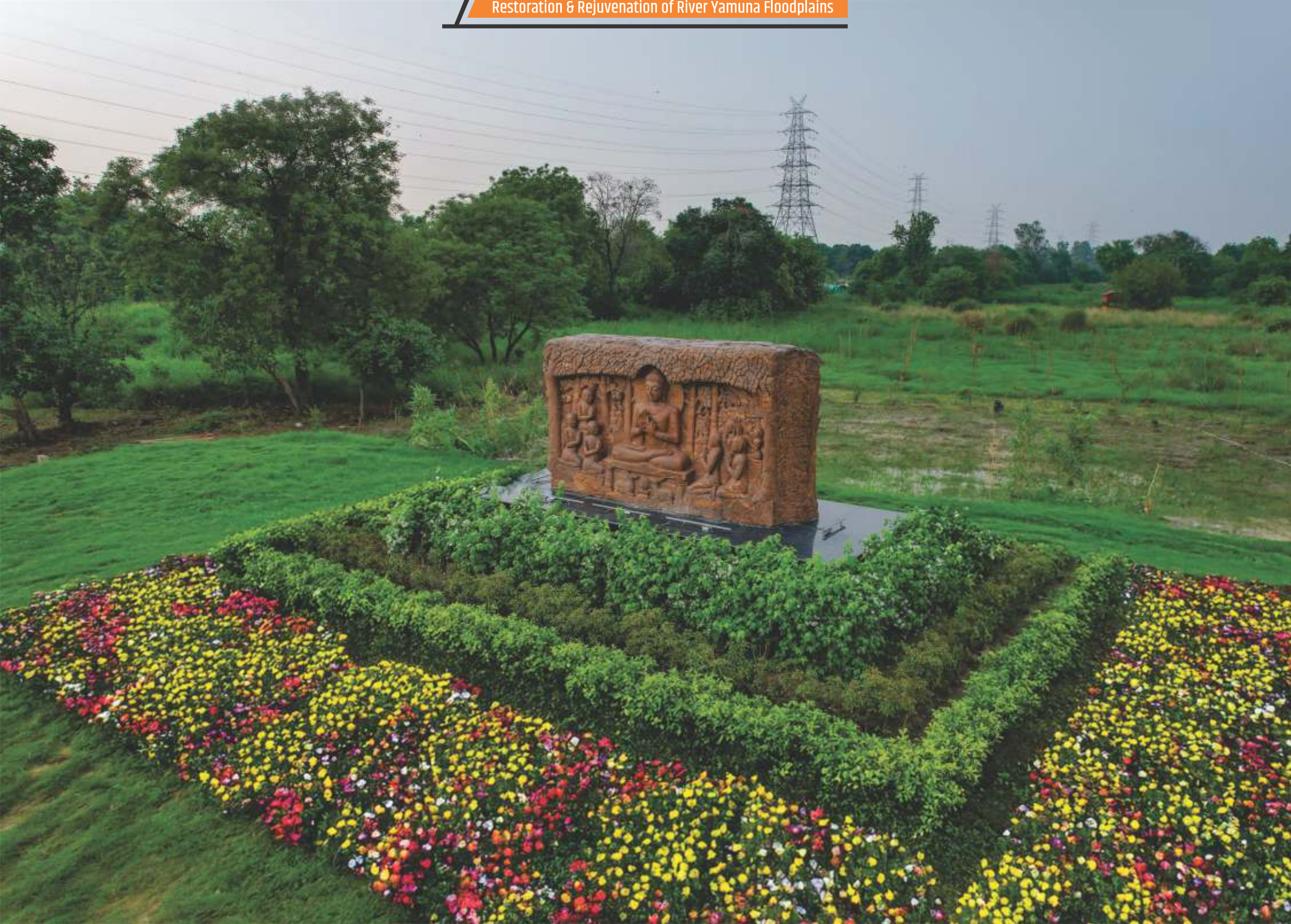




Asita

Restoration & Rejuvenation of River Yamuna Floodplains





Contents

An example of mitigating climate change and urban rejuvenation	2
Laying of Foundation Stone at Asita	10
Restoration & Rejuvenation	12
The Transformation	16
ASITA: A Birdwatcher's Delight	24
Madhyanna Surya (Midday Sun) Statue	28
Dharmachakra Pravartana Sculpture	32
Tent Café	36
Asita Grabs Global Attention	48
Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam	52



An example of mitigating climate change and urban rejuvenation

Till May 2022, a massive 225 acre of Yamuna floodplain area near ITO barrage on the eastern banks of the river, was under massive encroachment by squatters and stray cattle that were polluting Yamuna severely. In his continuous efforts for creating "Sustainable Green Assets" in the capital, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Shri V.K. Saxena, following the Delhi High Court's order to remove encroachment from the Yamuna flood plains, initiated a drive to clean this degraded land into an ecological park while restoring and rejuvenating River Yamuna and its flood plains. This was followed by frequent visits and follow up meetings by the LG to oversee the work progress and in the next six months only, i.e. by November 2022, this area was transformed into the biggest breathable, public green space in entire East Delhi.

Before May 2022



Before May 2022



Before



Before



Laying of Foundation Stone at ASITA

07 September 2022



Restoration & Rejuvenation

Area
225
acre

35 lakh
riverine grasses
of 15 species
planted

6000
native trees
planted

100+
species of
resident and
migratory birds

Developed in
06
Months

A water body
of 6 acres, with a
capacity to hold
60 million
litres
of water



The Transformation



Asita, as this Project has been named, is yet another name of the river Yamuna. The area along the edge of the river has been developed as an 'Ecological Zone' with kachha trails for people to walk through the floodplain forest and grasslands. The floodplain forest has been created with plantation of nearly 35 lakh riverine grasses of 15 species and 6000 native trees.









ASITA *A Birdwatcher's Delight*

Who would have imagined that a heavily polluted and encroached land mass in the heart of the National Capital, would transform into a habitat for birds and a paradise for bird lovers. This, however, is a reality at Asita where a muck-filled depression was restored as a waterbody and the natural surroundings turned this stretch of Yamuna into a sanctuary for several species of resident and migratory birds.

A waterbody measuring 6 acres has been created, which along with the surrounding marshy area, adds to the rich biodiversity of the

flood plains. Two artificial mounds have been created in the waterbody for the nesting of birds. The water body currently holds more than 60 million litres of water.

These interventions helped the area attract a large variety of birds. As of now, nearly 100 species of resident and migratory birds have been spotted in different habitats created in the form of wetlands, grasslands and flood plain forests.





Madhyanna Surya (Midday Sun) Statue

On April 27, 2024, a large stone-carved statue of Madhyanna Surya (Midday Sun) crafted/sculpted by Padma Vibhushan Shri Sudharshan Sahoo and his team from Odisha was installed at Asita for the visitors to admire this magnificent artwork.

In June 2023, Hon'ble LG, along with his team, visited Odisha to interact with the sculptors and selected this majestic piece to be installed at Asita.

Sculpted out of Muguni Pathara (Odia), the majestic Surya sculpture was installed under supervision of Shri Sahoo's son Shri Rabi and his daughter Ms. Pushpa at the site. The Muguni Pathara (Odia) rock was procured from Mahumuhana mines at Baulagadia, Baleshwar district in Odisha. It took seven months to procure the rock which was transported by a trailer to Bhubaneswar.

It took two and half months to give shape to the uneven rock. A small sample piece was first made which took about a year's time. Then Shri Sudarshan Sahoo along with his sons and other artisans visited Konark Sun Temple to get the photographs and measurements of the statue, over a span of six months. Many artisans worked for nearly seven years to complete the sculpture.

The statue's height is 8 feet with the width and depth of 4 feet and 2 feet and 1 inch respectively. The base has a width and depth of 10 feet and 9 feet respectively. The total weight of the sculpture is 4 tonnes excluding the RCC base.





Dharmachakra Pravartana Sculpture

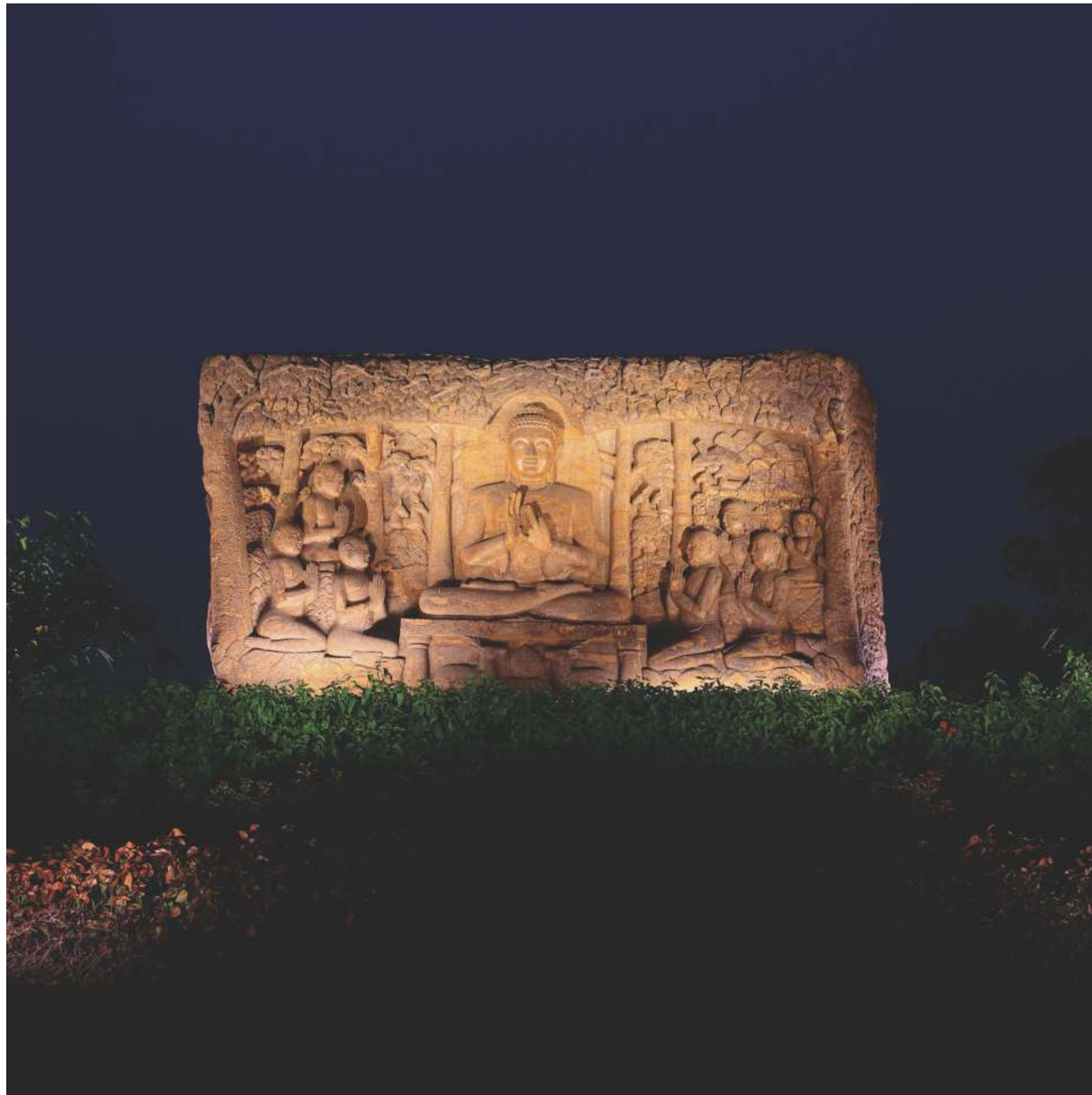
Sculpted by Padma Vibhushan Shri Sudarshan Sahoo, Shri Ravi Narayan Sahoo and Shri Surya Narayan Sahoo in Odisha Red Sand Stone over three years, this is a massive artefact depicting the Dharmachakra Pravartana (the setting in motion of the Wheel of Dharma) of Bhagwan Buddha at Sarnath. After attaining enlightenment, Bhagwan Buddha is seen here giving his first sermon at Sarnath in a Deer forest. Seen in the sculpture are his 5 disciples Mahanama, Koudanna, Bhaddiya, Vappa and Asvajita.



The Seven horses, on the other side of the Dharmachakra Pravartana sculpture, signify seven colours, seven days, seven oceans, seven constellations, and seven sages (Saptarishis) of ancient India. These horses in the panel are shown in a running position, which represents speed and progress towards a successful and positive life with positive energy.

This masterpiece, which was also selected by Hon'ble LG, during his visit to Odisha in June 2023, weighs 15 tonnes and has been sculpted out of a single-piece giant stone. It has a width of 13.10 feet and height and depth of 7.4 feet and 2.58 feet respectively. This masterpiece was brought to Delhi from Odisha on a multi axle truck.





Tent Café

Delhi Development Authority gave a pleasant and one-of-its kind gift to the people of Delhi, in the form of a tent café at Asita. It is in line with Hon'ble LG, Shri V.K. Saxena's push for enhanced amenities at public green spaces. The Café has a seating capacity of nearly 60-70 persons and it is a completely temporary structure that serves pre-cooked food and beverages to the visitors. The tent café is in close vicinity of the water body and the riverine grassland.



Keeping in view the ecological character of the Yamuna Floodplains, the tent café only uses eco-friendly materials and there is absolutely no concrete construction. The café has a large metal container that serves as the kitchen. It has been designed and set up in a way that it can be removed instantly in case of flooding during the monsoon months and set up again when the water recedes.



Before



After



Before



Before



After





Before



After





Asita Grabs Global Attention

In an effort aimed at showcasing Delhi's natural heritage before the world leaders who congregated in the national Capital in run up to the G-20 meet 2023, Hon'ble LG, Shri VK Saxena on 05.03.2023 hosted the envoys/diplomats of the G-20 and other nations at Asita.

Ambassadors and other diplomats of 11 countries visited Asita early morning and went on a nature trail and bird watching tour along the floodplains, spotting over 30 species of birds. Housing varied flora and fauna, including rare migratory birds, the complex has evolved into a paradise for birders, in a short span of time. Diplomats also went cycling through the vast grasslands of Asita. Visibly impressed by the turnaround of this stretch of the Yamuna Floodplains in a record time of less than 6 months, the foreign diplomats appreciated the rich bio-diversity and the efforts undertaken to restore the ecological character of the Yamuna.





Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Shri V.K. Saxena with school children during a massive plantation drive under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign at Asita on 27.07.2024





Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar visiting Asita on 27.07.2024

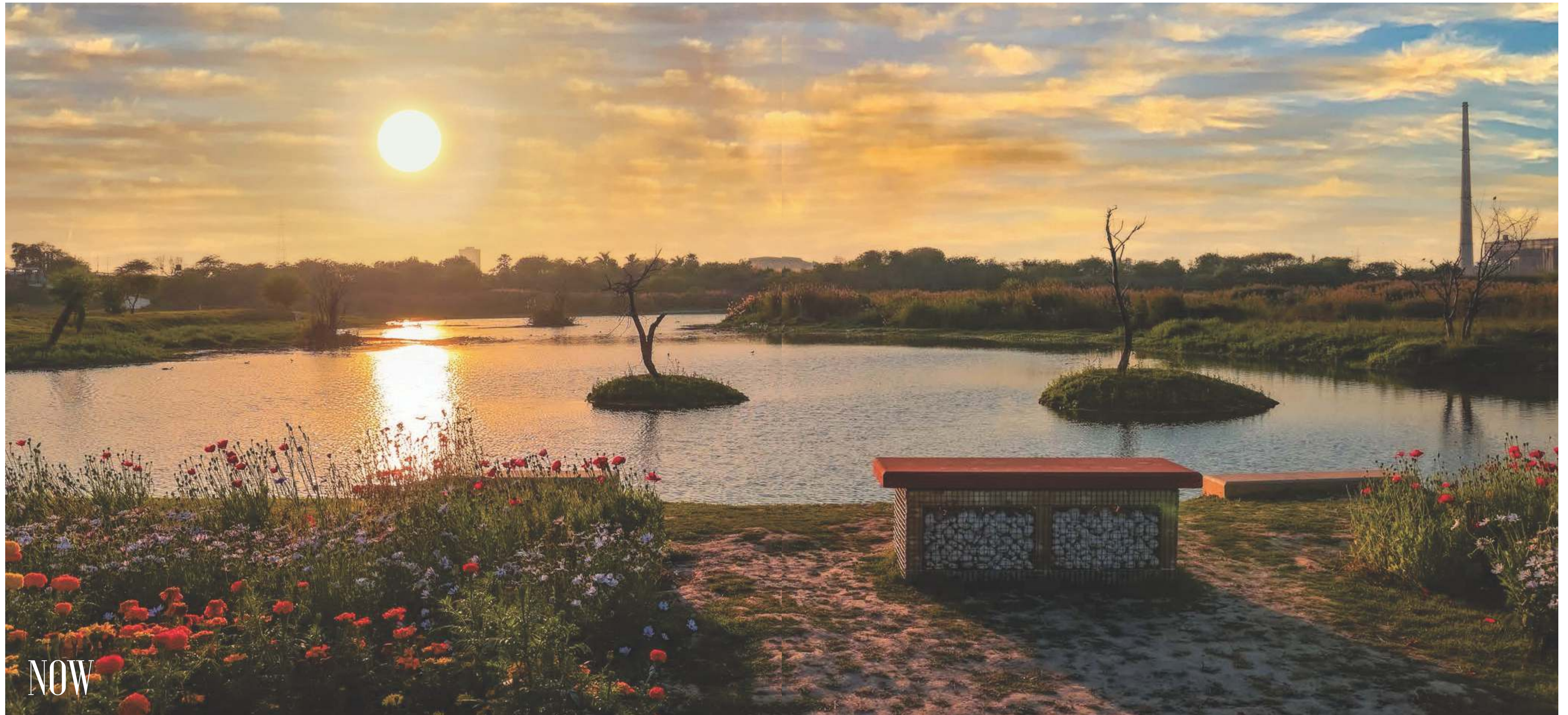




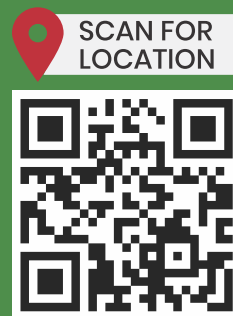
Congregation Area



NOW



NOW



Asita
Restoration & Rejuvenation of River Yamuna Floodplains



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