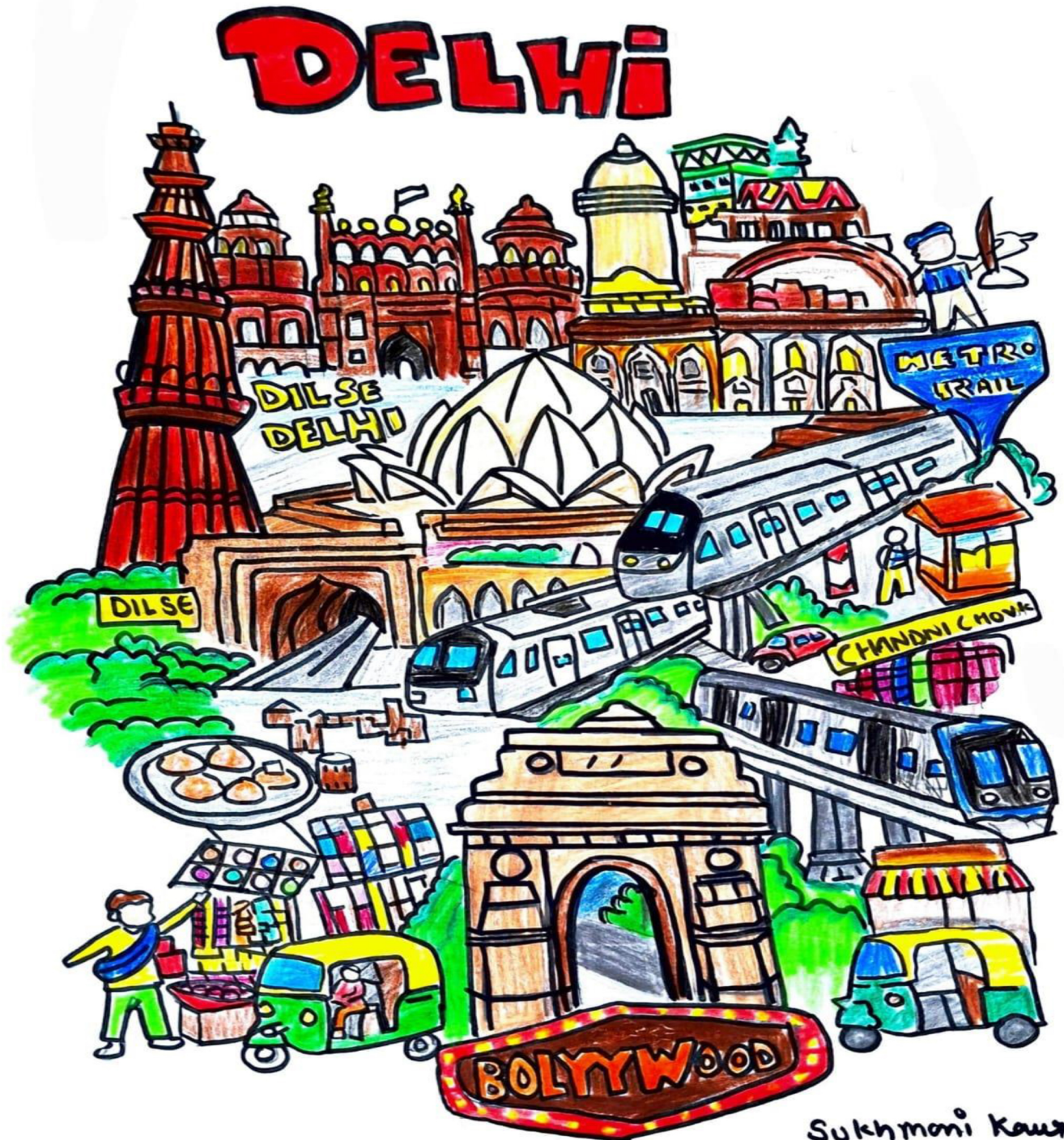




VIDYARTHI

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER OF VIDYA NIKETAN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, SAKET, NEW DELHI



Sukhmoni Kaur
12-B

INTRODUCTION- “MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER”

Many of our students are on the road to discovering the history of Delhi. It will surely be a fascinating and never-ending journey. This issue of Vidyarthi has works of art, write ups of ancient monuments, essays and poems, and great photographs.

Students have certainly understood that to comprehend the present, they must have a knowledge of the past. A feeling of pride, and a sense of belonging to this great city has grown in these young minds. A good way to get acquainted with Delhi or any other city for that matter, is to understand the history of its streets. Many memories and legends are weaved into the naming of places.

I hope parents will continue to take their children to places of historical interest, and let their knowledge expand. Children naturally want to express themselves, and when they are allowed to, they are truly at their best. It is important to understand that creativity is not a distraction from academics. It is an essential part of a child's holistic development. A painting exhibition by our students show vibrant artworks on themes such as human rights, child labour, war, peace and much more. A clown pretends that life is funny, yet the deeper emotions behind such imagery reveal the children's understanding of the world. Each painting reflects the imagination and perception with which they see their surroundings. When children are encouraged rather than limited, their creative instinct flourishes, allowing them to produce meaningful, thoughtful, and powerful works of art.

Arnaqi

**Mrs. Aruna Naqvi
Founder, Vidya Niketan School**

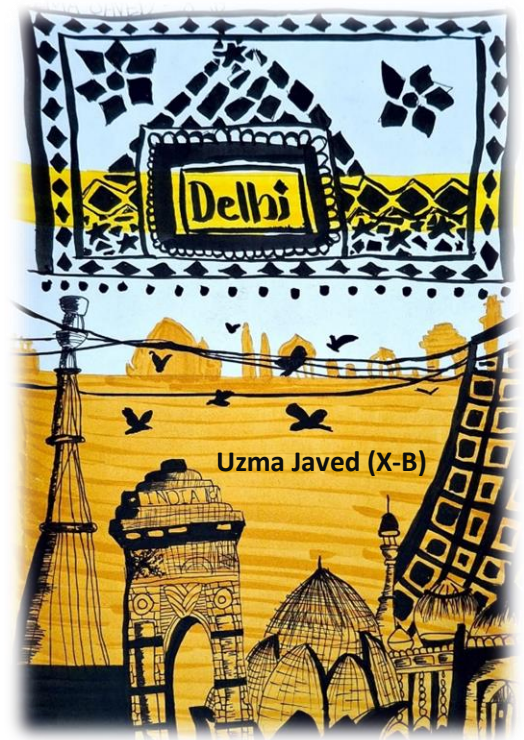
DELHI THROUGH TIME- HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

DELHI – THE LIVING HERITAGE

Delhi, our capital, is not just a busy city of malls and metros — it is a place where history breathes in many corners. Once ruled by the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals, it later became a centre of India’s freedom struggle, earning its title as the City of Cities.

Walking through Old Delhi feels like stepping into another world — the narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk, the aroma of jalebis, and the calls of rickshaw pullers all tell stories of the past. The Red Fort stands tall as a symbol of India’s independence, while Jama Masjid, Qutub Minar, and Humayun’s Tomb speak of the city’s glorious history and architectural beauty. From the Lotus Temple’s peace to the lively India Gate and the soulful qawwalis at Nizamuddin Dargah, Delhi blends the old and the new in perfect harmony. Delhi is more than just a city — it is a living history book, where monuments, streets, and sounds whispers tales of its timeless heritage.

By Lavanya Verma (VIII-B)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL- who reflects upon the significant events, achievements, and progress of our school community over the past few months.

Experiential Learning: A Gateway to Holistic Education

- A Nukkad Natak was performed to raise awareness about contemporary social issues such as the evils of the caste system and the misuse of social media.
 - An educational excursion to Manali was organized to explore the rich flora and fauna of the region. This outdoor learning experience gave students first-hand exposure to biodiversity and environmental conservation practices.
 - During Diwali, students engaged in making diyas and creating beautiful rangolis, celebrating the spirit of light and joy through creativity and teamwork.
 - On the occasion of Children's Day, the school designed a day full of engaging and thought-provoking learning experiences.
 - The highlight was Cosmos: The Dome Planetarium, a portable dome setup that took students on an interactive journey through the wonders of space and astronomy.
 - Storytelling sessions (for Classes 1-5) provided opportunities for imagination and expression. A Live Interactive cum Music Session was conducted which connected students emotionally and culturally, using music as a means to address issues like anxiety and peer pressure in a supportive environment.
 - Book Fair- was organized to celebrate the joy of reading and inspire lifelong learning among students.
- Each of these initiatives reflects our vision to make learning meaningful, joyful, and transformative.



Mrs. Anindita Das
Principal, Vidya Niketan School

INDIA'S RICH HISTORY AND GLORIOUS MONUMENTS

India is a land where history breathes through stones, sculptures and traditions. With civilizations dating back over 5000 years, it has witnessed the rise and fall of powerful dynasties, leaving behind remarkable monuments that narrate stories of grandeur, devotion and artistry. From the Indus Valley Civilization's ruins at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro to the majestic forts and palaces of the Mughals



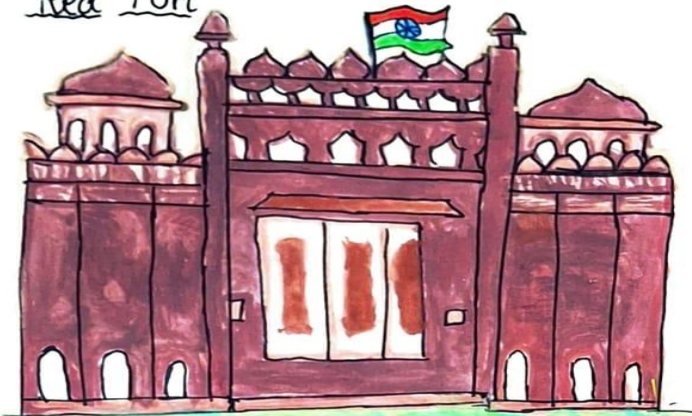
Students at Humayun's tomb

and Rajputs, India's historical heritage is reflected in its architectural marvels. Temples like Khajuraho, Konark Sun Temple, and Meenakshi Temple show the artistic excellence of ancient India, while structures such as the Red Fort, Qutub Minar and the Gateway of India represent the cultural fusion under various rulers.

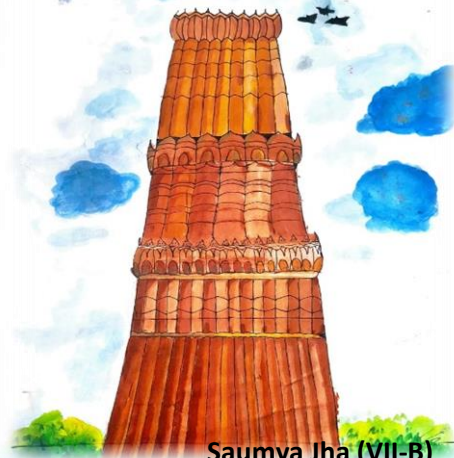
Komal (XI-A)

Divyanshi Pradhan
(X-A)

Red Fort



Qutub Minar



Saumya Jha (VII-B)

Monuments of Delhi

Lal Gumbadh



Bhavya Jha (VII-B)

India Gate

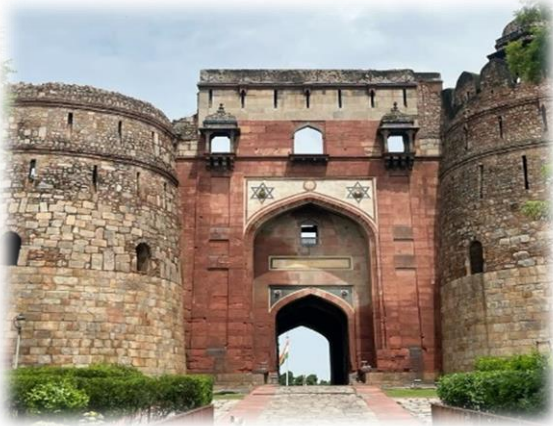


The Timeless Legacy of Mehrauli

Tucked away in the southern fringes of Delhi, Mehrauli is one of the oldest continuously inhabited areas in the city — a living museum of India's layered past. It has witnessed the rise and fall of many dynasties, from the Rajputs to the Mughals, each leaving their mark on its landscape. The Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as its most iconic symbol, surrounded by ancient mosques, gateways, and the Iron Pillar that has stood rust-free for over 1600 years. Beyond its monuments, Mehrauli's spiritual and cultural heritage thrives through the Dargah of Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki and its serene Archaeological Park filled with tombs and greenery. Despite modern growth, Mehrauli retains its old-world charm—where every stone and street whispers Delhi's timeless story.

Divyansha Mishra (XI-A)

OLD FORT



In Delhi, there is an ancient fort called the Old Fort. About two years ago, my family and I went to visit it during the summer. Its big stone walls looked very strong. We saw the famous marble palace inside. Our guide told us about the past — that Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, laid the foundation of the fort by building the city of Din Panah in 1533. The fort was later renovated by the Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri. We walked through long cool stone hallways and looked at old weapons displayed in glass cases. Long ago, people lived and worked here. We climbed up the tall watchtower steps and saw the whole town from high above. I felt amazed imagining the old times then.

Parth Tanwar (IV-B)

MIRZA GHALIB KI HAVELI

Mirza Ghalib ki Haveli is a historic mansion in Old Delhi's Ballimaran neighbourhood, where the legendary 19th century Urdu and Persian poet Mirza Ghalib lived during the last decade of his life. The haveli is located in Gali Qasim Jaan, Ballimaran — an area known for its traditional shoe and eyewear markets. The building was originally gifted to him by a local physician who admired his poetry. After Ghalib's death, the haveli changed hands several times before being granted heritage status in 1999. Now it is a museum managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

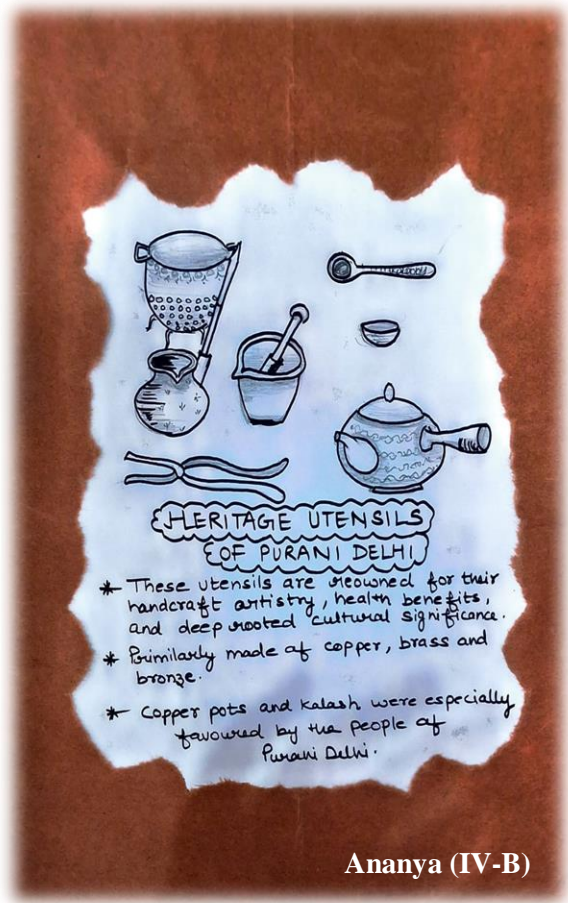
It showcases his life and works. The memorial museum was opened to the public in 2000. It features several rooms dedicated to Ghalib's life, including his belongings, manuscripts, artworks, portraits, and information about his literary contributions. The 300-year-old structure features traditional Mughal-era architecture, including a courtyard, corridors, and high-arched gateways. It was restored using traditional building materials like lakhori bricks and lime mortar.

By Aadya (V-A)



TINY EXPLORERS OF DELHI





Ananya (IV-B)

पुरानी दिल्ली की हवेलियाँ शहर के ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक वैभव का प्रतीक हैं। इन्हें जानना इसलिए ज़रूरी है क्योंकि ये दिल्ली के उस सुनहरे दौर की झलक दिखाती हैं जब यहाँ कला, साहित्य और राजनीति का अनोखा संगम हुआ करता था।

1. बेगम समरू की हवेली

यह हवेली चावड़ी बाज़ार में स्थित है और 18वीं सदी में बनी थी। बेगम समरू एक शक्तिशाली महिला शासक और सेनापति थीं, जिन्होंने दिल्ली और सरधना पर शासन किया। हवेली अब एक बैंक की इमारत के रूप में जानी जाती है।

2. ज़ीनत महल की हवेली

यह हवेली बहादुर शाह ज़फ़र की पत्नी बेगम ज़ीनत महल की थी। यह लाल क़िला के पास स्थित है और 1857 की क्रांति के समय कई महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की साक्षी रही। हवेली में कभी मुग़ल रईसों की भव्यता झलकती थी।

3. हकीम अजमल की हवेली

हकीम अजमल ख़ाँ, प्रसिद्ध चिकित्सक और यूनानी चिकित्सा के विद्वान थे। उनकी हवेली बल्लीमाराण में स्थित थी और यह विद्या और देशभक्ति का केंद्र रही। अब यहाँ उनकी याद में "अजमल ख़ाँ मेमोरियल" भी मौजूद है।

4. नमक हराम की हवेली

यह हवेली लाल क़िला क्षेत्र में स्थित थी और 18वीं सदी में किसी मुग़ल अधिकारी की थी। इसका नाम एक स्थानीय कथा से जुड़ा है, जिसमें वफ़ादारी और विश्वासघात की कहानी बताई जाती है।

5. चन्नमल की हवेली

चन्नमल एक प्रसिद्ध बनिया व्यापारी थे जिनकी यह हवेली पुरानी दिल्ली में जामा मस्जिद के पास स्थित है। यह 19वीं सदी की स्थापत्य कला का

सुंदर उदाहरण है, जिसमें नक्काशीदार खिड़कियाँ और आंगन हैं।

6. मिर्ज़ा ग़ालिब की हवेली

यह हवेली बल्लीमाराण, चाँदनी चौक में है। यही वह जगह है जहाँ महान उर्दू शायर मिर्ज़ा ग़ालिब ने जीवन का एक हिस्सा बिताया था। अब यह स्थान ग़ालिब संग्रहालय के रूप में संरक्षित है।

Dhani Jha (IV-B)

HIDDEN AND LESSER-KNOWN DELHI

Delhi, our beautiful capital, doesn't need any introduction when we talk about exploring places and tourist attractions.

So, I would like to introduce you to some of the hidden or lesser-known and unexplored places of the city — about their ancient culture, history, present days, and significance. Here are some of the places I have been to, and you can visit them too:

- 1. Jahaz Mahal Fort:** Reflecting the image of a sailing ship. (Mehrauli)
- 2. Tughlaqabad Fort:** To learn more about the Tughlaq Dynasty. (Tughlaqabad)
- 3. Bijay Mandal Fort:** To gain knowledge about the victory of kings. (Hauz Khas)
- 4. Begumpur Masjid:** An ancient mosque. (Malviya Nagar)
- 5. Adham Khan's Tomb:** Discover Mughal history. (Mehrauli)
- 6. Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb:** Explore ancient archaeology. (Mehrauli)
- 7. Khooni Darwaza:** A place of violence and executions. (Delhi Gate)
- 8. Chunnamal Haveli:** Get charmed by the ancient haveli. (Chandni Chowk)
- 9. Satpula Bridge:** To explore the seven-arched bridge. (Malviya Nagar)
- 10. Chor Minar:** The tower of thieves. (Hauz Khas)

Tanishq Gautam (V-B)

THE GATES OF DELHI

THE 7 GATES OF DELHI

Lahori Gate

Main entrance of the Red Fort.
It served as the ceremonial gateway during Mughal times and still stands proudly today.

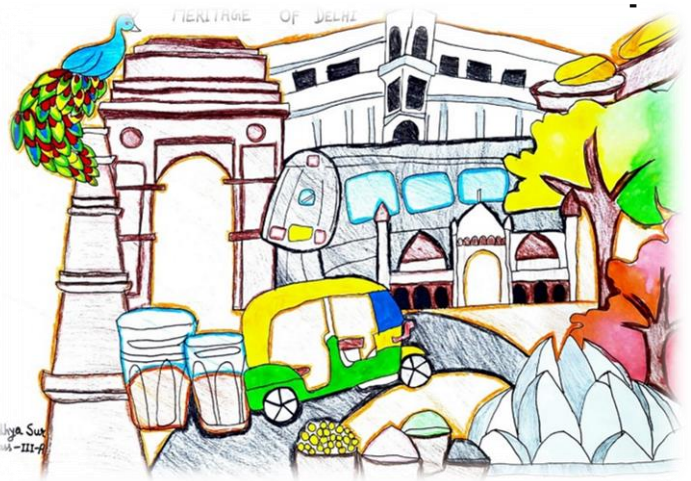
Ajmeri Gate

Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, facing the direction of Ajmer.
It once protected the southern approach to Shahjahanabad, the Mughal capital.

Kashmiri Gate

Named because it faced the route leading to Kashmir. It witnessed heavy fighting during the Revolt of 1857 against British rule.

Adhya Sur (III A)



Delhi Gate

Another major gateway of the Red Fort, located towards the south. It was used by emperors to access important parts of the city and for royal processions.

Turkman Gate

Named after the Sufi saint Hazrat Shah Turkman Bayabani whose shrine lies nearby. It is one of the oldest surviving gates of Shahjahanabad.

Kabuli Gate

Faced towards Kabul, symbolizing Delhi's connection with Central Asia. It marked the western boundary of the walled city during Mughal rule.

Nigambodh Gate

Located near the Nigambodh Ghat on the Yamuna River. It provided access to the riverfront and is associated with ancient Hindu legends.

Manha (V-B)



Lehak Sharma (VI-A)

WALK AND EXPERIENCES

A WALK THROUGH CHANDNI CHOWK

1. When you walk through Chandni Chowk, you feel like you have stepped into history.
2. Narrow lanes buzz with people, shops, and the sweet smell of jalebis.
3. You pass by Dariba Kalan selling silver jewellery and Khari Baoli where spices scent the air.
4. In hidden alleys like Kucha Patiram, old calligraphy shops still work quietly.
5. You may see old havelis with carved balconies and faded walls telling stories.
6. In 'Gali Lohe Wali', you can watch metalworkers making shining brass and copper wares.
7. Every turn shows something new — colours, sounds, and smells — making Chandni Chowk magical.

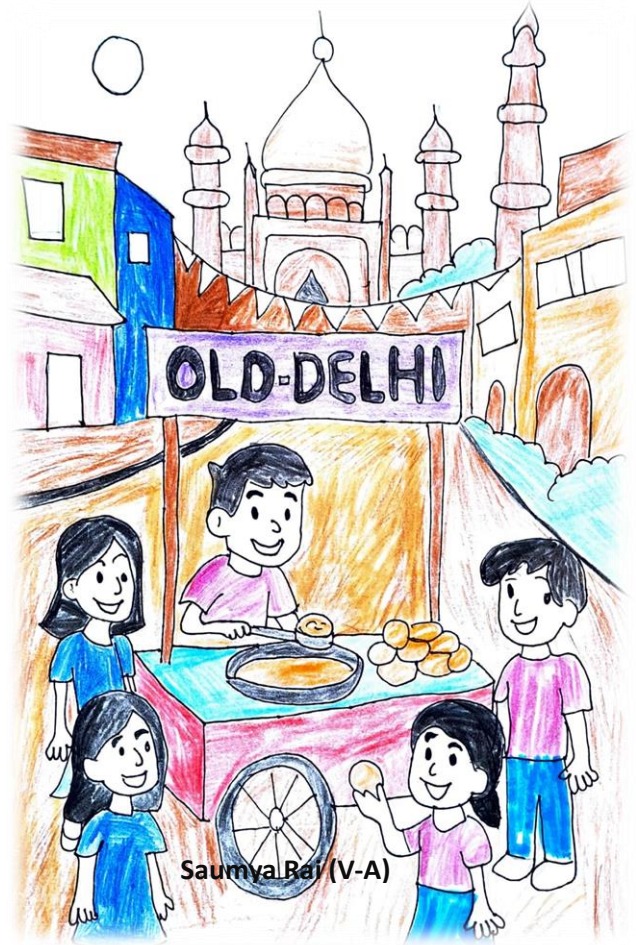
Anika (4-B)

पुरानी दिल्ली की गलियों में बसा है स्वाद का भंडार

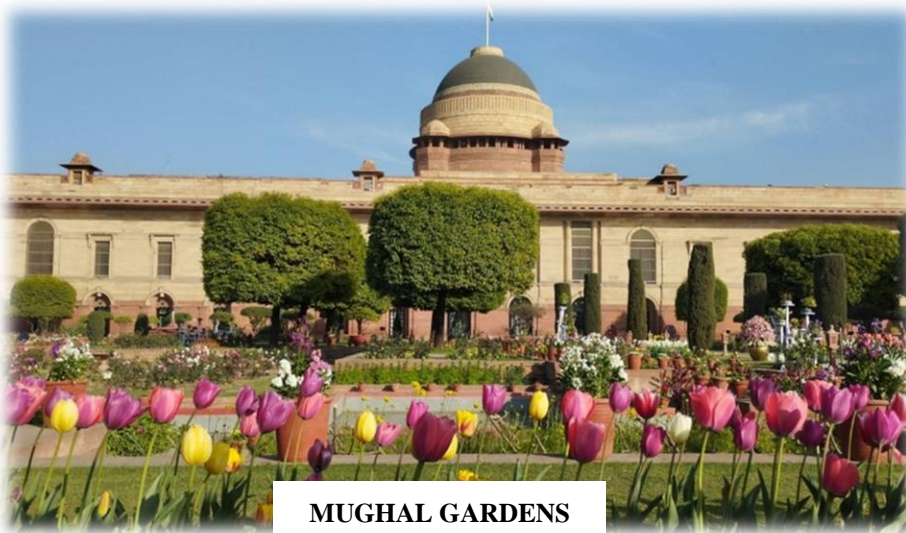
- 1. काके दी हट्टी (1940, चांदनी चौक)**
मोटे पराठे, दाल मखनी और शाही पनीर इसकी पहचान हैं।
- 2. परांठे वाली गली (1870 के आसपास, चांदनी चौक)**
सौ साल से भी पुरानी यह गली आज भी देसी परांठों की खुशबू से महकती है।
- 3. चैना राम सिंघी हलवाई (1901, फतेहपुरी, चांदनी चौक)**
सोहन हलवा, पंजीरी और पिन्नी यहाँ के सबसे लोकप्रिय व्यंजन हैं।
- 4. लोटराम छोले भटूरे (1940 के दशक, पुरानी दिल्ली)**
पुराने दिल्ली के छोले-भटूरे के लिए प्रसिद्ध नाम हैं। खस्ता भटूरे और मसालेदार छोले इसकी पहचान हैं।
- 5. नटराज दही भल्ला (1940, चांदनी चौक)**
नरम भल्ले, ठंडा दही और लज़ीज़ चटनी इसका असली स्वाद हैं।
- 6. चाट कॉर्नर (1950 के दशक, राजौरी/करोल बाग)**
आलू टिक्की, गोलगप्पे और पापड़ी चाट हर उम्र के लोगों की पसंद हैं।
- 7. मसाले, कुरकुरापन और मिठास का परफेक्ट संगम है ये स्ट्रीट फूड।**
- 7. लस्सी और दही-भल्ला स्टॉल (1920 के आसपास, पुरानी दिल्ली)**
मिट्टी के कुल्हड़ में ठंडी लस्सी या दही – देसी स्वाद का असली एहसास देते हैं।

Mohd Ahad (IV-B)

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL HERITAGE



Saurnya Bai (V-A)



MUGHAL GARDENS

THE MUGHAL GARDENS

A place where symmetry breathes,
with flowers scented like sweet treats.
with fountains calm and mesmerizing,
As if the Garden's soul is rising.
Petals fall without a hurry,
Soft and slow, never blurry.
Time slows between marble paths,
Where sunlight feels like warm baths.
The air feels light and free,
Peace surrounds all I can see.
Every step becomes a pause,
with Grass like Gentle Gauze.
When I leave the Gates don't close,
Instead, the Garden softly follows,
whispering through memory,
"Stay with me for a century".

T. DEEPAN (IX-B)

POETIC TRIBUTE TO DELHI

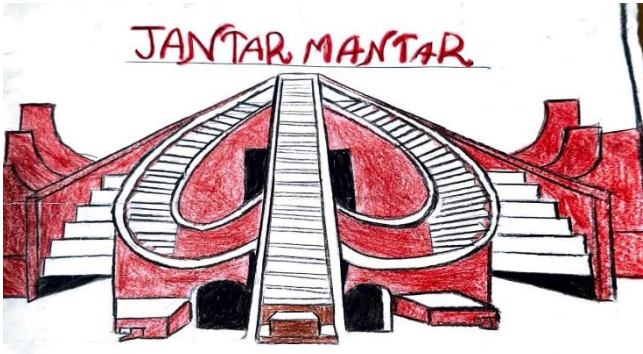
दिल्ली की दास्तान

दिल्ली... जहां हर गली में एक किस्सा बसा है, जहां हर पत्थर पर एक इतिहास लिखा है। इंद्रप्रस्थ के नाम से निकली थी एक सौभाग्य की रोशनी सदियां पहले भी और आज भी उसी रोशनी में जलती थी ये दिल्ली। पांडवों की राजधानी थी, धर्म की थी ये पहचान, महाभारत की भूमि- जहां नायकों का मान। फिर आया मुगल दौर, नई चमक, नई साज़, लाल किला, कुतुब मीनार- इतिहास का अंदाज़। लिख गई यहां इमारतों में दास्तानें, जहां हर गुंबद में है शहंशाहों के अफसाने। जामा मस्जिद की अज़ान और चांदनी चौक की रौनक, दिल्ली का हर कोना, है एक जिंदा दस्तावेज़। सत्र सत्तावन का ज्वाला दिन, लहराई स्वराज की ध्वजा वीर भगत सिंह, मंगल पांडे आदि जैसे जफ़र हुए वीरता के साक्षी सदा उन शहीद वीरों का रक्त आज भी, इस मातृभूमि को सींच रहा, हर भारतवासी के हृदय में, आज़ादी का दीप जला। आज दिल्ली है राजधानी देश की और है सपनों का घर जहां पुराना और नया साथ चलते हैं बराबर। आज की दिल्ली, आधुनिकता की प्राणधारा, लोकतंत्र की आरती, संस्कृति का प्यारा तारा। अतीत से वर्तमान तक तू गौरव की निशानी, जय हो दिल्ली! जय तेरी अमर कहानी। सुन दिल्ली...तू सिर्फ शहर नहीं तू भारत का दिल है।

आराध्य शर्मा (VIII-B)



Ruined monument at the rare end of Qutub Minar Complex



KYRA DAYAL (VI-B)



AADYA (VI-A)

MATH MADE OF BRICK

In the middle of the city where traffic is loud,
These big stone shapes stand silent and proud.
They aren't for kings or for wars of the past,
But for watching the stars so vast.

The sun hits the stairs in a very smart way,
Using long shadows to measure the day.
No clocks or gears, just shapes of red,
Watching the giant sky overhead.

A giant triangle reaches up high,
Like a needle of stone piercing the sky.
Its maths made of brick for everyone to see,
A bridge to the stars for you and for me.

It shows us how the planets all move,
In a steady, silent and ancient groove.
From a small shadow to the moon so bright,
It's a map for the day and guide for the night.

Divya (IX-A)

दिल्ली की गूँज

दिल्ली की गलियों से इतिहास बोलता है,
हर पत्थर में कोई किस्सा खोलता है
लाल किला अब भी शान से खड़ा,
मुगलों का गौरव, भारत का रत्न बड़ा।

कुतुब मीनार आसमान को छूती,
वक्त की कहानियाँ चुपचाप कहती
चाँदनी चौक में रौनक पुरानी,
महकती है दिल्ली की शाही कहानी।

हर दीवार से संस्कृति की झलक,
हर हवा में है प्रेम की महक।
दिल्ली—तू बस शहर नहीं,
हमारे अतीत की पहचान सही

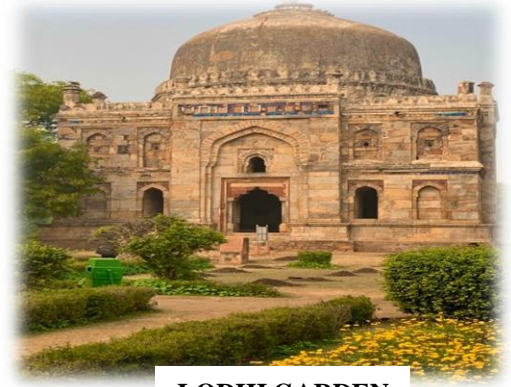


माधव शर्मा (4-B)

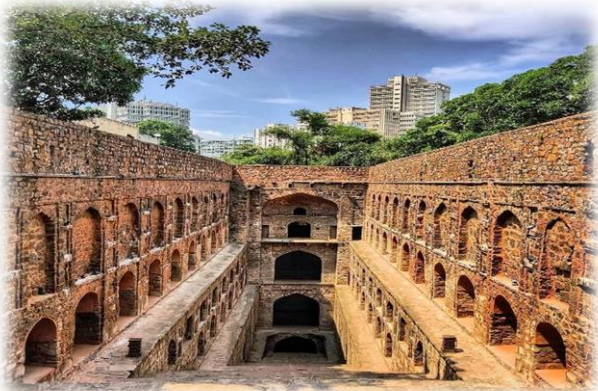
THE HERITAGE OF DELHI

"Be aware because you will be robbed," they say about Delhi,
"Be careful, or you will lose your heart in Delhi".

In Delhi's veins, the past still flows,
Through ancient streets where history grows.
Red Fort stands proud in regal might,
Guarding echoes of day and night.
Qutab Minar and Humayun's tomb,
Whisper tales that time can't consume.



LODHI GARDEN



AGRASEN KI BAOLI

From Lodhi Gardens' tranquil air,
To Chandni Chowk's old charm and flair.
Take the metro, see stories unfold,
In every lane, a memory old.

Feel Delhi's heart in every hue —
Its soul, eternal, ever new.
A city where the past and present blend,
A legacy that will never end.

Jonathan Shaji & Bhavika Bisht (XI-B)

Delhi, city of old, rich heritage, stories unhold.
 From Qutub Minar's towering height.
 To Red Fort's majestic sight.
 Humayun's Tomb, a Mughal dream,
 Lotus temple, Bahai's theme.
 India Gate, a symbol free,
 Akshardham temple, spirituality.
 Jama Masjid a mosque so grand,
 Chandni Chowk a market in hand.
 Delhi's heritage, a blend so fine.
 Of history, culture, and design.
 Let's preserve it with love and care,
 For future generations to share.
 Delhi's heritage, a treasure rare,
 A city that showcases India's pride and flair.



RAZIA SULTAN FORT
Reneisha (VII-B)

THE HERITAGE WALK TO QUTUB COMPLEX



Within Allauddin's Tomb & Madarsa, where the iron door is kept locked leading to a staircase primarily for preservation to prevent damage and restrict public access.

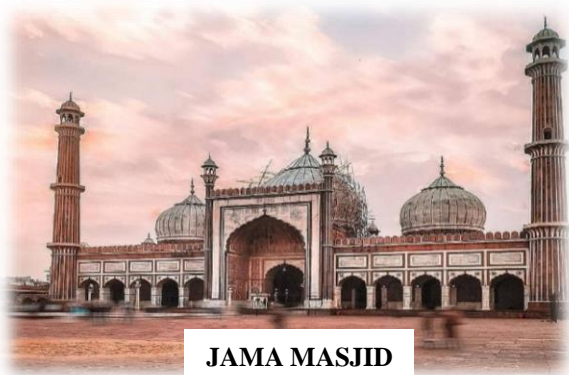


Within Allauddin's Tomb & Madarsa, located in the rear end of the Qutub Minar Complex.



Tomb of Imam Zamin (Muhammad Ali a Sufi saint from Turkestan who served as Imam of the Quwwat ul Islam Mosque) located within the Qutub Minar Complex.

THE STORY OF DELHI CONTINUES...



JAMA MASJID

Delhi's heritage stretches far beyond the pages of this newsletter. While our students have explored many important monuments, there is still so much more that could not be included in this issue — the workings of the Mughal courts and kitchens, the stories behind changing the names of places and the fascinating Armenian, Parsi, and French connections that shaped the city over centuries. From Jama Masjid to Hauz Khas Village, from Mughal Gardens to countless lesser-known sites — the city is a living museum. The work presented here is only a small glimpse into the rich history that surrounds us. While our students have explored and contributed with great enthusiasm, there remains much more for them to discover, learn, and

experience. We hope this issue inspires every young learner to keep exploring, questioning, and celebrating the heritage that surrounds them.

While discovering the history of Delhi, it is important for young people to pause and reflect on what is happening at present to Delhi. The air that we breathe has become poisonous, and has a terrible effect on the health of its citizens. Some students have written articles on this subject others; poetry.

POLLUTED AIR

The morning comes with a smoky sky.
The Sun looks weak as it tries to rise.
The air feels heavy, dirty and tight,
Breathing itself a fight.

Students walk with masks on their face.
Playgrounds stands empty, a silent place.
Coughing replaces laughter and cheer,
Dirty air fills young hearts with fear.

At home sit elders, tired and slow.
Asthma and weakness begin to grow.
Inhalers ready, medicines near,
Smog-filled days increase their fear.

This polluted air harms young and old,
A serious story that must be told.
Plant more trees and reduce smoke,
Clean air is a right for every folk.

Green Delhi Clean Delhi

Zynah Naseem (VI-B)

WHEN THE AIR TURNS HEAVY

Delhi counts its days in numbers now,
AQI climbing, breaking vows.
Red alerts stain the morning news,
As skies choke deep in toxic hues.

Breathe arrives with silent harm,
Lungs grow tired, throats alarmed.
The air tastes sharp of ash and rust,
A daily gamble of fragile trust.

Hospital bills, for young the old,
Stories of coughs that won't grow cold.
Schools close doors, playgrounds wait,
While smog decides the city's fate.

Yet buried under layers of grey,
Is a wish for blue to find its way.
For when the warning fades to green,
Delhi will remember what clean means.

Anchal Negi (VI-A)



The moving finger writes
and having writ, moves on.

Aryan Negi (VIII-B)