

IV. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF HARI RAO HOLKAR 'CHHATRI' — INDORE

CONTEXT

Indore is known as the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh; it is also one of the largest and most populous city in Madhya Pradesh. Indore is a commercial centre for goods and services, and recently many of the IT sectors companies have setup operations in Indore.

Along with commercial importance, Indore is also known for its many historical tourist attractions, which include the forts, and cenotaphs build by the Maratha rulers. The Maratha rulers were skilled in the field of architecture; an exquisite example of their architectural style comprise of the 'Chhatris' of Indore – these 'Chhatris' are the cenotaphs built in the memory of the Holkar rulers.

THE INTERVENTION

Project description

- The Smart City Proposal (SCP) of Indore has given due importance to heritage and place-making and one of the major intervention on this area are the conservation & restoration of 'Chhatris' and palaces.



Hari Rao Holkar 'Chhatri' site in Indore

- Chhatris are elevated, dome shaped pavilions, a cenotaph built on the cremation spot of Shri Hari Rao Holkar. The entire precinct is surrounded by an enclosure and has two gates. West side gate act as the main entrance gate while the East side opens towards Gangor Ghat on the bank of River Kahn. The precinct consists of a main Chhatri with a water kund (tank) in front along with five small temples, Samadhi, Deepmaal and Vrindavan.
- The contractors for the restoration work of the Chhatris have been selected; once the restoration works are completed, it is expected to bring in the following benefits:
 - ~ Provide a quality recreational green space in the old part of the city
 - ~ Create awareness among the public about the cultural heritage of the city and it can help in preserving the valuable monuments and heritage of the city
 - ~ Promote tourism