



The distinctive architecture of Delhi's Habitat World.

borhood residents for daily constitutionals, and a favorite spot for canoodling couples and picnicking families. Sitting pretty in the heart of New Delhi, these sprawling but well-tended acres are criss-crossed with tree-lined walking and jogging paths. Between the flowerbeds are crumbling medieval monuments - mosques, tombs, and ceremonial bridges harking back to vanished Afghan dynasties - lending the park a romantic demeanor; unsurprisingly, it's a favorite spot for romantic selfies.

Pomp and circumstance, Indian style

Despite only being introduced a decade ago, the splendid ceremony held once a week at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Estate) is reminiscent of the richest excesses of India's colonial history. Highlights of this public show of military precision include an equestrian display by the President's Body Guard - an elite mounted unit founded in 1773 to escort and protect the British governor-general, and later the presidents of independent India -and a foot drill by the Army Guard Battalion, selected from one of India's infantry regiments every three years on rotation. There's no fee but spectators are required to present photo IDs at the point of entry.

Cultural synergy at Habitat World

After all the history, take a moment to explore Delhi's contemporary culture. Part of the landmark India Habitat Centre, Habitat World was founded to promote synergies between cultural institutions and artistically minded individuals, and there's always something interesting to see. This is where Delhi's arty and scholarly set can be found admiring modern artworks at the Visual Arts Gallery, sitting in on academic presentations at the Stein auditorium or encouraging amateur performers in the centre's public amphitheatre. If you work up an appetite, you can fall back on the popular All American Diner.

Raj resonance at Delhi's Coronation Park

Almost forgotten, Delhi's calm Coronation Park was created to mark the centenary of the 1911 Delhi Durbar, a grand assembly of Indian royal families hosted by Viceroy Lord Hardinge. A major event on the colonial calendar, durbars honored the ascension of a new

monarch to the British throne, which also enshrined the king or queen as sovereign ruler of India. These grand occasions were marked by processions, elephant parades, polo tournaments and parties, but today, the parade ground slumbers quietly, except for the occasional cricket match between locals, or when promenading couples stroll by. In the heart of the 60-acre park is a stone column, marking the spot where King George V anointed Delhi as the new capital of British India, and five statues of the kings and viceroys who once ruled India, now quietly fading into history.

See India through international eyes

A string of foreign nations have established cultur-

al centers in Delhi, offering a profusion of cultural experiences, from art shows to classical concerts and seminars on history, gastronomy and cultural traditions from around India and the world. The American Center (in.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-space-india) on Kasturba Gandhi Marg, the Japan Foundation (jfindia.org.in) at Lajpat Nagar, and the Alliance Francaise (delhi.afindia.org) at KK Birla Marg are good places to start. Call ahead or visit their respective websites for schedules - concerts and performances are advertised ahead of time and most centers have well-stocked libraries and film clubs showing international movies with English subtitles. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Qawwali singers at the tomb of Hazrat Khwaja Syed Nizamuddin Auliya.