

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES -



AHMEDABAD



Photo by Jaimil Joshi

**A 9 DAY DIGITAL COURSE TO UNRAVEL DIVERSE
IDENTITIES AND NARRATIVES OF AHMEDABAD**

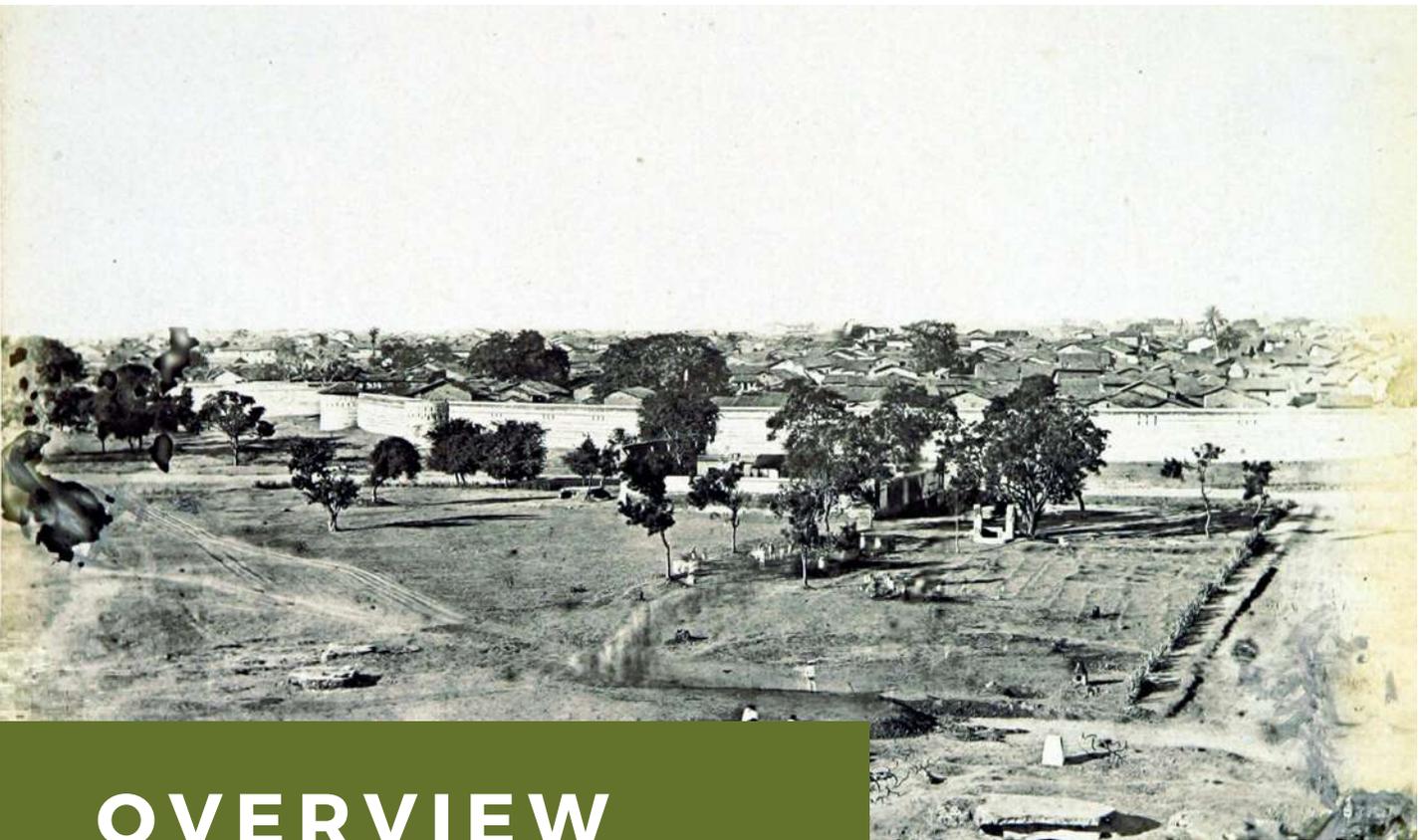


Image by The British Library

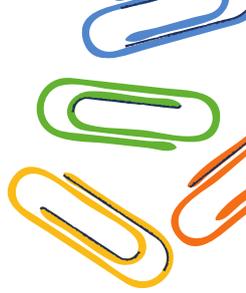
OVERVIEW

The city of Ahmedabad has been making its mark on the global map over centuries: be it as the Manchester of India for its blooming textile industry in the 19th Century, or as the first Indian city to be recognised as the UNESCO World Heritage City in the 21st Century. But ever wondered why is it that only the ‘Historical city of Ahmedabad’ has actually made it to the final declaration? Is there more to the story of Ahmedabad and its changing landscapes?

Ahmedabad, divided by river Sabarmati, has many tales to tell about its diverse ethnic communities, its trade and markets, its folk art and culinary experiments. The stories of these intangible assets not only arise from the heart of its old town but have travelled across the river and found new meanings in the developing cityscapes of Ahmedabad. Looking beyond the city inhabited by human societies, there is also a realm of natural dwellings surrounding the city, where biodiversity thrives in spite of the harsh climatic conditions. Many such far away eco-spots and cultural edifices are also integral to the lives of different micro-communities who continue to engage with the city of Ahmedabad and add another layer to its cultural identity.

Through this learning expedition, we will collectively explore and discover these different layers of Ahmedabad’s cultural landscapes, identify and engage with the different assets – tangible, intangible, natural and cultural – and collaborate to reimagine the historical and cultural narrative of Ahmedabad for its future generations. Over the course of these ten days, we will discuss the concepts of cultural and natural heritage, engage with national and international standards pertaining to conservation and preservation, and research to develop creative strategies for inclusive appreciation of Ahmedabad’s cultural identities.

COURSE SCHEDULE



Immersion

Engagement

Day 1
2 hours

Introduction: Tales of Amdavad, a digital tour across the cityscapes, recollecting important landmarks and experiences

Mapping the relationships and systems across diverse historic, cultural and natural assets of a city to understand its cultural landscapes

Day 5
2 hours

Day 2
2 hours

Stroll through the edges of city and exploring its surroundings, searching for natural assets and community histories

Developing a critical inquiry about Ahmedabad's cultural landscapes and discussing basic concepts, recognition and assessment of natural and cultural heritage

Day 6
2 hours

Day 3
2 hours

Conversations with the intangible heritage of Amdavad: food, music, arts, crafts, lores, performances, trades, materials and memories. Researching and reading into different practices and possibilities for preservation and sustenance of cultural landscapes

Interpretation and analysis of existing models and narratives that govern the initiatives of conservation and preservation in Ahmedabad, understanding the public and private structures

Day 7
2 hours

Day 4
2 hours

Walk through the wide range of built heritage and engaging in the ever-evolving architectural discourse of Ahmedabad city

Identifying spaces for intervention and collaboration to cultural landscapes of Ahmedabad, a conversation around ethical and inclusive practices

Day 8
2 hours

Culmination of ideas and debates to define a proposal for action, to bring about social and sustainable development through preservation of cultural landscapes

Day 9
2 hours

9 DAY COURSE

18 hours

INR 3,500

There will be a one day break after day 5. All sessions will be conducted on Zoom

MODULE CURATOR

ISHITA SHAH

Trained as a designer and historian, **Ishita's** practice revolves around the idea of curating for culture. She is currently focusing her research and practice onto understanding and defining feminist approaches to preservation. Over the last year, Ishita has collaborated with Biome Environmental Solutions, National Centre for Biological Sciences and INTACH Bengaluru to curate a wide-range of dissemination exercises.



She has also been curating a public engagement platform, Design Dialogues at the Courtyard, where diverse practitioners and academicians gather to discuss and decode complex, cultural issues. Prior to this, Ishita has been an educator, course leader and the coordinator to the UNESCO Chair in Culture, Habitat and Sustainable Development at Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology. She has also been the founding archivist and project coordinator at CEPT Archives, and worked with Royal Institute of British Architects (London), INSITE Magazine, SPADE India Research Cell and Design Innovation and Craft Resource Centre, Ahmedabad.

MODERATOR

ANKIT B

Ankit B is an educator. With a will to educate today's youth about the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of sustainability, Ankit started The Happy Llamas. Ankit has worked in India and Brasil with brands like Amazon, Nike, FIFA, Olympics (IOC), among others. Ankit will be moderating the sessions on all days of the course.

