

MY GANJ, MY PRIDE

History Document



MY GANJ, MY PRIDE

History Document

Introduction

Local History Lesson
History Document : Introduction
—
Document 3

What is Cultural Heritage?

Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.

As part of human activity Cultural Heritage produces tangible representations of the value systems, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles. As an essential part of culture as a whole, Cultural Heritage, contains these visible and tangible traces from antiquity to the recent past.

Cultural Heritage is a wide concept. We prefer to concentrate on the similarities between the various heritage sectors, instead of on their differences.

Cultural Heritage types

Cultural Heritage can be distinguished in:

- 1: Built Environment (Buildings, Townscapes, Archaeological remains)
- 2: Natural Environment (Rural landscapes, Coasts and shorelines, Agricultural heritage)
- 3: Artefacts (Books & Documents, Objects, Pictures)

Tangible & Intangible Heritage

Having at one time referred exclusively to the monumental remains of cultures, cultural heritage as a concept has gradually come to include new categories. Today, we find that heritage is not only manifested through tangible forms such as artefacts, buildings or landscapes but also through intangible forms. Intangible heritage includes voices, values, traditions, oral history. Popularly this is perceived through cuisine, clothing, forms of shelter, traditional skills and technologies, religious ceremonies, performing arts, storytelling. Today, we consider the tangible heritage inextricably bound up with the intangible heritage. In conservation projects we aim to preserve both the tangible as well as the intangible heritage.

Heritage Cycle

The Heritage Cycle diagram gives us an idea how we can make the past part of our future (Simon Thurley, 2005). In a clockwise direction the wedges and arrows read:

- a: By understanding (cultural heritage), people value it
 - b: By valuing it, people want to care for it
 - c: By caring for it, it will help people enjoy it
 - d: From enjoying it, comes a thirst to understand
- a: By understanding it.....etc

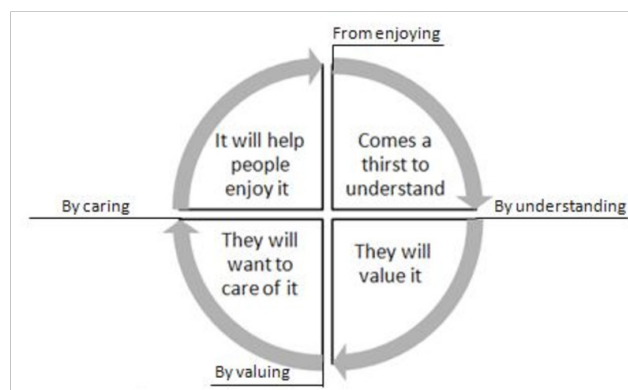


Figure: The heritage cycle

MY GANJ, MY PRIDE

History Document

Local History Lesson
History Document

—
Document 3

The journey of 200 years for Hazratganj started with a single step of Awadh's first nawab in 1810. Known as 'Munnawar Baksh' in its early days, the place is a corridor straight into Lucknow's glorious past. It has been a witness to the city's best and worst of times.

On a pleasant evening, as you take a break to enjoy the colour co-ordinated fountain in front of the multi-level parking, names like Ring Theatre and Kothi Noor Baksh may not ring a bell. It's another matter that you zip past these landmarks practically every day. Ring or Imperial Theatre, is what you know as General Post Office (GPO) and Kothi Noor Baksh is the present-day DM residence. This multi-level parking, incidentally, has come up in place of another century-old edifice — Hazratganj Kotwali and Fire Station.

Although Ganj has acquired a fresh coat of colour and charm, almost every building lined up on both sides has a story behind it, which the GenX is not aware of. The uncountable kothis, maqbaras, markets, cinemas and theatres, dancing room, ball room — some of them, which no longer exist — have been adding to the charm of the place.

The credit to single out the place to make it a city hub goes to the first nawab of Lucknow, Nawab Saadat Ali Khan. In 1810, he identified the place and on taking Claude Martin's words started creating European style kothis falling between the present DM's residence (Kothi Noor Baksh) to Raj Bhawan (Kothi Hayat Baksh). Various kothis like Kothi Zahoor Baksh, Noor Manzil, Khurshid Manzil, Enakbaaz ki Kothi, Kankar Wali Kothi, Munnawar Kothi, and Lucknow Club and Lawrence Terrace came up gradually.

Gradually, in 1827, the then Nawab Nasiruddin Haider introduced the China Bazaar and Kaptaan Bazaar, which were set up near the Buddha Park. These two places were precursors to the modern-day Ganj. Since the nawab was fond of foreign products, these markets had stuff from China, Japan and Belgium. Thus, the foundation stone for Ganj's market was laid. The famous Taar Wali Kothi, Dargah of 12 Imam's at Khas Mukaam, Choti Chattar Manzil, Saawan-Bhadoh Mahal (the present location of zoo), the stunning Baradari, which was earlier situated between Kaiserbagh, Darulshafa, and Lalbagh emerged during his regime. A major change came in 1842, and that was the change in the name. The place was named after Nawab Amjad Ali Shah, who was popularly known by his alias 'Hazrat'. After the Britishers

took charge post the First War of Independence in 1857, Hazratganj was modelled after London's Queen Street. The hotels, bars, theatres, cinemas and dancing room all started coming up.

The most sought-after place then was the Ring Theatre. It's another matter that its doors would be closed for the natives. This place was the hotspot for the British officers, who usually walked up with their families to entertain themselves watching English plays and movies screened there. It was popularly known as 'Entertainment Centre'. This was 'Ganjing' in the Raj era.

This building is the best example of changing times and history of Ganj. The historians see it more than a building, which stood by in all good and bad days. After serving as an entertainment zone, its next avatar was that of a special court. The hearing of the Kakori conspiracy case of 1925 was held here and Ashfaqullah Khan was given death sentence. In 1929-32, the building was renovated in Gothic style and a clock tower stood there right in the centre. The GPO, which was then situated inside the Begum's Mahal, which is now known as Janpath, was shifted to this building after that.

Interestingly, when Nawab Ahmad Shah was shaping Hazratganj as the city's hub, his minister Imdad Hussain Khan alias Ameendaullah laid the foundation of another market in the other part of the city. It later came to be known as Aminabad.

When Ahmad Shah died, his son Wajid Ali Shah got an Imambara constructed in Sibtainabad. The place is now called Sibtainabad Imambara and situated just behind Marksman restaurant, another landmark for the present generation. If Ring Theatre was frequented by Britishers, another landmark has thrived on the patronage of Indians. It was the Indian Coffee House (ICH). It came up during the First World War (1914-18). It then belonged to the Filmistan cinema which today is known as Sahu. Evidently, the most talked about spot. Unlike Mayfair and Ring Theatre, ICH was crowded by Indians all the time. In the 1920s, the place became a paradise for journalists and writers, who expressed their views over a cup of coffee.

A few years after India got Independence, the place turned out to be a favourite spot for bureaucrats, thinkers, students and teachers of Lucknow University. Right from Dr Ram

MY GANJ, MY PRIDE

History Document

Local History Lesson

History Document

—
Document 3

Manohar Lohia, Atal Bihari Vajaypee, Chandrashekar to Yashpal, Amrit Lal Nagar, Bhagwati Charan Verma and Anand Narayan Mulla all had their fair share of Coffee House moments.

If these landmarks have withstood the tides of time, there are many that have faded into the past — though they are still pretty vivid in the city's collective memory. No Lucknowite can forget the quality time spent in Kwaliti's cushioned comfort; best of Hollywood classics at Mayfair; sessions at the British Library and Chinese at Ranjana. Today, as the place is set to regain its old glory, memories of such landmarks will keep us reminding what the Ganj standard is all about.

Beautification and makeover

In 2010, to celebrate 200 years of Hazratganj, the then government, started a programme for the makeover of the area. The original makeover plan designed by country's noted architect Nasir Munjee several years ago worked as the base for the final plan that entailed an expense of Rs 30 crore.

Hoardings from rooftops and encroachments on the road were removed. Buildings were painted in a uniform crème and pink, same size and colour signages, stone pavements and the Victorian style balustrades, lamp posts, waste-bins, benches, an open air tiny amphitheatre and colourful fountains were constructed. The century old Fire Station was demolished to make way for the modern multi-level parking.

Shopping

"Ganjing" is a term used to describe ambling and shopping in the wide lanes and by lanes of city's ganj market.

Hazratganj is a major Victorian style shopping area. It houses showrooms, shopping complexes, restaurants, hotels, theatres, offices and businesses. Hazratganj shops sell the famous Lucknow Chikan material. Gurjari, Handloom Emporium and Gandhi Ashrams are also located in the market.

The Sahara Ganj Mall is a 5-storied major shopping mall located in Hazratganj. It is one of the largest shopping malls in India covering an area of over 425,000 square feet. It also has PVR movie theaters besides a huge food court.

Naza Market, part of Hazratganj, is the biggest market for computer/IT goods in the state and second largest in India after Delhi's Nehru Place.

Schools and colleges

Hazratganj area is home to St. Francis' College, Seventh Day Adventist Senior Secondary School, La Martiniere Boys' College, La Martiniere Girls' College, Loreto Girls' College, Christ Church College, National P. G. College and St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Movie theaters

Hazratganj also houses Sahu, Novelty and Leela movie theaters. It also has Mayfair cinemas which is now closed and was Lucknow's one of the best cinemas in 20th Century. It mostly showed Hollywood Movies.

Ganj Carnival

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) together with city's administration organizes monthly carnival on the second Sunday of each month in Hazratganj market. On this night, the market becomes a no-parking zone with barricades and security services. Various types of cultural and entertainment programmes are held for the general public. Lucknow Police watches the crowd with the help of drone cameras.

Hazratganj crossing

Hazratganj crossing is the busiest crossing of Lucknow city. It is situated at the confluence of NH-24, NH-25, NH-28 and NH-24B. The whole area along with the crossing falls in Lucknow's Heritage zone.

Metro station

There is a proposed metro station in Lucknow Metro.

MY GANJ, MY PRIDE

History Document Resources

Local History Lesson
History Document: Resources
—
Document 3

Resources

What is cultural heritage

http://www.cultureindevelopment.nl/cultural_heritage/what_is_cultural_heritage

Hazratganj: A Corridor To Past Glory

TNN | Jan 17, 2011, 03.46 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/Hazratganj-A-Corridor-To-Past-Glory/articleshow/7299022.cms>

Wikipedia: Hazratganj

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazratganj>

Additional Resources

<http://www.lucknowpulse.com/2014/05/28/love-lane-hazratganj/>

<http://www.tornosindia.com/personalities-of-hazratganj/>

<http://www.dsource.in/gallery/face-lifting>