

SANJAY Van

FROM DILAPIDATION TO RESTORATION





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Sanjay Van

Sanjay Van's historical significance in terms of pre-Islamic Hindu rule in Delhi is undeniable, with ruins scattered throughout. Among these treasures are remnants of Qila Rai Pithora, the former capital of Prithviraj Chauhan. Other notable monuments include Anangtal Baoli, Lalkot Baoli, Small Fortification, and Large Fortification.

Beyond its role as a vital breathing space for Delhi, Sanjay Van is a heaven for ornithologists, birdwatchers and nature lovers. The diverse avian fauna here includes both native species and rare migratory visitors. Restoration efforts on the forest's water bodies are already proving fruitful, with birdwatchers and the media reporting increased sightings of both resident and migratory birds.

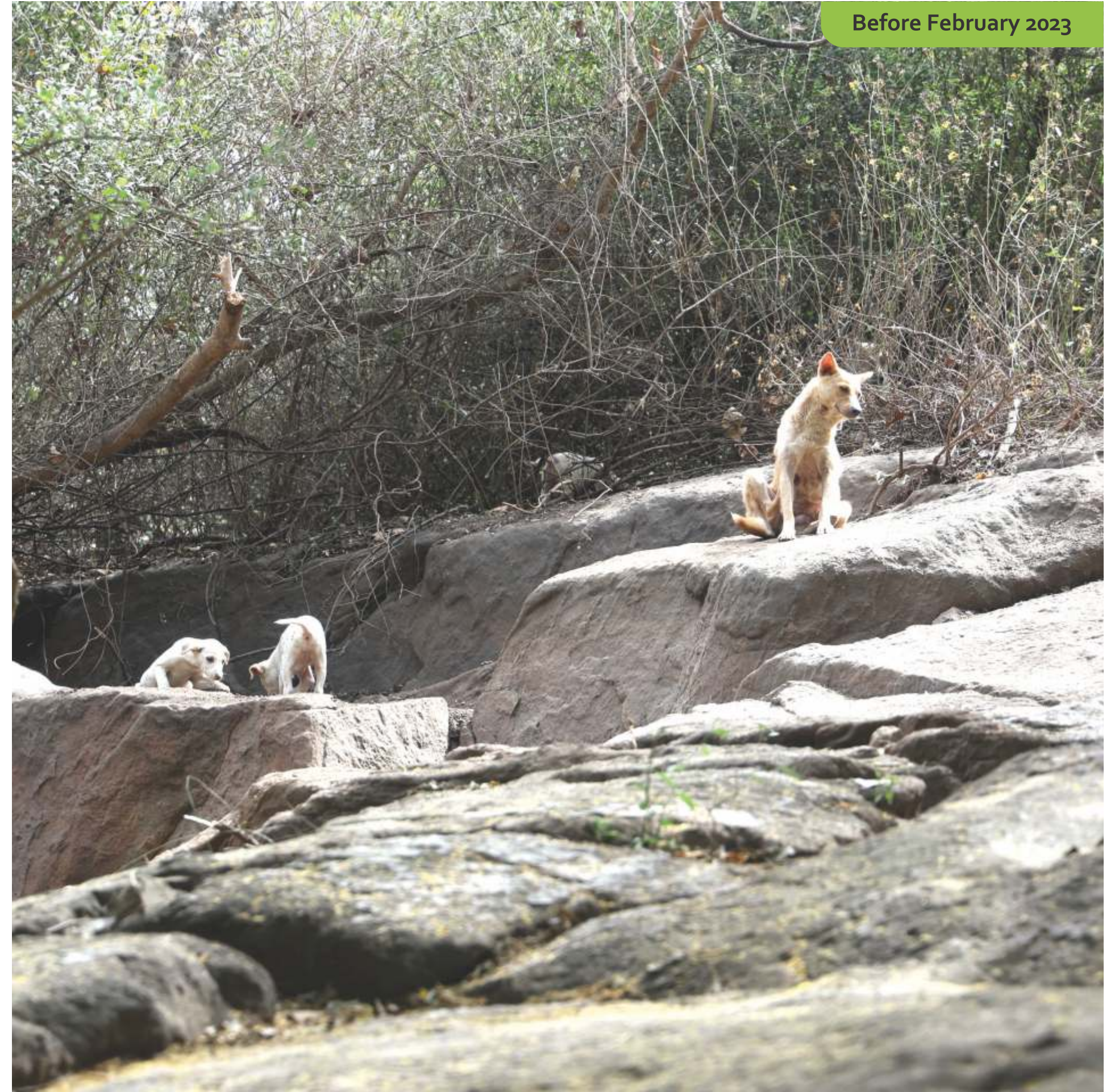
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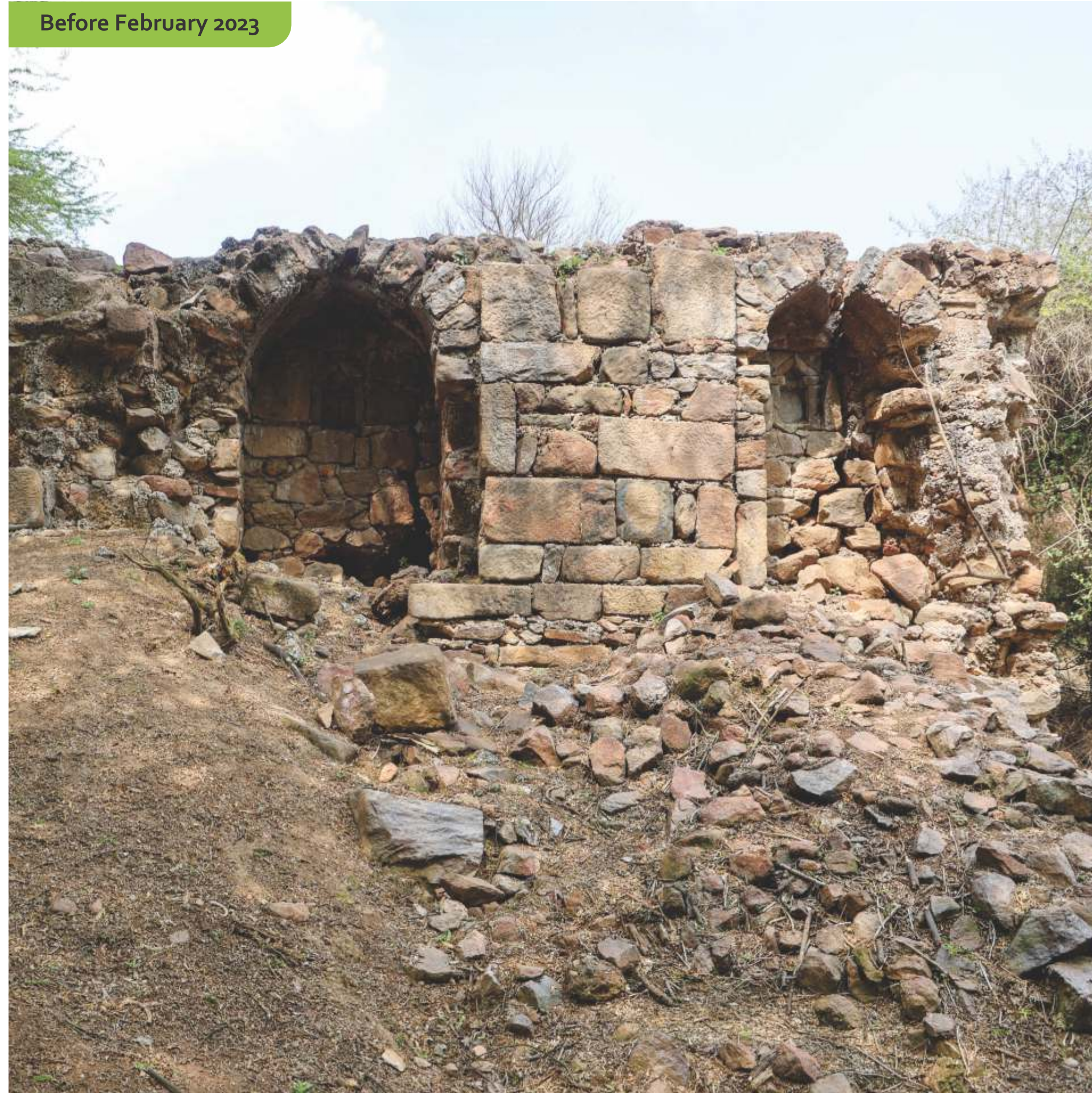
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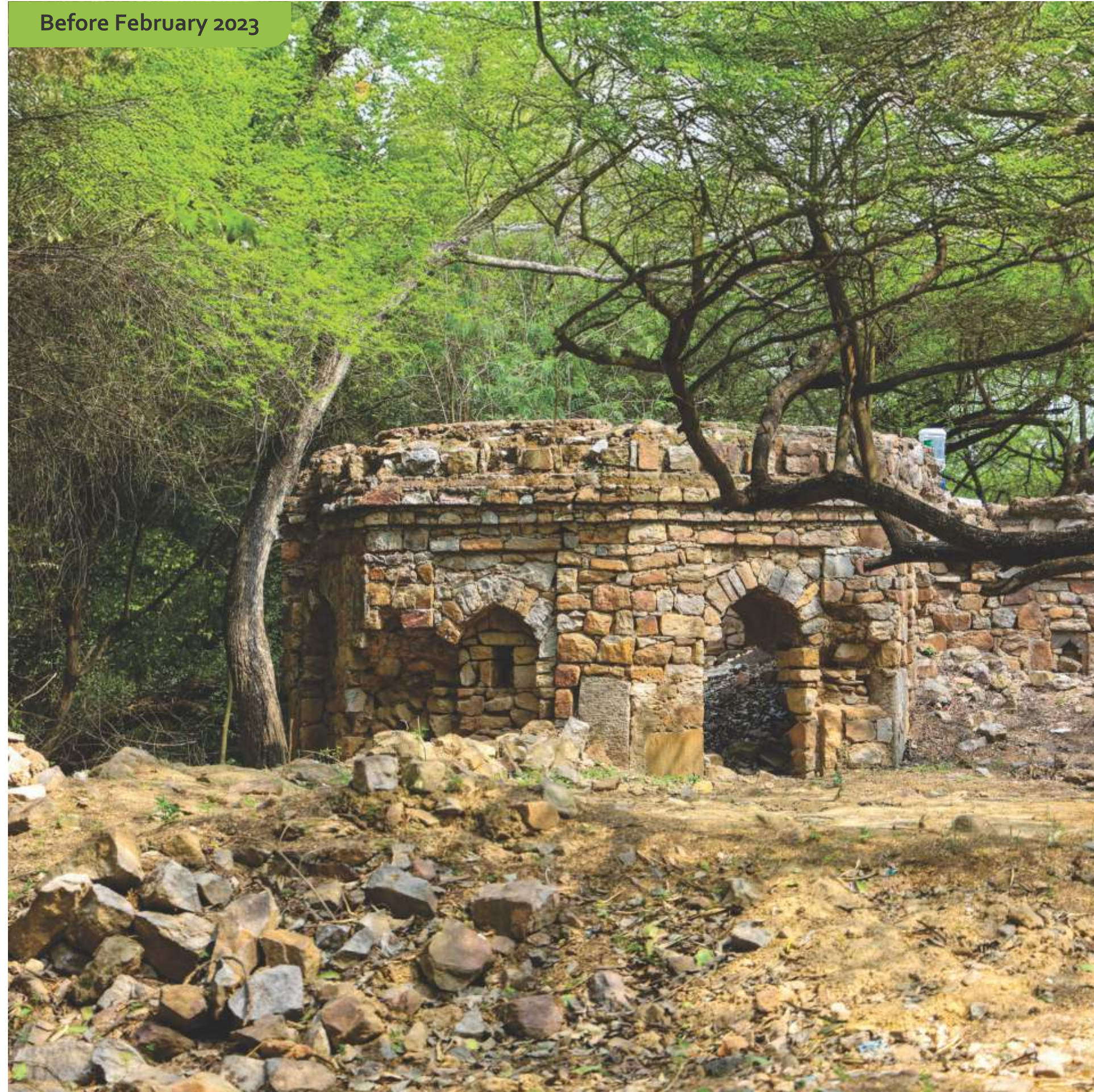
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Restoration and Rejuvenation





Hon'ble LG, Shri V.K. Saxena unveiled the restored monuments at Sanjay Van on 03 March, 2025





Qila Rai Pithora

Delhi's medieval era story begins with Lal Kot, also known as Qila Rai Pithora, built around 1060 CE. This impressive fort, nicknamed the "First City" for its historical significance, boasted of massive red stone walls that stretched for over 3 kilometres. Later, the last Hindu King of Delhi, Prithviraj Chauhan expanded the Fort and gave it the name Qila Rai Pithora. The fort walls, up to 60 feet high are scattered across South Delhi in areas like Saket and Mehrauli, where the Qutub Minar complex is also located.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor initiated the restoration of the remnants of wall of Lal Kot (Qila Rai Pithora), a significant historical site in the city. The restoration work aims to preserve the monument's structural integrity, enhance its aesthetic appeal and improve accessibility for visitors.

Before



Anangtal Baoli

Nestled amidst the verdant embrace of Sanjay Van lies a hidden gem - the Anangtal Baoli, an 11th-century stepwell rich in history and an architectural marvel. However, decades of neglect had transformed this once-vibrant waterbody into a basin of muck. Several scientific excavations have been undertaken in the past. Some portion of the baoli is visible on the site and rest are to be explored by further excavations for restoration of actual waterbody which existed centuries ago.

Unchecked sewage discharge from nearby settlements and decades of accumulated waste choked the well. The once-life-giving waters became stagnant, its beauty obscured by layers of grime. Recognizing the urgency and in discussions with conservationists, Hon'ble LG stepped in restoring this forgotten heritage site.



Before



Under Restoration

Before



Lal Kot Baoli

While details surrounding the Lal Kot Baoli's exact origins remain shrouded in mystery, some believe, it dates back to the period of the Delhi Sultanate, potentially associated with the nearby Lal Kot Fort. These stepwells, integral to the medieval life, served as a vital source of water and a cool respite during scorching summers.

The restoration project spearheaded by DDA under technical supervision of ASI, has adopted a multi-pronged approach. The primary focus lies on desilting the baoli, removing the accumulated garbage and sewage. This will follow scientific clearing of the site and then carefully restoring the baoli as per the conservation principles with traditional materials and techniques.



Under Restoration



Under Restoration

Before



Small Fortification

Sanjay Van might hold more than what meets the eye. Historical whispers suggest a small fortification resides within the park. While its exact purpose and origin remain unclear, an extruded mihrab on the western wall and ruins of two small minarets speculate it could be a remnant of a mosque or any other religious structure.

Hon'ble LG initiated a comprehensive project to investigate and restore this enigmatic outpost. This endeavour involves on-site surveys and potentially limited excavations to unearth clues about its past. The restoration itself focuses on stabilizing the structure and preserving its remaining features. The aim is not to reconstruct a missing fortification, but rather ensuring that this piece of Delhi's past lives for future generations.



Now



Now

Large Fortification

Restoration works of the Large Fortification comprises stabilizing the existing structure and excavating specific areas to reveal its hidden past. The aim is not to create a replica fortification, but to conserve the remaining elements and create an educational space. Visitors can now walk along stabilized ramparts and explore excavated sections, gaining a first-hand perspective on Delhi's forgotten past. The conservation efforts have unearthed several historic layers and depict the rich architectural legacy of that era.

Bringing this large fortification back to life not only safeguards a potential treasure but also transforms Sanjay Van into an open-air museum, offering a unique window into the city's rich heritage.



Before



L.G. Rock Café

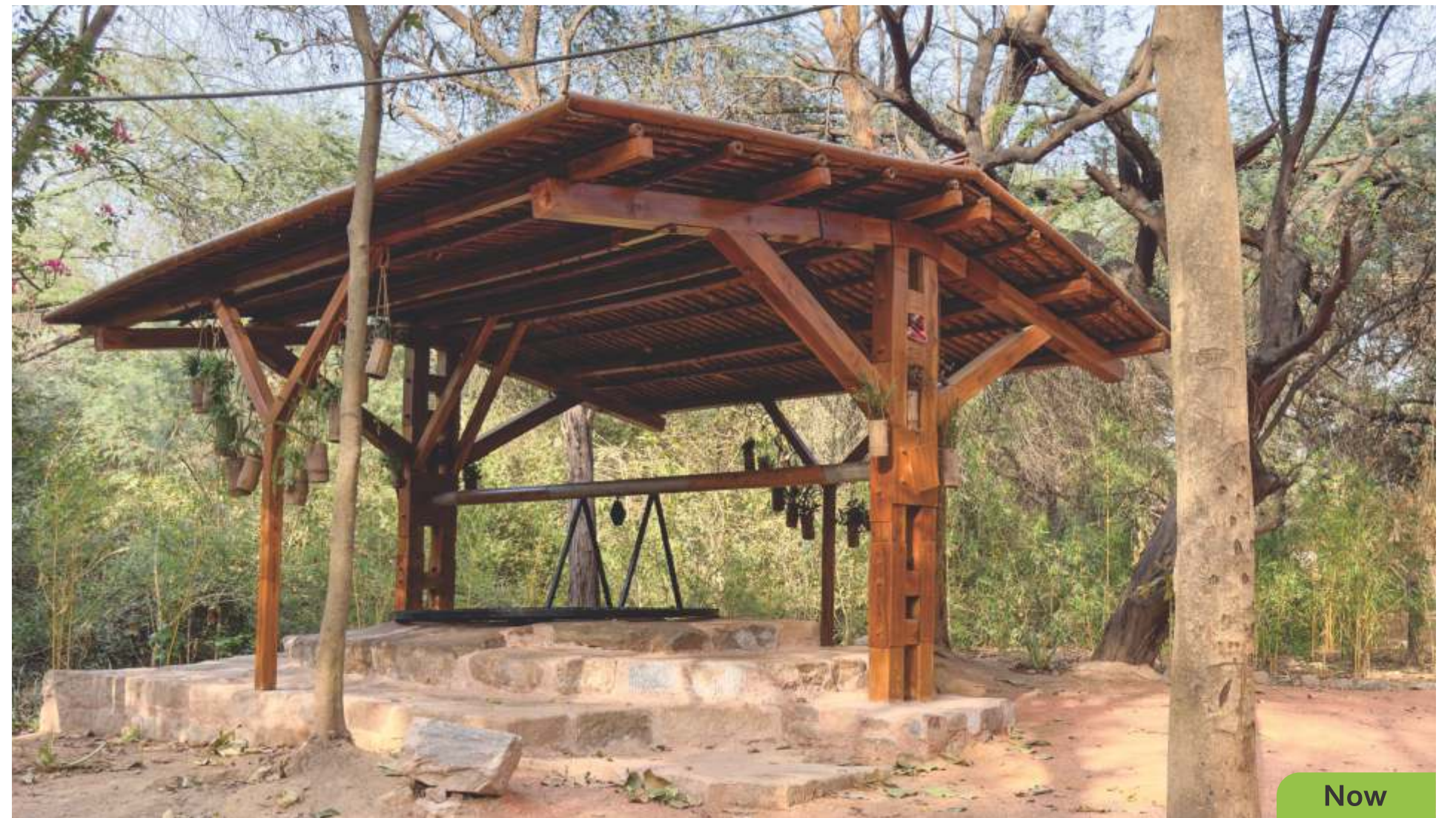
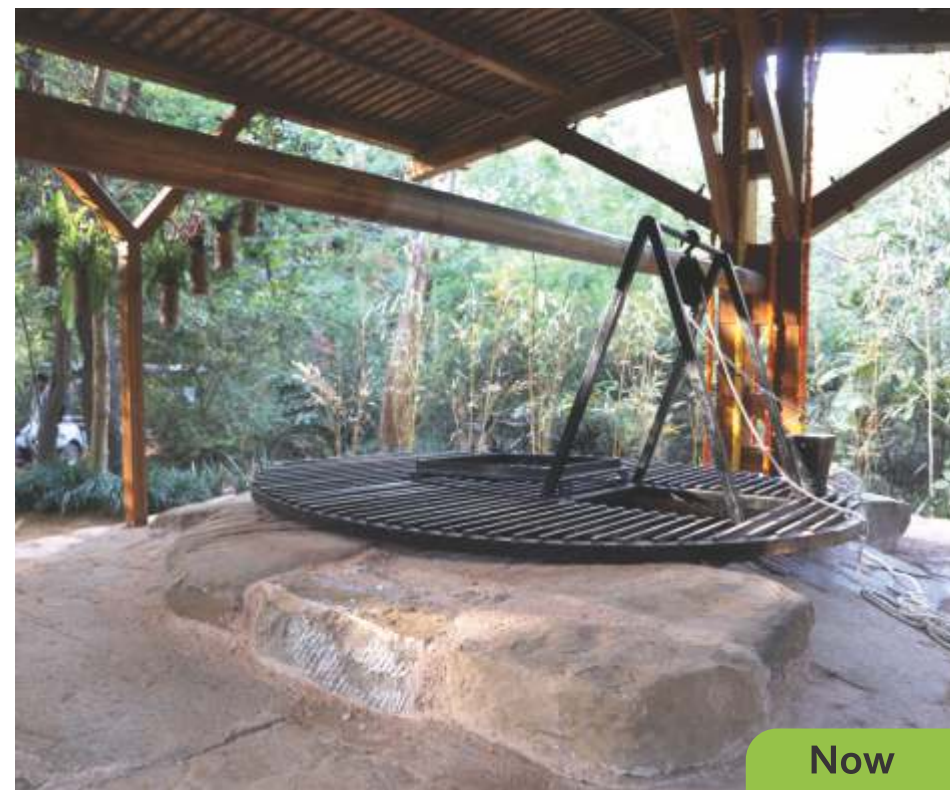
The Rock Cafe is an open air Café, temporary in nature, surrounded by the small fortification and Mayur Pahadi. It has open seating all around it and is operational from Sunrise to Sunset. The Rock Cafe was inaugurated on 03.03.2025.



Now



Now





The Transformation

Now



Now



Before



Now



Before



Now



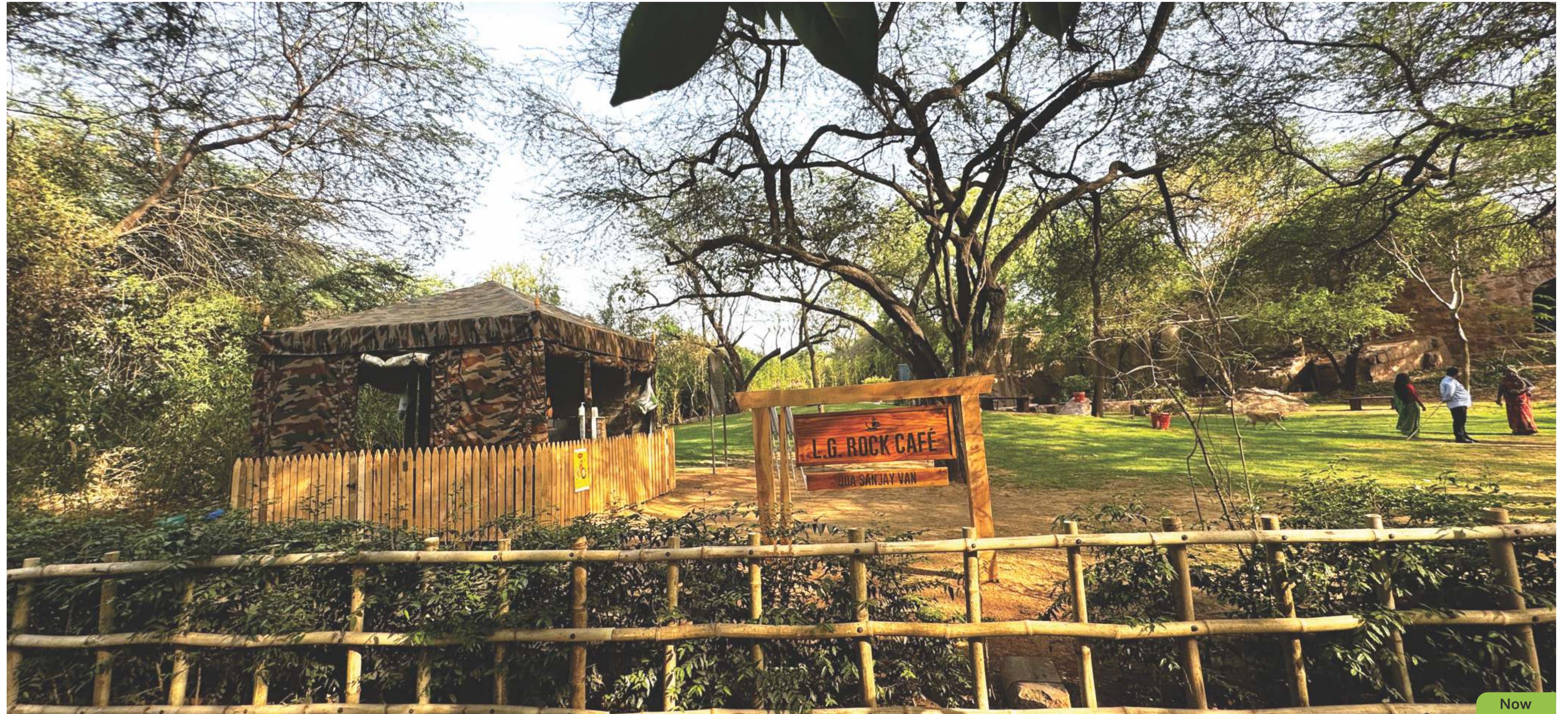
Before



Now



Now



Now



SANJAY *Van*
FROM DILAPIDATON TO RESTORATION



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