

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Red Fort complex as a repository of Mughal architecture and systems of planning has immense **historical significance**. It showcases the remarkable creative achievements of a momentous period in the history of India, namely the Mughal period. Its historical significance also derives from its association with emperor Shah Jahan and Bahadur Shah Zafar, both of whom made significant contributions to the socio cultural and political history of India.

As a site of over two centuries of active occupation as an imperial residence, the Red Fort acquires **cultural significance** as it gives an insight into imperial cultural life within a large Fort complex. This is exemplified by the unique assemblage of imperial structures, pavilions, gateways, service areas, bazaars all planned around courtyards, gardens and chowks, presenting a richly woven urban fabric.

Further, as a backdrop to events connected with the uprising of 1857 as well as in the phase of colonial occupation thereafter, the Red Fort and Salimgarh Fort through their architecture and spatial transformations are a lucid narrative of a colonial impact on nineteenth- and twentieth-century India. It is thus of **cultural significance** as it gives an understanding of not only the Mughal period but of the late Mughal and Colonial periods as well.

In its use of a range of building typologies and design vocabularies such as covered bazaars, gateways and pavilions of varying scales and in the profuse use of garden typologies, the Red Fort complex is of high **architectural and design significance**.

With a vast amount of subterranean evidence of the Mughal and late Mughal period that is still to be explored, and which could provide new insights into these periods of Indian history, the Red Fort therefore is of enormous **archaeological significance**.

The Red Fort complex in its entirety demonstrates a fine sense of design described as ‘high Mughal’ style. This is apparent in its buildings, decorative features, embellishments, gardens and spatial planning. This makes it a site of unique **aesthetic significance**.

The site is of **technological significance** as it displays technical innovations of the time pertaining to use of material, construction systems, building techniques and water works.

The Red Fort complex is of **educational significance** as the extant architecture, and subterranean archaeological evidence of buildings and spaces have the potential to help reconstruct the narrative of the past 350 years of the history of India.