during day time.



Figure 8 Location of Kali masjid and Fatehpuri Masjid

3.2.2 From Kali masjid to Lal bhukhari



Figure 9 location of Kali Masjid and Lal Bhukhari

- **Existing scenario**

1. Located on the East side of the Taj Mahal
2. Signages and transportation inaccessible
3. Tourist activity is minimal
4. Surrounding areas used as temporary residential structures
5. Abutting of Mosque ill maintained
6. Insufficient Lighting



Approach road towards Lal Bhukhari



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