

Heritage Past, Heritage Present: Mapping Delhi's Cultural Heritage Significance

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“If I were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power, and beauty that nature can bestow, in some parts a very paradise on earth, I should point to India”.--- Max Muller¹

Abstract

This research article aims to examine the cultural value of heritage landmarks in the city of Delhi by analysing the many interpretations and subsequent attribution of new meanings to these monuments. Delhi has served as the capital of the nation for an extensive period, thus exemplifying its abundant and varied historical legacy. Serving as the national capital for centuries, Delhi stands as a testament to its rich and diverse historical heritage where numerous civilizations emerged, prospered, reached their zenith, and eventually declined in this city. A city which has served as a centre of political authority as well as cultural capitals for various ruling dynasties, including the Tomars, Rajputs, Sultans, Mughals, and subsequently the British, long before its current status as a bustling metropolis and national capital of world's largest democracy. As a result, the architectural legacy of Delhi is characterised by a multitude of monuments and remnants that establish a cultural connection between the present and the past.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Preservation, Rajputs, Mughals, Delhi

Introduction

Settled on the banks of the formidable River Yamuna which facilitated the provision of water for various purposes such as daily consumption, irrigation, and transportation, Delhi provides the surrounding land highly appealing for human settlement. Thus the

¹ Müller, Friedrich Max. *India: what can it teach us?: a course of lectures delivered before the University of Cambridge*. Vol. 12. London: Longmans, Green, 1883.

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