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A Systematic Approach of Preserving Poorly Documented Nawab Nusrat Khan Tomb

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Abstract: The 1947 independence was unsuccessful as far as the conservation of architecture monuments in Pakistan. The awareness and the importance of preserving architecture monuments that prevailed during the British time was majorly absent after independence. Lack of awareness lead to the disappearance of architecture monument's works and the plundering of many others. The paper focuses on the study of Nawab Nusrat Khan Tomb, which has been one of the victims of these negligence and policy changes. The monument has been neglected to this time under various different government conservation policies and surrounding pressures to this day. The monument to till day exist within a strong site context and if not conserved or worked upon would deteriorate. The present study establishes a methodological basis to proceed with the conservation policy of many of these disappeared architecture monuments' with keeping in mind the limited resources. So, to stop the further decay of these buildings and to preserve them for future generations. One of the major reasons for selecting this tomb is nothing has been written or documented about the tomb to this day. In order to save for the next generation. A minimum conceptual framework is developed with minimum resources so that many other monuments like these can be conserved or documented before they totally diminish.

Keywords: Conservation Lahore, Nawab Nusrat Khan, Policy, Mughal, Independence

1. Introduction

Historic structures act as reminders of past human activity and historical connections. They are a trust, and it is the responsibility of the current generation to make sure that they are passed down to future generations without losing their authenticity or altering the settings and its essential scheme of aesthetics. Pakistan is geographically located on a position that had been cultural hub to many civilizations.

The history dates back to 3000 B.C forming part of a region which has its roots spanned from the Indus valley civilization and touching upon the Gandhara, Sikh, Mughal, and British Eras before finally taking the form of the modern-day Pakistan. Pakistan had received in inheritance a large number of monuments and historical sites.

Table 1.1: Summary of Protected Antiquities (Noor, 2008)

Province	Total Number of Monuments and Sites Under Provincial Government	Total Number of Monuments and Sites Under Federal Government
Sindh	211	126
Punjab	233	149
Baluchistan		27
N.W.F.P and Northern Areas		87
Total	444	389

According to statistics, most of these sites lie in complete state of ruin due to lack of awareness or complete negligence by the concerned authorities. According to the following extracts from letters to the editor issued in the Pakistan Times and The Nation publications:

"Under the Sikh period, Islamic structures in Lahore were brutally damaged, mangled, and deprived of their grandeur... When the British arrived, they, too, contributed to the destruction of Islamic sites. The Sikhs and the British are no longer present, yet their traditions go on. Since 1947, a substantial number of monuments have totally disappeared while others are being compromised destroyed, and transformed, either in the name of conservation, restoration, or to create place for urban growth" (Mahmood, 1990).

The primary causes of the authority's weak performance are lack of research on binding and construction materials, inadequate workers and professional staff training, an unfavorable workplace environment, and a lack of government support for heritage conservation. The Pakistan Institute of Archaeological Training and Research was founded by the Department of Archaeology in Lahore; however, it is essentially a nonexistent institution (Ahmad, 2013). The role of the concerned authorities towards raising awareness about the importance of the monuments among the pubic lacked majorly. The lack of funding of the concerned governmental departments is one of the major hurdles in the maintenance of these sites, thus they continue to be a victim of neglect, vandalism and a threat from the natural forces. The lack of resources cannot result in complete negligence of the monuments. The paper looks into a framework and tries to develop a conservation methodology on the basis of minimum funding resources

The largest numbers of Mughal monuments lie in Punjab. Punjab has a rich history of rulers and wars starting from 14th century to 19th century. The capital of Punjab that is Lahore will be main center of this thesis exercise. Lahore's history can be traced as far back as the Ramayana, almost 4000 years ago, a reminder of which can be seen the form of a "subterranean temple" dedicated to the Hindu God Rama, located in the northern part of the Royal Fort. But what is proven and known with certainty is the fact that Lahore is at least 2,000 years old, because it is then when the famous Chinese pilgrim, Hiuen-Tsang, visited Lahore. In his memoir, dated to around 7th century AD, he has defined many aspects of Lahore in great detail (Noor, 2008)

During the Ghaznavid (977-1186) and Mughal eras (1526-1752), Lahore was a major administrative and political centre that attracted a large number of officials, scholars, saints, traders, and artisans to its expanding environs, even though the historical record becomes more detailed with the Muslim conquests at the beginning of the eleventh century. The city's name, Ghazna-i-Khurd (Little Ghazni), reflected its significance to the Turko-Persian Ghaznavid Empire. The walls and fort were restored by the first Ghaznavid governor of the city, Malik Ayaz (d. 1041), but Akbar's brick construction eventually took their place. (Talbot & Kamran, 2022). It has been defined as the "traditional capital of Punjab for a thousand years" (Noor, 2008) and being the cultural hub of the city has acted as a magnet to the many artists, craftsmen, folk arts. It is also here in this city that we find the biggest dedication to Mughal rule in the form of their monuments that they built over a rule that extended over 200 years. Originally a citadel city,

Lahore was located one mile to the south of the river Ravi, and some "23 miles from the eastern border of the

Punjab district" (Noor, 2008)

The original wall structure of the city took the form of a parallelogram, covering an area of about 461 acres of land, comprising the typical 'mohalla', with narrow lanes and informal growth patterns. Lying on the main trade and invasion routes to South Asia, Lahore has been ruled and plundered by a number of dynasties and rulers. Muslim rule began in Lahore when Qutub-ud-Din Aibak was crowned in Lahore in 1206 and thus became the first Muslim Sultan of the subcontinent.

However, Lahore reached its pinnacle of splendour under the rule of the Mughal Empire from 1524 until 1752. The Mughals, who were great developers, left some of Lahore's best architectural masterpieces, many of which are in terrible condition today. Lahore was the capital for 14 years during Akbar's control from 1584 to 1598, which marked the pinnacle of Mughal authority. During this period, he erected the huge Lahore Fort on the ruins of a former fort and surrounded the city with a red brick wall with 12 gates. Jahangir and Shah Jahan expanded the fort, constructed palaces and tombs, and landscaped gardens. The last of the great Mughals, Aurangzeb (1658-1707), gave Lahore its most renowned landmark, the enormous Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and the Alamgiri gateway to the fort.

As the Mughal rule declined numerous attempts were made to conquer Lahore by Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah Abdali. Finally, it was Sikhs rule that was established over Lahore after the Mughals. Sikhs remained rulers of Lahore for more than 30 years "a triumvirate of Sikhs of dubious distinction" (Noor, 2008) before coming under the rule of Ranjit Sikh. Ranjit Sikh succeeds in holding the British rule in the whole subcontinent for the longest period 40 years. Having come to power in the year 1799, Ranjit Singh managed to bring a certain amount of order to the province, but the description of Lahore at that time refers to it as a "melancholy picture of fallen splendor" (Noor, 2008). Many buildings were renovated in an attempt to restore them to their former glory; many constructions were also undertaken by Ranjit Singh. This did little to improve the conditions of the existing Mughal structures. Buildings were also adapted for other purposes, whether they filled a specific function or not. The British, who took control in 1849, added a new layer to Lahore, focusing more on the civil side of the city rather than focusing on the monumentality and grandeur like Mughals. The buildings of the British time, which include the GPO, the High Court, etc. are all in a fashion that has been defined as the "Mughal-Gothic" style. The British also focused their civil development on the construction and development of libraries, parks and cantonments. Initially the approach too many of the historical structures, including sites like the Fort, was to build some structures within them. But this approach quickly changed towards a more caring one, in which conservation and preservation became the main focus.

The partition of 1947 brought about another layer to Lahore, reshaping the city again, but this time in a more chaotic manner. Migration of than 100000 people to the city of Lahore changed it urban form. To this day Lahore urban form is evolving as more people are migrating from the small cities to Lahore in search of better living. Currently Lahore population is more than......1 which is posing a threat to these monuments as they become part of the urban fabric. In order to safe these monuments Pakistan enacted the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 in 1947, however it did not apply for long (Mughal, 2011) and a special Federal Antiquities act, was passed in 1972. Many of these monuments fall under the act however, the Antiquities Act's provisions do not outline the nation's monument conservation policies, guidelines, or practices. As the number of monuments were higher and not all buildings fallen under the federal antiquities act another bill with the name of SSPO (Special Premises Preservation Ordinance), was passed in 1985. The primary clause of SSPO was "75 or more years old to be enlisted as 'protected' (Malik, 2013).

Government officials have blamed the people, but private organizations and concerned individuals have publicly objected to the government's ineffective attempts to safeguard and maintain these institutions. Consider the vandalism that occurs across these monuments, particularly the graffiti that defaces the walls of these historic locations, despite the fact that some jurisdictions impose heavy sanctions for such crimes. It seems unlikely that some of the most renowned examples of Mughal architecture and wall paintings would have been destroyed if such punishments had been adequately enforced. (Waraich, 2011). "" Gravity is the most uniform and universal cause of disintegration in a historic structure, followed by human actions and a variety of climatic and environmental influences—botanical, biological, chemical, and entomological. Human factors are most likely responsible for the

majority of damage today. " (Awan,1993).

2. Getting to know the Tomb

This tomb was found two and a half miles east of Lahore in the contemporary settlement of Chintgarh, north of the Delhi Railway line (Latif, 1892). Nusrat Khan's mausoleum is located approximately ½ mile northwest of Zafar Jang Kokaltash's monument in the premises of Pakistan Railways' Carriage and Wagon Shops. However, it is in poor condition and rapidly disintegrating. The tomb's location and access put it practically out of reach for most people. Turning east on the workshop road from Mughalpura Road, the building is deep in the grounds of the Carriage and Wagon Shops. The security limitation imposed by Pakistan Railways on the structure makes it even more inaccessible. Nusrat Khan served as a courtier under Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal Emperor, from 1628 until 1658 (Bansal, 2015). The actual date of the tomb's construction is uncertain; nevertheless, Nawab Nusrat Khan Alias Khawaja Sabir was a member of a prominent noble family. Shah Jahan conferred the title of Khan-e-Dauran upon him. He is reported to have died in Lahore in 1659, and Aurangzeb constructed the current tomb in his memory.(Kanhaiyalal, 1990)

The tomb is a massive structure; where the lime plaster has been wiped off, the primary and the only material used – Lahori brick can be clearly seen. The monument is located in the center of an octagonal shaped plinth; however, the plinth is not visible due to the wild growth of the grass over time. Typical Mughal design, the building is decorated with niches on its facade. The structure of the dome is double shell and its evolution is directed towards the bulbous dome. The dome's drum is obstructed at regular intervals by slightly set back rectangular sections. On the eastern side, the drum has a tiny window that allows access to the void between the two shells.

Tarikh-e- Lahore, (The History of Lahore) is a book authored by Rai Bahadur Kanhaiya Lal and contains some of the earliest post-Mughal references to the tomb. He writes in it that a vast garden with subsidiary structures, the majority of which were abandoned or destroyed during his lifetime, had once encircled the tomb. The text also states that the tomb was impounded during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who later gifted it to General Claude Auguste Court, a renowned French general who was instrumental in providing the Sikh army's artillery unit with critical technical military support. Like many other buildings of its time, the tomb also suffered significantly during the reign of Ranjit Singh (Bansal, 2015). It was during this time that the marble embellishments were removed. It was during this time that many additions to the tomb were constructed, these included the construction of many rooms to the building, General Court removed the tomb and paved over the floor to create a large living space and built his principal residence. He continued to occupy it until the assassination of Maharaja Sher Singh in 1843 (Kanhaiyalal, 1990) Today however, no evidence remains of those rooms, many of which had been destroyed by the early 1890s. The only clue that remains of their existence is the presence of three arches in the upper story to the west of the tomb.

The structure underwent more damage during the British rule, when it was utilised as a hall room for military officials. Following the collapse of the Sikh government, a huge number of people belonging to the Bijjar tribe began residing here, and in local language, it was called as "GumbadBijjarwala" (meaning dome of Bijjar tribe). (Kanhaiyalal, 1990)

The ruins show evidence of the presence of a pinnacle at the summit of the dome, where the remains of a lotus base may still be seen; however, the pinnacle no longer exists. The monument is surrounded by still-standing turrets, which have been defined as "of much elegance and beauty" by Kanhaiyalal (1990). While many of them still exist and provide hints to their beauty, many have suffered substantial damage over time. The tomb's inside is likewise a wonder, with numerous indications to its past splendour. The indications suggest the inside was adorned with artwork. But today, the interiors solely display the colours of Pakistan Railways – green and yellow - with which it has been painted.

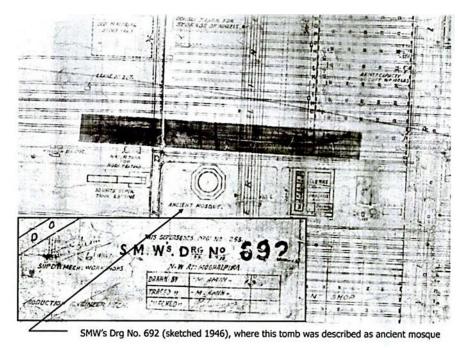
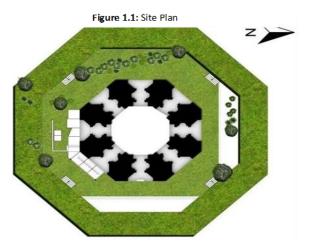


Figure 2.1: Railway Superintendent Mech. Workshop Drawing of 1946 describing tomb as mosque. (Railway Archives), 1946.

The use of the tomb has changed many times over the years; today it doesn't function as a tomb, but instead acts as a mosque for the employees of the carriage and wagon shops and prayers are said here three times a day named as (Zohar Asar, and Maghrib). The tomb today is pushed away on a slightly higher level than the road level, and is covered around by extreme foliage. There is no exact knowledge of when the function shifted to that of a mosque, but a drawing found in the Railway archives, titled, drawing No. 692, the monument was being described and was even marked as "an ancient mosque" in the overall General Plan of the Area... (RailwayArchives, 1946)

3. Detailed Analysis of the Tomb

In the chart below, a detailed analysis of each and every elevation of the tomb has been carried out. As most of the problems, existed on all four sides, therefore firstly atypical analysis has been done, which highlight problems that seems to exist overall.



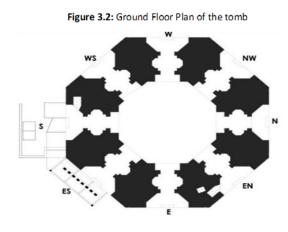


				Table 3.1: Exterior Elev	ations and Drawings of	the Monument	
EAST NORTH	NORTH WEST	SOUTH EAST	WEST SOUTH		EXTER	RIOR	
(NA				EAST	WEST	NORTH	SOUTH
					169		
ENA ENG ENC END	SWANNIS WICHT	SEA SEA SEC SED	WSAWSB WSC WSD	EA EB EC ED EE EF	WAWBWCWDWEWF	NANS NOND NEINF	3A/38/3C/3D/3E/3F

4. Remedial Measures

On the basis of analysis of the monument and detail study of different level, remedial measures need to be adopted. Which include identifying features of the monument in need of the emergency actions and implement first aid measures. For example, the turrets on the roof require immediate first aid measures. All necessary steps should be taken to arrest the further degradation of the monument. For instance, the water tank and the ablution area on the south side should be immediately removed. Regular visits by specialized staff are necessary in assessing the deteriorating condition of the monument. All environmental issues should be address as they pose a great threat to the monument. Public awareness about the monument should be increased by advertising it in the media and displaying interpretive boards around the site. Awareness against human vandalism should be increased in the railway employees. For the improvement of the site and the conservation of the monument a wide range of stakeholders (for example Pakistan Railway, Department of Archaeology and structure engineers) should be involved in decision making and developing a conceptual framework for the conservation.

In general, documents dealing with the conservation of cultural heritage, particularly world heritage, emphasise respect for and preservation of the monuments' original character, as well as their use consistent with the original purpose for which they were built, and in accordance with their integrity and reliability, when undertaking any conservation and maintenance action (Mughal, 2011).

Table 4.1: Recommended Remedial Measures					
ELEVATION	PROBLEM	CAUSES OF DECAY	REMEDIAL TREATMENT		
EXTERIOR					

ATYPICAL PROBLEMS ON ALL ELEVATIONS

- Crystallization
- Blackening
- Exposed Dome with the upper most part deteriorated, Chipped off plaster, and brick massing completely exposed.
- Acidic/rainwater
- Damage Pollution
- Hazards
- Biological factors
 i.e weeds and
 lichens. Scaffolding
- . Holes
- . Bird Nesting
- Chipped Lime Mortar/Plaster
- · Exposed bricks
- Upper most part of the wall deteriorated
 Chipped off
- plaster
 - Bricks
- Missing from the walls
 Lime plaster is

are

- missing from the brick joints Dampness spots
- Deitoriating
- Arches.
 - Fresco Work of
- ceiling has been damaged
 Damaged/Missing structure portions.
 Algae

- Possible Vandalism (Sikh Period)
- Weathering effects,
- Rains
- Temperature Variations.
- Stone Decolization.
- Thermal disintegration
- Dampness.
- Lack of maintenance
- Seepage of rain water from roof/wall
- Blocked water
- drainage channels. Low
- quality material Less curing at the time of
- constructionSalinity.
- Water bodies next to the building
- Human Vandalism

- Extensive clean-up.
- Railway workshops should be shifted.
- Surrounding water bodies checked for nitrogen saturationand removed.
- Closing of

Scaffolding holes.

- The dome wall should be replastered using lime mortar mixed with pudlo (A salinity resistant material).
- All such wild growth should be immediately removed and properly sealed with lime plaster to avoid future growth.
- Under pinning should be used to fill cavities, and correct flush pointing should be done using lime mortar.
- The damaged bricks should be replastered with lime and the cracks monitored on regular intervals. Ifthey are

ATYPICAL PROBLEMS ON ALL ELEVATIONS

- Crystallization
- Blackening
- Exposed Dome with the upper most part deteriorated. Chipped off plaster, and brick massing completely exposed.
- Acidic/rainwater
- Damage Pollution
- Hazards
- Biological factors weeds and lichens. Scaffolding
- Holes
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- Exposed bricks
- Upper most part of the wall deteriorated Chipped off
- plaster
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- are Missing from the walls
- Lime plaster is missing from the brick joints Dampness spots
- Deitoriating
- Arches.
 - Fresco Work of
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EAST	ATYPICAL	ATYPICAL	ATYPICAL
	PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS
WEST	Missing between Brick Joints White Salts between Brick Joints Intervention of a door in the Arch Graffiti Lime Plaster Missing between Brick Joints Intervention of the door in the Arch Graffiti Surface has been rendered white with paint.		 Plaster should beredone at the same time with same amount of lime aggregates. The door needs to be removed immediately, thus positioning the arch to its original status. The graffiti can be cleaned up with the help of fresh water and cloth/chemical, provided it doesn't harm the wall surface.

NORTH	Lime Plaster Missing between Brick Joints Intervention of the door in the Arch Graffiti Surface has been rendered white with paint.	separate times.Human Intervention	 Plaster should beredone at the same time with same amount of lime aggregates. The door needs to be removed immediately, thus positioning the arch to its original status. The graffiti/paint can be cleaned up with the help of fresh water and cloth/chemical, provided it doesn't harm the wall surface.
SOUTH	ATYPICAL	ATYPICAL	ATYPICAL
	PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS

HE ON LONG ATYPICAL ATYPICAL ATYPICAL PROBLEMS PROBLEMS ATYPICAL PROBLEMS PROBLEMS	AST			
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NOTE: No written record of previous intervention found. However, brick facing and limeplaster carried out on the exterior indicates that some renovation work was carried out during the early British period to save the building from further decay

NORTH WEST	Fresco Work White Paint	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS
SOUTH EAST	Fresco Work	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS

SOUTH WEST	• Graffiti	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS
INTERIOR			

• White washed Walls • Poor surface rendering • Ugly wiring • fixture. Loose Nails • Plaster is deteriorated • and • chipping off from the wall surface. Tube light installed on the wall surface with the help of loose nails and all wiring is exposed.	 Human Intervention Vandalism Weathering effects salinity in soil and human vandalism. Moisture can be one of the reasons as there are water bodies in surroundings Due to putting up nails in the wall exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture. 	 Scrape and apply water base paint. Remove lights and wires. Nails should replace with screws. All wiring should be in a concealed duct. The damaged plaster should be removed and the affected area should be replasteredusing lime mortar mixed with pudlo (A salinity resistan material) Light should be indirect and diffuse. Fixtures should be
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		Weathering effects salinity in soil and human vandalism. Moisture can be one of the reasons as there are water bodies in surroundings	designed. Has to install on wire grid. Nails should replace with screws
EAST	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS
WEST	Paintings supported by Loose Nails	Human vandalism. Due to putting up nails in the wall exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture	Paintings should be replaced immediately. And the places of nails should be filled with lime mortar
SOUTH	Calligraphy posters supportedby glue. Nail holes in walls. Wall clock supported by Loose Nails	Human vandalism. Due to putting up posters on the wall mud plaster chips offs. Exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture	Calligraphy posters should be replaced immediately. And the places of nails should be filled with lime mortar

NORTH EAST	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS	ATYPICAL PROBLEMS
NORTH WEST	 Calligraphy posters supported by glue. 	Human vandalism. Due to putting up posters on the wall mud plaster chips offs. Exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture	Calligraphy posters should be replaced immediately. And the places of nails should be filled with lime mortar
SOUTH EAST	Calligraphy posters supportedby glue. Tube light installed on the wall surface with the help of loose nails and all wiring is exposed.	Human vandalism. Due to putting up posters on the wall mud plaster chips offs. Exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture.	 Calligraphy posters should be replaced immediately. And the places of nails should be filled with lime mortar Light should be indirect and diffuse. Fixtures should be designed. Has to install on wire grid. Nails should replace with screws. All wiring should be in a concealed duct.

Key stand supported by Loose Nails Calligraphy posters supported by glue. Wall clock supported by Loose Nails	Human vandalism. Due to putting up nails in the wall exposes the structure to weathering effects like moisture.	Key stand should be replaced immediately. And the places of nails should be filled with lime mortar.
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5. Conclusion

The Department of Archaeology's administration should aim to provide appropriate labour and financial resources for the monument's continuous restorations and maintenance. Problems like leakages, peeling mortar joints, uneven flooring and water bodies in the near surroundings are catalysts that are accelerating the decay of the monument. Despite the fact that it does not require a great deal of financial resources or professional expertise to address the current plight of the monument. Conservation plan of monument must also address the problems of environmental pollution around the monument, as the railways engines in the surrounding release carbon fumes and cause vibrations which are instigating a serious threat to the monument's façade and the structure. It is suggested that a technical staff may visit the monument on weekly or monthly basis to observe the changes in the monument, because keeping the knowledge about the changes in the monument would help in future conservation of the monument.

One strategy for preserving historic monuments in cities is to designate them as "protected urban areas," which entails allocating enough financial and technical resources to preserve, repair, and enhance existing buildings while granting direct government oversight. In other words, it is possible to view these historic structures and locations as a public good. (Batool, 2016)

Detailed notes, observation, recommendations and measured drawing for each part of the monument has been handed over to Department of Archaeology. As they recently made some changes in one of their dormant wing with the name of Pakistan Archaeological Training and Research. Which in collaboration with technical staff and partner ships with other local organizations would further do research on the neglected monuments like Nawab Nusrat Khan Tomb and would keep a record of the life span of the monuments, and on the basis of their research come up with some more concise conservation plans for the neglected or not documented monuments. Hopefully by doing studies like these, some fruitful results towards conservation of neglected or undocumented monuments would be achieved in near future.

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