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# Heritage Development and Conservation in Ajmer City under Hriday Scheme: A Case Study of Subhash Udyaan

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**Abstract:** *This paper presents the heritage development and conservation in subhash udhyaan of Ajmer city. The present work has been conducted with the help of different books, field visits, and interviews. The study has been conducted to understand the concept of heritage development and conservation with highlighting the importance and need of ancient monuments. And presented the factors which are responsible for the degradation of heritage sites. It is showcasing the work of government to save the religious identity of our nation. This research paper presents the work of subhash udhyaan under 'Hriday scheme'. The past degraded condition of subhash udhyaan and the present existing infrastructure with different new amenities.*

**Keywords:** *Heritage development, conservation, Ajmer municipal corporation (AMC), Ajmer development Authority (ADA), Deterioration, rehabilitation, etc.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Heritage means something that has been inherited with we live today and hopefully something what we can pass on to future generation. "Our heritage is legacy of our past". Heritage is full range of our inherited tradition, monuments, objects and a culture. Most important it is a range of contemporary activities meaning and behavior that we draw from them. Heritage must in fact be considered as a legacy that we receive from our ancestors.

Heritage is a broad concept which includes the culture as well as natural environment. It encompasses built environment, historic places sites, landscapes as well as biodiversity, knowledge collection of past and different cultural practices and living experiences. It is a dynamic concerning point and positive tool for growth and change. Heritage is a collective memory of each locality and community.

Heritage development means an event or process in which we are trying to constituting a new stage in a changing situation. Whereas Heritage conservation is the process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate enhances its significance. Conservation is equivalent to preservation, which means to keep safe from decaying or being damaged or destroyed. In urban planning, conservation means the best Use of resources embodied in the physical environment, particularly with regard to urban and rural landscapes of great beauty, historical association or cultural identity. Conservation is the dynamic process which transforms and synthesizes the historical context within the requirements of contemporary urban restructure (Cuthbert, 1984).

### A. Factor Deteriorating our Heritage Sites/Buildings

The existence of heritage in our environment has indeed provoked the belief that people came from somewhere and this offer the people the self-confidence to face the future.

The heritage building constructed in the past have high historical, architectural, spiritual, social, economic, and political values. Similarly heritage building is highly valuable and informative in terms of socio- cultural, socio-political, socio-economical, and even technological activities of a specific society or group of individual.

Heritage buildings are differ from modern buildings in the sense that they are anticipated to last permanently also heritage buildings are the buildings that for various factor society has decided that they shall be preserved for as long as possible .But in the present time we see that heritage sites are not as safer.

We people are forgetting the value of these sites and harming them. Not only we but sometime they are Detroit by nature also. There are also some factors that threatening our heritage sites presented by UNESCO.

### B. Study Region

With an area of 55 square kilometers, Ajmer is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest state in Rajasthan with the urban population of around 1,035,410, comprising of 534,688 males and 500,722 female population and also one of its earliest urban centre. Ajmer is low density city with a highly dense inner core, Ajmer is approximately 135 km south of Jaipur, and almost 400 km south-west of Delhi, nestled within the Aravalli hills. Ajmer city has moderate climate with daily ranging temperature from 26.9°C to 39.4°C during May and 7.6°C to 22.5°C during January, the average rainfall is 50 cm and average humidity is 57%. The rainfall in the region is very erratic. Ajmer ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of population, 14<sup>th</sup> in terms of area, 11<sup>th</sup> in terms of population density with 5000 persons per square km. Population of Ajmer is 7,58,330 inhabitants with a decadal growth rate of 11.7.

Figure 1. Factors presented by UNESCO



The city has been selected as one of the heritage cities for the HRIDAY heritage city development and augmentation Yojana, Scheme of government of India. Ajmer is a pilgrimage centre for the shrine of Sufi saint Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti and also the base for visiting Pushkar (11km), an ancient Hindu pilgrimage city with famous temple of Brahma, including important destinations like Dargah-Sharif, Adhai-din-ka Jhonpra, Akbar's fort, Anasagar and Foy Sagar lake, Soni-ji-Nasiyaan (Jain temple), Taragarh fort, Shahjahan fort, Museum, Dolatbagh (Subhash Udhyaan). The city receives 15,000 pilgrims every day on an average and about six lakh devotees for various festivals performed here.

Figure2. Map of study area

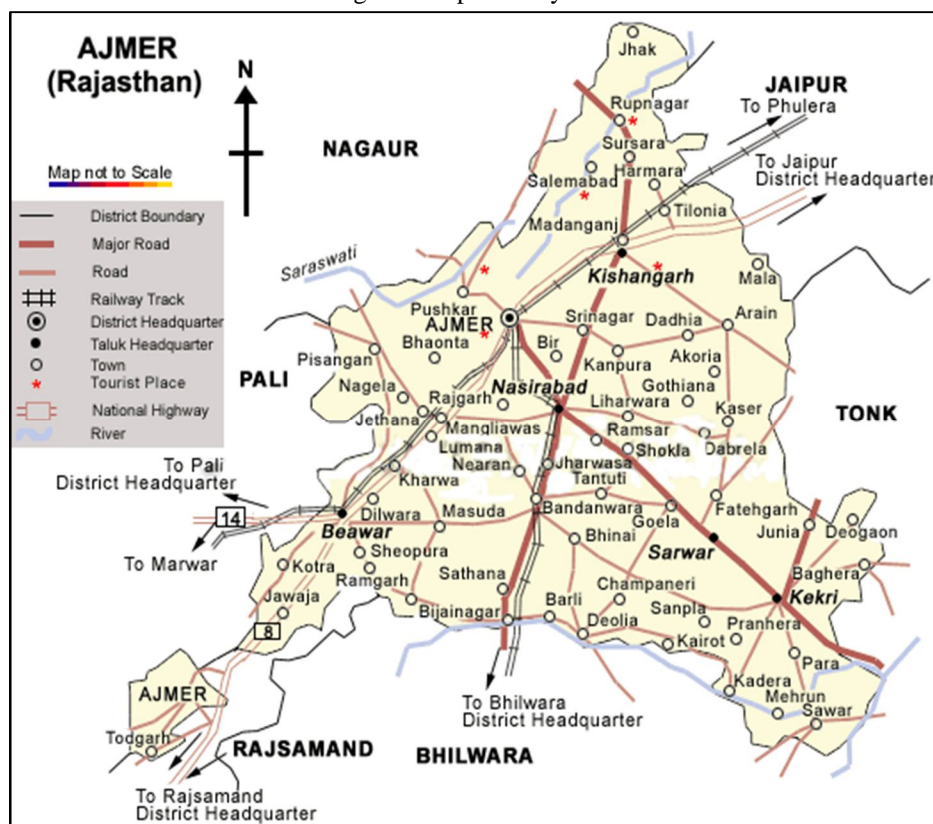
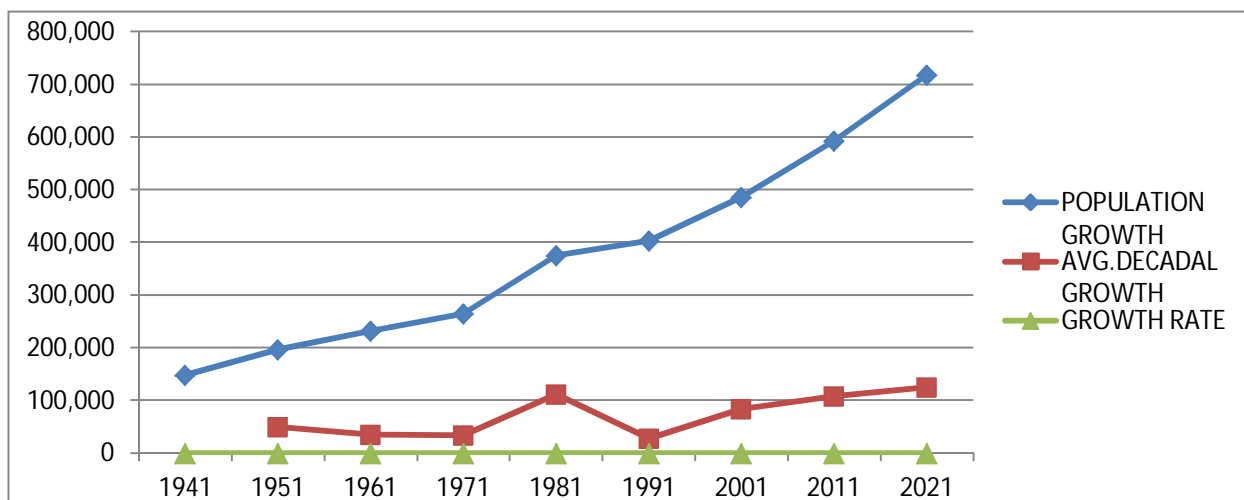


Figure3. Decadal Population Growth Rate of Ajmer City



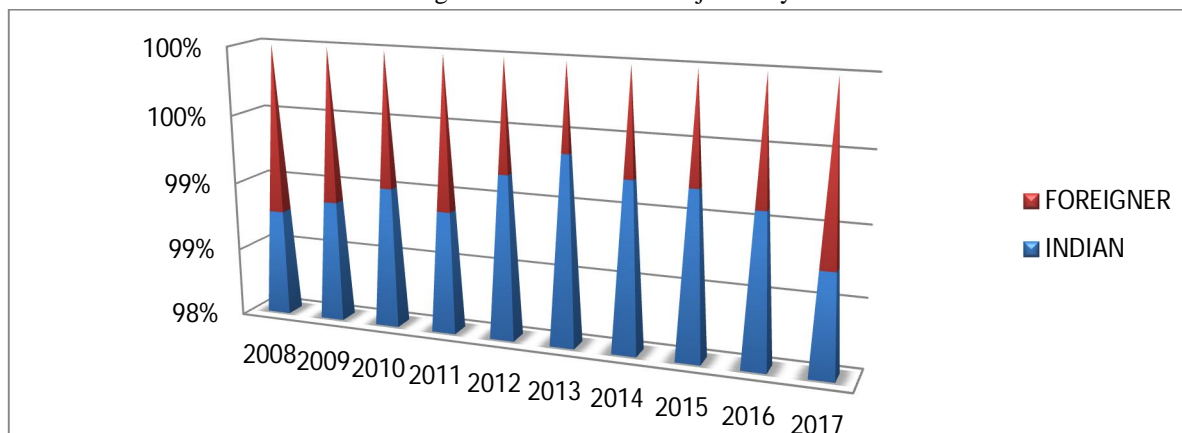
Source : rajasthan census department

### C. Tourism of Ajmer

Tourism is an important segment of the Indian economy, contributing about 9.2% of the country's GDP. The tourism sector is a large industry comprising wide array of operators from hotels to local transport players. Thus the tourism industry makes a significant impact on the local economy of the region and generates large employment opportunities. Rajasthan continues to be one of the most favorite tourism destinations in India. The State has experienced a record arrival of more than 11.3lakh foreign tourists and 187lakh domestic tourists during 2005, Out of the total tourists visiting Rajasthan, Mount Abu, Udaipur, Jaipur and Ajmer and Pushkar attract the maximum number of tourists both domestic and foreigners.



Figure4. Tourist Data of Ajmer city



Source: Rajasthan census department

The key objectives are as follows:

- 1) To understand the concept of heritage programs of conservation and development initiated by Central Government.
- 2) Conservation of Heritage sites of Ajmer city under HRIDAY scheme, irrespective of their religious identity.
- 3) To highlight the historical importance of ancient monuments and pilgrimage areas with special emphasize on Subhash Udhyaan, Ajmer City.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The data has been collected from primary and secondary data sources like field visits, interviews, newspapers, articles, journals, websites like [www.hriday.in](http://www.hriday.in), [www.rajcensus.gov.in](http://www.rajcensus.gov.in), and [www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in) and municipal corporation Ajmer, Google images Of subhash udhyaan etc.

### A. Case Study of Subhash Udyaan

Daulat Bagh layout by Jahangir (AD 1605 – 1628) which formed a royal pleasure garden of the Mughal emperor amidst the buildings and the various constructions of the city the Subhash Udhyaan and Daulat Bagh provides the sheer relief to the locals and the visitors with its greenery. The garden was named as Daulat Bagh by Shah Jahan which has recently been changed to Subhash Udhyaan by the authority. Subhash Udhyaan and Daulat Bagh are one of the major places of attraction for the locals and tourists. It is located at the centre of city along Anasagar Lake therefore it helps in maintaining the aesthetic beauty within the city. It is visited highly by locals as well as tourists so it has mixed social character. There are some developed portions from the Mughal times such as the Baradari and Daulat Bagh.

The rest of the architecture is residential and commercial structures from more historic times. The natural topography of the terrain is flat with one Side Lake and other three sides surrounded by residential and commercial establishments. There zone extends around the heritage assets, the public spaces providing a coherent visitor experience and identifiable and imaginable contiguous zone. Municipal Corporation, Ajmer is the agency responsible for conservation and management of the Subhash Udhyaan and Daulat Bagh. All works pertaining to cleaning, clearing of encroachment and execution of projects is under purview of MCA. But for a long time the beauty of subhash udhyaan is degrading day by day and people are forgetting the importance of our heritages sites. Due to lack of proper awareness subhash udhyaan mislaid its beauty.

### B. Site Analysis and Key Issues

- 1) *Water Supply:* Continuous water supply in the developed part of the garden. There is an existing pump house and drinking water facility which is not in good condition.
- 2) *Sewerage:* Underground sewerage in most parts of the garden. The drain is open, pollution creating and is located on the north east entrance.
- 3) *Drainage:* Open drains are located on both the sides of the road, as observed on the south east pedestrian road.



Figure 5. garden entrance



Figure 6. Degraded landscape

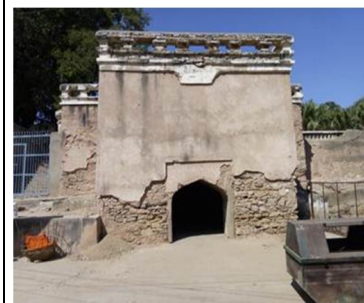


Figure 7. Dilapidated structure

- 4) *Street Light*: The lights are located at regular intervals in the lawns. No of fixtures seem enough but the design is not accordance with the context. The lights in the south east



Figure 8. Degraded walkway



Figure 9. pump house



Figure 10. Dustbins

- 5) *Lawns Are Provided With Solar Panels*: Thus, a sustainable approach already present can be carried forward.
- 6) *Firefighting*: No special provision for firefighting at present.
- 7) *Solid Waste Management*: The dustbins are provided but people hardly use them. Instead, the waste is cluttered around the bins.

### C. Hriday

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana was launched on 21 January 2015 by the ministry of urban affairs, government of India, with a focus on holistic development of heritage sites. Preserve and Revitalize soul of the heritage city to reflect the city's unique character by encouraging aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative & secured environment. To undertake strategic and planned development of heritage cities aiming at improvement in overall quality of life with specific focus on sanitation, security, tourism, heritage revitalization and livelihoods retaining the city's cultural identity."

### D. Scheme Objectives

- 1) Planning, development and implementation of heritage sensitive infrastructure.
- 2) Service delivery and infrastructure provisioning in historic city core areas.
- 3) Preserve and revitalize heritage wherein tourists can connect directly with city's unique character.
- 4) Develop and document a heritage asset inventory of cities – natural, cultural, living and built heritage as a basis for urban planning, growth and service provision & delivery.
- 5) Implementation and enhancement of basic services delivery with focus on sanitation services like public conveniences, toilets, water taps, street lights with use of latest technologies in improving tourist facilities/amenities.
- 6) Local capacity enhancement for inclusive heritage-based industry.

- 7) Create effective linkages between tourism and cultural facilities and also the conservation of natural and built heritage.
- 8) Urban heritage adaptive rehabilitation and maintenance, including appropriate technologies for historic buildings retrofitting.
- 9) Establish and manage effective public private partnership for adaptive urban rehabilitation.
- 10) Development and promotion of core tangible economic activities to enhance avenues of livelihoods amongst stakeholders. This would also include necessary skill development amongst them including making public spaces accessible and developing cultural spaces.
- 11) Making cities informative with use of modern ICT tools and making cities secure with modern surveillance and security apparatus like CCTV etc.
- 12) Increase accessibility i.e. physical access (roads as well as universal design) and intellectual access (i.e. digital heritage and GIS mapping of historical locations/ tourist maps and routes).

#### E. HRIDAY Scheme in Subhash Udyaan

The project components focus on ways of promoting the conservation of the city's heritage assets as a driver of its growth and development. The proposed components and activities are the result of a series of public consultations and expert meetings, and are based on the findings as well as from profiles and analyses of the area, from its heritage significance to land use, service and socio economic development issues. The components and activities looked at the area is a holistic manner, linking infrastructure and service provision with livelihoods promotion and heritage conservation. The project emphasizes the aesthetic upgradation of surrounding of the Subhash Udyaan in first phase.

Items proposed to be included in historical park are as follows

- 1) Jogging Track
- 2) Museum of Subhash Chandra Bose
- 3) Division of Smaller Plots within the garden
- 4) Sculptures at various locations
- 5) Redesign existing water body and area around it
- 6) Murals along the retaining wall of Baradari
- 7) Active and passive recreation spaces for all age groups
- 8) Demolish all existing structures except for the temple and refurbish the temple

Figure 11. Summary Sheet and Cost Estimation of subhash udhyaan

S No	Particulars	Amount in Rs
A	Public Space & Recreational Facilities	26359153
B	Development of Pedestrian/Pathway/Jogging Track	46770010
C	Water, Sewerage & Sanitation	19458477
D	Information Desk	3169377
	Total	110661017
	Additional 1% Contingency Charges	1106610
	Grand Total	111767627

Source: IHCDP, 2012 – 13

#### F. Design Interventions

To facilitate the intervention and based on locational characteristics, the entire area of Subhash Udyaan it has been proposed to develop in the shape of Lotus.

Pertaining to our observations during site visit, discussions with officers and guidelines given by HRIDAY plan, They proposed various cross sections for walkways as per the site conditions.

The total area of Subhash Udyaan is 13 acres. Subhash Udyaan has been redesigned keeping view the requirement of the city. While designing the park main concern was about the children, senior citizens and tourists. The proposals discussed with the Municipal Corporation and their following recommendations have been taken care off:



- 1) Existing trees have been maintained as it is.
- 2) Pathway of Jodhpur stone red and white in color.
- 3) RCC /HDPE/Hume pipe of 2 No s 200 mm dia. should be taken at each intersection, for crossing pipelines-length 3 M each.
- 4) Distribution of water network along Subhash Udyaan for landscaping
- 5) Water Connection from Ground service reservoir for Kiosk and existing open well near Subhash Udyaan for landscaping.
- 6) Culvert of 2 No s have been
- 7) Sand stone pitching work taken along canal starting from Anasagar lake and flowing near Subhash Udyaan.
- 8) Food court and parking near eastside of Subhash Udyaan has been added. Existing entrance of food court is from outside not the opening of Food court has been given from inside the Subhash Udyaan.
- 9) Light pole, Dust bin, and three toilet blocks in side Udyaan.
- 10) Although Ajmer sewer line network will be completed through Amrit scheme. Sewer line inside Subhash Udyaan has been proposed and added in cost estimate.
- 11) Development work of existing temple with flooring has been incorporated.
- 12) Benches, kids play tools in children play ground area have been added.
- 13) Entrance gate, Guard room inside Subhash Udyaan considered.



Figure12. Purposed Design Map of Subhash Udyaan

Table 1.1 Details of Proposed infrastructure in Subhash Udyaan

Project	Total Area	Railing length	Decorative Lampposts (No s)	Benches (No s)	Dustbins (No s)	Tree guards in BBM (No s)	M.S. Tree guards (No s)	Proposed Shady trees (No s)
Subhash Udyaan	13.6 acres	880 m	76	50	15	50	-	50



Table: 1.2 Institutional Framework in Ajmer

No	Urban Infrastructure	Planning and Design	Construction	Operation and Maintenance
1.	Land use/Master Plan	Ajmer Development Authority	ADA, AMC	ADA, AMC
2.	Building Byelaws	Ajmer Development Authority (erstwhile UIT), Ajmer Municipal Corporation		
3.	Water Supply	Public Health and Engineering Department. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project, Ajmer Development Authority (erstwhile UIT)		
4.	Sewerage	Public Health and Engineering Department , ADA, AMC .	Public Health And Engineering Department, ADA,AMC	Public Health and Engineering Department, ADA, AMC,
5.	Roads/Bridges/Flyovers /Rob/Multilevel Parking	Ajmer Development Authority (erstwhile UIT), PWD, RUDIP and AMC, PWD		
6.	Traffic Control And Management system	ADA,RTO	ADA,RTO	ADA, RTO
7.	City Public Transportation	Private Operators		
8.	Storm Water Drainage	RUDIP	RUDIP	RUDIP
9.	Solid Waste Disposal	AMC,	AMC	AMC
10.	Street Lighting	ADA, AMC RUDIP,PWD	ADA,AMC RUDIP	ADA,AMC
11.	Parks Playgrounds, Beautification Of Road Intersections	ADA,AMC		
12.	Air Water And Noise Pollution Control	Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board		
13.	Slum Development	ADA,AMC	ADA , AMC , RUDIP	ADA,AMC
14.	Urban Poverty Programs	Ajmer Municipal Corporation		
15.	Housing For EWS	AMC, ADA, Rajasthan housing board		
16.	Public Conveyance	ADA, AMC		
17.	Heritage conservation	Archaeological Survey of India		

Present infrastructure and view after implementation of HRIDAY



The key evaluation results are as follows

- 1) The project was found to be very relevant and appropriate as a heritage development activity in Ajmer.
- 2) The historical analysis conducted in the DPR, as well as, socio-economic, demographic profile generated was very thorough, leading to the selection of ideal location for a demonstration.
- 3) The project will positively impact residents, shopkeepers, tourists, government agencies and the other stakeholders by :
  - a) Enhancing infrastructure in critical area of the walled city.
  - b) Showcasing heritage assets and precincts as drivers for development
  - c) Improving local economy and generating employment in the walled city area
  - d) Integrating a slowly degenerating part of the city into the mainstream by connecting trunk infrastructure, access and making it permeable.
- 4) With minor revisions to the delineation of the lake a complete loop will be formed which will also increase the visibility and image ability of the project.
- 5) It is recommended that the development of Subhash Udyaan/Daulat Bagh should be done by providing better amenities within the garden and linking it with the outside area such that its visibility increases and it completes a loop. The main assets will be connected by the development of Daulat Bagh and Subhash Udyaan like Anasagar Lakefront.
- 6) Design and Specifications: It is recommended that customized designs be undertaken in coordination with the preparation of the City HRIDAY Plan toolkit such as replacement of steel with contextual wrought iron designs for signage, dustbins, benches etc.

### III. SUGGESTIONS

The Government done his work but know we need to create awareness about are surrounding heritage. It is necessary to improve awareness of cultural heritage and the ethics of its care in study curriculum and to identify tools that can be developed to help communities and to better understand and conserve their heritage. Heritage education needs to be developed in school and through informal education.

It is a great responsibility of our nation to safeguard our cultural heritage against ravages of time, also ensure that the art treasures all over the country are properly looked after. Our glorious past reflected through our cultural heritage. Quite a large amount of our heritage has been lost due to ravages of time and lack of awareness of peoples. We possess today only a fraction of what our ancestors created, the neglect has destroyed and ruined much of our cultural heritage .The responsibility therefore lies with all us especially with those who advocate the significance of our heritage.

A.B Wetder has quoted, “We study the past because it is guide to the present, and a promise for future. The struggle for better world is strengthened by hopes, ambitious and deeds of those who were before us. As we look backward, our attention is direct forward”.

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