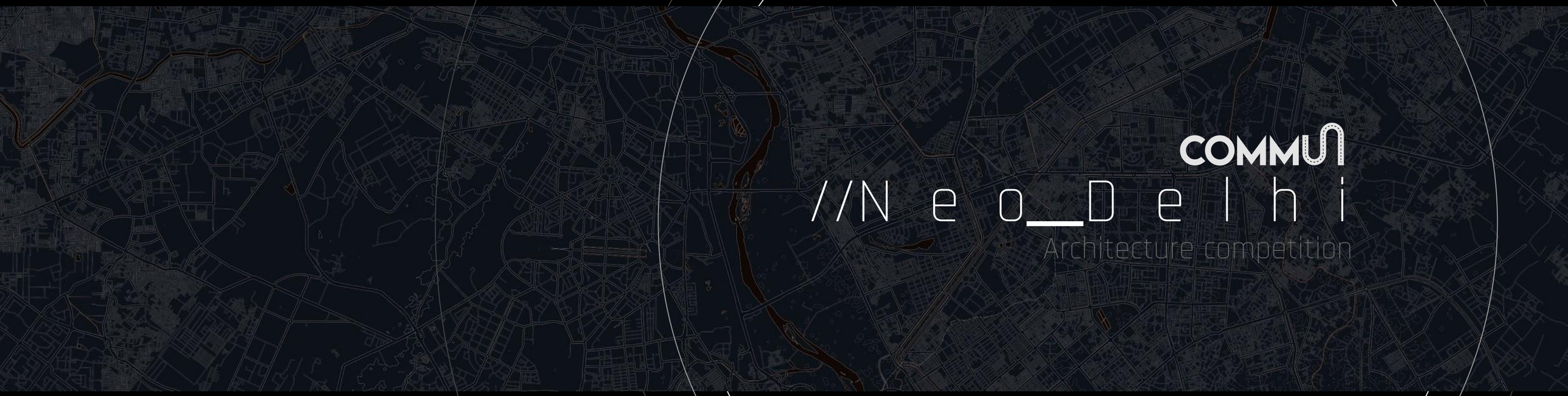


COMMUN

# //Neo__Delhi

Architecture competition

http://**competitions**.uni.xyz

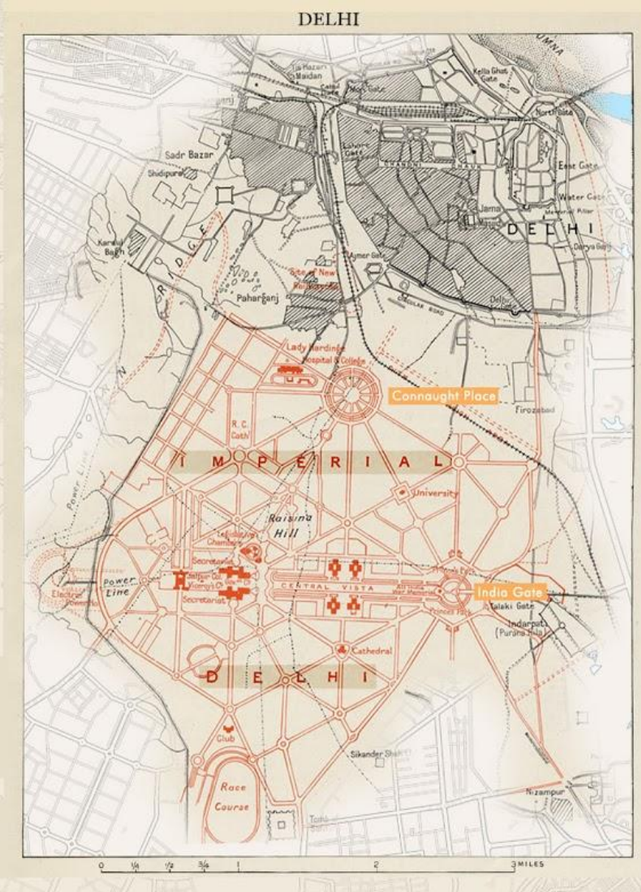


Img 1: Some of the key landmarks of the New Delhi.

# Premise

**New Delhi** (/ˈdɛli/, Hindi pronunciation: [dɪlliː] Dilli), the capital of India - is the seat of power of the largest democracy. This city has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC. Through most of its history, Delhi has served as a capital of various kingdoms and empires. It has been **occupied**, **demolished** and **re-written** several times, particularly during the medieval period till the last century. But today, as New Delhi is identified more by a larger territory called the National Capital Region, the scale at present is beyond comparison to the past kept in context. This region is now a host of sprawling built masses and various emerging megacities.

The history of **Delhi** as the political capital of the country has been **highly dynamic.** And the way the city looks today was much much **different** from its **projected future in the last century.**













*A map of Lutyens projected Imperial Delhi, from the Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed., 1910-12*

*Existing City - Black*
*Imperial Delhi - Red*

Img 2: Lutyens Imperial Delhi in comparison with Old Delhi

# British Raj

The new city of **Imperial Delhi,** was being constructed by the imperial British Empire exactly 100 years ago, whilst **shifting the capital** from Kolkata to Delhi. This was hands down the largest real estate development project conceived by any government at that time. Architect Edwin Lutyens was endowed with the responsibility to plan and construct this new capital, and several buildings within it. The plan was **5 times** the size of the original **Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi)**, with a visionary idea of housing the imperial capital. They constructed several buildings like the President's House, Parliament, Race Course, India Gate, Parks, Memorials and Various avenues. Out of the many buildings and plans that were made., **the heart of public life** then and now was called as CP.

**Connaught Place**, fondly called "**CP**", practically forms the City Centre of Delhi. Conceived as a **commerce hub or CBD** by the British it has been constantly growing and becoming one of the most vibrant recreational and institutional space attracting local, regional and international visitors throughout the year. CP then slowly became a hub of many things - **Social** (Circus, Events, Protests, etc.), **Political** (Rallies, Parades, Road Shows, etc.), **Cultural** (Celebrations, Festivals, etc.), **Economic** (Workplaces, Business Centers, etc.) and **Accessibility** (With all the national highways passing through CP).



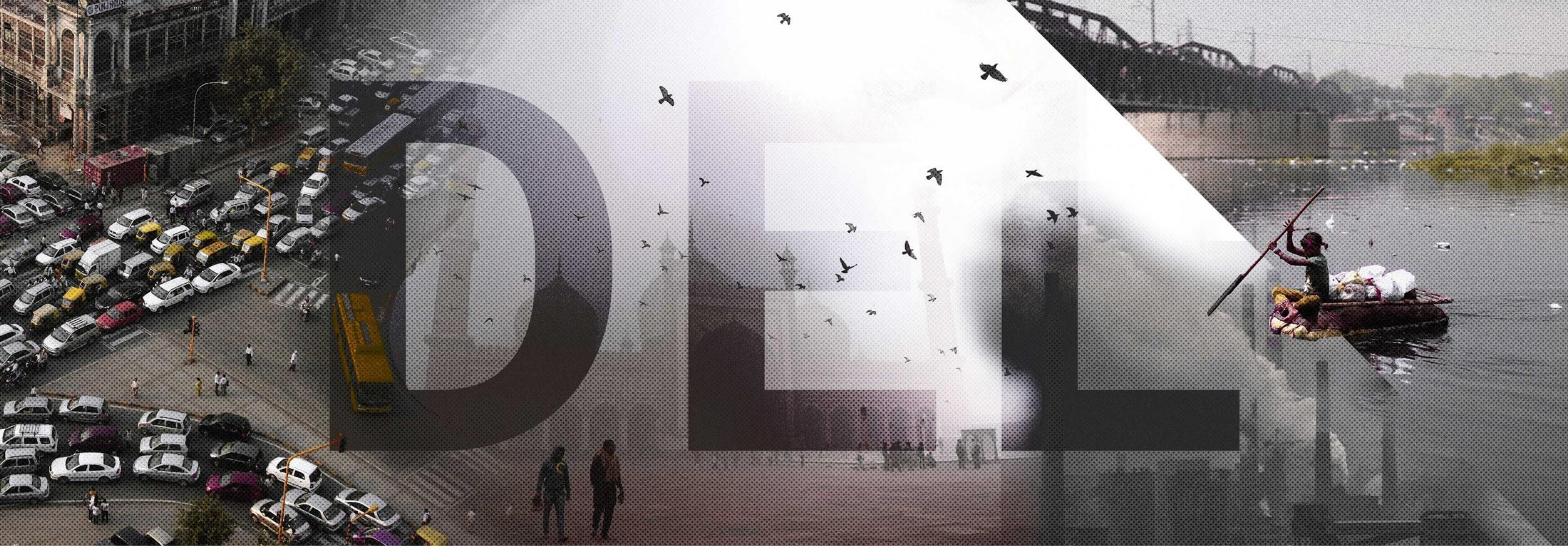

Img 3: One of the views of CP from the inner circle.

# Today

**Connaught Place,** today is popular as a **public market** which is built in Colonial style architecture. The building forms two concentric circles. Seven roads connect the outer circle and inner circle. The outer circle holds hotels, shops, restaurants. The middle circle has banks, exchange houses, offices and other corporates. Inner circle hosts various shops, eateries and entertainment spaces, with a gigantic park in the center. **CP now is much much more than a market to the people of New Delhi.**

When it came into being, the sprawling circular market was the **largest of its kind in India**. The structures have been continuously transformed by the inhabitants/tenants/shop owners, while keeping the external skin same. The market has been consistently trying to keep up with the information age by providing many digital services/facilities to keep people hooked. This has kept the CP relevant reflecting its compatibility to the needs of today.

This exhibits one of the key properties of **New Delhi,** being the **city of change.**



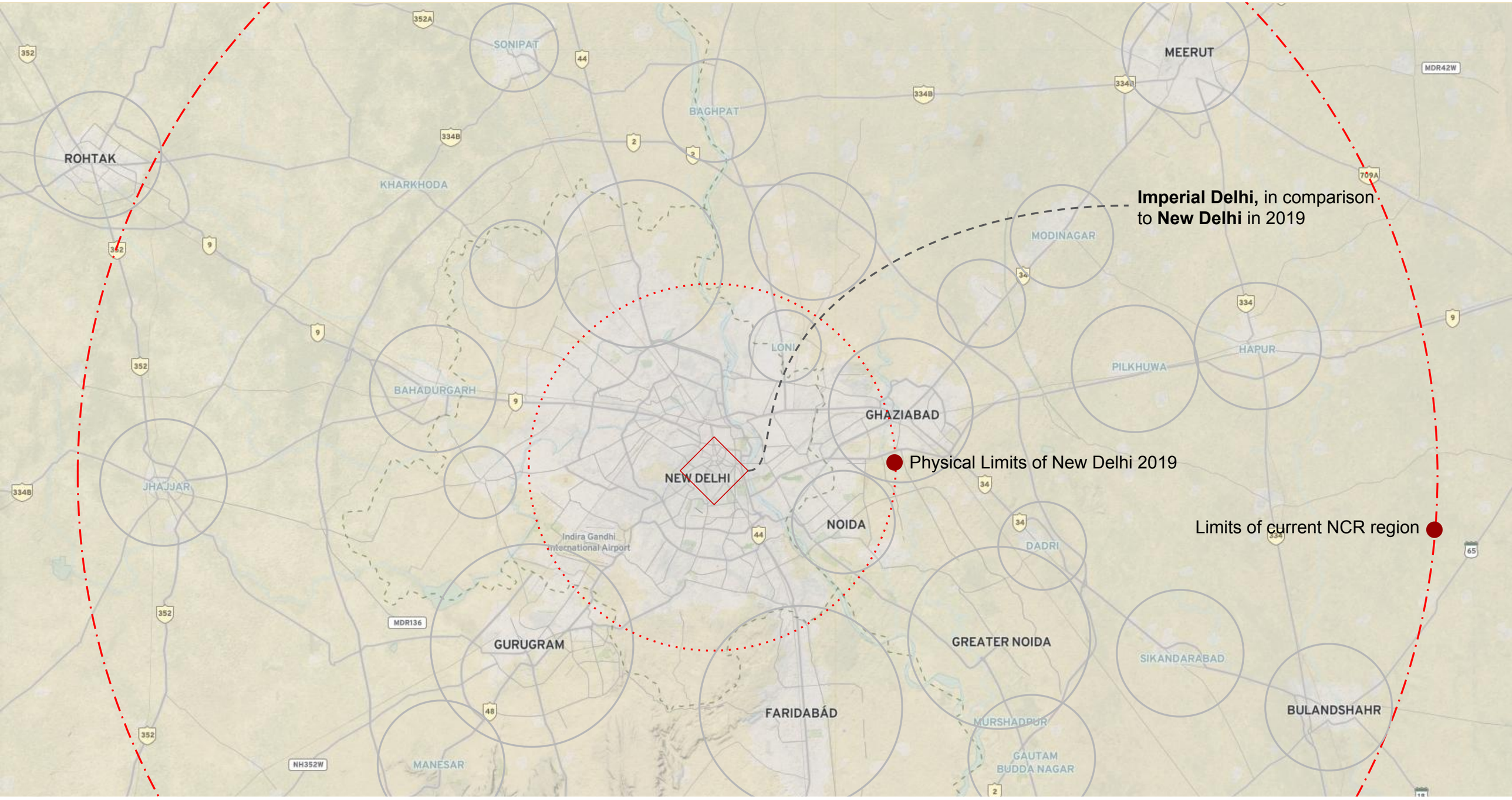

Img 4: Issues of Delhi - A photo montage

# Change in Aura of New Delhi

As **2020** approaches, the perceived **image of the city** has been constantly changing, due to the air quality, traffic, crime, reducing pedestrian friendliness and many more. The increasing rates of urban issues mushrooming up are slowly outnumbering the positive aspects the city could offer. A visible indicator of this can be seen on the **Ease of Living index**, (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) where **New Delhi** has slipped considerably since past few years. (Source)

The stated urban issues are caused by various complex problems that are heavily interdependent on each other, and are aggravated by the gradually increasing population. There is no go to solution to these issues, but the city finds itself struggling with these problem since the past two decades and getting worse every day.

Img 5: Different scales of Delhi put in perspective




**New Delhi** has reached extreme limits of it's sprawl and is now surrounded by upcoming urban centers at its periphery, which are growing at rampant speed. New Delhi serves a much larger population which it was intended to, compared to its 1912 master plan. From being one of the best places to live in country, Delhi now is perceived far negatively because of the urban issues it can't avoid.

Every Indian city, which aspires to be growth led today, is now showing these preliminary signs of problems Delhi found itself a few decades ago which went ignored. As we trail towards more GDP benchmarked societies, **cities in India are slowly becoming more and more unlivable.** Is this future impossible to be escaped?



Img 6: A view of hidden parts of Connaught Place between the circles at night.

# Where does CP find itself today?

The cost to afford a space in CP is still a luxury, only a handful can afford. With its skyrocketing costs and rising demands are a clear indicator of the value of the place. The value has been created by the its **Social, Political, Cultural, Economical, Ecological and Accessibility** properties, which have been outstanding in the last century. But with the increasing value, the pressure has followed. The structure already has started to crumble because of losing strength and usage violations by its tenants.

A series of maintenance activities have to be done every day to make sure the market is still in shape. But the insides are decaying considerably making it impossible to ensure 100% safety of its occupants. Being the CBD, it's lack of performance/innovation/growth/scalability is also hindering the primary purpose of the place. But its heritage ties and nostalgia make it impossible to even think of a different outcome that will change its existing image in any manner.

**How would the next century of this place be, under such an existential question?**



Img 6: A view of hidden parts of Connaught Place between the circles at night.

## Brief:

# Neo Delhi

**The next wave of micro-rewrites.**

If **Imperial Delhi** (as seen today) is a design written in 1912 conceiving the imperial capital only, it is impossible to completely re-write the city again for capital of India at this scale. What it really needs today is a wave of micro-rewrites that have the ability to alleviate it from its urban issues. By **micro-rewrites** we mean smaller pieces of built environment that are ready for the population capacity it realistically will serve in the coming decades, but keeping the relevance of the place it serves. These new wave of micro-rewrites is conceived as **Neo Delhi.**

The design brief here is to propose a **re-design/re-think** the **CBD** and the heart of public life Connaught Place, based on a city that is more prepared for its **inhabitants of tomorrow.**



# Objectives

Analyzing CP based on its **1. Social, 2. Political, 3. Cultural, 4. Economical, 5. Ecological and 6. Accessibility** aspects dealt together in next century and keeping it a heart of the city.

Design question:

**Should the legacy design of CP be maintained with its current use?**

If **Yes**. How do we see it in next 50 years with the issues that are developing (pollution, population, political stability, maintaining cultural aspect in digital age, transportation of future and contributing significantly to the economy as well.)

If **No** how will it be defined as the heart of the city in next century? Define possibilities/cases/applications supporting the same.



# Ties

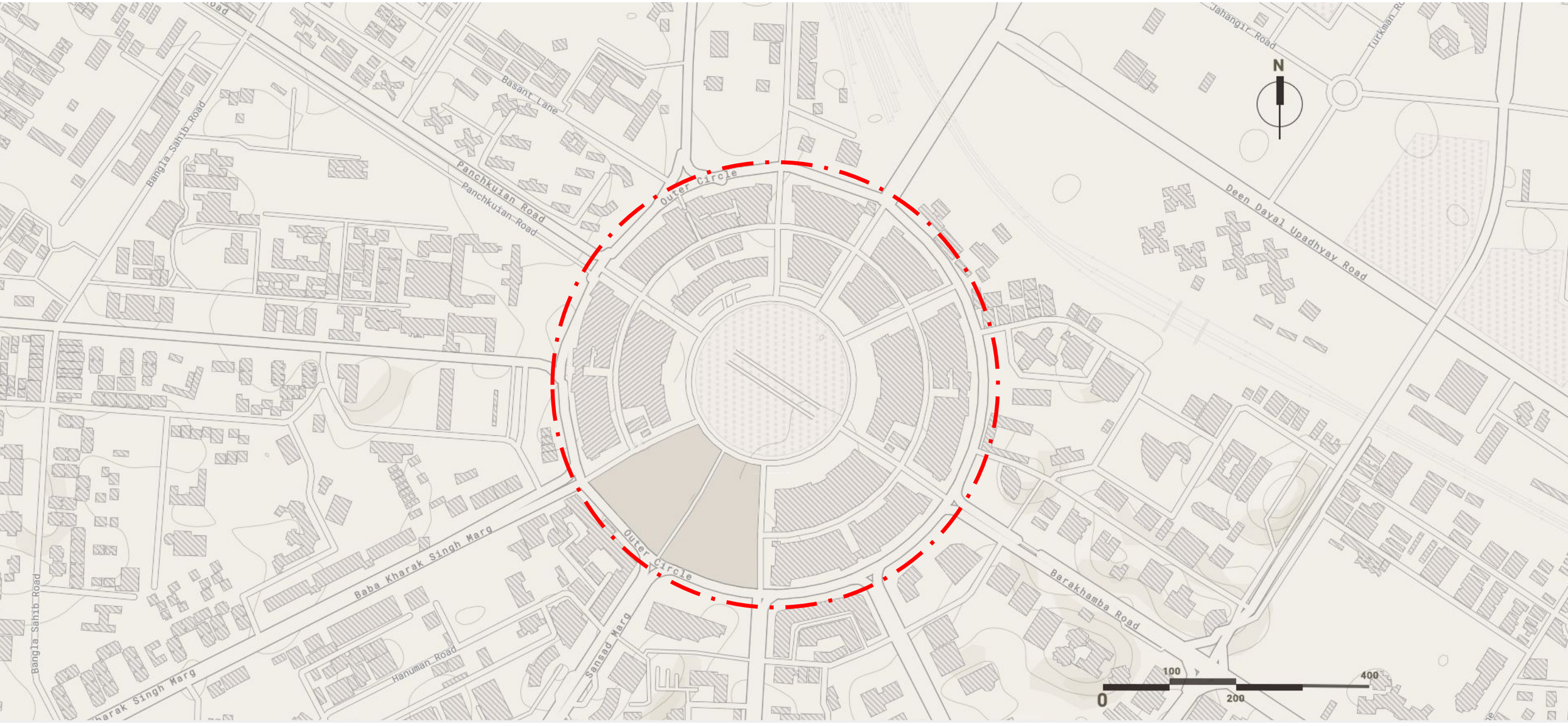
Out of all the major concerns out lying - what makes this re-write authentic are its three preliminary ties that should be considered upon before an action:

**Historic Ties:** The place belongs to the Lutyens Region of the New Delhi, which has been significant in shaping the face of modern Indian Architecture. How will the new CP would stay true to its Historic ties when it looks ahead in the next century?

**Commerce Ties:** With the place being intended to be the CBD of the capital since the beginning, the economic identity of Connaught place will be a key factor even today and tomorrow. The change here is the in kind of commerce that it will be serving, which transforms every day. Eg. Reducing needs of shop fronts because of webstores, Changing type of office spaces here because of changing work structures, etc. How will these ties transform yet stay?

**Inclusivity Ties:** While this evolution is considered, what has been one of the most consistent element of Connaught Place is the inclusivity. Connaught place still serves a vast demographic even if the prices to afford this place are skyrocketing. What are these ties and how can these be preserved?

28.632884, 77.219472
Site Area: 72 Acres




# Outcomes

Outcome should be a solution at planning level, from one or more aspects from these 6 aspects (**1. Social, 2. Political, 3. Cultural, 4. Economical, 5. Ecological and 6. Accessibility**) stated. Participants are encouraged to produce **3D generated visualizations** to show **Massing** and **Solutions** that support the issues, through sketches or diagrams. As the scale of challenge is too vast, the ideas are expected to be conceptual. No measured drawings or detailed drawings are required as submission.

# Submission

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

• A maximum of 8 sheets. – **[ 2362px** x **3544px ]** or **[ 400mm x 600mm** in **150 dpi ]** in portrait digital format (JPEG).
• Each image should be less than **15MB**
• You can find the preset PSD, AI and INDD template files in this link and the 'Additional resources folder'.

This ARF contains: Full resolution Map images, Starter Literature of Problem Statement, CAD Drawing file of Site, Site Section through CP without encroachments,  FAQ Questions, Site images.

Minimum requisites in the sheets (For a complete submission):
• Site plan
• Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
• 3D views x 4
• Cover image of size 2000 x 1000 px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1..
• Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.

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+ Use exploded views to discus multi levelled conceptual models better.
+ Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
+ Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
+ Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

**Registration page here: http://competitions.uni.xyz/neo-delhi**

**Submission Deadline: August 25, 2019**
Submission closes for Neo Delhi.

**Public Voting begins: August 26, 2019**
Submitted entries are open for voting.

**Public Voting ends: September 26, 2019**
Voting ends on this date.

**Result Announcement: October 06, 2019**
Result day!

# Rewards

**Institutional Excellence Award**

Trophy & Certificate | For each participating Studio & Best Entry Respectively

For Students only via Institutional Access

Learn more about this award here:

**http://about.uni.xyz/institutionalaccess.html**



**1500$**

**Winner**

For students & professionals



**800$**

**Runner-Up**

For students & professionals



**450$**

**People's choice**

Most appreciated - Students



**450$**

**People's choice**

Most appreciated - Professionals



**200$**

**Honorable Mention**

1. Students



**200$**

**Honorable Mention**

2. Students



**200$**

**Honorable Mention**

3. Professionals



**200$**

**Honorable Mention**

4. Professionals

## About COMMUN

**Commun** serves as a unit block for **UNI** in the field of Urban Design. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation and conceptual exchange of ideas in **urbanism, society, culture and ecology.** It is a research initiative dedicated to provide opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the boundaries of the discipline and enrich our built environment holistically; thereby opening up possibilities for promotion of urban design thought at a global level.

COMMUNE

# //Neo__Delhi




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