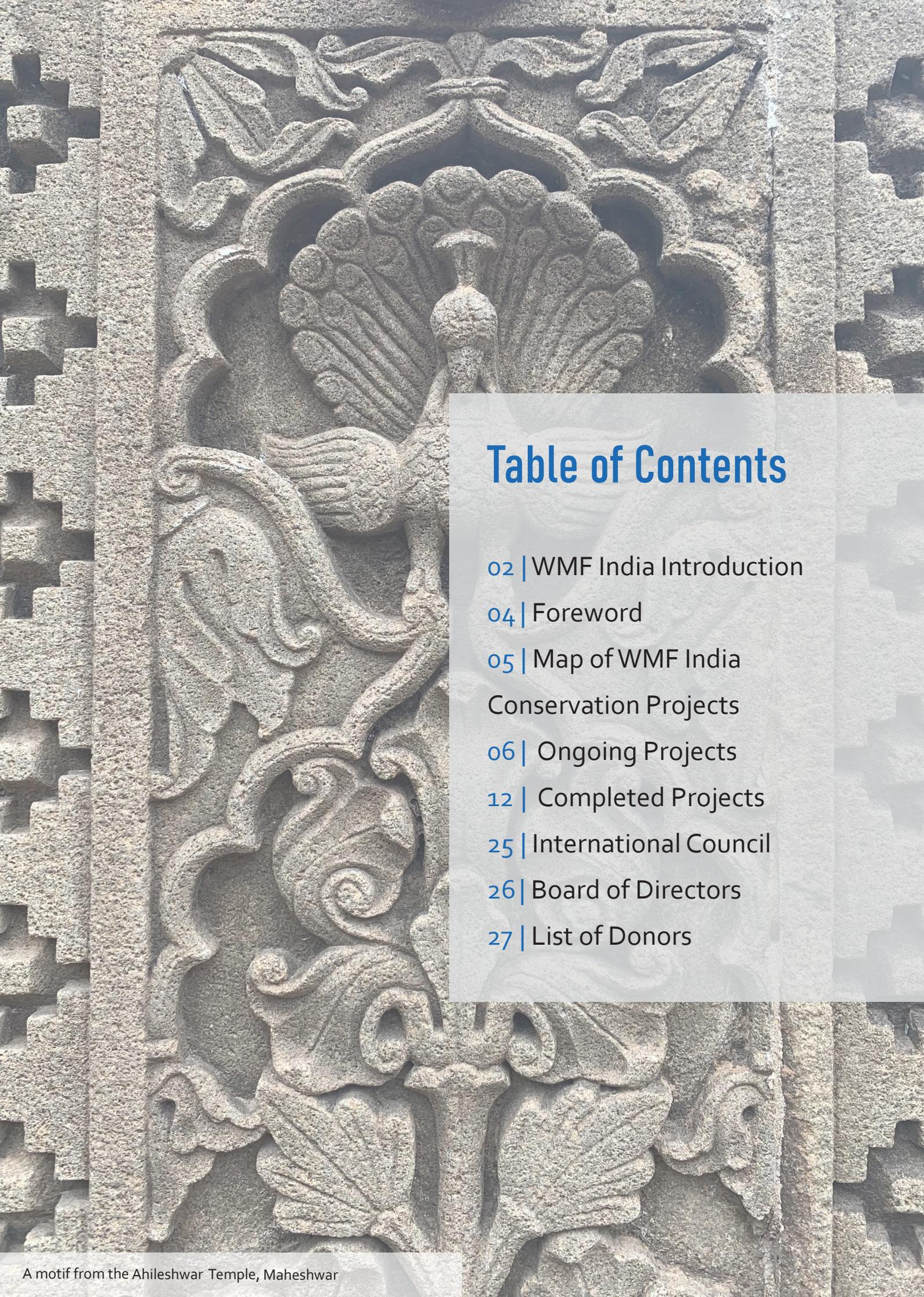




World Monuments Fund India Association  
Annual Report 2021-2022



Stained glass panel at the Knesset Eliyahu Synagogue, Mumbai



## Table of Contents

02 | WMF India Introduction

04 | Foreword

05 | Map of WMF India  
Conservation Projects

06 | Ongoing Projects

12 | Completed Projects

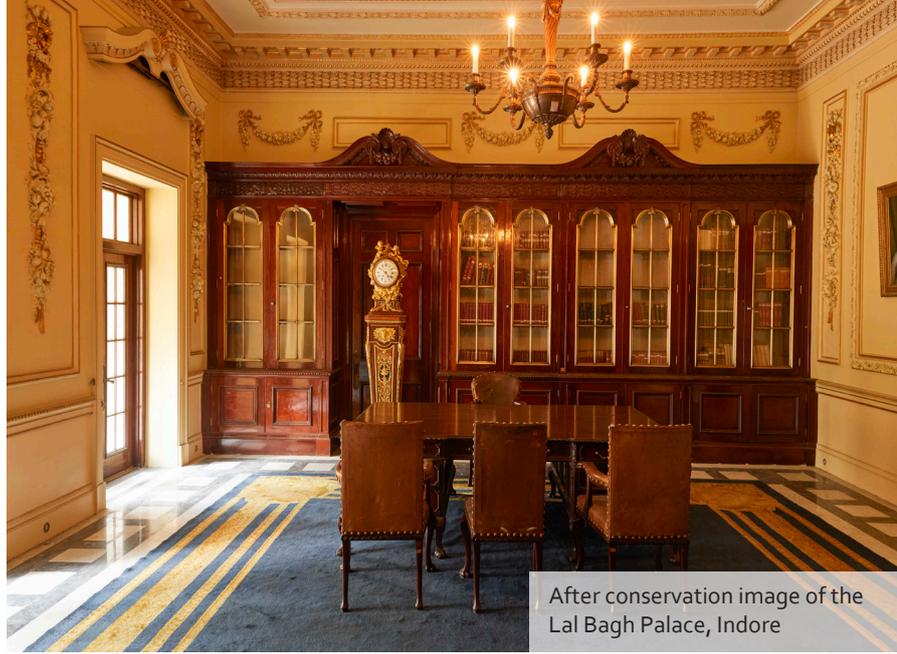
25 | International Council

26 | Board of Directors

27 | List of Donors



Conserved Stained Glass at the Kneset Eliyahoo Synagogue



After conservation image of the Lal Bagh Palace, Indore



A motif from the Ahileshwar temple



Mughal riverfront gardens of Agra



Central aisle at Afghan Church, Mumbai



Taj Bawdi, Bijapur



Stained glass panel at the Kneset Eliyahoo Synagogue, Mumbai



Papier mâché ceiling of the Durbar Hall, Osmania University

# World Monuments Fund

## India Association- An Introduction

World Monuments Fund India Association (WMFI) is a Not-for-Profit Company established in 2015 to address the growing concern for heritage in the country. It was established to strengthen the commitment towards the preservation of India's rich and diverse heritage. It is established under India's Companies Act, following the country's policy to include heritage conservation in corporate social responsibility programs.

The vision is to promote, encourage, conserve, preserve, increase public awareness by undertaking projects, activities and/or programs for the protection of national monuments, art, culture, and other places of historic interest. Through the years, many sites in India have garnered national and international attention.

WMF believes in preserving our past to build a sustainable future. Environmental management procedures are adapted by the staff members, be it on field or in office, this also includes offsetting our carbon usage as well.

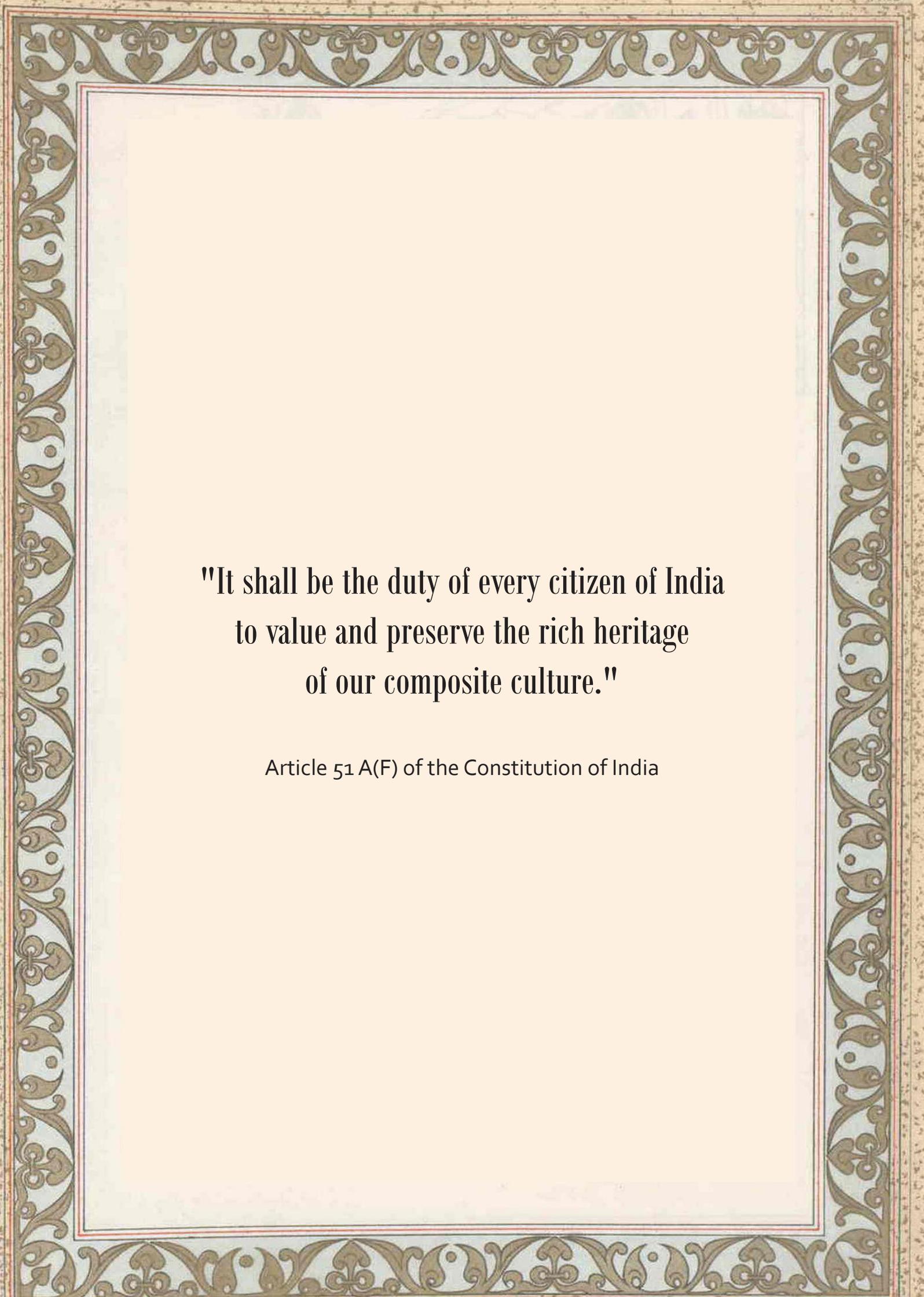
Since 2015, the team of conservation experts have helped preserve India's diverse cultural heritage using the highest international standards and partnering with local communities, funders, and governments.

WMF is delighted to have completed significant conservation-restoration projects across the country including the Mughal Gardens in Agra; The Kneset Eliyahoo Synagogue, Mumbai; Lal Bagh Palace, Indore, Interpretation Centre at It'mad-ud-Daullah, Agra; Ahileshwar Temple, Maheshwar and Residency Building at Osmania University, Hyderabad.

WMFI is now looking forward to new initiatives such as conservation of historic water bodies of India and the conservation-restoration of the Afghan Church, Mumbai.

Funds raised through various CSR initiatives have helped to further expand WMFI's footprint throughout India.

Under the chairmanship of Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, a 2006 Hadrian awardee, WMF India quickly established a significant presence in the country. In the years to come, WMF India will continue to develop its leadership in conservation and critical thought in multiple areas.



**"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India  
to value and preserve the rich heritage  
of our composite culture."**

Article 51 A(F) of the Constitution of India

# Foreword

Dear Friends,

WMF India has been established in the country since 2015. Our mission is devoted to safeguarding India's most treasured places to enrich people's lives and build mutual understanding across cultures and communities towards its preservation.

Through the years, many sites in India have attracted national and international attention. WMFI focuses and invests directly in people and communities by looking at adaptive reuse of sites that are of historical importance. It looks at historical sites related to the environment as well as cultural and public spaces. Projects such as restoration of Ancient Water Systems, Osmania University College for Women, Maheshwar Temple Complex, Afghan Church, Kneset Synagogue and the Lal Bagh palace are some examples of the Projects that WMFI deals with.

WMFI through its work with support from CSR initiatives, private and government bodies, hopes to grow awareness about the importance of these historic and cultural sites within the community and have a positive influence on showcasing the heritage of Incredible India.

HH Maharaja Gaj Singh  
Chairperson  
WMF India Association

## Recent and Ongoing Projects



### Affiliated projects

*Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad  
Taj Bawdi, Bijapur*



# Ongoing Conservation Projects



# Conservation of Historic Water Systems of India

The key focus for WMF India will be the Conservation of Historic Water Systems of India. It will tackle the challenges of climate change and lack of access to potable water in large parts of India, in line with the Indian Government's intention to restore the historic water systems. This project will be executed in partnership with TCS Foundation.

The objective of this project is to rejuvenate the ancient waterbodies. It aims to restore and recover traditional water systems, augmenting and strengthening depleting resources and ensuring increased access to water. This project will be implemented in two phases. The first being documentation and the second will be taking up individual waterbodies for restoration.

The first phase has already been initiated. Our team was engaged in secondary research and successfully collated information

on the Historic Water Systems of India and its typologies. This included creating a database of existing literature, conservation case-studies of projects related to water heritage conservation whether ongoing or completed. This helped enhance the awareness about projects taking place in the same domain and therefore repetitions can be avoided; database of Schemes related to Water Management and organisations and experts working on the same.

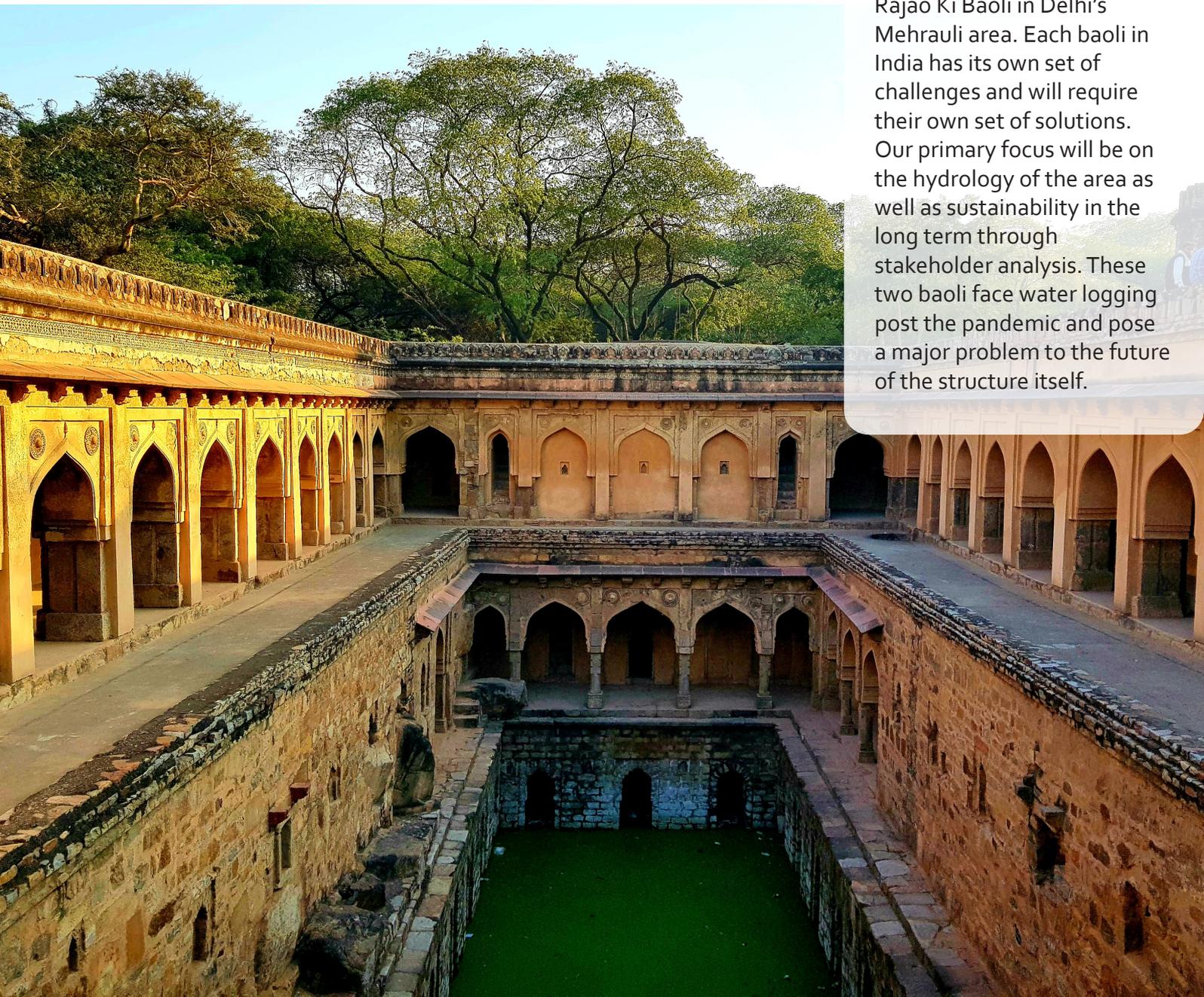
Phase 2 engages with conservation and restoration aspect. It will include studying, analysing and developing the framework for restoring potential water structures. This will be initiated after the completion of phase 1 and approval of phase-wise funds from the donor.



Alongside the wall of Lal Kot is an enclosed garden, with the remnants of an ancient water body



The Baolis identified for the first phase of work are the historic Lal Kot and Rajao Ki Baoli in Delhi's Mehrauli area. Each baoli in India has its own set of challenges and will require their own set of solutions. Our primary focus will be on the hydrology of the area as well as sustainability in the long term through stakeholder analysis. These two baoli face water logging post the pandemic and pose a major problem to the future of the structure itself.

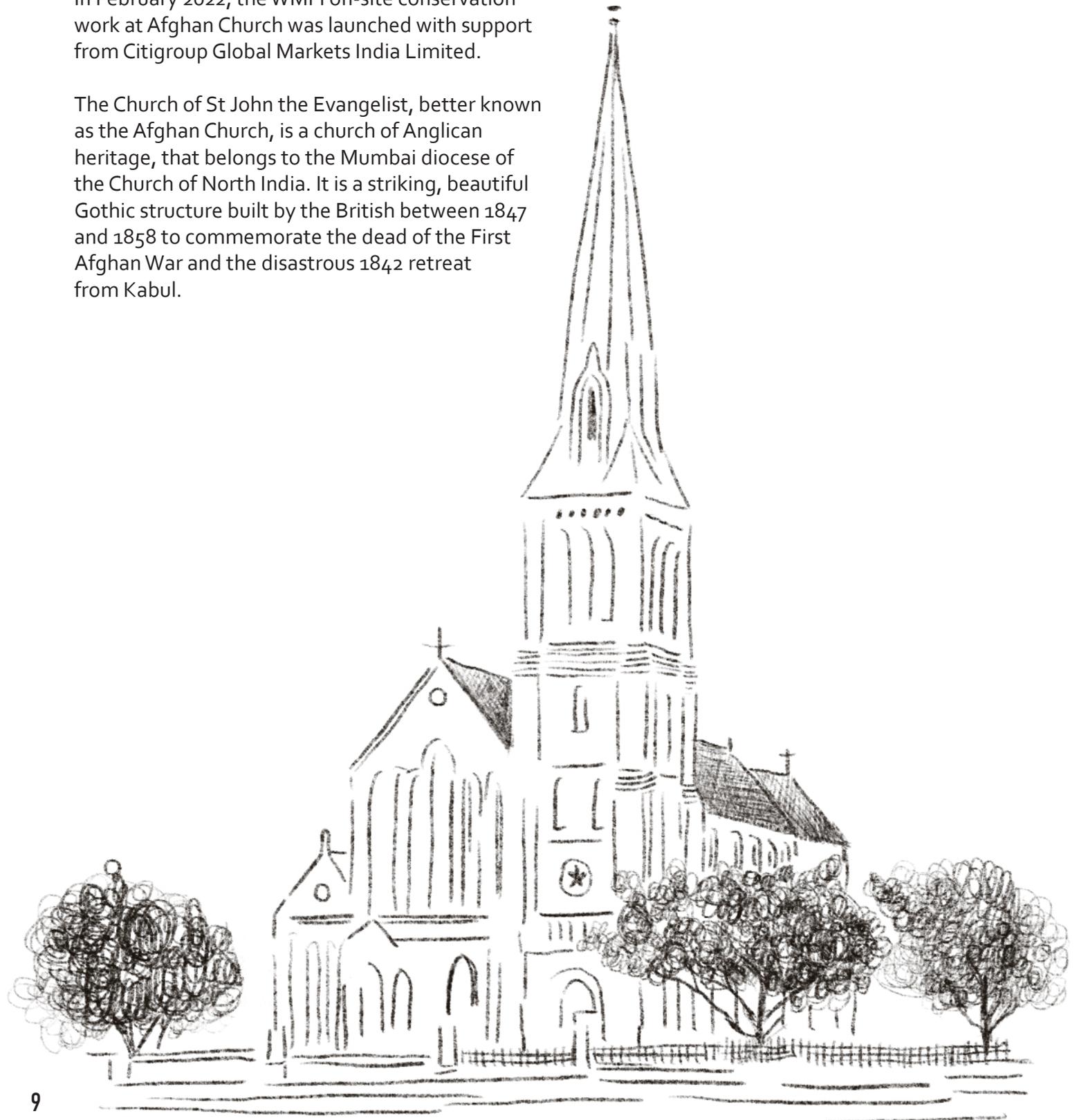


Rajao ki Baoli

# Afghan War Memorial Church, Mumbai

In February 2022, the WMFI on-site conservation work at Afghan Church was launched with support from Citigroup Global Markets India Limited.

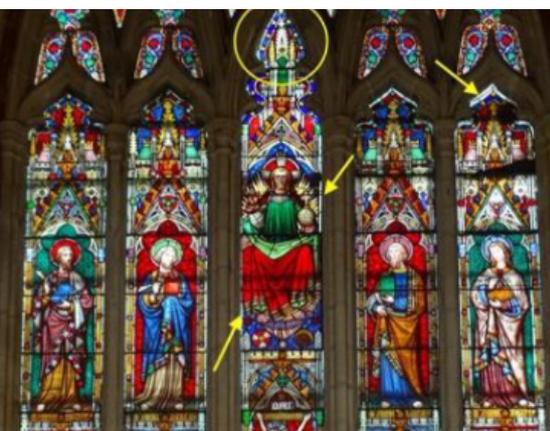
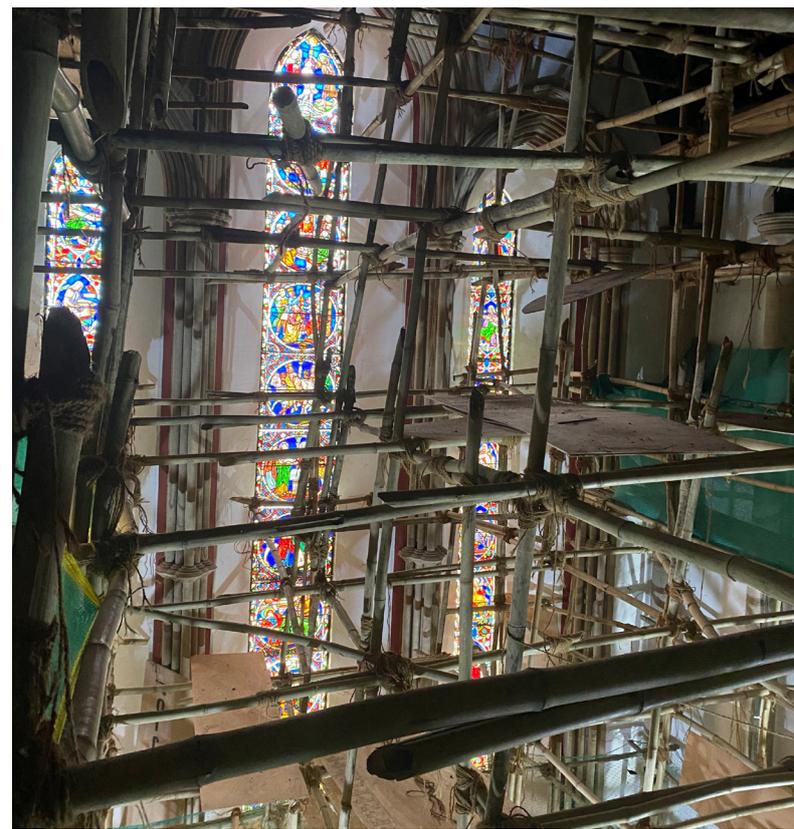
The Church of St John the Evangelist, better known as the Afghan Church, is a church of Anglican heritage, that belongs to the Mumbai diocese of the Church of North India. It is a striking, beautiful Gothic structure built by the British between 1847 and 1858 to commemorate the dead of the First Afghan War and the disastrous 1842 retreat from Kabul.





The aim of this conservation project is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the monument as well as ensuring the structural stability of existing building, and this is based on respect for original material and authentic documentation. The work is being conducted in four phases. The first phase includes the Detailed Project Report (DPR), that included archival research, material analysis, condition-mapping and conservation - restoration implementation planning.

The second phase includes the conservation of roof. Phase 3 involves repair and conservation of stained-glass panels, pennants and flags from the British Afghan war, 8 bells replete, metal work, furniture, landscaping and site work.





The Afghan War Memorial Church in Colaba, is a significant heritage structure in Mumbai. The agencies involved in the restoration processes exercise tremendous sensitivity in handling the work on this building. This is an important project for both WMF and Citi as it invests in a site which serves the congregation, a local community as well as a much larger constituency of stakeholders who use the church for secular purposes around the year.

We are pleased to say that the church is still open for service.



*"We at the Afghan church are extremely happy to partner with WMFI for this great effort. We will be happy to work jointly with your team to make it happen in a grand manner. We will only request that as far as feasible, the functioning of the church be enabled for the Sunday worship and special days of Christian calendar."*

- Rev Swapnil Uzgare





## Completed Projects



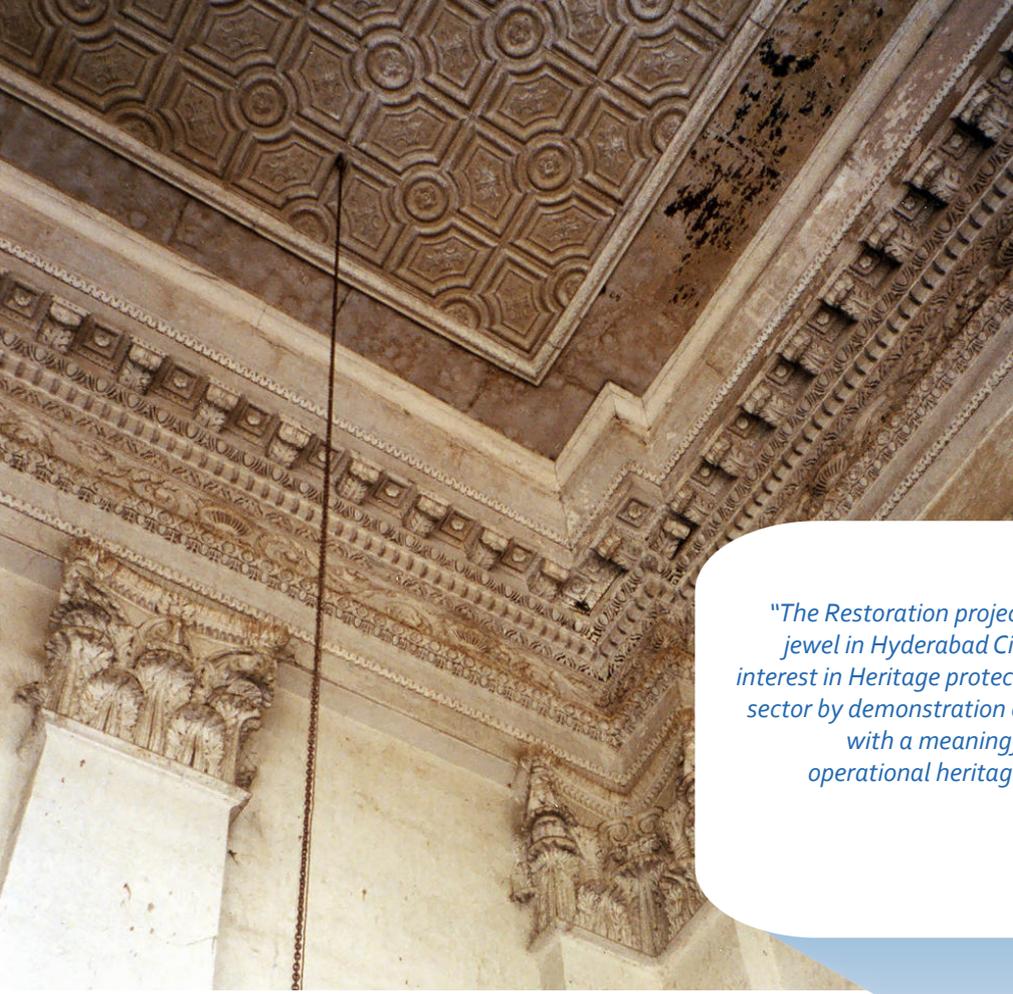
## Osmania University College for Women (former British Residency), Hyderabad

Osmania University is named after its founder, Nawab Osman Ali Khan, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad. It is the seventh oldest in the Country and third oldest in South India. In the year 2001, the World Monuments Fund (WMF) extended its support by putting in its list of 100 endangered buildings. The site was nominated for the World Monuments Watch List in 2002. The focus returned to the building after the publication of 'White Mughals' by William Dalrymple. This 216-year-old British Residency is in the heart of the city and the ensemble of historic buildings of different typologies and architectural styles played an instrumental role in development of the city.

WMFI, with support from American Express India and the Department of Archaeology, Government of Telangana, worked towards the conservation - restoration of the Durbar Hall building (a state protected monument) using globally accepted principles of conservation.

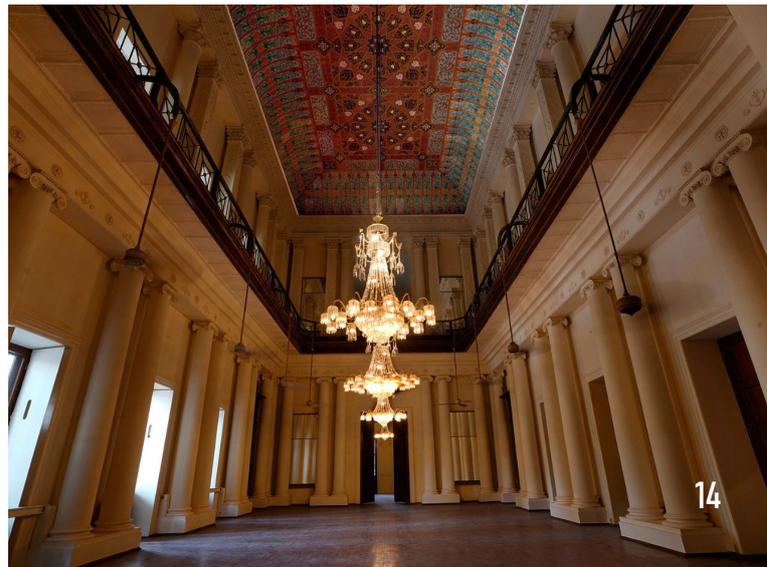
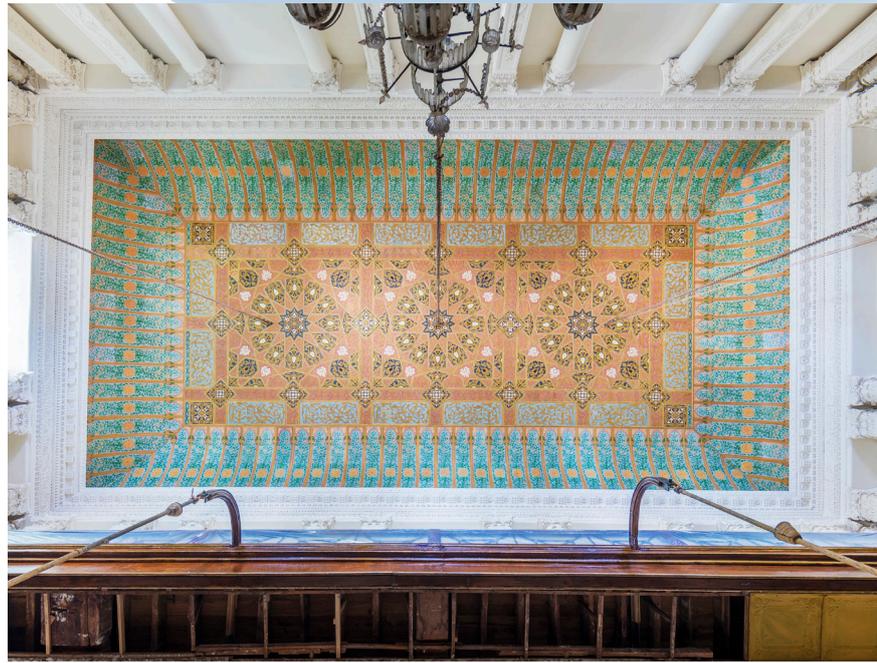
This entailed; provision of building services (electrical, firefighting, CCTV); creation of Interpretation Centre that included graphic wall mounted panels, interactive kiosk to disseminate the significance of the building and the role it played in the city of Hyderabad for the last 215 years, and signage that included site maps, information boards at various points on the site with cultural text, directional signage, etc.

The conservation-restoration work was a part of the larger vision to help enhance the quality of academic environs for women's education in a historic setting. It also facilitated public access to celebrate the significant values of this historic property. This restored building was successfully returned to the university authorities after 20 years in April 2022.



*"The Restoration project has not only revealed a hidden jewel in Hyderabad City but also triggered a renewed interest in Heritage protection amongst the public and private sector by demonstration of a successfully completed project with a meaningful adaptive reuse and an operational heritage management mechanism."*

- Sarath Chandra Boyapati  
Conservation Architect



# Lal Bagh Palace, Indore

## An Iconic Palace of Nineteenth-century India

The Lal Bagh Palace is situated amidst an expansive space with a garden in the city of Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Built by the Holkar dynasty, one of the most powerful Maratha rulers of India, the architecture reflects the contemporary vogue among Indian royalty representing European influenced architecture with an amalgamation of various styles. Significant for its Period Interiors - heavily inspired by Baroque design, style and predilection, it is among the finest surviving historic interiors of this period in India.

With support from Robert W. Wilson and the Madhya Pradesh Government, under the umbrella of the Madhya Pradesh Monuments Project, initial condition surveys were conducted. In 2019, support from InterGlobe Aviation Limited allowed WMFI and the Madhya Pradesh Government to undertake detailed surveys of the historic interiors and develop a conservation plan that entailed the holistic conservation and restoration using the highest standards accepted internationally.





The project not only aimed at strengthening the building structure, conserving and restoring the interiors but also at upholding the Lal Bagh Palace as a Historic House Museum open to visitors. The objective was to enhance visitor experience through better designed signage; lighting; maps, audio guides, touch screens; animation, merchandising, interpretation panels & displays, special tours and guides, thus making it an interactive experience for the visitor.



The project seeks to benefit local students and residents by providing access and new uses to the site, while increasing tourism to Indore and since India has a large number of palatial cultural resources, this project will serve as a model for conservation and sustainable management of palaces.



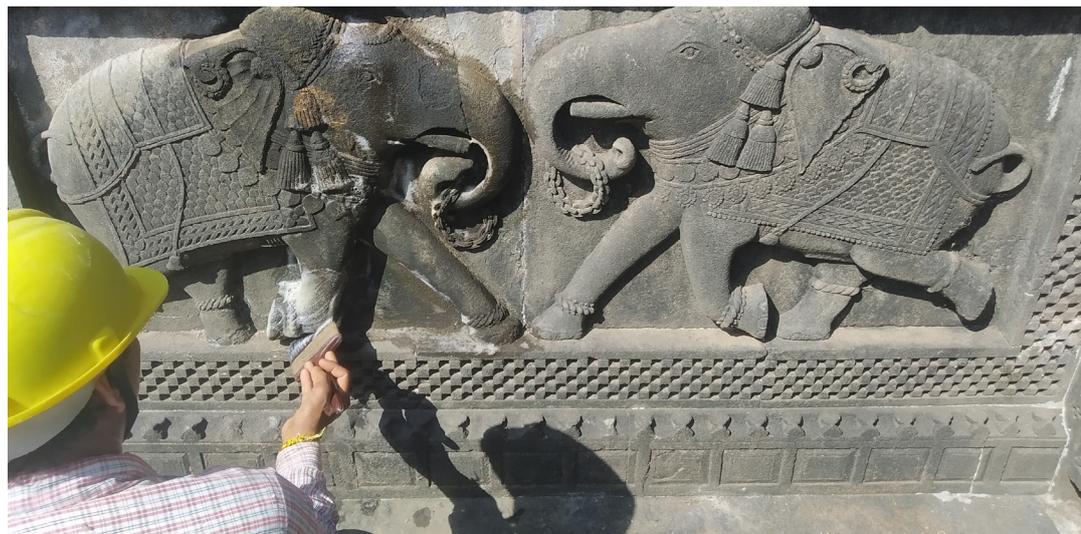
*"Working on the Restoration of Lal Bagh Palace - among the finest period interiors of the genre, was both a privilege and a responsibility. We have been cognisant of the immense responsibility towards retaining the authenticity of this Palace and prefaced the restoration work with detailed documentation, archival research and diagnostics. Our team undertook a range of non-destructive tests, both of the structure and the paints, finishes and materials and looked at every material in detail. The project under the careful watch of the World Monuments Fund has enabled the piecing together of Holkar history and interiors."*

- Abha Narain Lambah,  
Consultant, World Monuments Fund India

# Ahileshwar Temple, Maheshwar

A partnership project between WMFI and Khasgi Trust to support the revival of Maheshwar's heritage sites. This initiative began with the restoration of the Ahileshwar Temple in August 2019. Located on the shores of the river Narmada, this temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is a testament to the splendid architectural skills of the Maratha craftsmen. The temple towers over the landscape and is richly carved with intricate designs. Apart from being the shrine of Lord Shiva, this temple also

has a shrine of Lord Rama. Various carvings adorn the front side of this temple. In addition, this temple has several images of Maratha soldiers and elephants, which attracts many visitors to its premises every year. This project is part of a larger revival of the town project and WMF has specifically come to part support the restoration of this temple and the ghat, which are the iconic buildings in Maheshwar. The objective was to develop a sustainable ecosystem of conservation and adaptive reuse infrastructure, which will facilitate responsible tourism while restoring, protecting, and amplifying the historic beauty of the Ghats; and to study and reinforce the structural stability of the Ghats, including the strengthening substructure and riverbank as necessary.





*"Restoring Devi Ahilyabai's Chattri has been a long standing dream, one which tens of thousands visitors and pilgrims will appreciate. We are grateful to the World Monument Fund for its support of this important restoration."*

-Yeshwant Rao Holkar,  
Trustee



## The Knesset Eliyahoo Synagogue, Mumbai



*"In historic stained glass, the synthesis of light, glass, paint and above all, time (of day, too) creates a spectacular drama that leaves the viewer in awe. It was a privilege to conserve the Knesset Eliyahoo Synagogue's stained glass designed by the famous Augustus Pugin and came to Bombay in 1884 from the studios of John Hardman & Co., Birmingham."*

- Swati Changadkar,  
Stained Glass Conservator  
on the project

In partnership with the JSW Foundation, in 2017, WMFI highlighted the urgent need to restore the synagogue focussing on the revivalist ornamental stained glass. Constructed in 1884, it is the second-oldest Sephardic synagogue in Mumbai.

The synagogue's decorative interiors featured Victorian stained-glass windows and rich Burmese teak wood furnishings and staircase. The building contains unique features that draw on the various cultural forces in Mumbai in the nineteenth century, combining Jewish traditions with Indian and English Victorian influences. The work included structural and roof repairs, recovery of decorative finishes, as well as the restoration of the synagogue's stunning nineteenth-century stained-glass windows. This was completed in January 2019.



The Kneset Eliyahu Synagogue continues to be used as a synagogue and is the centre of Jewish cultural and religious life in Mumbai.

Recently, the synagogue was awarded the 'Award of Merit' by UNESCO, for the conservation and restoration of this ornate monument.



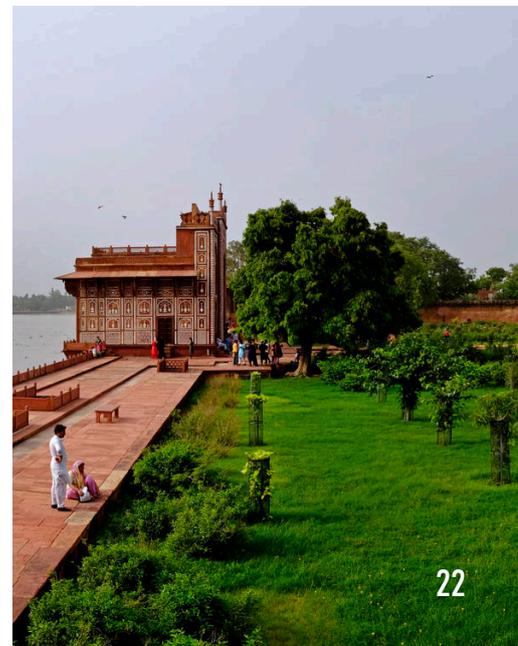
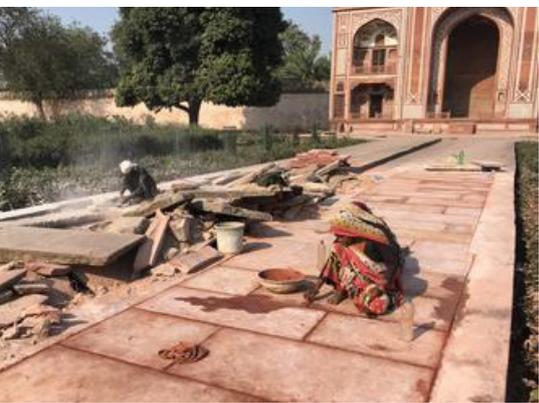
# The Mughal Riverfront Gardens, Agra

*The city of Agra, once the capital of the Mughal Empire, was flanked by more than 44 riverfront gardens. In partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India, I'timad-ud-Daulah's Garden, once a pleasure garden and now the tomb garden of Jehangir's powerful Prime Minister was replanted, the water channel systems recharged and the visitor facilities were improved. It was the first Mughal garden restored in its entirety in India. This has greatly enhanced the experience of the site to reflect the spirit of the original intent of the Mughal Gardens.*

*The conservation was based on thorough archival research, documentation of the built structure, and a detailed condition assessment. The necessary and immediate conservation actions were taken once the detailed site report was made. The project aimed at restoring the garden as close to the original idea as possible while at the same time respecting some of the changes that have occurred over time.*

*The Interpretation Centre at the Mughal Tomb Garden of I'timad-ud-Daulah was inaugurated in January 2019. This project in the near future will expand and augment the tourist potential, by providing information about Agra as a Riverfront Garden City.*





***Some of the other affiliated projects such as the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad and the Taj Bawdi, Bijapur were introduced as part of the conservation initiative.*** These projects not only focussed on the conservation-restoration aspect but also how to get the community involved in keeping the place engaged.

They were both listed under World Monuments Fund watch and conservation plans have been made for them with oversight from the WMF India office.



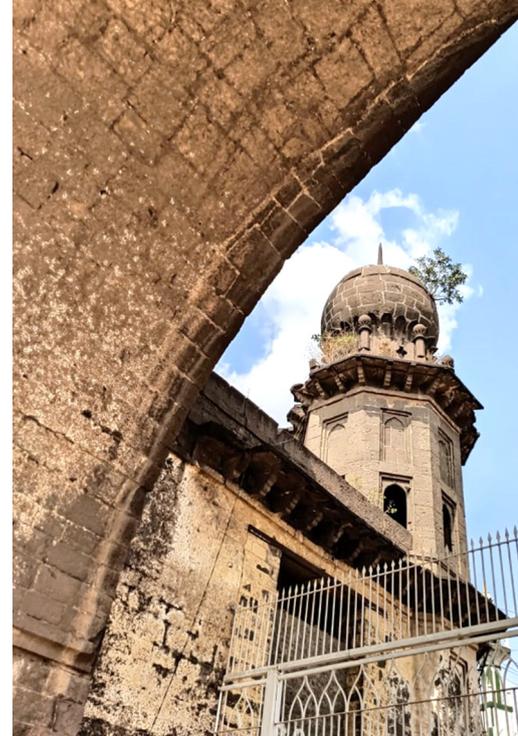
Designed in the 1960s by renowned architect Charles Correa and engineer Mahendra Raj, the stadium symbolizes the birth of a new architectural language in India's post independence period. At the Patel Stadium, WMF seeks to develop a conservation management plan to enhance its role as a public space for the people of Ahmedabad.

A comprehensive conservation management plan was made for the Amdavad Municipal Corporation and was funded by Keeping it Modern Grant 2020 from the Getty Foundation. The work included data collection and digitization, research and survey. To strengthen the community's engagement with the stadium, an outreach initiative was launched on the social media platforms of Amdavad Municipal Corporation in 2021 titled "Celebrating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium my stadium, my memories".

Proximity to water bodies was once a central consideration for the settlement and survival of any civilization. WMFI's intervention is to assess and rehabilitate the historic water systems throughout the country.

One of such projects is the Taj Bawdi in Bijapur, Karnataka which encourages community connection. Areas surrounding the Bawdi were surveyed and the locals were interviewed. There are various communities using the Bawdi for religious purposes, tourism, leisure, entertainment, etc. A proposal towards its conservation and rehabilitation was submitted after doing a detailed site investigation and forensic analysis.

This project will expand into the larger conservation of historic water bodies project which is being undertaken in partnership with the TCS Foundation.



### **Augtraveller Partnership:**

*Augtraveller is a media company that creates educational content. We have signed a partnership with them to be able to create AI experiences of heritage buildings that can then be used as classrooms, etc.*

*The hope is to seed interest in history and heritage in younger audiences.*

# The International Council

The International Council (IC) is a prestigious circle of visionary leaders, philanthropists and heritage enthusiasts from around the world who care about cultural heritage. They receive unparalleled access to our conservators, staff, sites, programs, and archives, and help us chart our global strategy.

Members play a key role, working directly with WMF's leadership to chart our global strategy and maximize our impact through identifying projects of international stature, fundraising, and sharing with their networks the importance of preserving humanity's irreplaceable cultural heritage. They are leaders in their communities and share a commitment to preserving beauty, meaning, and cultural heritage in all its forms. They gain an insider's perspective on WMF projects and programs and are encouraged to participate in the conversation and help offer solutions.

International Council Members serve as global ambassadors for World Monuments Fund and its mission and are eligible to travel with WMF's CEO and conservation experts through our exclusive travel program, Monumental Journeys. Past trips have included a private dinner under the stars at Angkor in Cambodia, with the temple complex dramatically lit just for us, private dinners hosted in the homes of our international supporters, access to heritage that are normally off-limits to the public with WMF specialists, meetings with leading architects and cultural and political figures, as well as luxury accommodations, and the finest local cuisine.

***Join us today and become part of our global community to safeguard the irreplaceable and make a lasting impact on communities around the world.***

When you join the International Council, you become part of an outstanding global community.

Benefits include:

- Eligible to be a part of the International Council Network.
- Travel program of once-in-a-lifetime trips to WMF sites around the world.
- Be invited to select events and access to WMF sites when traveling independently.
- Annual World Summit at headquarters in New York City week of Hadrian Gala.
- Unique events including fundraising events in affiliate cities.
- Chance to interact with the global heritage trendsetters.

International Council members also have the opportunity to become a Project Partner by making or facilitating a transformative gift to a select WMF site. Project Partners enjoy the ultimate insider look at every phase of a conservation project and its impact on the surrounding community. Project Partners may also accompany WMF leadership on working trips and participate in meetings with our partners, local government officials, cultural heritage authorities, and other dignitaries.

# World Monuments Fund India

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## WMF India

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Prabhadevi,  
Mumbai- 400 025

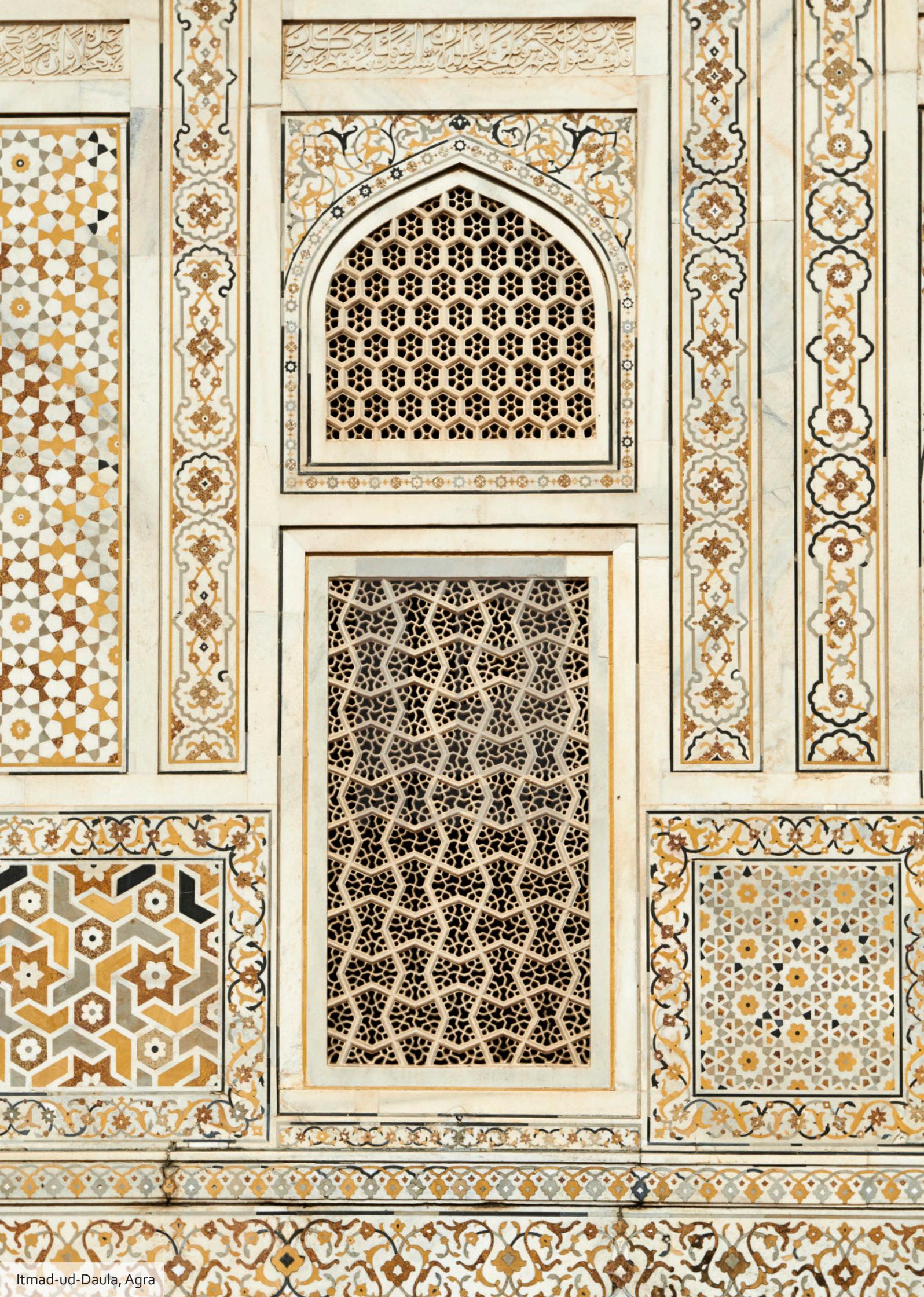
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Durbar Hall, Osmania University College for Women, Hyderabad



Itmad-ud-Daula, Agra