

**Urban Studies Programme
School of Global Affairs
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi**

Report on the Delhi Dehat Exhibition

Delhi Dehat: Tracing Memory, Space and Transition in Delhi's Urban Villages

**MA Urban Studies | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi
28–29 November | Karampura Campus**

1. Introduction

Situated within the broader vision of *Viksit Delhi*, the exhibition foregrounded the importance of inclusive, context-sensitive urban development that recognises the histories, livelihoods, and cultural landscapes of Delhi's urban villages. By documenting everyday spaces and community narratives, *Delhi Dehat* emphasised that a developed Delhi must integrate heritage, social equity, and local knowledge alongside infrastructure-led growth. The exhibition thus contributed to reimagining Viksit Delhi as a city shaped not only by expansion and modernisation, but also by continuity, memory, and participatory urban futures.

The exhibition titled *Delhi Dehat: Tracing Memory, Space and Transition in Delhi's Urban Villages* was organised by the 3rd Semester MA Urban Studies students of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi and held on 28–29 November at the Karampura Campus. The exhibition was the academic outcome of an Urban Studio course on Urban Villages taught in semester 3. The exhibition brought together research, visual documentation, and community narratives to examine the socio-spatial transformations, memories, and transitions shaping Delhi's urban villages.

2. Highlights

The exhibition witnessed an enthusiastic response from visitors. The students received warm appreciation and encouragement for their research work, visual documentation, and engagement with communities.

A key highlight was the release of:

- A set of 12 postcards, and
- A documentary on Katwaria Sarai Village

These were formally unveiled by Prof. Amit Kumar Mishra (Dean, SGA) and Prof. Nakkeeran Nanjappan (Dean, SPPG).

3. Institutional Participation

Academic Institutions

The exhibition was attended by representatives from a wide range of academic institutions, including:

1. National Institute of Advanced Studies
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University
3. IIM Kozhikode
4. Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Heritage
6. Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi
7. SKV No. 2, Punjabi Bagh
8. IGNOU
9. Hansraj College, University of Delhi
10. Gargi College, University of Delhi
11. Department of Geography, University of Delhi
12. Various departments of the University of Delhi

Independent Institutions and Individuals

Representatives from the following institutions and individuals were also present:

1. Dilli Dehat Project
2. Tathastu ICS
3. Centre for Science and Environment
4. City Sabha
5. Futurebrands Consulting
6. Mahant of Gorakhnath Temple, Katwaria Sarai Village

4. Community Participation: Villages of Delhi and NCR

The exhibition witnessed active participation from residents and representatives of urban villages and surrounding regions, including:

1. Mukhmelpur
2. Masoodpur
3. Palam
4. Hastal
5. Asalatpur

6. Sonipat, Haryana
7. Gurgaon
8. Gokalpur
9. Nithari Gaon
10. Nilothi
11. Karala, Delhi
12. Pooth Khurd
13. Munirka
14. Humayunpur
15. Pitampura
16. Burari
17. Zamrudpur
18. Chirag Delhi
19. Kotla Mubarakpur
20. New Chandrawal
21. Indirapuram
22. Katwaria Sarai

5. Media Coverage

The exhibition received notable media attention. *The New Indian Express* published a feature titled “Concrete Murmurs”, which discussed how the exhibition documented the ways in which villages like Katwaria Sarai endure and adapt as the city expands, highlighting the complex interplay between memory, spatial change, and identity amidst urbanisation. The article foregrounded voices from villagers and students, showcased research findings from fieldwork, and underscored that urbanisation is not just a story of buildings but also one of people and memories that persist despite rapid change. Read the full article here: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/delhi/2025/Dec/03/concrete-murmurs-2>.

6. Conclusion

The exhibition *Delhi Dehat: Tracing Memory, Space and Transition in Delhi's Urban Villages* stands as a significant pedagogic and academic outcome of the Urban Studio course on Urban Villages. The successful execution reflects the collective effort of the 3rd Semester MA Urban Studies students, guided by Urban Studies Team, and demonstrates meaningful engagement between academic inquiry, community narratives, and public audiences.

7. Gallery














