

Agra Smart City Mission

Intensive Beautification of 2KM radius around Taj Mahal-
Civil Work”

DPR



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ALL ABOUT TRUST

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Submitted to:



Agra Smart City Limited

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Chapter 1. Executive Summary

It is generally accepted that Agra was both an ancient city from the times of the Mahabharata and yet nevertheless Sultan Sikandar Lodī, the Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, founded Agra in the year 1504. After the Sultan's death, the city passed on to his son, Sultan Ibrāhīm Lodī. He ruled his Sultanate from Agra until he fell fighting to Mughal Badshah (emperor) Bābar in the First battle of Panipat fought in 1526. The golden age of the city began with the Mughals. It was known then as Akbarabād and remained the capital of the Mughal Empire under the Badshahs (emperors) Akbar, Jahāngīr and Shāh Jahān. Akbar made it the eponymous seat of one of his original twelve subahs (imperial top-level provinces), bordering (Old) Delhi, Awadh (Oudh), Allahabad, Malwa and Ajmer subahs. Shāh Jahān later shifted his capital to Shāhjahanābād in the year 1649. After the decline of the Mughal Empire, the city came under the influence of Marathas and was called Agra, before falling into the hands of the British Raj in 1803. Agra is the birthplace of the religion known as Dīn-i Ilāhī, which flourished during the reign of Akbar and also of the Radhaswami Faith, which has around two million followers worldwide. Agra has historic linkages with Shauripur of Jainism and Runukta of Hinduism, of 1000 BC.

This beautification project includes heritage value of Agra and to enhance the experience of tajmahal with some lesser known monuments walks with local art forms and bazar. This project covers beautification and some civil works for development around 2km radius of Taj mahal. This project covers two heritages walk.

The **Heritage** 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. It will cover the beautification of approach road towards this heritage walk and other local art forms with some ASI monuments

Chapter 2. Intensive Beautification of Heritage walk within 2 KM Radius around Taj mahal - Scope & Methodology

2.1 Introduction

Agra city is governed by Municipal Corporation which comes under Agra Metropolitan Region. The Agra city is located in Uttar Pradesh state of India.

As per provisional reports of Census India, population of Agra in 2011 is 1,585,704; of which male and female are 845,902 and 739,802 respectively. Although Agra city has population of 1,585,704; its urban / metropolitan population is 1,760,285 of which 939,875 are males and 820,410 are females.

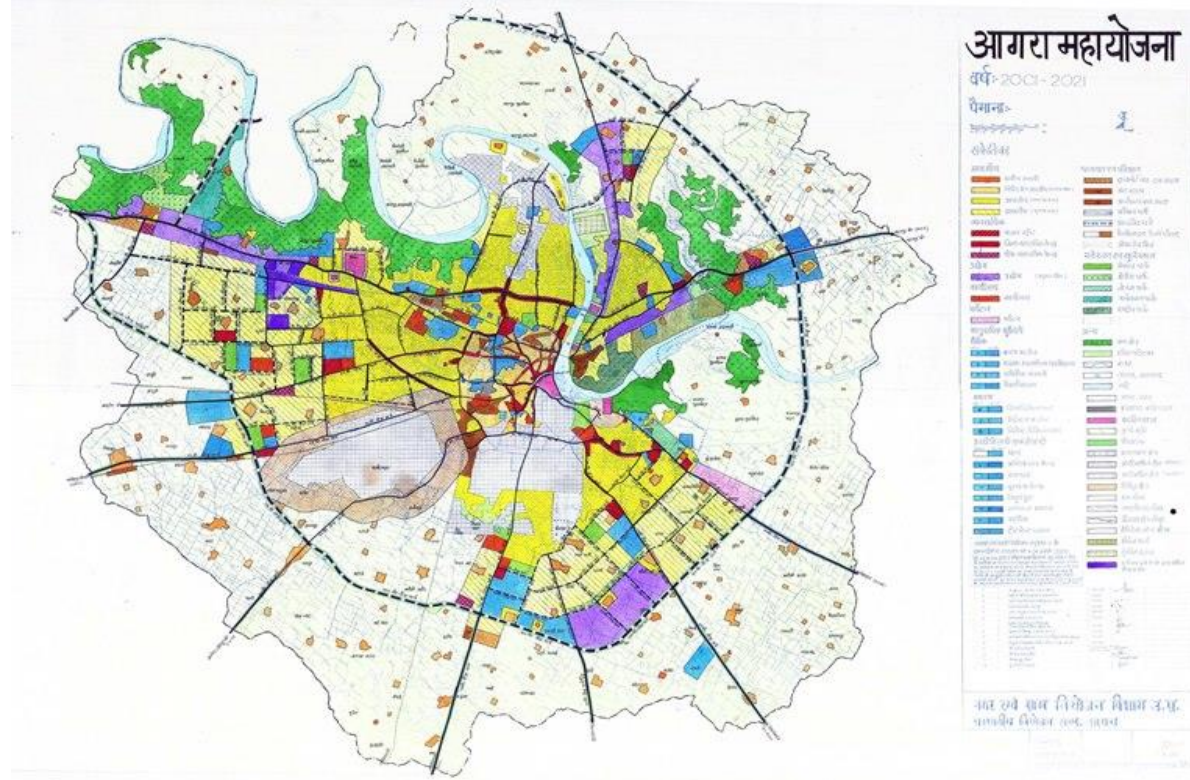


Figure 1:Agra Master Plan 2021



Figure 2:Agra District Map

2.2 Project Brief

Agra is the city of the inimitable Taj Mahal. It is as loved by Indians as it is by foreigners who throng here in large numbers to admire its beauty. Along with Delhi and Jaipur, Agra forms the Golden Triangle of tourism in India. Situated in Uttar Pradesh, Agra is synonymous with the Taj Mahal however there's lot more to the city than this world-famous monument. Right from the epic Mahabharata to the Mughal Dynasty, Agra has been monumental and has played a significant role in shaping India's history. Agra has two UNESCO World Heritage sites which is Agra fort and Taj Mahal however Taj Mahal features in the 50 most popular tourist destinations in the world.

Near the gardens of the Taj Mahal stands the important 16th-century Mughal monument known as the Red Fort of Agra. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within its 2.5-km-long enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful mosques.

Apart from these monuments there are few lesser known monuments which falls within 2kms radius from Taj Mahal. Having such an immense tourism potential, it hardly has the required standards of infrastructure to support the footfalls it has. Hence the following section studies the area encompassed within 2km from Taj Mahal and suggests required measures to be incorporated to make Agra a smart tourism destination.

Beautification around heritage monuments form a very important segment of the tourist sector in the country.

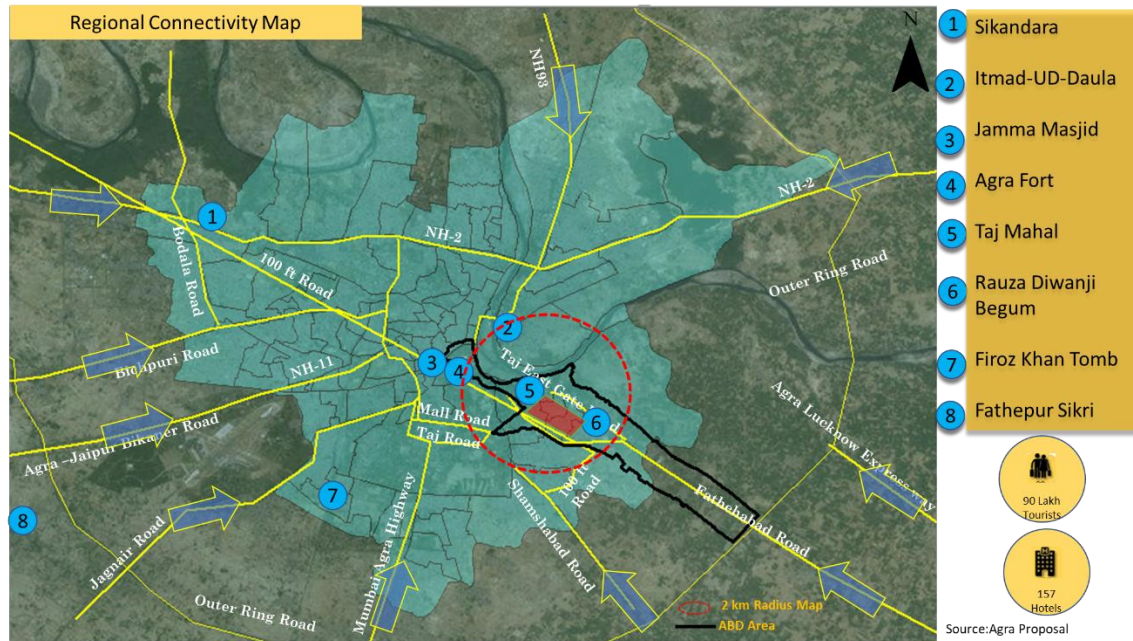


Figure 3: ABD Area and Regional connectivity map

2.3 Scope of Project

Main task:

Preparation of a Detailed Concept Plan to beautify the area around 2 km radius of Taj mahal for Agra under smart city mission for the ABD area (Area based development).

Beautification of heritage walk within 2Km Radius including:

- *Streets Stone Inlay, Zardosi, Flower market streets –preservation of Urban Morphology walk*

Main Components:

- *Survey of streets and give proposals.*
- *Resurfacing with interlocking tile, underground utilities, open drains to be covered*
- *Heritage walk development to enhance local experience of artist.*
- *Training and Skill Development.*
- *Wall painting, illumination & pruning of trees*
- *Signages, street furniture, dustbins*

2.3.1 Detailed Scope of Work

2.3.1.1 Identifying Heritage walk and Development

Scope of work included Identification heritage monuments and local art forms to enhance the experience of the Taj heritage walks. To target more tourists on this type of heritage walk it is require more components which are beautify surrounding area

The following tasks are to be undertaken for detailed concept plan:

A. Identification of Monuments

Based on smart city proposal heritage monuments already identified for the heritage walk and do survey to improve the approach road, beautification of surrounding areas of monuments.

B. Identification of Local Art form and its area

Based on the preliminary survey local art forms and vendors analysis making one proposal on Taj heritage walk to enhance experience of streets and working style of vendors & community.

2.4 Methodology

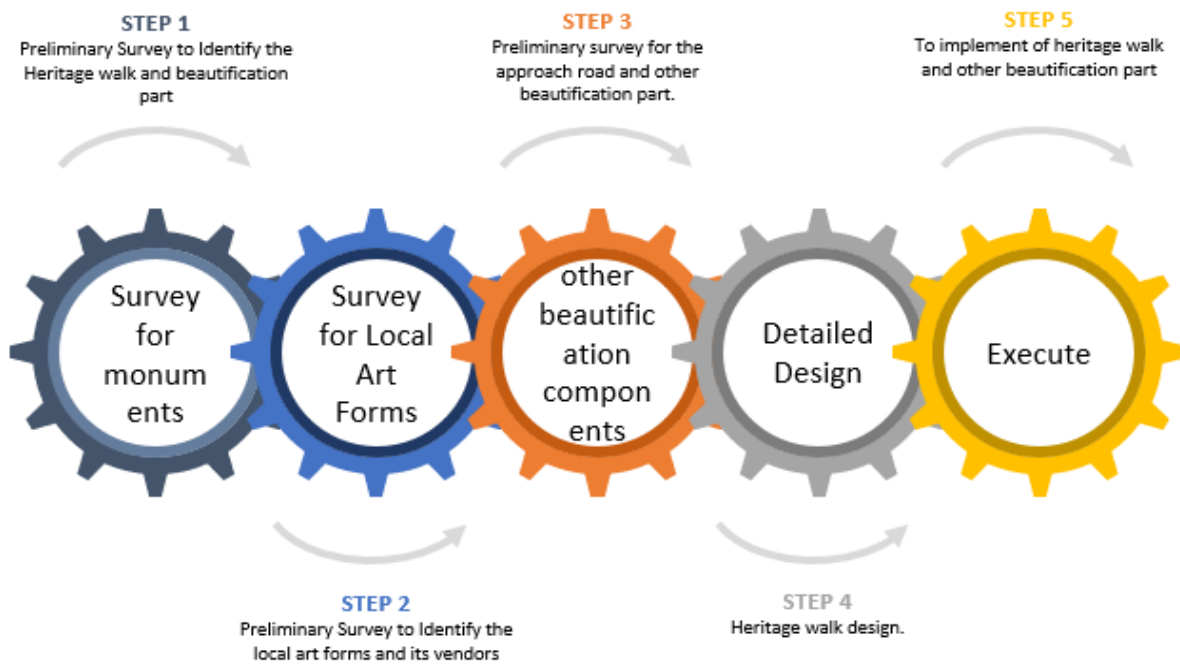


Figure 4:Methodology for Project

Chapter 3. Streets Stone Inlay, Zardosi, Flower market streets –preservation of Urban Morphology walk

3.1 Introduction Heritage walk

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.

The third 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
 - Streets and Chowks
 - Bazaars
 - Typology of facades
 - Temples
 - Water structures
 - Public open space and Gardens
 - Public buildings and memorials

3.2 Taj Ganj Area and Locality

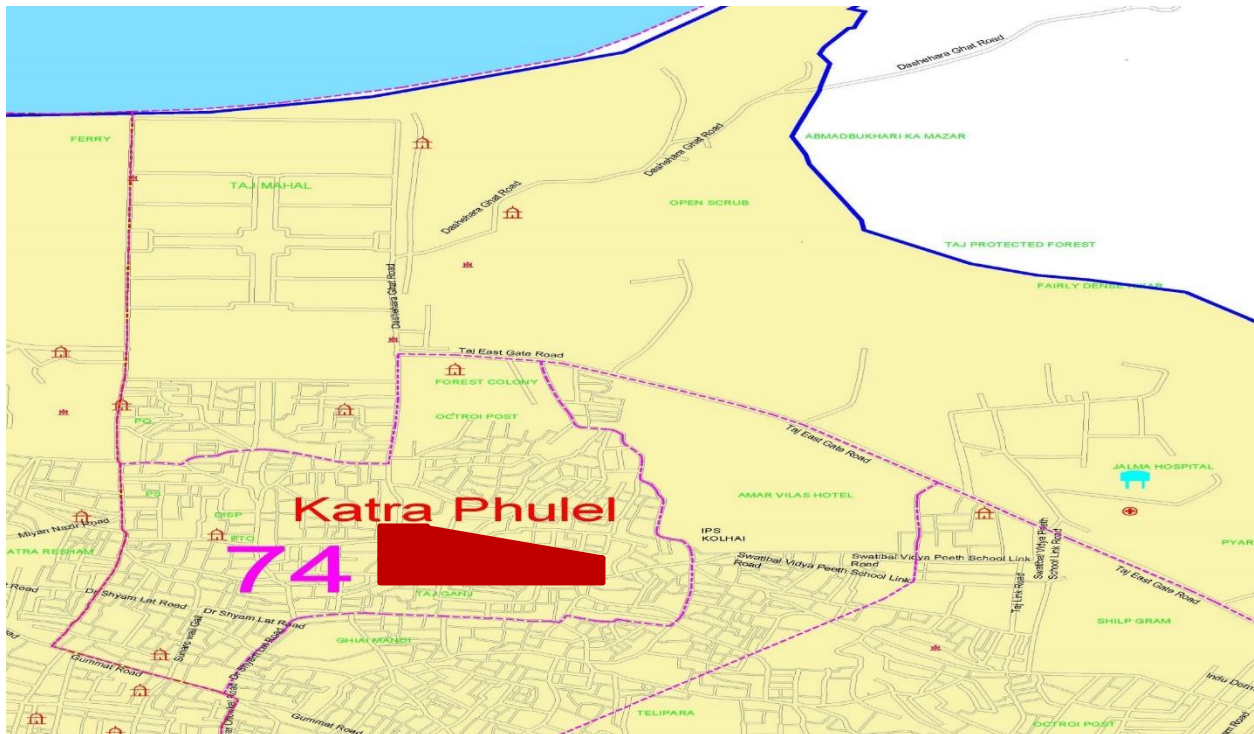
Tajganj is the most toured area in Agra. Tajganj encircles the area around one of the world's most wondrous monuments, the Taj Mahal. The region has developed all facilities for the visitors and remains crowded with tourists all-round the year. Tajganj initially accommodated around 2000 people who worked to build the Taj Mahal. The region now encompasses a large area and is host to people from all over the world. There are accommodation facilities for visitors in this area. Tajganj has also commercially expanded its arena and is now equipped with shopping arcades and markets from where tourists carry memoirs of the most beautiful mausoleum in the world. Located to the east of the center of the city, Tajganj is only a few kilometers away from the heart of the city. Buses navigate through Fatehabad Road and Taj Road to reach the center of the city. Tajganj is also connected by railroads. Agra Fort railway station is the nearest railway station which is located at a distance of 4 kms from Tajganj.

Other tourist destinations like the Agra Fort, Moti Masjid and Shahjahan Park are all located within the periphery of Tajganj. There are many shopping malls located in Tajganj providing the most memorable souvenirs for the tourists to carry home.



Figure 5:Tajganj area with respect to Taj Mahal

As the name suggests the artisans who were involved in the construction of Taj Mahal lived in this area. It was also called Mumtazabad who was the beloved wife of Emperor Shah Jahan for whom he built the Taj. This area has several settlements with few lesser known monuments, heritage houses, Market Street, community square/ courtyard and people engaged in the making of traditional handicrafts.



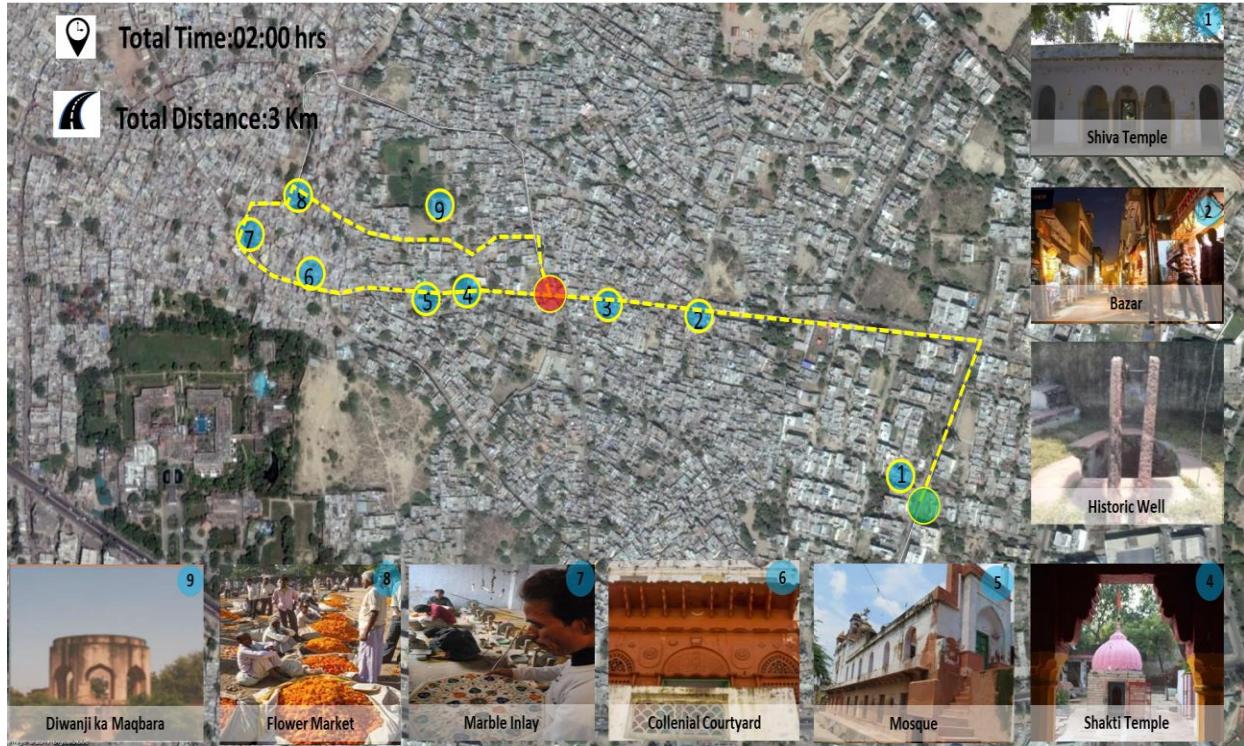


Figure 6:Tajganj Heritage walk 2

As shown in figure 3-11, the Tajganj heritage circuit will be a walk through 9 locations, viz:

- 1 Shiva Temple
- 2 Main Bazar
- 3 Historic well
- 4 Lodhi Temple
- 5 Mosque of Deewan E Begum
- 6 Community courtyard
- 7 Flower market
- 8 Marble Inlay
- 9 Diwanji ka Maqbara

The walk traverses along 3 kms walk which will be completed in an average time of 02:00 hrs.

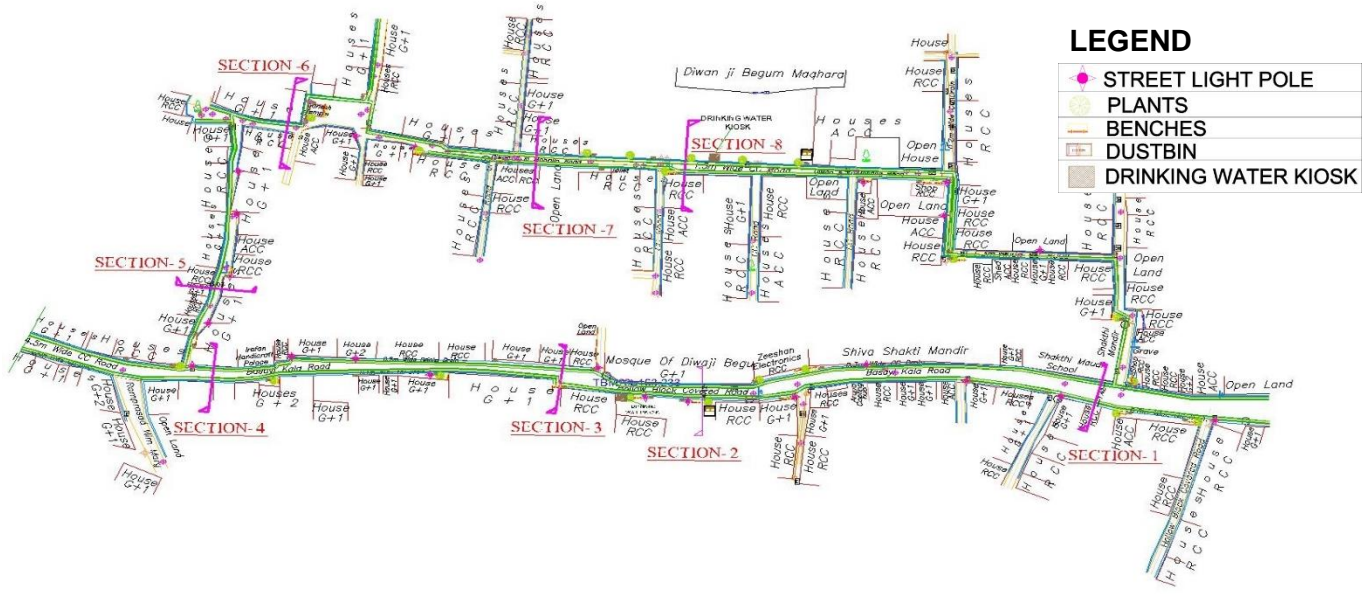


Figure 7:Topographic survey of heritage walk

3.2.1 Shiva temple

During the Mughal time, there was a village of Brahmin community located at the site where the Taj Mahal is built. When the site selection for Taj Mahal was going on, the ministers of Shahjahan visited and found the site as the most suitable for the construction of Taj Mahal. Ministers of the king spoke to the community and decided to relocate them to this new place and named it as "Basai Kalan" which meant new settlement. The development of this settlement started with the setting up of this temple.

There was agriculture field and garden around the settlement. Wells were used for irrigation. A predominantly old well along with a several few will be seen on the site. These wells were built by the community and financed by rich landlords living in the area. Bullocks were used for drawing waters from this well. Most of wells have dried up since the last 15-20 years, more so due to neglect after the municipal water supply started.



Figure 8:Shiva Temple

3.2.2 Tajganj bazar

Each of the narrow heritage streets of Agra have a story to narrate. Tajganj is a very busy and a longstanding market street for this area. During the British time this market was very famous for tobacco, gajak & guddani (local sweets). It was also a wholesale cereal market (Anaj Mandi) where people used to frequent for the purchase and sale of merchandise from other parts of the city. Currently there are around 40 shops in this market comprising of vegetable vendors, old provision stores, traditional bakeries, butcher shops, etc.



Figure 9:Tajganj Bazar

3.2.3 Historic well

This is yet another 100-year-old well. Families around this well used to use water from well until 1985, and water was available at 60 feet levels. With the advent of pipe lines by the water department, usage of wells by communities came to a halt. The well has dried up considerably and water levels have gone below 250 feet.

3.2.4 Lodhi temple

This temple is called the Lodhi Temple. Lodhi's were rulers who ruled India before the Mughals and the temple owes its existence to this period. The temple is very unique as it has a mosque-like dome, representing a fusion in architecture design. Local flower vendors often set up a flower market in the morning in this area. They sell flowers to small vendors and garland makers and then spend their afternoons updating their daily log-books. Local people and small vendors buy flowers for making the garlands and finally sell them at different places in entire city. This is one of the main occupations of the women belonging to this area. One can also appreciate the Sanjhi art made by young girls on the walls

of the temple. It is an art form of this region made of natural colours. A rainwater harvesting system has also been set up here to make people aware of the technique. The temple is also used as a community courtyard for meetings, marriages, etc.

3.2.5 Mosque of Deewan E Begum

After crossing the market street will emerge walk through the street adorned by old houses and mosque. This mosque was built by the mother of Mumtaz Mahal, beloved wife of Shah Jahan in the year 1630; 30 years older than Taj. Local people offer daily prayers at the mosque. The large tank at the center had water which was used by the people for cleaning purpose before offering prayer. The tank was filled by the well in the basement through Persian wheel system. But due to leakage in the tank now and lack of water it remains empty. People make use of the taps currently. This mosque also has the graves of renowned Sufi priest who came from Ajmer named Fasulddin and Hazrat Kebala Chisti. They used to take care of Diwanji Begum. The small grave in the corner is one of the local residents, who maintained the mosque after these two saints. These graves have made this mosque popular among the women who come here in wish for good luck. A small Madarsa (Islamic school) next to the Mosque provides religious education to the children. Five years ago Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) ensured the renovation of this mosque and also made some changes like the addition of steps to this mosque from the main road. Formerly the entrance of the mosque was from the other side.

3.2.6 Community Courtyard

This is another mosque which not very old, built by the local people through their contribution in the form of material and labour. This is a community square/ courtyard used for community cultural activities and gatherings. There are some very beautiful houses with stone carving and old gateways.

3.2.7 Flower market

This is a large flower wholesale market at the community courtyard popularly known as "mandi" which operates in the morning. The flower sellers from nearby villages sell their flowers to the people in these settlements whose livelihoods involve making flower garlands. These garlands are used in temples and for decoration in houses and weddings. Mostly women and young girls are involved in this trade. As we walk through these streets we will find women of these houses making garlands.



Figure 10: Flower Vendors

3.2.8 Marble Inlay

In this old heritage house one can see the making of marble inlay products. The stone carved Taj Mahal is one among the most popular curios. This art of stone carving became famous during the Mughal times and is called Parchin Kari. It is inspired from the Pietre Dure of Italy. Floral and geometric patterns are first drawn on the hard stone which can be marble, granite stone etc. It is then carved out with a sharp tool. Semi-precious colorful stone pieces are shaped and polished as per design. These colorful stones are then stuck into the carved area. Once these stone pieces are dried and fixed, the product is polished. Several products are made using this technique like table tops, coasters, small boxes etc. The people working are locals from nearby settlements. They supply these products to the showrooms in the city.



Figure 11:Marble Inlay shops

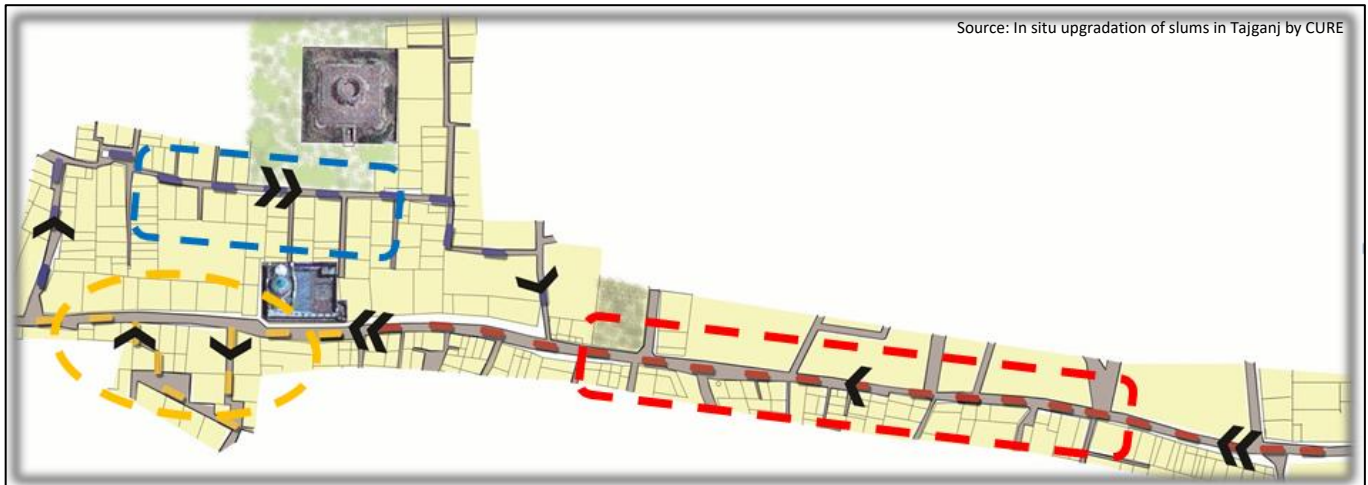
3.2.9 Diwanji ka Maqbara

"Diwan Ji Begum Maqbara" is the tomb of Mumtaz's mother. The tomb was originally situated in a spacious garden like other tombs of the Mughal, which has disappeared now. The tomb has an octagonal plan as considered to be sacred by Mughals with 8 large arches. The burial chamber is in the large basement. The basement has a remarkable system of light ducts for light and ventilation. The tomb also had a large dome supported on arches which is lost now. One can have a frame view of Taj Mahal from here.



Figure 12:Diwanji ka Maqbara

3.3 Walk Highlights



Source: In situ upgradation of slums in Tajganj by CURE

Figure 13:Heritage Walk highlight

As shown in the above figure, walk highlights tells us different patterns of experience walking along the streets. This pattern can be observed into three aspects:

- 1 **Colours and flavors of Market Street.**
- 2 **Mystical Street with old buildings and monuments.**
- 3 **Living heritage in traditional craft street.**

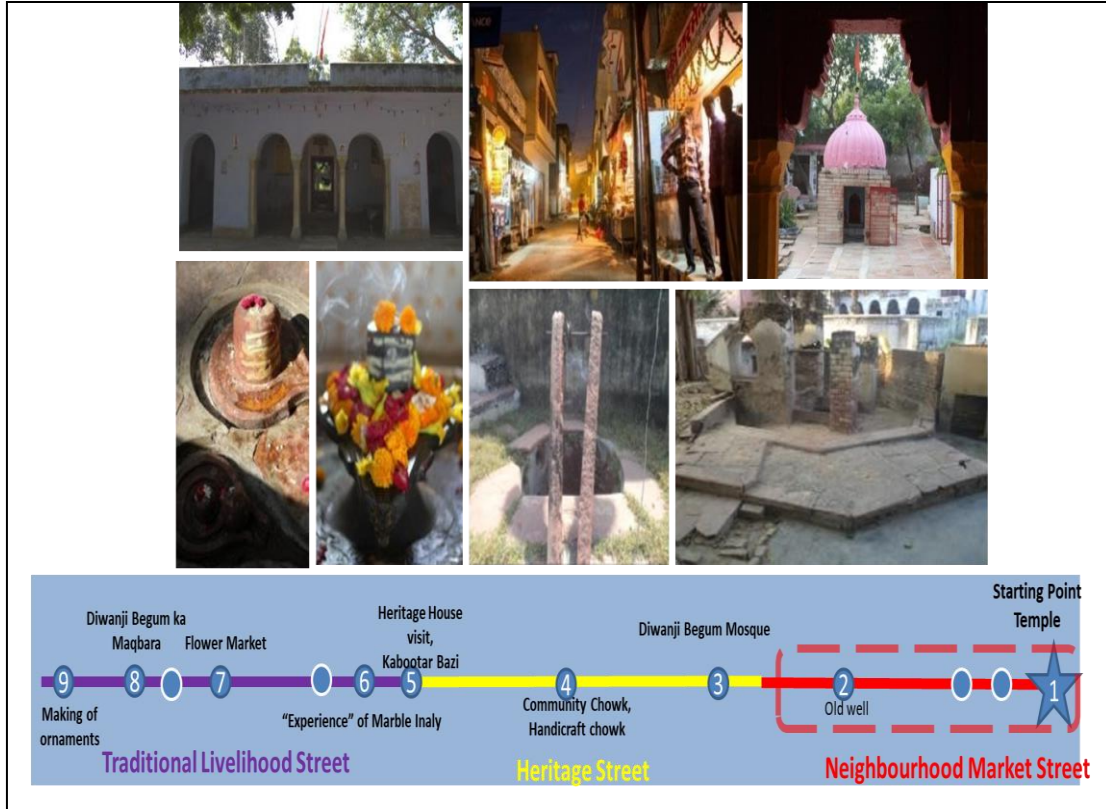
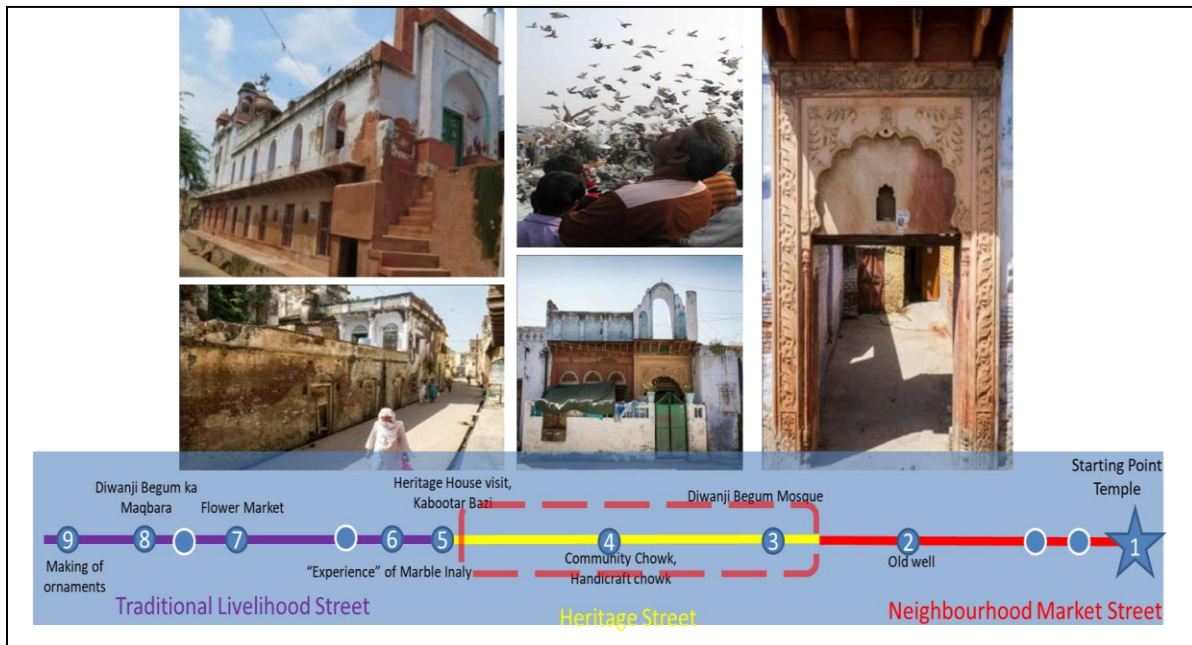


Figure 14: Take off Point - Tajganj heritage walk 2

The tour will start the journey from the temple point as shown in the figure, and will first explore the neighborhood market streets comprising of old Lodhi temple, old well, and Carved stone fragments.



The next stage of the tour will be the Heritage street as highlighted above, where tour will experience a view and feel of old monuments, taking them back to the history. This will involve the viewing of the Deewan ji Begum ka Maqbara, Community square/ Courtyard where one can interact with local people and can see kite flying, etc. along with other live activities.



Figure 15: Finishing the Walk - Tajganj heritage walk 2

The final stage of the tour shall be a live experience of the traditional livelihood street, where people can see live making of marble inlay, zardosi and ornaments.

Sequencing the walk-3 (Tajganj Heritage Walk)

1. Booking and confirmation: Same or previous day, on telephone.
2. Arrival point & registration: At the Basai temple back side of Shilpgram, near Hotel Retreat
3. Briefing about the history of the temple and its linkage with Mughal era.
4. Start the walk towards the neighborhood market: Showcasing hustle bustle of old market street of Tajganj
5. Heritage street: Old heritage houses, Diwan ji Begum mosque, graves of sufi saint of Mughal time, Madarsa
6. Taking de-tour to up the hidden street: Community Square/Courtyard, Mosque, houses

during Mughal period

7. Walk into a heritage Haveli: Local stories, kite flying, kabootar bazi, Terrace view of Tajmahal

-
8. Experiencing live making of inlay in a heritage setting: explaining the mechanism of inlay/pacchikari
 9. Street full of home-based occupation: Garland making and Flower market (Phool Mandi).
 10. Glimpses of Traditional handicrafts: carpet, shoes, zardozi
 11. View of Taj at Tomb of Diwan ji Begum
 12. Back to the Temple: Experience sharing, get a feedback form filled, giving out souvenirs.

3.3.1 Detailed distance and sections

Based on the survey all the distances and its detailed sections available in figures



Figure 16:Satelite image for Heritage walk distances

3.3.2 Detailed sections

EXISTING SECTION

SECTION -1

PROPOSED SECTION

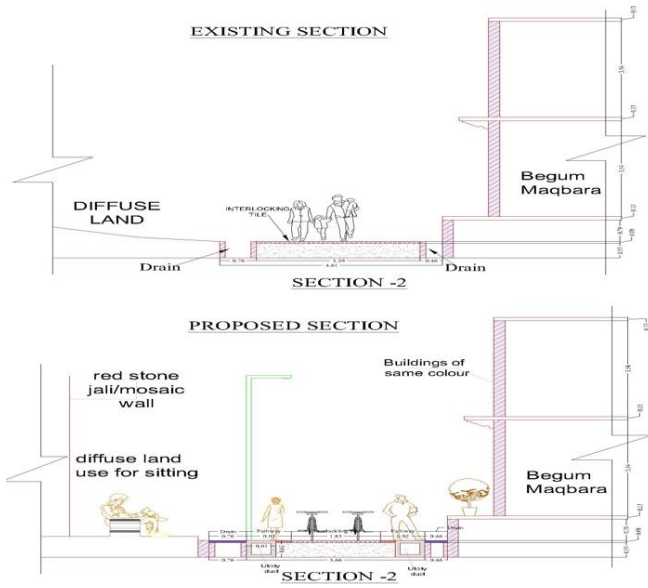
SECTION -1

Before

After

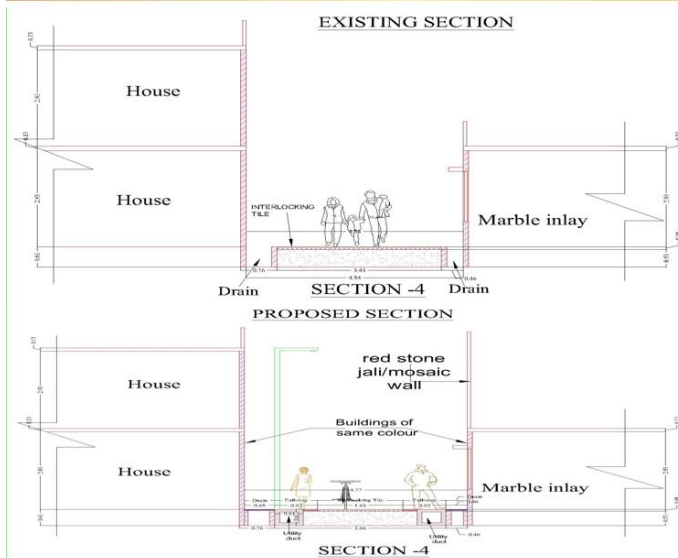
PROVISION OF

- DUSTBIN
- STREET LIGHT
- STONE JALI
- STREET PAINTING
- PEDESTRIAN MARKING
- UTILITIES
- GREEN GAS LINE



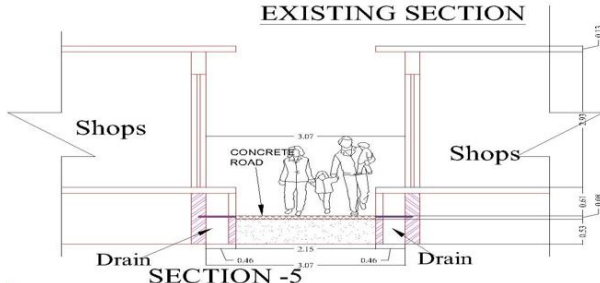
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- BENCHES
- DRINKING WATER KIOSK
- E TOILET
- PLANTS



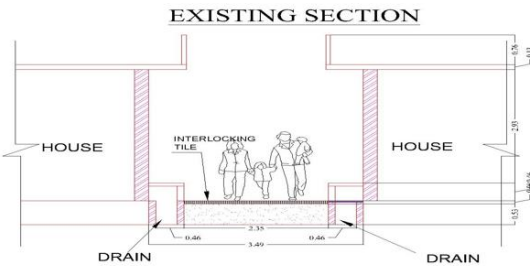
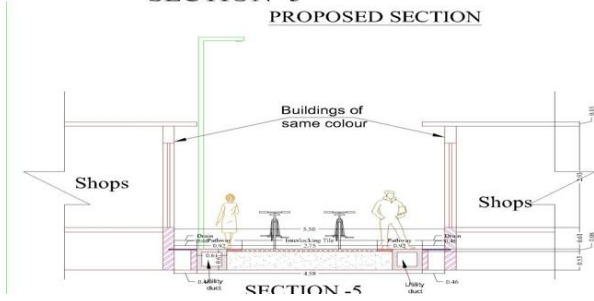
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PROVISION OF

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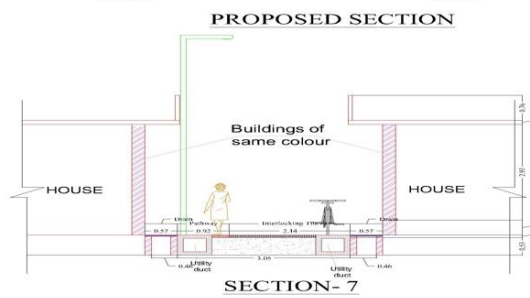
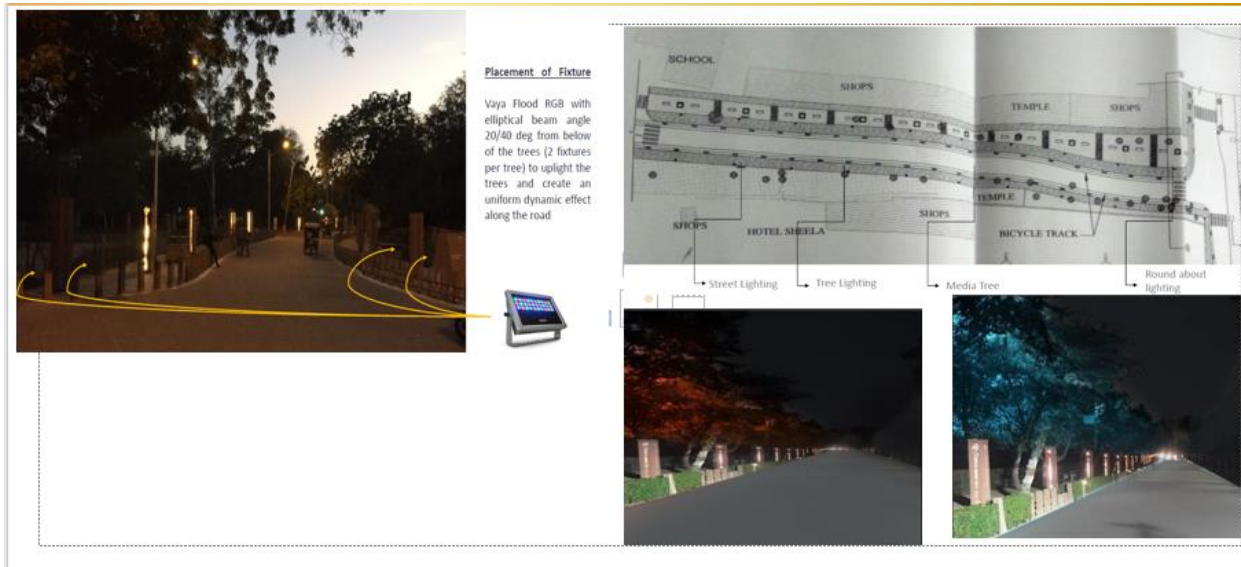




Figure 17: Detailed sections of Heritage walk



3.3.3 Capacity building for the community

To development of community by economically it is very important to create and build the environment that will affect to overall development of area with their skills for that training is required for local vendors so that they can do business accordingly because of this initiative foreign tourist can easily buy the materials and explore the heritage experience.

3.4 Case study – Ahmedabad Heritage Walk

3.4.1 Background

The birth of the Old City settlement dates back to a 10th century AD town known as Ashaval. In the later part of the 11th century, another city grew adjacent to Ashaval, known as Karnavati. The present Walled City was created during the Ahmed Shahi period in the 15th century. A new palace and fort were built near Bhadra, which covered a rectangular area of around 500 * 800 meters. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the city expanded outwards. Fortifications were strengthened. The 18th century saw the decline of the city and many suburbs and even parts of the inner city were abandoned and ruined. During the British rule due to political stability and later the introduction of textile mills resulted in economic growth and prosperity. Military and administrative centers, cantonment and railways churches, administrative and residential buildings were also established during the period. Wholesale Markets at Kalupur, mechanized industries and worker's quarters on eastern suburbs, Ellis Bridge, Residential buildings and educational institutions were established. For walls were mostly pulled down in mid-20th century. The absence of any decentralization policy with regard to economic activities resulted in congestion and decay of Walled city.

3.4.2 Urban Character

Streets and Neighborhoods:

The nucleus of activities at Bhadra and Manek Chowk and the twelve gates on the wall, created a radial pattern of streets. Puras were connected with wider streets and entered through gates. Each micro neighborhood around residential streets became typical and is called "pol" which consists of a street and houses on its both sides. It would have at the most two gates that bat entry at night.

The city of Ahmedabad has been able to display examples worth replicating in the field of heritage conservation. AMC and Ford Foundation, New Delhi prepared a report on "Urban Conservation of Walled City Ahmedabad". The study concentrated on the essential elements required in the city's conservation with a focus on the historical areas. The historical importance of the city, city form, wall, gates, pols, house patterns and the problems related to old fabric were analyzed. A list of heritage buildings and precincts was prepared. Conservation and a demonstration project were also proposed.

Heritage Walk:

A Heritage Walk was initiated through the old neighborhoods by AMC and the programme was well publicized through brochures and posters. The community itself came forward with whatever help they could do. The residents in the route make efforts to keep the route clean and restored.

Street signage programme:

Name of an Area, particularly in historic inner-city neighborhoods, is very important for the residents. They closely identify with the name. Unfortunately, the street plate recognizing the identity of those areas has never been a priority. AMC took it up as an issue and has started to display name plates with municipal symbols and appropriately inaugurated them in the presence of AMC officials, local political representative and elderly persons of the neighborhood.

3.4.3 Heritage Walk:

A key tool for urban revival: Heritage Walk - as the name suggests, behaves as an effective tool whereby the inner areas of the city shall be explored in terms of the architectural heritage, cultural heritage and the craft heritage. The walk shall in its due course take the people through specific routes penetrating through the inner areas and habitats of the people, exploring the beautiful temples, heritage buildings, ha veils pols, shops and a lot more. The exploring and exposing of the inner areas of the Walled City requires an initiative from the Municipal Corporation of the city, which needs to provide some basic infrastructure - in terms of proper paving, cleaning up of the streets, provision of street lights, signage, public amenities. The walk carries with it another kind of advantage - the changes it can bring about in the land use pattern of the area, by conversion of a part of the heritage building into a cafeteria or into a paying guest accommodation, whereby the tourists can get the actual feel of the cultural heritage by staying within the precincts of it. This can allow a total change in the economy of the area wherein the tourists can stay in and spend at these inner areas.

3.4.4 Preliminary Roles of the Municipal Corporations

To summarize one can list down the following roles of municipal corporations for heritage conservation

1. Intervene strategically.
2. Start with available resources.
3. Elicit support of local architects, professionals and NGOs.
4. Got support of local people.
5. Identify implement-able projects.
6. Involve elected wing.
7. Coordinate with other government and non-government agencies.
8. Establish a heritage unit in the local government.
9. Sensitize all official agencies towards heritage work.
10. Recognize and cooperate with International bodies and coordinate their actions

3.4.5 Public Spaces

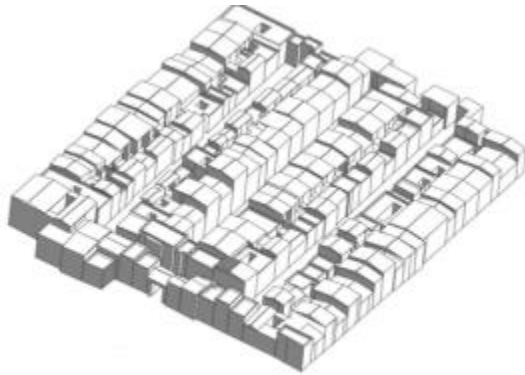


3.4.6 Traditional Pols



Uses in many of these 'pols' are now changing to storage/ warehouse

Pol Types



Chipa Pol (Planned)



Akasheth Kuva Pol (Organic)

3.4.7 Structure of Pol houses



Traditional Earthquake Resistance Construction System Built within the Pol Houses of Ahmedabad.

3.4.8 Wooden Carved Building Elements



3.4.9 Ahmedabad Heritage walk Route Map



Figure 18: Ahmedabad Heritage walk Route Map

3.5 Detailed estimates



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