

# Delhi's Partition museum

April 3, 2021

**In news:** Delhi to get its 1st Partition museum which will be opened to the public on 15th August, in time to commemorate India entering its 75th year of independence.

## About partition museum

- During the partition of 1947 thousands of Delhi's residents fled, it also took in nearly half a million refugees from Pakistan in the months pre and post August 1947
- The capital is now set to get a museum to solemnly mark that moment in its history
- The partition museum is an extension of Amritsar's Partition Museum
- Location: It will come up at the Dara Shikoh Library building in Old Delhi's Mori Gate.
- Built in 1643 and named after Shah Jahan's eldest son, Dara Shikoh, the building currently stands in the Ambedkar University Delhi campus.
- In the later years, it served as the residence of Mughal viceroy of Punjab, Ali Mardan Khan, and then of David Ochterlony, a British officer in the Mughal court.

## Three museums & collaboration

Besides the Partition Museum, for which the Delhi government's Department of Archaeology has joined hands with The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust (TAACHT), there will be a museum dedicated to the life of Dara Shikoh, and one to display antiquities and artefacts in its possession

## Project 'Daastaan-e-Dilli'

- According to TAACHT, the entire project is tentatively called 'Daastaan-e-Dilli', and is aimed at creating a

cultural hub at the historic and beautiful Dara Shikoh Library.

- It will be a unique space in which we can consider the impact of divisions (the Partition of India) and unification (as through the Sufism of Dara Shikoh) side by side
- Of the three, first to be completed will be the Partition Museum, with a special focus on how Partition impacted and changed Delhi.
- The other two museums, indoor and outdoor performance spaces, and gardens will be undertaken subsequently.

### **What will be showcased?**

- The Partition museum of Delhi would display about Delhi, and the changes in the city the people, refugee camps, new colonies that came up.
- There will also be narratives of the individuals who were impacted and involved apart from memorabilia and material memory.
- It will also have displays on what Delhi looked like before and after the Partition.
- According to the Archaeology Department, there is also a plan to create 'Daastan E Dilli' tours to showcase the history of the building which is a confluence of different streams of architecture.
- The tour will include the three museums and the history of the surrounding buildings in Kashmere Gate and Chandni Chowk

### **Implementation of the Project**

- The project will be implemented by government stakeholders, including Union Ministry of Tourism, Delhi government, and private entities Monument Mitras, TAACT and Museum and Arts Consultancy (MAC) acting in a joint consortium
- The project is in PPP mode. While the government gives

the building, the person who 'adopts' the heritage has to raise and spend the money.

- TAACT, as an NGOK, has proposed to invest money in the project in a phased manner