

दास्तान, दस्तूर और दिल्ली

(STORIES &
TRADITIONS OF
DELHI)



Shahjahanabad

Kabuli Gate

Lahori Gate

Moni Gate

Kashmiri Gate

Dillo Gate

Shahjahanabad
Garden

Canal

Sarai

Chandni
Chauk

Jami
Mosque

Lal Quan

Azamgarh Gate

Ring Road

Satyam Prakash





HOW A HISTORIAN WORKS

reface

Disha India Education Foundation held its 12th chapter of ***Courage to Lead***, a program meant for educators to explore, experience and understand *Experiential Education*. Teachers from all over India got together to attend the first module of this program held in Gurgaon from the 2nd to the 7th of October.

In a first ***Disha India Education Foundation*** ran two parallel programs - one on Science and one on History and the participants were allowed to choose the expedition they liked. This book which is a product of the educators who chose to do '*How a Historian Works*', is a culmination of their engagement and learning from the six days of the first module. It is written to cater to the students of a middle program in schools across the country.

The broad idea of the expedition was *Continuity and Change* and participants studied the Mughal and British periods of rule in India to see how they influenced the shaping of Delhi as we see and know it today. The relevance of the impact and influence of both Mughals and the British on our life was understood by a real experiencing of aspects from those periods.

The journey ensured a very intense immersion of the participants who looked very closely at primary sources from architecture in the city, and, artefacts in the National Museum.

Road and city layouts, markets, houses, buildings and monuments, coins, paintings and other representations of times gone by were some of the primary sources that the participants worked around. They learnt to notice and see things around them with a keen eye for detail, with a fresh perspective and a new sense of awareness.

Focused research by participants was undertaken in the different aspects of life, culture and identity of the peoples of Delhi through the Mughal and British eras and they experienced the process of how a historian constructs the past. The possibility, importance and relevance of having various perspectives was a value that the group got to understand.

Whether it was in the observation, sharing and inferring, the reading and research, the writing or in their art work the participants stretched themselves to limits in learning, which they had probably never thought was possible. This book which you hold in your hands right now is an authentic product of their work in the six days of the first module. More importantly a city was brought alive and for our participants Delhi can now never be just another city.

Most importantly however, we know that these educators will have returned to their classrooms with an understanding of the importance to make learning real through experiences close to their students' lives. A possibility of a time for change, perhaps!

Acknowledgement

TEAM: **Courage to Lead 2019 - *How a Historian Works***

It is indeed an honour to be a part of this resource book, developed for middle school levels, tracing the history of Delhi and its evolution during the Mughal and British empires and the Sultanate era.

We would like to begin by expressing our deepest appreciation for the vision of **Mr. Parminder S. Raparia**, for spearheading the approach of Experiential Education and for being instrumental in shepherding the process of generating this history resource book in all its phases. The phenomenal idea of designing experiential curriculum using real life experiences, developed a fresh perspective in all of us and we rediscovered Lutyen's Delhi through a new lens. This exciting experience was not possible without the tenacious involvement of Parminder sir.

To the team of history facilitators **Ms. Maryam, Ms. Arunima and Ms. Mimansa** whose guidance and valuable suggestions helped each of us to work like a team towards a common goal and design a meaningful and well-crafted resource, else, it would not have been possible.

We are grateful to **Ms. Hema Biswas** who took sessions on reading and writing skills. As a language expert she chiseled our skills with various activities and engaged us. Her knowledge and experience helped us generate a balanced content for the target group of learners. We thank her for helping us prepare our drafts patiently.

We also take the opportunity to extend our warm regards to **Ms. Shagufta** the history expert for giving us time and enthusiastically sharing with us critical details of the period in contest and cementing our thoughts for a better understanding. With her anecdotes and interesting references History came alive in her sessions.

It was a privilege to be at the *Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurgaon*, and we thank **Ms. Namrata** and her team **Mr. Ikrar, Ms. Anjum** and **Ms. Urvashi** – who raced against time to ensure that our illustrations were completed to our satisfaction. The session taught us the finer nuances of drawing and painting. Even first timers could create their own master pieces!

The team would like to conclude this acknowledgement by reiterating our gratitude to one and all at ***Disha India Education Foundation*** especially **Mr. Anurag Kumar** for providing logistics and ensuring a smooth flow of the itinerary.

Kudos to Disha India which has set out to create a culture of exploration and inquiry and contribute vastly in developing a whole new world in the field of education.

And, finally a pat on the back for our own selves for compiling this book and I am sure we will do our best with new things learned in ***Courage to Lead***.



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Stitched clothes were introduced by the Mughals.

aravaan 'Kapado' Ka

SHIVENDRA
LARA



Look! Today Sonali and Aamir have dressed up like a Mughal Begum and a British Officer for the fancy dress competition. This fascinating experience made them curious about the clothes people wore in the past. So they decided to visit the school library to know more about clothes.

Let us see what they discovered.

Indian civilization is about 5000 years old. Did you know that for almost 3500 years people did not wear '**stitched clothes**'? They only 'draped' clothes around their bodies. The fabric they used was mostly cotton which was suitable for the climatic conditions of India. They also used silk for special occasions and wool for the winters.

Stitched clothes were introduced by the Mughals. They came to India from Uzbekistan, a country in Central Asia. The weather there was quite cold. Their clothing was suitable for that climate. Both men and women spent a lot of time riding horses. That is how 'pants' were invented as they were very convenient for riding horses.

Mughal kings, queens and the rich wore clothes made of silk and muslin. Their clothes were heavily embroidered

and ornamented with gold and silver zari as well as with precious stones. Mughal kings and queens wore dresses that covered their bodies from head to toe.

In general, the men's dresses included a jama, a pajama, a patka and a pagri. The Mughal women wore a tight fitting pajama or a shalwar, a choli and a peshwaz. They covered their heads and faces with a transparent embroidered dupatta called the *purda*. They wore open slip-on shoes called '*mojaris*'. They were made of leather and were ornamented with zari and gems.

A majority of common Indians continued to wear simple unstitched clothes like a dhoti and a sari. As they intermingled with the Mughals they also started wearing some fusion wear. Men wore dhotis with kurtas and sometimes kurtas with different types of pajamas. Women wore saris or long skirts with blouses. Their clothes were very simple, non-ornamented and mostly made of cotton. However they looked rich because of their vibrant colours.

What did the British wear?

The British came from a country of very cold climate. That is why they wore layered clothes. The men wore a full shirt, a vest, a waistcoat and a coat and trousers. They wore closed leather shoes with socks on the inside. Sometimes they wore breeches with high leather boots. They also wore hats to cover their heads. Some were short hats, called 'top hats' and some were tall decorated velvet hats called 'tall hats', for special occasions. The women wore, tight corsets, petticoats, elaborate flowing gowns, closed high heeled shoes and a variety of hats. Their hats were chosen according to the occasion. Bonnets were for casual wear. The hats used for special occasions were quite fancy, made of rich fabric and decorated with feathers or pearls.

Once the British started ruling India the people who came in contact with the British started getting influenced by their way of dressing. In fact, wearing European clothes became fashionable for the rich and the



educated. The common people who worked for the British were asked to wear certain types of clothes or uniforms. On the other hand, people in the villages or those who did not come in direct contact with the British continued to wear their traditional clothes.

This picture changed after the *Industrial Revolution*. Indian raw cotton was exported to Britain and machine made British clothes were imported to India. They were so much cheaper than the handmade Indian clothes. This is the reason, slowly and steadily a majority of Indian men and women changed their dressing habits and started wearing European clothes.

Sonali and Aamir were so engrossed in reading that they were suddenly startled by the bell. Luckily, the next period was a history period. They shared their 'research' with their class excitedly. In the discussion that followed the teacher talked about how we dress today.

Like all the things in history, clothes also have a past. We can

see them changing and evolving with time. However, certain themes have also continued since the ancient past with influences from various eras. We see the influence of pre-Mughal period in our saris and dhotis. The Mughal influence is visible in today's salwar-kameez, shararas, sherwanis and slip-on shoes. Whereas trousers, shirts,

coats and shoes that we wear today are influenced by our British past.

Many things change over time. Some things however remain the same across long periods of times. Understanding why things change or continue can be quite fascinating in the study of history.

For Sonali and Amar the Fancy Dress became an important event to learn about the past, and understand the reality that things both change and continue with time.

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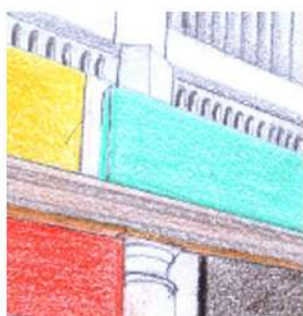
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GLOSSARY

Begum: Mughal queen | **Draped**: Wrapped | **Jama**: A type of kurta | **Pajama**: Type of pant | **Patka**: Cloth tied around the waist like a belt | **Pagri**: Headgear | **Choli**: A type of blouse | **Peshwaz**: A transparent long ankle length kurta that was open in the front | **Muslin**: Very thin, high quality cotton fabric | **Embroidered**: Decorated with patterns sewn with thread | **Ornamented**: Decorated | **Zari**: Gold or silver thread | **Fusion**: Joining of two or more things or cultures | **Vibrant**: Bright | **Petticoats**: Women's undergarment worn under a skirt or a gown | **Corsets**: Very tight fitting undergarment for women extending from below the chest to the hips | **Bonnets**: A hat tied under the chin | **Industrial Revolution**: It is a period of major changes in the way things were made. More things were machine made rather than hand made after the Industrial revolution | **Era**: A long period of history

Bazaar - The Confluence of Commerce

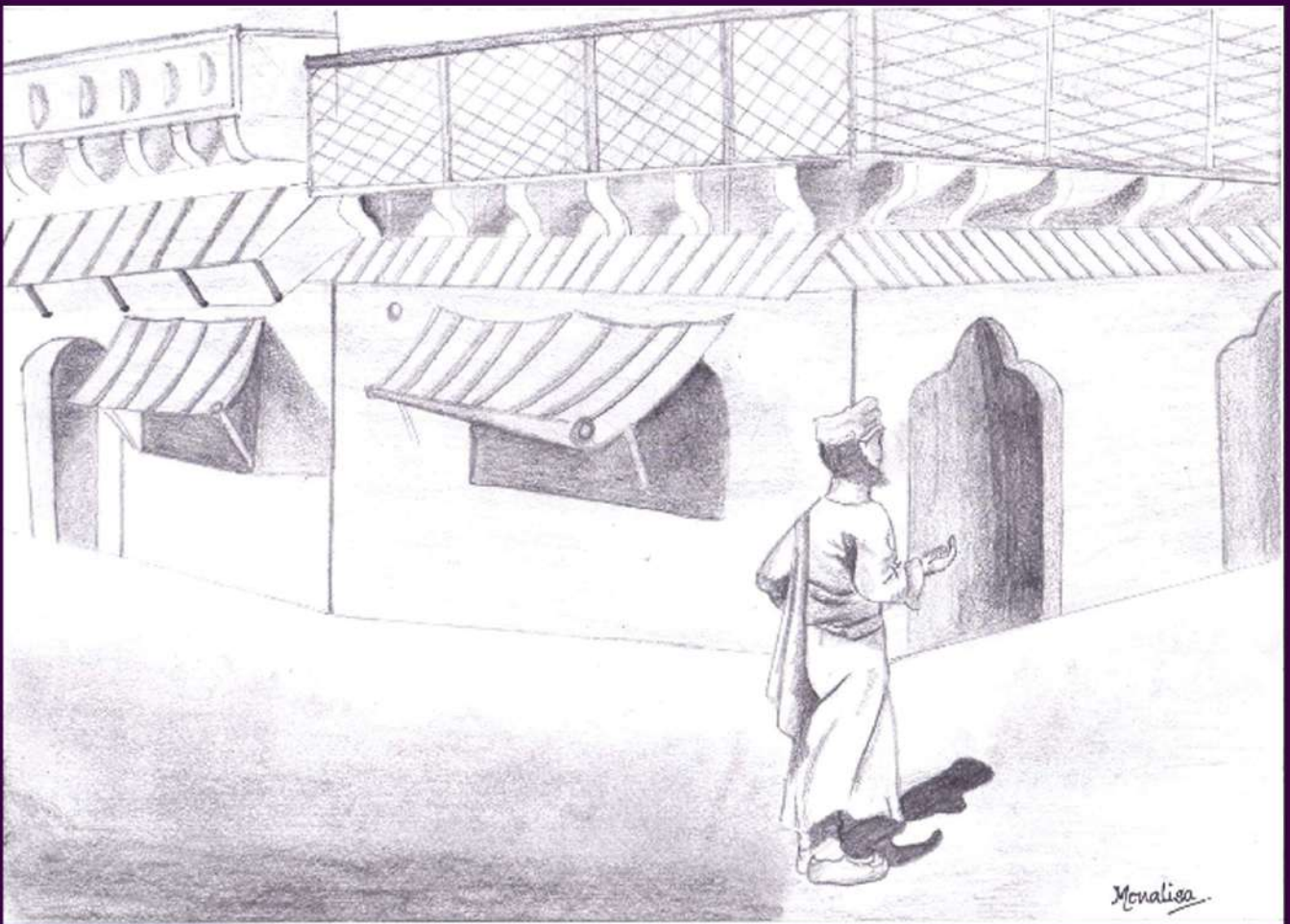
MONALISA
SREE VIDYA



Moving through the bylanes of the markets of Delhi made me nostalgic. Back then, in my childhood, shopping in Delhi's colourful markets had been a family affair. Today, Gen X is more inclined towards e-shopping. Nevertheless, the oldest markets of Delhi still buzz with life.

One of the popular markets, *Chandni Chowk* or the '*Moonlit Square*' was designed by Jahanara, the eldest daughter of Emperor Shahjahan. The name of each lane speaks volumes about the kind of business it catered to. The shops sold various kinds of goods ranging from daily needs to luxury products. Some of the streets that exist and are relevant even today are '*Paranthe Wali Gali*' for different kinds of paranthas, '*Dariba Kalan*' for silver jewelry, '*Kinari Bazaar*' for trimmers and decorations and '*Katra Neel*' for clothes, just to name a few. One must visit these crammed shops today to witness how they have survived the test of time and to see how interesting they still are!

A further interesting fact is that, the narrow lanes not only served the purpose of economic transactions, but also



functioned as the residence of the shop owners. Communities thrived within the bylanes and had special lanes to themselves. 'Naughara' (9 houses) is one such example where the Jain community resided. There is a silver jewelry shop within the enclosure which provides a glimpse into the nature of the business they might have been in. 'Khajanchi ki Haveli' near the Kinari bazaar tells us that people of importance in the Mughal durbar also resided within the crowded lanes.

Chandni Chowk is located right in front of the majestic Red Fort.

Today we see many Hindu temples, Sish-Ganj Gurdwara, Sunehri Masjid and even a church co-existing and functioning in the same lane.

Popular literatures talk about the existence of a canal in the square. The canal which was in the center of the road was fed by the river Yamuna. It was laid right from the chowk till the Fatehpuri Masjid. It cannot be seen today as it was covered by the British to widen the roads or perhaps to suit their architectural design and city planning. Another reason behind covering of the canal

could have been, to take away the glory of the Mughals and assert their own supremacy.

The narrow lanes of the market were designed keeping in mind the security of the people. In the event of an attack of any sort, movement of perpetrators of the attack would necessarily be restricted by the narrow lanes and the modest entrances to homes. Movement of vehicles, buggies and carts were restricted to the main street. And let us remind ourselves that the story of North India was filled with attackers and plunderers.

In contrast, *Connaught Place* is a spacious market in the heart of Delhi with abundant parking. This market was primarily designed keeping in mind the high-end needs of the privileged class and has become a synonym to Delhi's prime location. It was named after the Duke of Connaught. The design of the market was inspired by the *Royal Crescent*, in the city of Bath. Taking cue from the Georgian style of construction, this market runs in two concentric circles namely, the

Inner and the Outer Circle. These circles were renamed as *Indira and Rajiv Chowk* recently. However, one hardly uses these names and they are better known by their older names of Outer and Inner Circles. The Delhi Metro station here is called Rajiv Chowk Metro Station.

An interesting similarity with Chandni Chowk is that the shops in Connaught Place had residences for their owners above the shops. The shops were spacious and large. There is a high probability that parties were held in the restaurants at that time. Some of the stores like Galgotia Sons, Snowwhite and Wengers' stand tall even today to state their legacies. In fact, Connaught Place continued to be the most sought after destination for shopping, eating and entertainment and continued even between 1950s and 1970s especially for the young and the elite. It is only very slightly less popular today.

Though historic, both Chandni Chowk and CP are enigmatic and still hold their ground as places of importance. With the advent



of Delhi Metro right to the heart of these markets they are now easily accessible to all. 'Ghantewala Halwai' is no more in existence, but the board of the shop still clings to the wall as if reminding us of its fame and history. Now, well known global food chain giants like McDonalds, Pizza Hut and Dominos have found a foothold here to compete with the local players. However, some like Jalebiwala, a very old shop making savouries exists even

today and its fame runs far and wide. Chandni Chowk is still the most favourite destination of the masses and the classes alike when it comes to shopping for clothes and jewelry. The charisma of Connaught Place continues even today which is evident through the presence of fashionable merchandise and popular food stores within the Inner and the Outer Circle. The shopping experience that Janpath streets and Palika bazaar offers is well worth a visit.

A conglomeration of various periods, Delhi and its markets still exude the charm of a vintage aura spiced with a tinge of modernity.



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GLOSSARY

Confluence: A situation where two or more things come together | **Commerce**: Activities involved in buying and selling things | **Nostalgic**: Feeling happy/sad thinking about things of the past | **Relevant**: Closely connected or appropriate | **Parantha**: Flat bread | **Enclosure**: An area surrounded by a wall/barrier | **Assert**: Cause others to recognize ones' authority | **Abundant**: Plentiful | **Legacy**: Something that forms a part of your history | **Merchandise**: Goods to be bought and sold | **Conglomeration**: A number of different things

Daawat -e- Dilli

SONAL
PRIYA



One day while flipping through a recipe book, Daawat-e-Dilli, Meera came across a Mughlai recipe which caught her fancy. The ingredients were simple but the dish seemed exotic. She had heard a lot about this Mughlai cuisine, the deliciously complex blend of flavours, spices, and aromas. This made her wonder how food and food practices have evolved over time. Tracing the origins of this cuisine in India, she unveiled a tale that is sure to tease your taste buds!



Priya C.
6/10/19

Lavish and extravagant in taste, the Mughals were connoisseurs of rich, complex and sumptuous recipes like *biryani*, *nahari*, *haleem*, *qormas* and *qaliyas* which are a part of today's Indian heritage. Mughals were very particular about their choice of food ingredients. The selection was based on the *taaseer*. In the royal household, the *Shahi Khansama* consulted with the *Shahi Hakeem* while planning the menu, making sure to include medicinally beneficial ingredients. Even *chavanprash*, a health supplement to boost immunity, is a Unani medicine from the Mughal era. Mughal food was often garnished with edible flowers and foils of precious metals like gold and silver. For instance, each grain of rice for the pulao was coated with silver *warq*, which aided digestion. It was so exotic and expensive that it was almost exclusively enjoyed by the elite. The flavours were associated with their distinct aroma and use of whole and ground spices, nuts and dried fruits.

With the passage of time, Indian food habits changed and its cuisine was added with many new hues. New spices such as

as nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves, and, vegetables like cauliflower and orange carrots were introduced by the British. They also introduced beverages like *Fool Rack*, *Punch*, *Gin and Pale Ale Beer*. It is the British who made tea familiar to Indians. The British tea variant though, is very different from the boiled '*kadak chai*' most Indians have today. Practically everyone drinks tea and it has become a significant slice of Indian lives. They also introduced various bakery and confectionery products such as bread, cakes, biscuits, pudding and sandwiches. To have food from their motherland, many Britishers got English products like ham, wine, cheese etc. to India. Indian spices found a place in British cuisine and it was just a matter of opening your mind and palate to new flavours. The best examples of this fusion are mutton chops and *mulligatawny soup*.

Mughals enjoyed the luxury of having food in dishes made of gold and silver studded with precious stones, and of jade, as it detected poison. The food was eaten on the floor; sheets of leather covered with white



calico protected the expensive carpets. This was called *dastarkhwan*. It was an elaborate spread of the meal. However, with the British Raj in India, came the trend of glass and porcelain ware. A new world of sophistication was introduced including eating together at a dining table and the use of cutlery and napkins. The use of forks and knives in our houses reflects how the trend still continues.

In the Mughal era, the kitchen was the soul of the house but it was always full of smoke with

people blowing through a heavy iron pipe called *phukani* over the coal in the earthen stoves, to raise the flames. This is the reason why the royal palaces of Mughals had a separate imperial kitchen for cooking. However, in the British residences, the kitchen was very much the part of a household.

They introduced the concept of chimney and proper ventilation which is still prevalent in modern homes. However, in some rural areas of India, one can still find the earthen stoves being used for cooking.

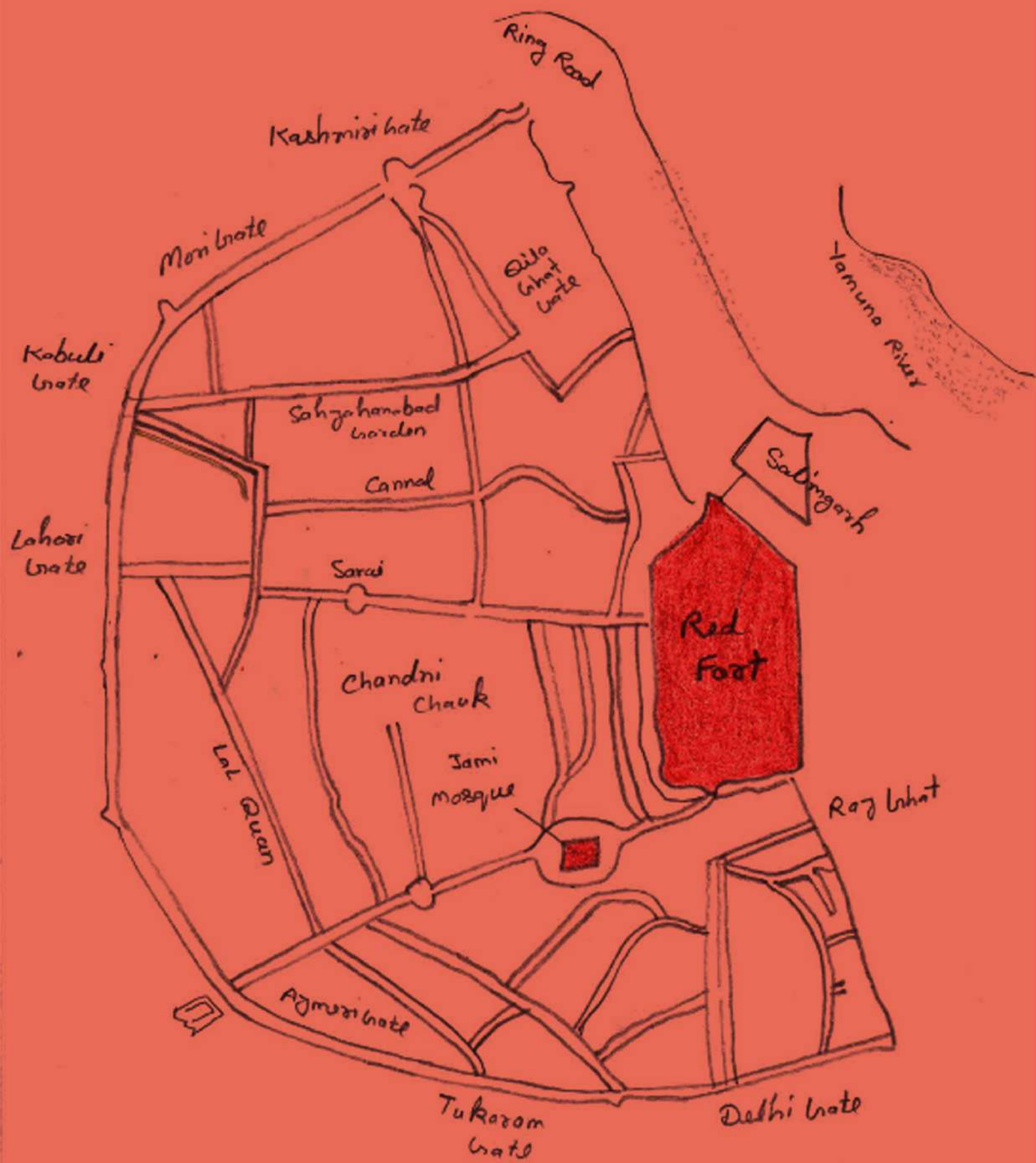
So, while unravelling these secrets, Meera realised how certain foods, which were indicative of class and money and were confined only to the houses of the elite, have travelled through the past and became a part of common life. Contemporary Indian food is constantly being refined and chefs are devising new and modern ways to prepare and present the same glorious past of spices. With its historical roots, Mughlai cuisine is still very much alive in the kitchens across the globe, whether at home or in restaurants.

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GLOSSARY

Lavish: Luxurious | **Connoisseurs:** An expert judge in matters of taste | **Sumptuous:** Splendid and expensive-looking | **Taaseer:** The effects and properties of each food | **Shahi Khansama:** Chief cook | **Shahi Hakeem:** Chief physician | **Unani Medicines:** Herbal remedies | **Mulligatawny Soup:** Originally pepper water to which other ingredients were added to make it a complete dish | **Dastarkhawan:** A table cloth | **Calico:** A type of cotton cloth, typically plain white or unbleached



Shahjahanabad

Setya Prakash

दिल्ली के बदलते चेहरे

SATYA
SARITA



इतिहास के पन्नों में दिल्ली के बिगड़ने-बनने की एक लंबी कहानी है। दिल्ली की वास्तुकला का इसके बसावट पर विशेष प्रभाव है। दिल्ली के जिंदा शहर शाहजहानाबाद (पुरानी दिल्ली) की वास्तुकला बादशाह शाहजहां के सोच से बनाई गई थी, और नई दिल्ली दक्षिण दिशा में इसके नजदीक अंग्रेजों के शासन काल में बनी।

अगर हम दिल्ली के वास्तुकला और शहर की बनावट की बात करें तो शहंशाह ने किला-ए-मुबारक या लाल किला को सत्ता का केंद्र बनाया था। यह चारों तरफ से ऊंची और मजबूत चाहरदीवारी के अंदर विस्तार में बनाया गया था। किले के अंदर खासतौर से दीवान-ए-आम में बादशाह अपनी विशेष तख्त-ए-ताउस पर बैठ आम लोगों से मिलते थे। विशेष झरोखों से बेगमें भी दरबार में शामिल होती थीं। बादशाह की सुरक्षा और निजी सुविधा को ध्यान में रखकर किले के अंदरूनी भाग में शाही हरम, नक्काखाना, शाही हमाम, बावली, शाही अस्तबल, रंग महल खास बनाए गए थे। दीवान-ए-खास अपनी नाम की तरह विशेष लोगों के लिए बनाया गया था। यहां की शाही नक्काशी संगमरमर पर उत्कीर्ण तथा महंगे पत्थरों एवं धातुओं से पेट्रे ड्योरा शैली में की गई थी। जन्नत की नहर-ए-बहिश्त की सोच पर भव्य फव्वारे किले में बने थे तथा हयात-ए-बक्श चारबाग के आकार में था।

बादशाह की बेटी जहाँनारा ने आम जनता के लिए किले के बाहर चांदनी चौक का निर्माण करवाया। बाजार क्षेत्र में मंदिर मस्जिद साथ-साथ निर्मित है।

गलियों और कूचों में नीचे दुकानें और ऊपर लोगों के निवास बने थे। खजांची गली में हवेली का होना बताता है कि विशेष लोग भी वहाँ रहते थे।

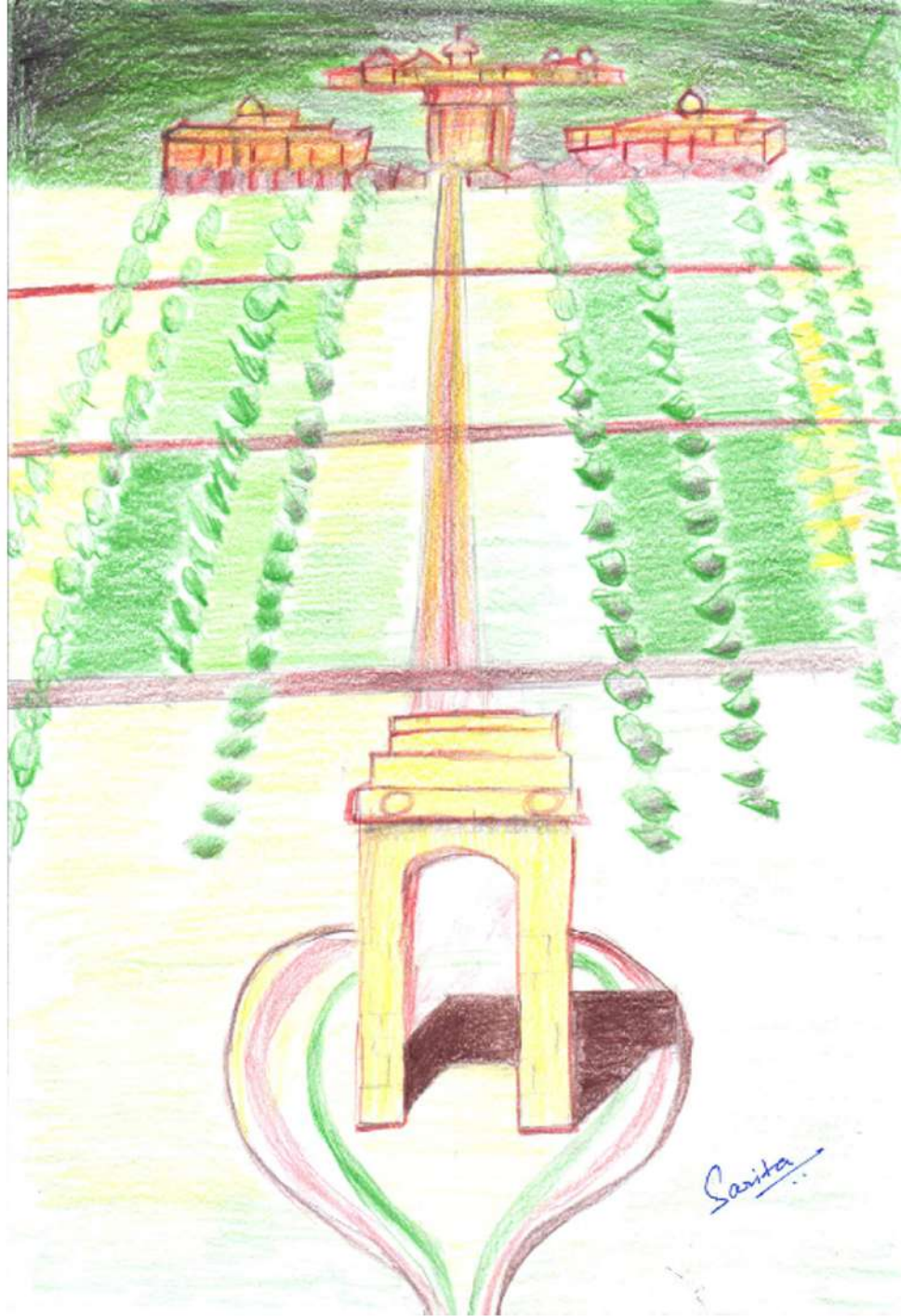
शाहजहानाबाद में भवनों की सीढ़ी संकरी होती थी। गलियों के नाम वहाँ होने वाले व्यापार पर आधारित होते थे। भवनों में दोनों तरफ खुलने वाले दरवाजे, झरोखे तथा प्रत्येक मोहल्ले का अपना फाटक होता था। इसी प्रकार शहर के चारों तरफ भी 14 गेट बने थे।

1911 में अंग्रेजों ने अपनी राजधानी कलकत्ता से बदलकर दिल्ली बनाई, और नई दिल्ली की नींव पड़ी। तत्पश्चात लटियन की दिल्ली की तैयारी शुरू हो गई। इसको बनाने वाले शिल्पकार एडवर्ड लटियन और हर्बर्ट बेकर जून 1912 में इसकी रूपरेखा तैयार करने में जुट गए। काफी खोज एवं सलाह के बाद रायसीना हिल्स पर ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य के सत्ता के केंद्र स्वरूप वायसराय रीगल हाउस, साउथ और नार्थ ब्लॉक तथा आज के गोलाकार पार्लियामेंट हाउस के निर्माण की नींव पड़ी। अंग्रेजी साम्राज्य के शहीद वीर सिपाहियों को समर्पित भव्य “वार मेमोरियल” जो आगे चलकर “इंडिया गेट” के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हुआ, भी निर्मित हुआ।

वायसराय हाउस में तत्कालीन वायसराय निवास करते थे और इसका निर्माण पाश्चात्य शैली पर करवाया गया था। वायसराय हाउस में बड़े-बड़े लॉन, बागवानी, शानदार फव्वारे, भव्य रसोई तथा निजी गाड़ियों के रखने की व्यवस्था थी। सुरक्षा के लिए पाश्चात्य शैली में वाच टावर आदि बनवाया गया था।

नार्थ और साउथ ब्लॉक के नाम से प्रसिद्ध तत्कालीन सचिवालय अपनी वास्तुकला के दृष्टिकोण से विश्व की खूबसूरत इमारतों में से एक है। अंग्रेज अधिकारियों के विशेष बंगले रायसीना के पास ही बनाए गए थे। यह बंगले ईंटों और सफेद चूनों से बनाए जाते थे। इनके चारों तरफ चौड़े बरामदे, घर के अंदर रसोई, बैठका, स्टोर रूम, स्नानघर आदि होते थे।

लटियन की दिल्ली सदैव ही प्रभुतावादी सोच से प्रेरित थी। यहां का बाजार कर्नाट प्लेस विस्तृत रूप से बनाया गया था। गोलाकार क्षेत्रफल के आधार पर दुकानों एवं उसके ऊपर व्यापारियों के आवास निर्मित हुए। ऊपर जाने के लिए संकरी सीढ़ियां थी परन्तु खिड़कियां खुली एवं बड़ी थीं। गोलाकार खंभों से टिका यह बाजार इयूक आफ कर्नाट के नाम पर बना था। यातायात की सुविधा के लिए चौड़ी सड़कें तथा पार्किंग की व्यवस्था थी। नई दिल्ली का निर्माण विशेष या उच्च वर्ग गोरों



के लिए किया गया था जहाँ अन्य विशेष लोग भी जाया करते थे। पाश्चात्य शैली में चर्च, स्कूल आदि भी बनवाए गए। खुला माहौल, सुंदर बाग-बगीचे, घने पेड़ों की कतारें, मनमोहक फूल और शांत गलियां हुआ करती थी, लटियन की नई दिल्ली चाहरदीवारी से मुक्त खुली थी।

आज की आधुनिक दिल्ली यमुना से हटकर यमुनापार, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश तक फैल चुकी है। इसकी आबादी अत्यंत घनी तथा व्यापार वैश्विक हो गया है। यातायात के संसाधन सड़कों के साथ रेलवे तथा हवाई मार्ग तक फैल चुके हैं। जलापूर्ति यमुना पर आधारित न होकर भूजल पर है। शहर में सभी

धर्म के मंदिर, मस्जिद, चर्च, गुरुद्वारे आदि निर्मित हैं। आवासीय मकान बहुमंजिला अमेरिकन शैली पर आधारित हो गया है। न्यूयॉर्क स्काईलाइन की भाँति यहाँ अब गगनचुंबी इमारतों का प्रचलन है।

आज की पुरानी और नई दिल्ली (शाहजहानाबाद और लटियन), इस बात की गवाह है कि तत्कालीन शिल्प एवं वास्तुकला अपने आप में उन्नत और विस्तृत थी। आज भी चांदनी चौक और कर्नाट प्लेस व्यापार के विशेष केंद्र हैं, इंडिया गेट के सीध में बसा वायसराय हाउस या राष्ट्रपति भवन, किंग्स वे या राजपथ, और पिपल्स वे या जनपथ, सत्ता के केन्द्र हैं। लाल किला पर लहराता तिरंगा मजबूत और समृद्ध राष्ट्र का परिचायक है। यह दोनों शहर आज भी एक बड़ी आबादी की जीवन रेखा हैं।

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GLOSSARY

तख्त-ए-ताउस: शाहजहाँ की मयूर सिंघासन | **दीवान-ए-आम**: मुगल बादशाह का आम जनता के लिये प्रमुख सभागार | **शाही हरम**: महिलाओं के रहने का एक अलग स्थान | **नक्कारखाना**: वह स्थान जहाँ नक्कारे या नगाड़े बजते हैं | **शाही हमाम**: स्नानघर | **बावली**: सोपानयुक्त छोटा तालाब | **शाही अस्तबल**: मुगल बादशाह के घोड़े के स्थान | **रंग महल**: मनोरंजन का स्थान | **शाही नक्काशी**: मुगल कलाकारी | **पेट्रे इयोरा**: इटालियन पत्थर की रंगीन चित्रकारी | **नहर-ए-बहिश्त**: मुगल काल की नहरें | **हयात-ए-बक्श**: मुगल कालीन बाग | **कूचों**: गलियों के अंदर गलियाँ | **इयूक आफ कर्नाट**: अंग्रेज अधिकारी का नाम | **न्यूयॉर्क स्काईलाइन**: न्यूयॉर्क की 541 मीटर ऊँची गगनचुंबी इमारत | **गगनचुंबी**: आसमान को छूती | **उत्कीर्ण**: अंकित या उभरी हुई

Houses - Grand to Compact

VISHAKHA
MAMTA

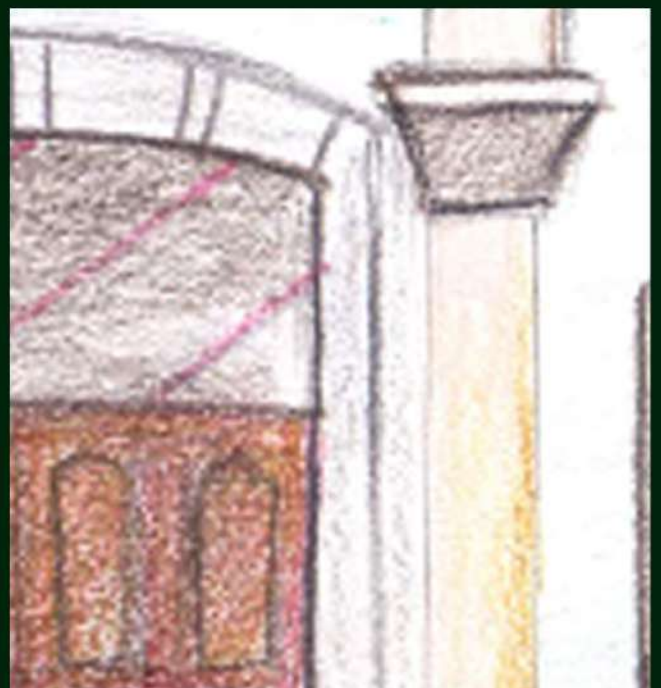


Walking down the narrow streets of Chandni Chowk, Dhruv came across a centuries-old haveli. The captivating structure reminded him of his grandpa's bungalow situated in Lutyen's Delhi, built by the British. However, he observed many striking contrasts between the two.

The grand old wooden door of the haveli with intricate designs and brass fittings seemed to be inviting him. He could not hold himself back and stepped in.

A palatial multi-storeyed stone building with a courtyard in the center and rooms all around was the first thing that he noticed. The narrow stairway from the courtyard led him to small decorative balconies. The beautiful jharokhas with floral patterns looked onto the courtyards. Sculpted pillars and cusped arches spoke about the Mughal architectural style.

He instantly began to imagine the life of the members who must have once lived there. He assumed the haveli must have been owned by some Mughal aristocrat or a wealthy merchant. On enquiring he came to know that it was the house of one of the official Mughal treasurers and was called the '*Khajanchi Ki Haveli*'.



*The grand old wooden door
of the haveli with intricate
designs*

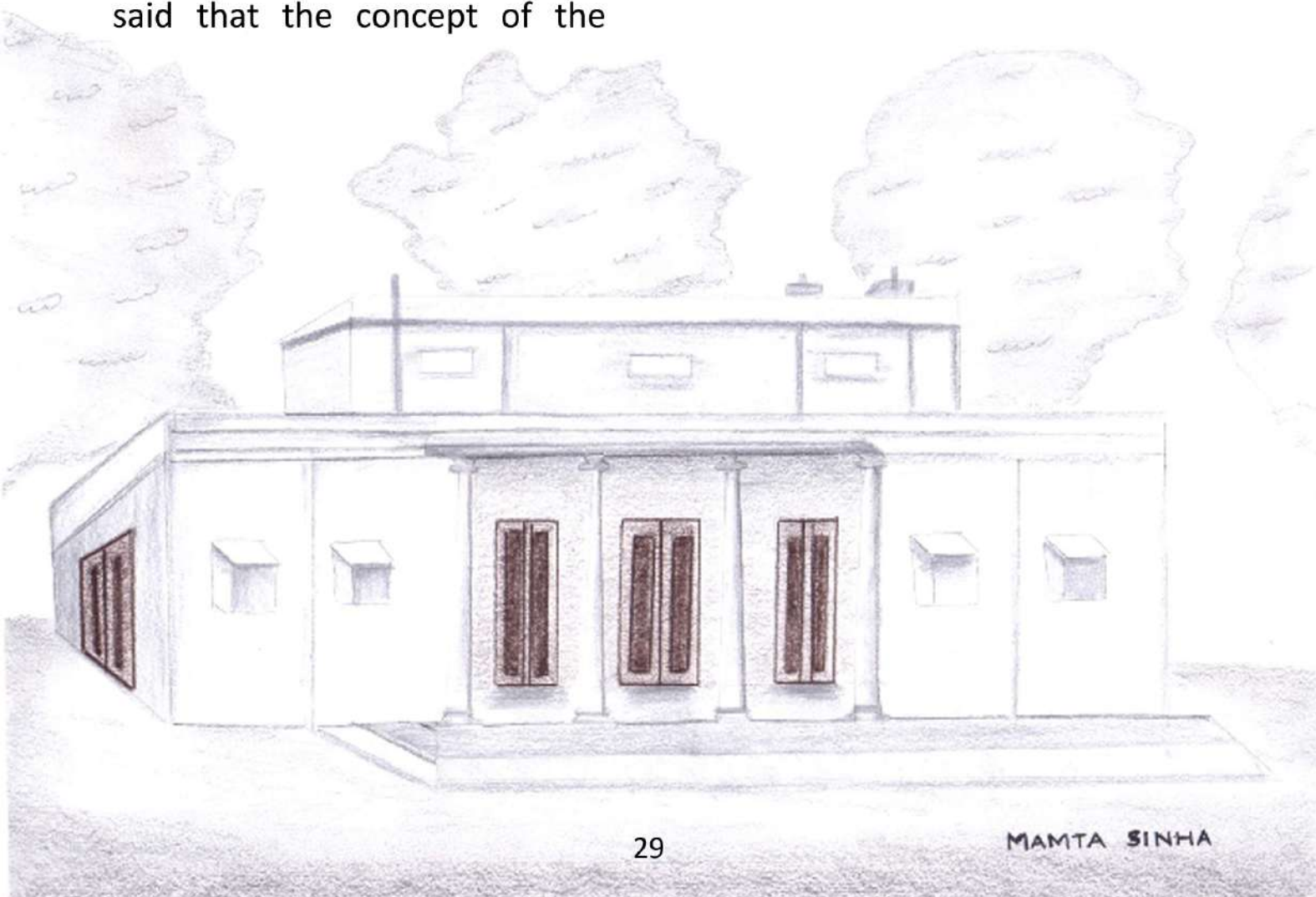
His thoughts travelled back to his grandpa's bungalow. It was allotted to him when he was an official with the central secretariat.

Unlike the haveli, the bungalow was located in the center of a spacious compound with sprawling green lawns. It was a single storeyed , white painted house, built in bricks and stone. It consisted of wide verandahs, and a passage with rooms on either side. Large windows with glass panes opened out towards the lawns. The wooden doors were plain in contrast to the ornate ones at the haveli. It is said that the concept of the

bungalow was borrowed from the traditional houses called '*Banglas*' in Bengal.

Moving around this Mughal structure, he observed alcoves in the walls with traces of carbon deposits and oil. He guessed they were used to place lamps to lighten up the rooms. Whereas, his grandpa's bungalow had electric lights just as we have in our apartments today.

Of course electric bulbs of those days have been replaced by the more advanced CFL and LED lights today!!



He wondered how the Mughals would have kept themselves warm during the chilly winters. The British introduced the fireplace in their homes for the same purpose. The manually

pulled *punkahs* used in the haveli, graduated to a ceiling fan in the bungalow, and today we have coolers and air conditioners in our modern apartments.

Residing in a compact flat in a highrise building he was in awe of such grand and stately structures. The realization he had at the end was that the architecture of a house has changed over time yet continue to serve us for the same purpose.

GLOSSARY

Jharokha: A type of overhanging enclosed balcony which is used in the architecture of Rajasthan. It was also often used in Indo – Islamic architecture | **Cusped arches:** Arches with cusps (a pointed intersection where two curves meet) | **Punkah:** A large cloth on a frame suspended from the ceiling, moved forwards and backwards by pulling on a cord

From Mohars to Mastercards

MANIKA
USHA



What comes to your mind when you hear the names *Carolina*, *Angelina*, *Cupperoon* and *Tinny*?? Would you believe it - these are names of coins from the British era!!

Coins are one of the most important primary sources of information from which historians can try to interpret the past. This is because unlike other ancient artefacts coins were non-perishable and were stamped with words and images of a particular time period and to this day, have survived in large numbers.

The Mughal coins were a tri-metallic currency of gold, and copper. *Sher Shah Suri* was the first ruler to attempt the establishment of a silver coinage system in India. He issued a silver coin, termed as *Rupiya* which remained unchanged till the early 20th century and the term even exists today. Along with this, gold coins called *Mohur* and copper coins called *Dam* were also introduced by the Mughals.

The Mohurs were commonly used but the Rupiya became the principal coin for commercial transactions and tax payments, whereas for petty payments the copper coins were used. As seen in the illustration, some special coins were often gifted and worn as pendants!

In 1717 the British obtained the right to mint their own currency in India in the name of the Mughal emperor. Eventually the British discontinued the gold coins and minted only copper, bronze and nickel coins which were of lesser value.

Did you know, just as the coins of today bear the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi and the



Ashokan Pillar, the coins during both the Mughal and British Era depicted the portraits of rulers in some form? They reflected the interests and personality of these kings. The Mughal ruler *Jehangir* took a personal interest in his coinage. During his reign coins with zodiac signs were minted showcasing his keen interest in astronomy. These also had a lot of ornamentation on them along with religious quotes (the *aayat* and *Kalima*) in beautiful calligraphy.

The coins and the notes which we keep in our pockets today have a strange and perplexing past. It was the establishment of the European trading companies that brought paper currency to India as paper notes



did not exist in the Mughal times. These paper notes were issued by the banks set up by these private companies. They featured the image of the ruler of Britain, *Queen Victoria* who was also declared the Empress of India in 1858. The coins also carry the publishing bank's name and the denomination in Urdu, Bengali and Nagri.



Recently when I tried to sell my old used coffee table, my father told me, "Beta yeh toh sikke ke bhau bhi nahi bikegi!". This was when I realised how important coins have been in the history of our country. The fact that they are in circulation even today when the economy is almost going cashless, tells us how significant they are.

Looking at the coins from the British and the Mughal time periods filled me with great excitement and I wondered what it would have felt like to have a bag full of gold and silver coins instead of a wallet filled with cards and currency notes. The coins have always been a very important part of history and to this day continue as authentic sources that can help one clearly trace continuity and change.

Did You Know?

The often-heard proverbs or *kahaavat* refer to different values of coins.

3 phootie cowrie = 1 cowrie shell

“Ek phootie kaudi bhi nahin doonga” is said because even a broken piece of a cowrie shell had monetary value.

Ten cowries = 1 damdi

“Chamdi jaaye par damdi na jaaye” Dam coins were used by the Mughals.

2 damdi = 1 dhela

“Pie pie ka hisaab rakhna” as pies were used during the British Era.

1 dhela = 1 pie

3 pie = 1 paisa

“Solah aane sach” was said because anna was widely circulated during the British Era and even post-independence.

4 paisa = 1 aana

16 anna = 1 Rupaiya

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GLOSSARY

Artefacts: An object made by humans, typically one of cultural or historical interest |

Coinage: The system of coins used in a country | **Petty:** Small and unimportant |

Mint: A place where coins are made from metals | **Denomination:** Proper description of currency amount, usually for coins or banknotes |

Authentic: That you know is real or genuine

From Passion to Pastimes

DEEPALI
MAMTA



As we enter through the majestic gates of Red Fort, we get mesmerised with our glorious past. Just imagine the Mughal emperor playing chess with his begum in his leisure time in *Diwan-i-Khas*.

Do you know what the other leisure activities in the Mughal and British era were?

Despite being busy and engrossed in warfare, rivalries, and setting up and managing their kingdom, the Mughals still had time for leisure activities. To name a few they used to engage themselves in music, dance, *ishqbaazi*, hookah, etc. While enjoying the music and dance performances, *mushairas* and poetry, the royals smoked hookah. The activity of consuming tobacco through a hookah is injurious to health but popular with the common people even today. The Mughals also engaged themselves in playing *chausar* (ludo), *ganjifa* (a game of cards) and chess, games that are still popular with us.

Abul Fazl, one of the courtiers of Akbar had mentioned about the game of '*Chandalmandal*' in his book '*Akbarnama*'. The game of checkers that we play today is similar to '*Chandalmandal*' that was introduced by the emperor himself.

Outdoor activities like hunting, wrestling, kite flying, elephant fights and polo were also very much liked by the royals. Wrestling was considered a manly sport. The emperors had several wrestlers in their service including Iranians, Turks and Indians. Tournaments would be organised to show off their strength and techniques especially at festivals and celebrations and when foreign emissaries visited the court. Today, wrestling has become an international sport and India has produced many world champions in wrestling.

Kite flying is a game which is enjoyed throughout India even today.

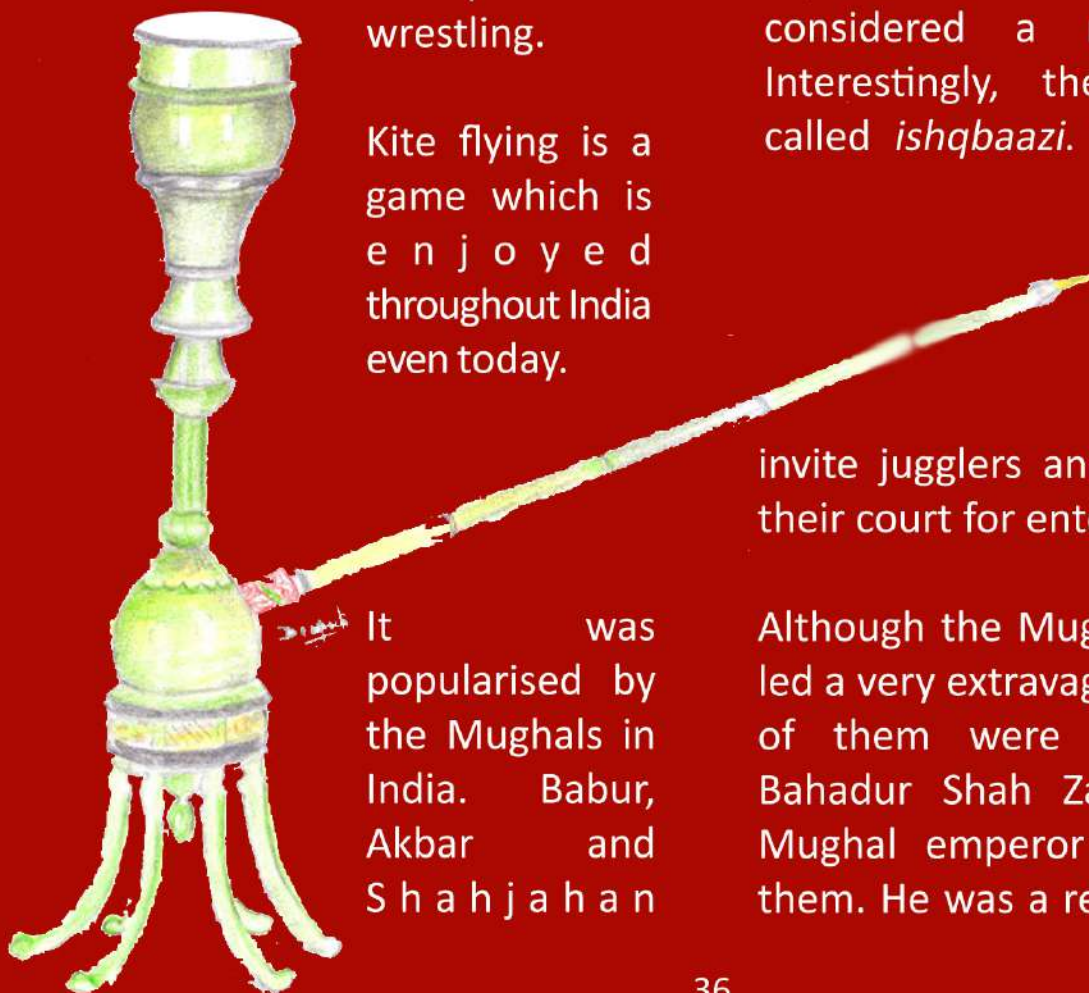
It was popularised by the Mughals in India. Babur, Akbar and Shah Jahan

promoted kite flying events and enjoyed viewing them from the ornate windows of their palace. *Polo* is one of the oldest team sports which had its origin in Iran. The Mughal emperor Akbar was an outstanding polo player of his times. The game of polo almost died during towards the end of the Mughal era but was revived by the British. Polo continued and has become quite a status game today.

Akbar's successor Jahangir's memoirs give a vivid account of his hunting expeditions. Nur Jahan, wife of Jahangir used to accompany him during these expeditions. Wrestling was considered a manly sport. Interestingly, the sport was called *ishqbaazi*. They used to

invite jugglers and acrobats to their court for entertainment.

Although the Mughal emperors led a very extravagant life, a few of them were very simple. Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor was one of them. He was a renowned poet



of his time. His gazals are still popular and are sung even today.

The Mughals were replaced by the British. Pastimes and amusements continued with a few variations. The British brought in their own card games. Ganjifa was then restricted to fewer parts of the country. In their leisure time, the British played tennis, badminton, golf and polo. They also played cricket. Little did they know that cricket would gain such popularity in India.

Ashish Nandy in his book, *The Tao of Cricket* has rightly said, "*Cricket is an Indian game, accidentally discovered by the British*".

Besides, these outdoor activities, British spent their evenings in the clubs to be with their 'own' people. The clubs housed a ballroom, a restaurant, a billiard room, a swimming pool, a tennis court, etc. During summers, they shifted their residences to the hill stations to enjoy the cool and pleasant weather. Even today, we prefer



to spend our summer holidays in the hill stations built and popularised by the British. Just like us, the British also enjoyed watching movies in their free time. The British elite women did stitching and embroidery in their leisure time. They also played cards and accompanied their husbands to the clubs.

The idea of leisure still continues. A lot of games such as chess, ludo, snakes and

ladders, checkers, card games that we play today are inspired from the Mughals and the British. Luckily hunting and elephant fights are not in practice today. Wrestling still continues to be a popular sport and has found its place internationally. Although some game pieces and boards are modified, children as well as elders enjoy playing them even today. Badminton, tennis and golf are played all over India.

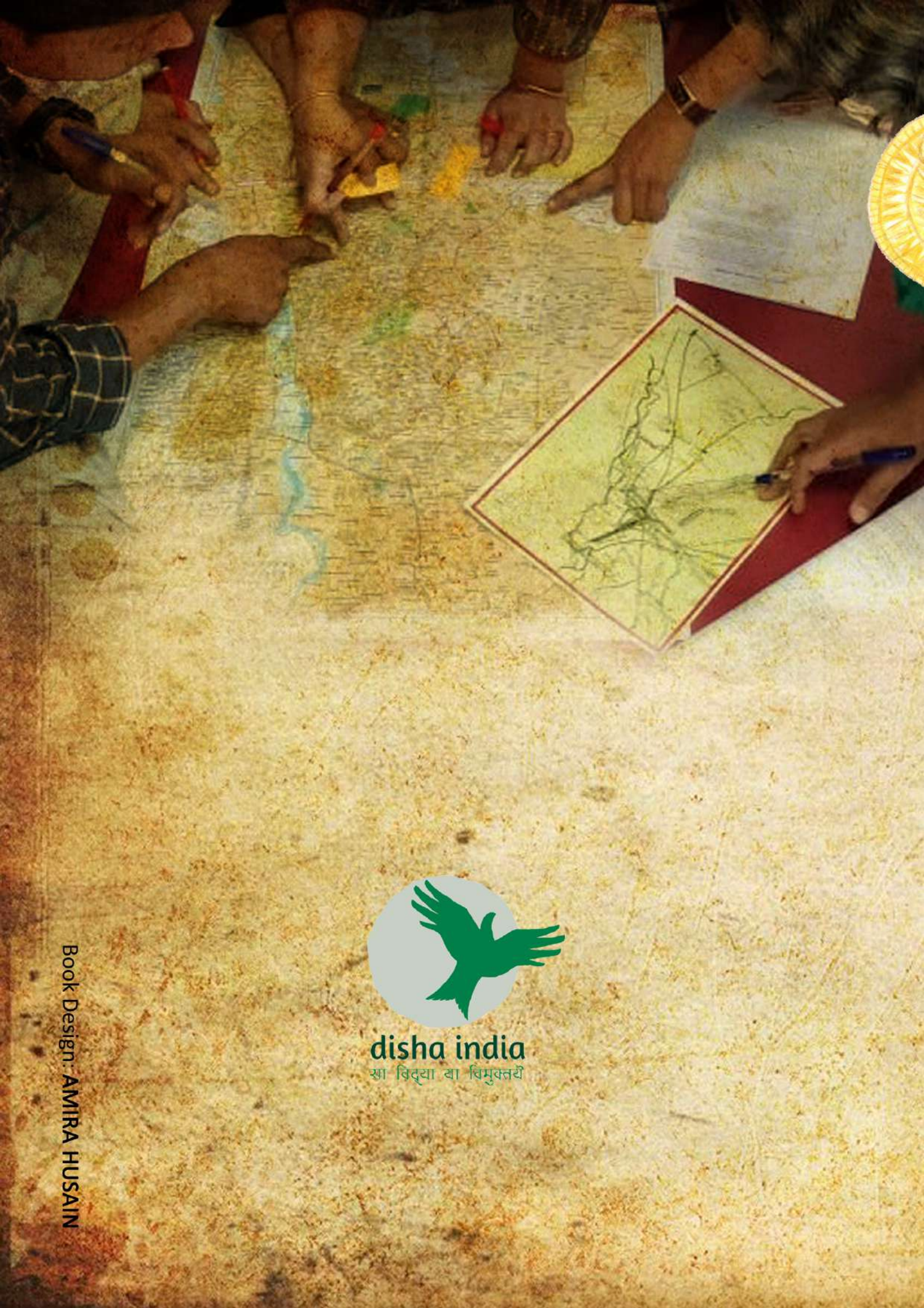
We can see the reflection of the past in our leisure time activities. Though there are a few transformations, the game continues...

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GLOSSARY

Hooka: An instrument used for smoke tobacco | **Leisure:** Free time when you are not working | **Mushaira:** An evening social gathering at which Urdu poetry is read



disha india
सा विद्या या विमुक्तये

Book Design: AMIRA HUSAIN