

## Upcoming projects

DEF now plans to expand its e-Heritage horizon to Jahanpanah and Bhapang Kala.

### *Jahanpanah:*

Built in the 1300s by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Jahanpanah is the fourth medieval city of Delhi. Nestled in the heart of South Delhi, Jahanpanah stretches from Hauz Khas to Sheikh Sarai and covers many other areas around it. Some of the key monuments of Jahanpanah include Vijay Mandal Fort, Begumpur Masjid, Serai Shahji Masjid, Jharoke Wali Masjid, Jahanpanah Forest and many more such places. Unfortunately, however, the communities living around these areas are not much aware of the history amid which they're living or its significance. This is where the e-Heritage Project comes into picture. We soon plan to start the Jahanpanah Fellowship to involve the local community in the preservation and documentation of their heritage.

### *Shekhawati:*

Shekhawati is a region in Rajasthan with an abundance of finely executed frescoes in havelis, temples, cenotaphs, shops, sarais and water tanks. With such large concentration of painted structures, the region is rightly referred to as an open air art gallery. The project will take visitors through the region of the famed merchants of Shekhawati who patronized the art of fresco making.

### *m-Heritage*

We also have 'm-Heritage Shahjahanabad' mobile application that has been designed to give users a unique experience while visiting the Walled City. The app can be downloaded on Android devices and used to navigate through the streets, lanes and by-lanes of Shahjahanabad. Using the app one can explore the ancient culture and tradition of the city, and even upload content, tag and share photographs across various social media platforms. You can download the app by scanning the QR code.



#### Digital Empowerment Foundation

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**You Tube** DEF India



The e-Heritage Project:  
Digitally Enhancing India's Heritage

**eHeritage**  
DIGITALLY ENHANCING  
INDIA'S HERITAGE



### *About The e-Heritage Project*

Almost every Indian city is replete with rich culture, traditions, sacred spaces and historical sites that illustrate the country's unique heritage. At a time of rapid modernisation of public spaces in India — sometimes to the detriment of heritage sites and cultural traditions — it becomes critical to preserve the real heritage, making it accessible to all for the sake of posterity. This is all the more important because often those living around such sites of heritage and cultural importance are unaware of its significance and even its name. Since most heritage sites are not featured online, the e-Heritage Project seeks to collaborate with communities to bring heritage and oral history into the digital space with the following objectives:

- Build capacity of the local community to document heritage in their area
- Educate and involve the local communities in the preservation of heritage sites, both physically and virtually
- Utilise the Internet as an information platform for public education about the Indian heritage

In an endeavor to achieve the same, Digital Empowerment Foundation in partnership with UNESCO India has launched two pilot websites for Shahjahanabad and Chanderi to digitally enhance their heritage and showcase the potential of the areas through rich text, beautiful photographs and interesting videos.

### *Shahjahanabad*

In 1600s, when Emperor Shah Jahan decided to shift the Mughal capital from Agra, he decided to build a walled city on the banks of Yamuna. Today, we know that city as Old Delhi or Purani Dilli. So far, the studies on the history of Old Delhi and the Mughal empires have been conducted mostly by academics or travellers, with minimal participation of the local communities.

The e-Heritage Project, thus, aims to involve the local community in documenting the heritage and oral history of Shahjahanabad. For the same, we started a fellowship for youngsters from Old Delhi and heritage enthusiasts from New Delhi to carry out research on 60 topics that included several havelis, koochas, katras, markets, festivals, personalities and cuisines of Old Delhi with significant reference to the Mughal era. Their research is available on [www.olddelhiheritage.in](http://www.olddelhiheritage.in). As part of the research, team DEF also regularly organises various events and activities in Old Delhi to involve the community, besides video interviewing residents, researchers and observers of Old Delhi.

### *Chanderi*

Located in Madhya Pradesh, the town of Chanderi encompasses within itself several layers of cultural efflorescence. Divided into outer and inner sections, the town is composed of a labyrinth of lanes, full of archaeological remains, both religious and secular, beckoning one to unravel the realms of the historical fabric that envelops it.

The e-Heritage Project was started in Chanderi in 2013 to give digital presence to the many monuments in the town by documenting the stories behind them and publishing the same on [www.chanderiheritage.in](http://www.chanderiheritage.in). This online visibility of the heritage of Chanderi played a key role in the decision of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake the preservation and protection responsibilities of 40 monuments in Chanderi. A boom in tourism can also be credited to the e-Heritage Project in Chanderi.