

DILLI: PERSPECTIVES ON DELHI. SERIES - I.

PROGRAMME

Inauguration: Principal Babli Moitra Saraf
Introduction to the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and the *Hum Sab* project.
9:15 am

Session 1. Delhi's Cultural Heritage

Keynote Address: *700 years of Assimilation, Adaption, Absorption and Appropriation.* Sohail Hashmi, Cultural Activist
9:30 am

The presentation takes the viewers through some of the monumental remains of the Sultanate and Mughal period, drawing away from the majesty of their proportions to look instead closely at the small details, bricks, mortar and embellishments, and iconic representations to draw out the stories they tell.

Lec-Dem: *Language as Everyday Performance*
Fouzia, Dastango
10:30 am

Fouzia, an accomplished dastango, demonstrates the performed contexts of spoken language in Old Delhi. She hopes to sensitise the young generation to an intangible heritage that may soon be lost.

TEA: 11:00- 11:15

Session 2. Equitable Access to Delhi's Resources

In Conversation: *The Politics of Bijli-Paani. Distributive Justice and the State*
Ashutosh, Spokesperson, Aam Aadmi Party, with Poornima Joshi, Journalist.
11:15 am

The conversation centres on Aam Aadmi Party's bold policy initiatives to broaden access to electricity and water for the economically less advantaged in the city

Narratives of the Homeless : Shaunak Sen, Film maker
11:55 am

The film maker talks us through the making of his film, *Cities of Sleep*, and the ethical compunctions of documentary practice when shooting a disenfranchised community like the unsheltered.

Break: 12:25-12:35

Panel 3. The Tragedy of Delhi's Commons

"Yamuna - The Threatened Life Line of Delhi"
Manoj Kumar Mishra, Environmental Activist, *Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan*
12:35 am

The presentation will focus on the importance of the Yamuna as a key commons resource for the city and why it is so threatened in Delhi.

LUNCH: 1:05 - 1:45pm

*Āb, Ābād and Ābādī: Delhi's First Lashkargah – (or) the medieval history of Saket
Select City Mall*

Sunil Kumar, Delhi University

1:45 pm

Kumar recovers popular discourses around three water bodies that sustained the Sultanate capitals of Delhi in the 13th and 14th centuries. Today, as the water bodies decline, such memories are lost and the area becomes better known for the nearby Mall.

Panel 4. Making Space in Delhi: Ethnographic explorations

Panel co-ordinator and discussant: Ishani Saraf (PhD Candidate, UC Davis)

2:15 – 3:15

I. What is an 'unauthorized colony': Perspectives of building and dwelling and the City.

Mohd. Sayeed (Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics)

Reflecting on his fieldwork in the unauthorized colony of Jamia Nagar - Sayeed argues that 'building' involves strategic social maneuvers including negotiations with the state which controls all land development.

II. Bazaar Designs: Making Sense of Making

Samprati Pani (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Shiv Nadar University)

Pani explores the possibility of analysing the sensorial excess of the bazaar through the concept of design as a process that arranges and orders objects and signs and a way of constructing an everyday aesthetics of the city.

III. An Ecology of Time: Estimated Time of Arrival and the Convergence of Modes of Transport

William F. Stafford Jr. (Ph.D. Candidate Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley)

Studying the phenomenon of surge pricing, or dynamic pricing in Delhi's transport systems, Stafford Jr. looks at how matching supply and demand, and calculation of Estimated Time of Arrival (or ETA) reconfigures urban space as something subject to measurement by new commercial practices.

Valedictory and Tea 3:15 pm