

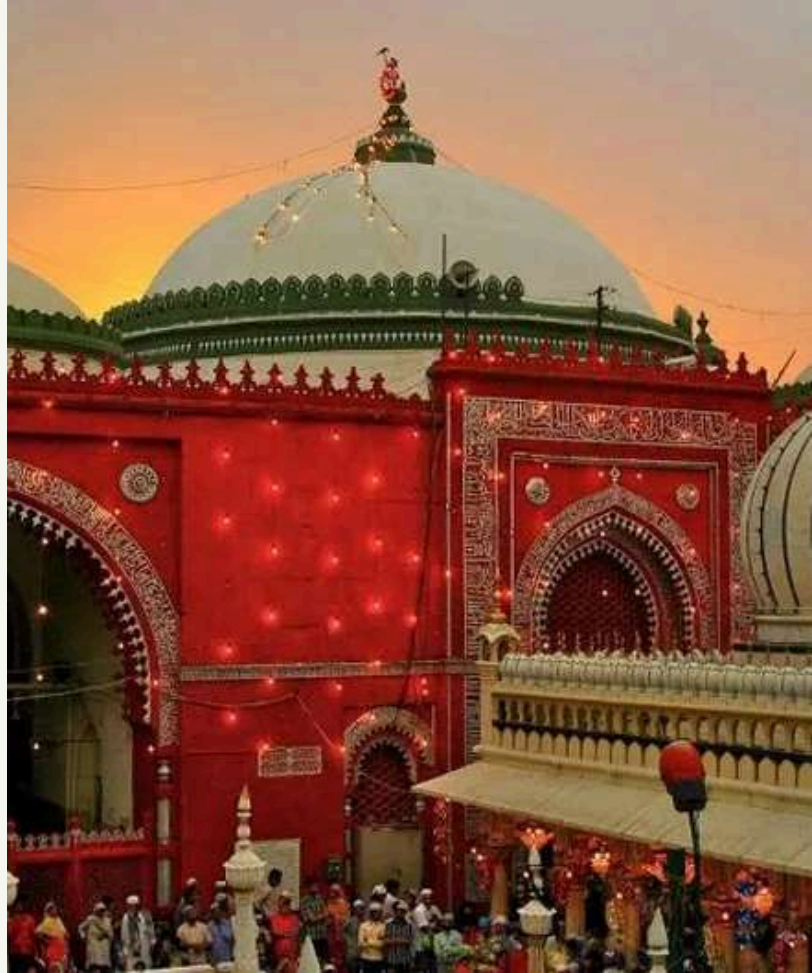
The Delhi NEWSPAPER



WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE HISTORY OF DELHI'S NAME

The name "Delhi" has various fascinating legends. One traces back to 50 BCE, when King Dhillu named the city for himself. Another theory is that the Tomaras named it after the Prakrit term "dhili" (loose), which refers to a weak iron pillar foundation. According to Panjab Notes and Queries, it was known as "dilpat" during King Prithviraj's reign, which comes from the old Hindi word "dil" (eminence).

Alexander Cunningham observed that "dilli" developed into "dehli/dehli." Some believe the Tomara coins, known as "dehliwal," influenced the name. According to the Bhavishya Purana, King Prithviraj built a fort with a gate called "Dehali." Others believe "Dhilli" or "Dhillika" is the original name, or that it is derived from Hindustani "dehleez" or "dehali," meaning "threshold," to represent the city's significance as a doorway to the Gangetic Plain.



DELHI IS A LIVING CITY

DELHI - A HERITAGE CITY

Delhi is a thriving city that has preserved over a thousand years of architectural legacy across multiple states. The authenticity of form and design in its historic sites, such as Mehrauli, Nizamuddin, Shahjahanabad, and New Delhi, is largely preserved. Mehrauli retains its historic Rajput fortification and village morphology, with listed buildings linked by pathways.

Nizamuddin maintains its ancient dargah settlement and street design, which reflect the city's lasting Sufi traditions. Despite alterations since 1857, the Mughal architecture and urban morphology of Shahjahanabad have substantially remained. New Delhi preserves its original form, which was influenced by the Garden City and City Beautiful movements, and efforts are continuing to replant aged avenue trees.

STUDY THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF ANY MOMUMENT IN OLD DELHI. SPEAK ABOUT IT IN YOUR CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS OF THE SAME.



DELHI'S HERITAGE TREES

Monuments of Delhi are known for their structural essence and being a part of the country's built heritage. But they also harbour some of the most indigenous species of trees around their vicinities. Let's have a look at a few of them:

1. **Pilkhan or Ficus virens** is a large fig tree which has its roots going up its trunk. This tree proudly stands in the Deer Park, Hauz Khas.
2. **An aged mango tree** that stands tall in Lodhi Gardens.

3. **Imli tree** is another deciduous tree which has many traditional and medicinal properties, stands in the Hauz khas fort complex.

4. This is said to be the oldest tree that exists in Delhi, called **Khirni** which nicely shades the shrine of Nizammudin Dargah in Chirag Delhi. The tree is believed to be there since the shrine's inception in 1356.

5. A withered but firm tree called **Salvadora tree** in the Qutub Complex area.

6. Located at Teen Murti Bhavan, this **Seemal or Bobax Ceima tree** has given great shade to many visitors in its vicinity.

There are over 16 such species of trees that have been recognised by the Delhi government at 'heritage'trees in September of 2016.





Dilli Haat Bonanza

Visit the Haat to explore the vivid handicrafts of the city and country.



CRAFTS AND ITS MAKERS IN DELHI

CRAFT CHRONICLES OF DELHI

As one traverses through the galis of Delhi, they can hear the repetitive sounds of the tools being used to make certain crafts. Delhi has been historically invaded and has had migrants over the centuries settle in the region. They all brought something unique from where they came from and started a simple business of their own here. A few examples of the crafts made in Delhi are: Zardozi in Chandni Chowk, potters from Hauz Rani, the lohars or ironsmiths from Connaught Place. The miniature paintings artists, bookbinders, stone carvers, banglemakers, the carvers, the ittra traders, rafoohwallahs, the jewellers and the instrument makers. Then we also have the macrame makers, crochet embroiderers, printers and dyers. A few small but pertinent communities of makers and crafters exist in the city of Delhi that add to its handicraft quotient.

Most of the craftspersons you will find in nooks and corners working in a dedicated manner, they even pass on their skillsets and learning to their young disciples, be it a member of their family or any eager learner.

Chart a Day in the Life of a Craftsperson

- *Find a craftsperson near your locality. Seek their permission to shadow them for a day.*
- *Write your observations, document it in images or video and present it in your class*



Marvelling at the Museums in Delhi

Delhi has a list of interesting National and local museums. From the National Museum which has over 2 lakh artefacts to the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets. The city has a lot to offer. There is Gandhi Smriti which is a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, there is the Rail Museum which tracks the unique rail heritage of the country. There is the Nehru Planetarium which offers live shows on the universe and space. Then we have some interesting private museums such as Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in Saket which has contemporary Indian artists, Sanskriti Museum of Terracotta, Indian textiles and Everyday art. Delhi is replete with a good museum culture that one can engage with who wishes to learn about the history



INTACH'S ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING INDIA'S HERITAGE BUILDINGS

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) had completed a thorough survey, identifying 1,064 heritage buildings, including 303 havelis previously overlooked in the year 2015. Despite INTACH's efforts to highlight nearly 550 additional buildings with unique architectural features, only a quarter of these properties in the Walled City have legal protection. This has led to the unfortunate collapse of several historic havelis due to neglect and unauthorized construction. INTACH's ongoing work underscores the critical need to recognize and protect India's cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of preserving these architectural treasures for future generations.

Kathika Cultural Centre (KCC) is a newly established cultural hub in Old Delhi, set within a haveli-turned-museum. Unlike ordinary museums, KCC aims to rejuvenate and exhibit the rich cultural heritage of Old Delhi, serving as a vibrant cultural center in the heart of the city.



Art Deco in Delhi

Art Deco is not typically associated with Delhi, a city renowned for its Mughal, neoclassical, and Modernist architectural styles. However, around the mid-20th century, Art Deco did make a brief appearance in the city. If you look closely, you can still find traces of it, as highlighted by architect Geetanjali Sayal. While documenting the Art Deco style in Delhi, she and her partner discovered several buildings exhibiting its elements.

One notable example is Faridkot House in New Delhi, once the residence of Maharaja Harinder Singh Brar, the last king of Faridkot. Today, this building serves as the headquarters for the National Green Tribunal. Additionally, some private residences also showcase Art Deco elements.

Sayal shares the story of Charan Bhavan and Bharat Bhavan, located on Delhi's Rani Jhansi Road. Originally, these were the Gupta family residences, later divided between two brothers, Charan Singh Gupta and Bharat Singh Gupta. Each side of the house featured a different facade, and together, they were considered a landmark in the neighborhood. These buildings are prime examples of the Art Deco style that once graced Delhi's architectural landscape.



Neighbourhood Tales

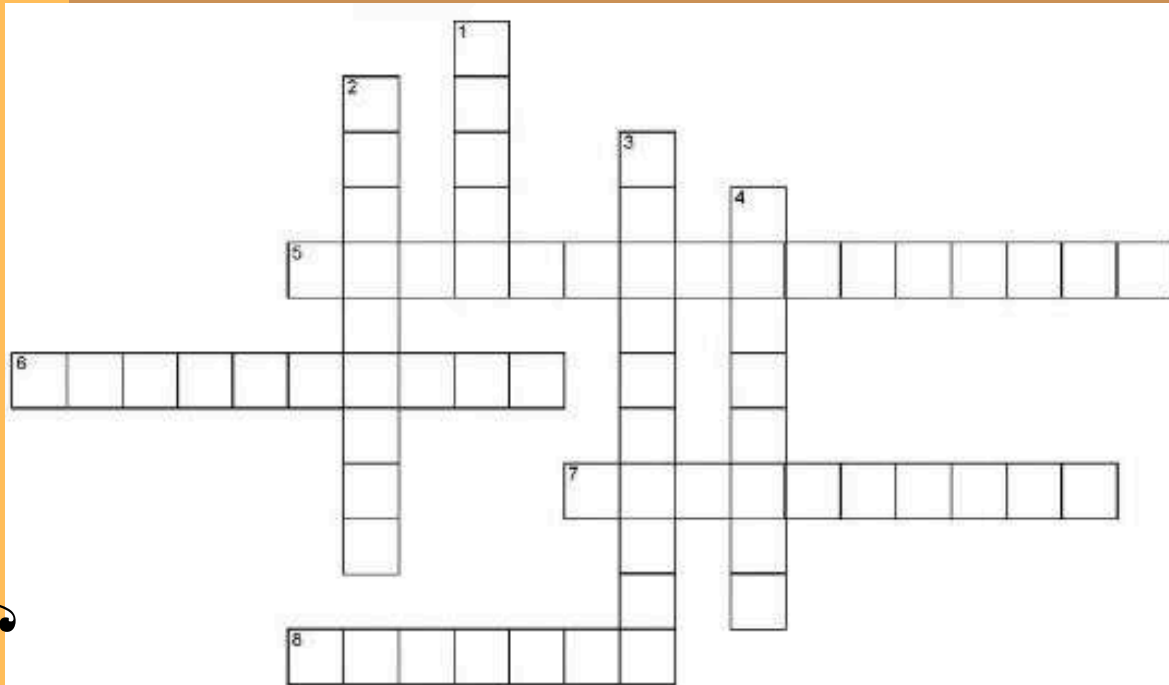
Explore the history and story associated with your house/neighborhood/locality and document it in a video and present it in your class

Heritage Walk Chronicler

Have you ever taken a Heritage walk in Delhi? Delhi is replete with unique walkthroughs around its lanes, museums, monuments and gardens. Take a walkthrough and write down your observations below, you can even post photos of the same.



Solve the Crossword Puzzle on Humayun's Tomb



ACROSS

- 5 The Mughal Emperor who took refuge during a rebellion against the British rule
- 6 The height of the tomb in meters
- 7 The Dargah, the proximity to which was the reason for choosing the banks of Yamuna as the construction site
- 8 The Urdu meaning of the word Tomb

DOWN

- 1 The holy city which the tomb faces in the west
- 2 The person who commissioned Humayun's Tomb
- 3 The Persian Architect who designed Humayun's tomb
- 4 The Typical Persian garden inside Humayun's tomb

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