

1 INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) has been prepared under a Supreme Court directive. It is the result of a collaborative effort of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Cultural Resource Conservation Initiative (CRCI). The process has been an extremely interactive one wherein the archival research on the archaeology of the site, total station survey of the buffer area, inventories of the vegetation within the site and archaeological and material investigations was undertaken by ASI; archival research on the history of the site and its components, survey, documentation and analysis was done by CRCI. The conservation plan and the implementation framework was prepared by CRCI.

The project for the conservation and revitalization of the site is envisaged to be a ten year program. The CCMP is only the start of a continuous and cyclical system for the conservation of the site. The plan provides a robust framework for identifying solutions to site specific needs now and in the future.

The CCMP has been prepared in a limited time frame of one year and under considerable resource constraints.

Vision for the future of the Fort

The CCMP seeks to establish a sustainable future for the historic, cultural, social, economic and environmental value of the Red Fort, its environs and adjacent urban areas.

The conservation of the historic built fabric and the open spaces and its presentation would be undertaken following a scientific research methodology, finally to create a unique and distinctive visitor experience of the 350 years of the continuous historic and cultural narrative of the Fort precinct with special emphasis on the Shahjahan period. This layer is of great consequence because of its association with the great Mughal ruler, Shah Jahan. The prosperity and opulence of his reign is reflected through the architectural grandeur and organization of spaces in the Red Fort.

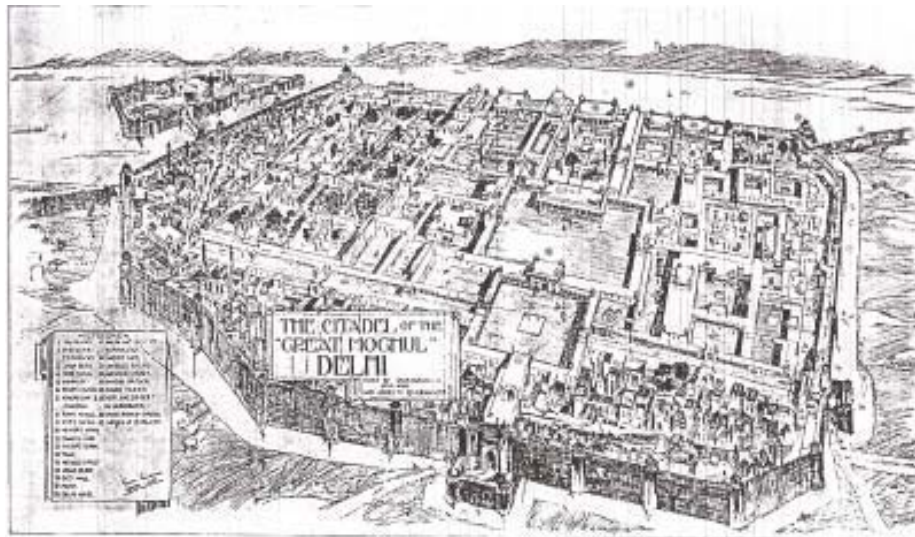


Figure 1.1: Aerial view of the Red Fort; early 20th century; artist's impression

This plan must be read in conjunction with all the other relevant technical and documentation reports generated as part of the project. These reports range from building studies, open space studies, material investigation, assessment and proposals for engineering services, detail project reports for conservation of five Mughal buildings etc. The recommendations within the CCMP are based on these reports.