



# BAANSERA

*Reclamation from a waste land to an oasis*

Restoration & Rejuvenation of River Yamuna Floodplains



# Contents

Conceptualization & beginning	2
Laying of foundation stone at Baansera	12
Bamboo : the most sustainable & renewable natural resource	14
The transformation	26
Musical fountain	42
Café terrace	46
Floral terrace	48
Water bodies	52
Statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda	56
Children's play area	60
Solar plant	64
Before & after	68



# Conceptualization & Beginning

Nearly 37-acre land that was reduced to a massive construction and demolition waste site barely 200 meters from river Yamuna near the heavily congested and polluted Sarai Kale Khan area, now rechristened as Birsa Munda Chowk, in Delhi has been transformed into a lush green public space, thanks to the initiative and sustained efforts of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Shri V.K. Saxena. In his very first visit to this waste dump, just 2 days after taking over as Delhi LG, i.e. on 28 May 2022, Shri Saxena identified this site for developing a unique bamboo themed park, which is now called "Baansera". In a record 6-months time, the heap of garbage and C&D waste that existed till June 2022, was transformed into a lush green asset in December 2022.

The project "Baansera" (Bamboo Abode) has been developed as a bamboo-theme based urban green space along the river that also aims at promoting the use of bamboo as a flora alternative that supports the environment by transmitting 30% more oxygen and provides raw material for the cottage and village industry. The name has been derived from the Hindi word 'Basera' meaning 'the abode', thus named as Baansera -The Bamboo Abode.







Before May, 2022



Before May, 2022







Before May, 2022





Before May, 2022





## Laying of Foundation Stone at **Baansera** 09th August 2022

After his first visit itself, Hon'ble LG shared his vision for a bamboo themed public space for the people of Delhi. The vision was not only to provide a novel urban space along the river but also to promote use of bamboo as a sustainable material.

The project was inaugurated on August 9, 2022. 'Baansera' offers a one of its kind experience in terms of spaces designed amidst plantation of bamboos in the form of groves and in setums. Apart from plantations, the park also has amenities designed in bamboo.





## *Bamboo*

# The Most Sustainable & Renewable Natural Resource

The choice of planting bamboos to restore and rejuvenate this stretch of Yamuna floodplains was made judiciously considering the immense scientific and environmental benefits it offers.

Bamboo Trees are scientifically proven to emit 30 percent more oxygen than other trees- a hectare of Bamboo absorbs 12 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide annually and affords protection from UV Rays. This exceptional ability of Bamboo to emit Oxygen and absorb Carbon Dioxide is an absolute necessity for Delhi given the state of Air Pollution here.

Apart from this, Bamboo Trees are tough survivors that grow with least water in relation to other trees. They require zero maintenance and are known to restore degraded landscapes. Nonetheless, when this initiative was undertaken, certain self-proclaimed "experts" vociferously opined that Bamboo was not indigenous to Delhi and these saplings will not survive and will prove to be a waste of money and time. Not only, have 95 percent of the 1,25,000 Bamboo saplings, planted across Delhi, survived, but have reached a height of 30-40 feet during the last one and a half- two years and are there for anyone and everyone to see.





## *Restoration & Rejuvenation*





















## *The Transformation*

Nearly 30,000 bamboo plants of 15 varieties have been planted at Baansera. In addition, several species of riverine grasses and native trees have been planted along the edge of the river. Solar lights that dim down around midnight have been installed in the floodplains. Three large water bodies (ponds) have been created and filled with treated water from nearby sewage treatment plants that have enhanced the aesthetics of the area. Kaccha pathways have been developed and bamboo fencing has been erected along the periphery of the green area to keep it completely eco-friendly.

























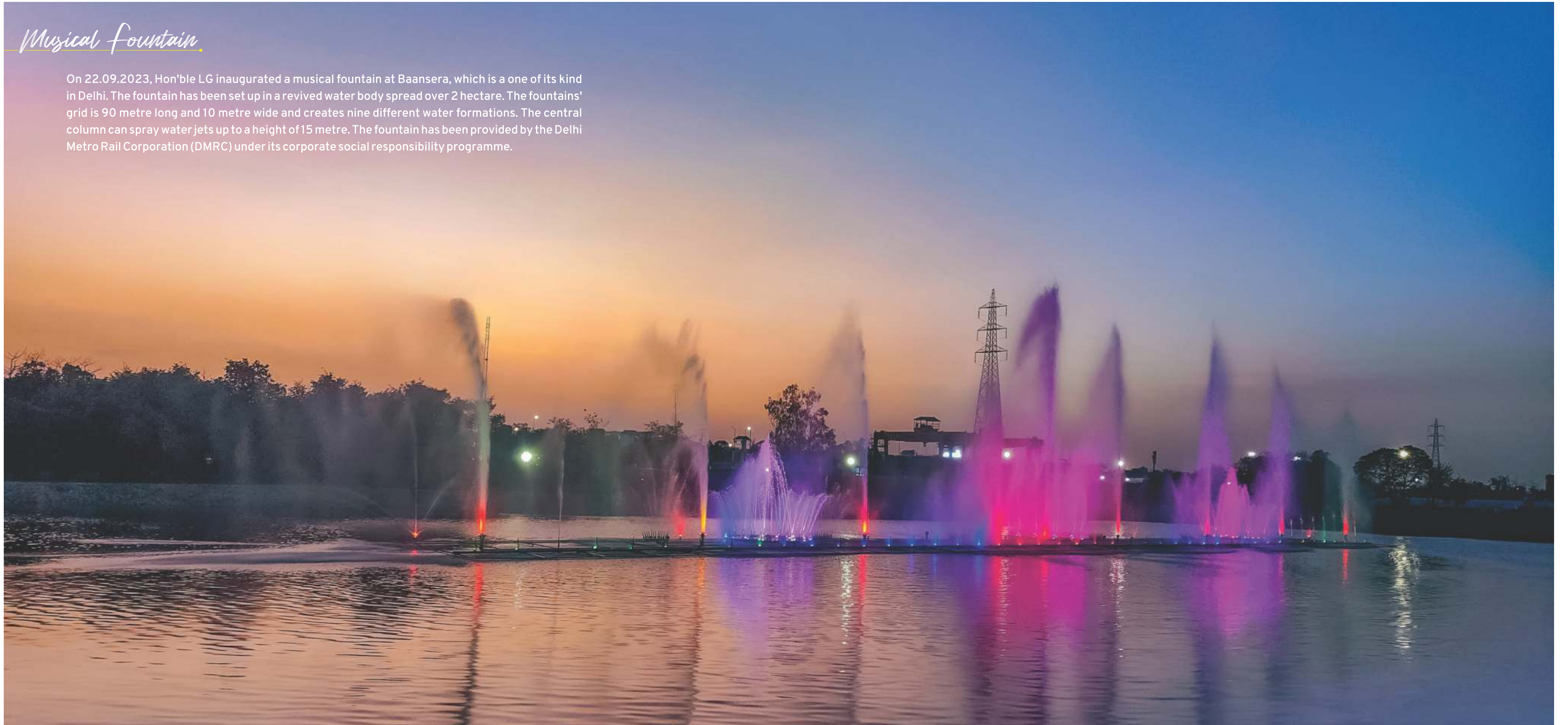






## *Musical Fountain*

On 22.09.2023, Hon'ble LG inaugurated a musical fountain at Baansera, which is a one of its kind in Delhi. The fountain has been set up in a revived water body spread over 2 hectare. The fountains' grid is 90 metre long and 10 metre wide and creates nine different water formations. The central column can spray water jets up to a height of 15 metre. The fountain has been provided by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) under its corporate social responsibility programme.





## Congregation Area

A vast area measuring approximately 2-2.5 hectares at a height of 6-7 mts. from ground level, which was previously used for dumping C&D waste has been restored by removing tonnes of waste to designated sites. This portion of the site has been developed into large grassed congregational space with a 20x20 m wide performance area. It is lined with pathways on the periphery which takes one amidst the bamboo groves.

The rear part of the area towards the eastern side provides splendid panoramic views of the River Yamuna while one can see Humayun's tomb on its western side. Each section of this area opens to an entirely different view of the surroundings.





### *Café terrace*

Another intermediate terrace on the other side of the top congregational area has been provided with a café made of eco-friendly, bio-degradable material along with provision of outdoor seating amidst bamboo groves. Floral and café terraces attract visitors on two different sides of the congregational area.













### *Water bodies*

A large depression has been restored into a water body with fountains giving a soothing view from the congregational terrace. Kaccha pathways lined by murram have been developed that runs along the entire periphery of the water body with seatings provided at intervals for people to enjoy the experience of a waterside promenade. On the directions of Hon'ble LG, Delhi Jal Board is providing treated water for this water body. Another depression towards the river side has been restored to store floodwaters and planted with riverine grasses.





#### List of Bamboo species planted at Baansera

- |                                |                             |                              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bambusa balcooa             | 2. Bambusa bambos           | 3. Bambusa cachrensis        |
| 4. Bambusa nutans              | 5. Bambusa pallida          | 6. Bambusa polymorpha        |
| 7. Bambusa striata             | 8. Bambusa tulda            | 9. Bambusa ventricosa        |
| 10. Dendrocalamus asper        | 11. Dendrocalamus brandisii | 12. Dendrocalamus hamiltonii |
| 13. Dendrocalamus longispathus | 14. Dendrocalamus stocksii  | 15. Dendrocalamus strictus   |

#### *Bambusetum*

An area is being developed as a bambusetum which has been planted with the 15 different varieties of bamboos in Baansera. Apart from bamboo plantations, riverine grasses have been proposed along the edge of the river for about 100m followed by planting of native tree species of floodplain ecology that will be planted in a multi-tier format of ecological planting.



## Statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

After Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's call for celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in a befitting manner, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, VK Saxena decided on getting the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda installed at Baansera.

Its strategic location at a site where the Ring Road, RRTS Station, ISBT, Nizamuddin Railway & Metro Station, NH-24, Barapullah Flyover and DND Flyway converge to form a multi-modal transport hub, will ensure that lakhs of visitors and travellers get an opportunity to see the towering statue.

Largely unsung till now in these parts of the country, the installation of the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in the National Capital itself, will provide an opportunity to the people to learn about his pioneering contribution towards India's struggle for independence, upholding of tribal rights and forest conservation amongst others.







Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Shri V.K. Saxena and other dignitaries on 15.11.2024.

This majestic 20 ft tall metal statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda was installed at the entrance of Baansera on the Ring Road on 15th November 2024, which marked the 150th birth anniversary of the legendary tribal leader. Bhagwan Birsa Munda is a towering personification of India's indomitable cultural ethos and national spirit.

Born on November 15, 1875, he became a symbol of resistance against British colonial rule, subversion of tribal culture and exploitation of tribal lands.

This statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda weighing around 3 tonnes has been constructed by two experienced artists from West Bengal qualified in Fine Arts. The lively and humane design has been chiseled by the artists using metal in a sustainable manner. The creation of this statue was supported by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.





## *Children's Play Area*

In the ongoing efforts to provide recreational facilities to the people at large in a natural environment, a dedicated Children's Play Area at Baansera was inaugurated on 19.12.2024. Spread across 2 hectares, the play area has been developed using only eco-friendly material.

Shri Saxena, during his visits to Baansera, had asked DDA to develop Children's Play Area as large number of children visit the place every day. This play area is designed to engage children of all age group with its multiple attractions and features. The highlight of the children play area include fitness zone, which promotes physical activity, play mound, climbing wall, adventure trail, sand pit, spider web, wooden train and multi-play structure allowing kids to climb and explore.







The design of the play zone emphasizes both fun and physical activities, offering a well-rounded experience for children to explore, play, and learn in a safe and stimulating environment.





## Solar Plant

On 19.12.2024, Hon'ble Lt Governor also inaugurated a 2 MW capacity Solar Power Plant at the Baansera Park to bolster the renewable energy infrastructure in the Capital. The solar park spread over 20,000 sqm area, built on a RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) model, will provide DDA with solar power at a fixed tariff of Rs 4.42 per unit for 25 years. The project is anticipated to generate approximately 27 lakh units of electricity annually. With zero installation and O&M cost for DDA, the project is expected to benefit nearly 352 parks under the group net metering policy. The solar park will not only contribute to the national renewable energy targets but also serve as a model for other urban development authorities to adopt clean energy solutions.



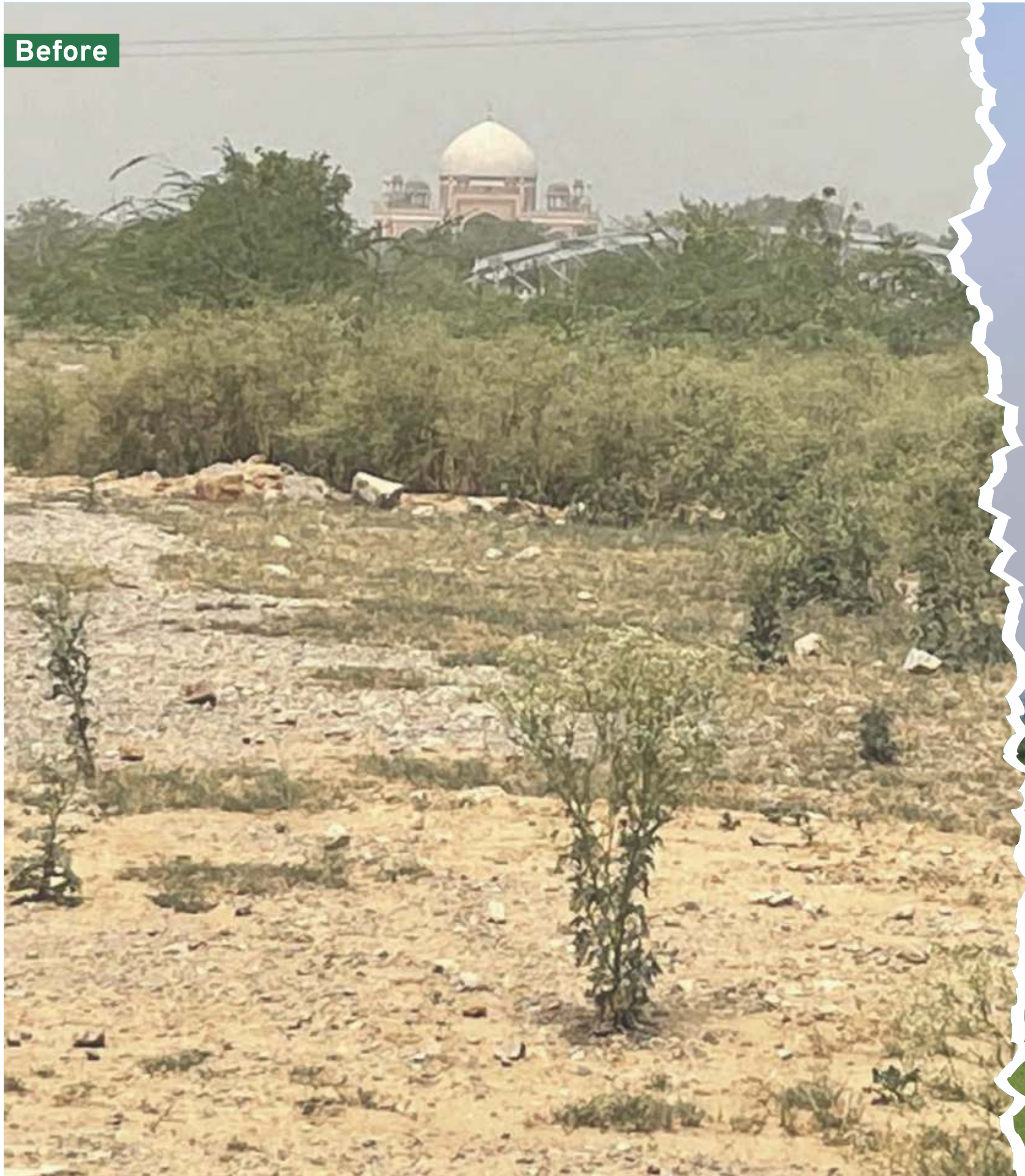


*The actual site of*  
**Baansera**  
as it existed till May 2022





Before



After





Before



After









Before



After





Before



After





*Yoga Day*

21 June 2023





## Kite Festival

13 January 2024







10<sup>th</sup> Indian-International Dance and Music Festival organised jointly by DDA & ICCR at Baansera on 27.02.2025



A fleet of 250 Delhi Police PCR vans flagged off from Baansera on 16.04.2023



Flag-off of 350 New Electric Buses at Baansera on 14.02.2024



Flag-off of 300 New Electric Buses at Baansera on 30.07.2024





Now





Now





Now





Now









# BAANSERA

*Reclamation from a waste land to an oasis*

## DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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