

Barah Khamba



Conservation & Landscape Restoration

By Aga Khan Trust for Culture

In partnership with
Archaeological Survey of India
and co-funding by Delhi Urban
Heritage Foundation

On the eastern end of Lodhi Road, at the edge of Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti stands a Lodi era/ 16th century domed tomb building, known as *Barah Khamba* on account of the twelve pillars that stand on its four sides.

The tomb is considered to be of national importance and is a monument protected by the **Archaeological Survey of India**. The park in which it stands is owned by the Delhi Development Authority. *Barah Khamba* stands within the Delhi Master Plan designated heritage Zone of Nizamuddin and within the buffer zone of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site.

Since 2007, we at the **Aga Khan Trust for Culture** have been undertaking India's only Urban Conservation project in partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India, Central Public Works Department and the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. The project has led to the conservation of over 50 monuments within the Nizamuddin Heritage zone and this conservation effort has been coupled with a significant socio-economic development programme that aims to improve the quality of life of inhabitants of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti.



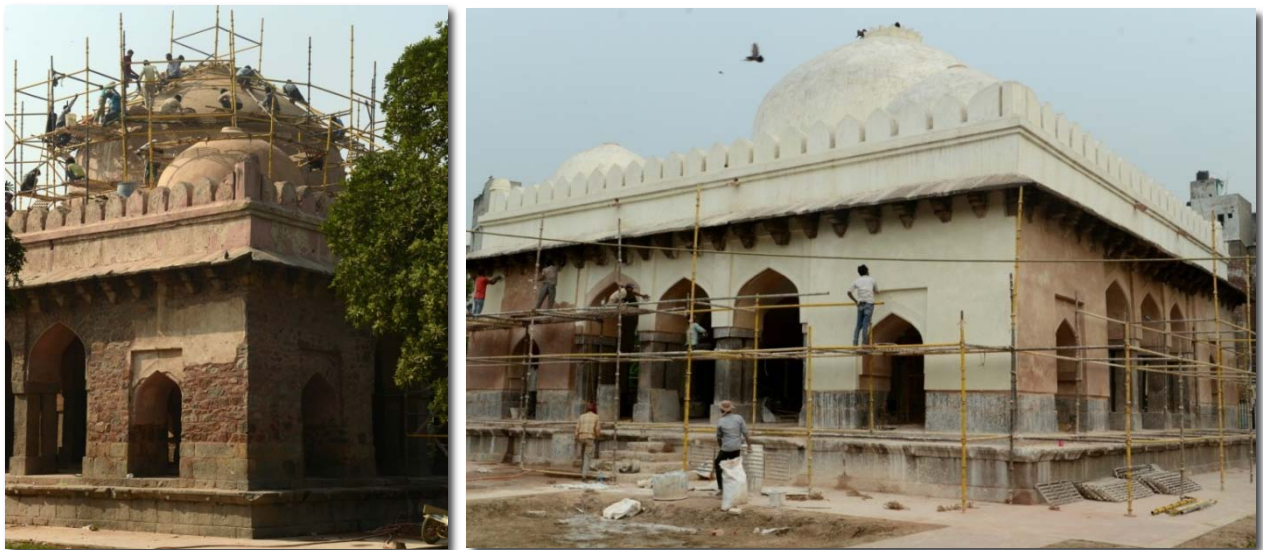
In 2014, the **Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation of the Delhi Development Authority** awarded a grant of Rs 80 Lakhs to Aga Khan Trust for Culture to undertake the conservation of *Barah Khamba*, located

prominently on Lodhi Road as well as sensitively landscape the park within which this 16th century monument stands.

As with conservation works on the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site, conservation works on the *Barah Kambha* were undertaken by master craftsmen using traditional materials such as lime mortar to conserve the building to how the original builders, five centuries ago had meant it to be seen. The conservation works were supervised by a multi-disciplinary AKTC team comprising conservation architects, engineers, historians, landscape architects, designers and horticulturists, amongst others.

The layers of cement applied to the monument during past repairs and causing extensive damage to the structure were carefully removed and replaced with lime mortar, structural cracks in the dome and other parts of the building repaired and sandstone flooring provided. The final layer of lime mortar was used by the 16th century builders to mimic the appearance of more expensive marble and is prepared with marble dust and egg white and serves as a protective layer that will quickly get the patina of organic growth during the monsoon.

The setting of the monument has been enhanced with formal landscaping as well as an additional access from the Basti – thus allowing residents to use the park and create greater visibility from the Lodhi road.



For more information, please visit: www.nizamuddinrenewal.org
and for latest updates, Like Us on: <https://www.facebook.com/NizamuddinRenewal>