

Reimagining Sacred Heritage: Mian Mir Shrine as a Catalyst for Urban Public Space in Lahore

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Abstract:

Shrines in South Asia have historically functioned as spiritual sanctuaries and civic anchors, yet many are increasingly strained under rapid urbanization. The Mian Mir Shrine precinct in Lahore exemplifies this condition, where unregulated commercial encroachments, chronic traffic congestion, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, and limited civic amenities have undermined both accessibility and the site's sacred character. Within a 250-meter radius, the precinct reveals fragmented circulation systems, underutilized open spaces, and the absence of cohesive planning. This research advances a heritage-led regeneration framework that emphasizes sustainable mobility solutions, pedestrian-friendly circulation, inclusive community plazas, Mughal-inspired urban furniture, intuitive wayfinding systems, and resilient civic infrastructure. By positioning the shrine as a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive urban regeneration, the study illustrates how sacred heritage can guide governance strategies, enhance livability, and strengthen cultural identity. Beyond Mian Mir, the findings present a **transferable model** for revitalizing historic precincts facing similar pressures, contributing to global discourse on urban regeneration, heritage conservation, and sustainable city futures.

Keywords: Urban Regeneration, Heritage-Led Conservation, Sustainable Public Spaces, Livability and Inclusivity, Governance and Mobility, Cultural Identity, Mian Mir Shrine, Lahore

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Sacred shrines in South Asia have historically operated as both spiritual sanctuaries and civic anchors. Beyond their religious functions, shrines have long provided spaces for cultural interaction, social gatherings, and communal exchange. Lahore, a historic Mughal city, embodies this tradition through its multiple shrine precincts, each contributing to the city's cultural and spatial identity. Among these, the Mian Mir Shrine holds exceptional importance, dedicated to Hazrat Mian Mir, a 17th-century Sufi saint revered across South Asia.

Over the centuries, the precinct has attracted pilgrims, devotees, and citizens alike, reinforcing its dual role as a spiritual and civic node. However, rapid urbanization, unchecked encroachments, and infrastructural neglect have significantly undermined its sanctity and accessibility. In its present condition, the shrine precinct exemplifies how unplanned urban growth and inadequate governance erode both heritage and public life.

Despite its historic and cultural importance, the Mian Mir Shrine precinct suffers from multiple urban challenges. Unregulated commercial encroachments, chronic traffic congestion, fragmented pedestrian circulation, inadequate civic amenities, and a lack of cohesive planning have diminished its role as both a sacred and civic landmark. The absence of integrated urban strategies has led to functional fragmentation, environmental degradation, and the marginalization of community participation in shaping the shrine's future.

This research seeks to Investigate the socio-spatial challenges of the Mian Mir Shrine precinct within a 250-meter radius. Moreover, propose a heritage-led regeneration model that balances conservation with contemporary urban needs. Suggest design interventions for sustainable mobility, inclusive public space, and resilient civic infrastructure. Furthermore, Re-establish the shrine precinct as a catalyst for sustainable and culturally grounded urban regeneration in Lahore.

Scope and Relevance of Research

It is significant research for urban planners, conservationists, heritage managers, and local governance institutions. By providing a replicable model of heritage-led regeneration, the study not only addresses local challenges but also contributes to the global discourse on urban sustainability, cultural identity, and public space transformation. Communities around the shrine, municipal authorities, and visitors will directly benefit from improved accessibility, inclusivity, and livability.

This study adopts mixed-methods research design, integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The rationale for this design lies in the complexity of the Mian Mir Shrine precinct, where challenges are not only spatial and infrastructural but also socio-cultural. A combination of site-based surveys, spatial mapping, and stakeholder interviews enables a holistic understanding of the shrine as both a sacred and civic node.

2. Heritage and Urban Regeneration

Urban regeneration and heritage conservation have been widely examined in academic discourse, particularly in contexts where rapid urbanization threatens historic cores. Scholars argue that heritage-led regeneration not only safeguards cultural identity but also catalyzes broader urban sustainability¹.

Heritage precincts in cities are increasingly viewed as anchors of urban resilience and identity emphasizes that urban regeneration projects rooted in cultural heritage provide not only aesthetic and symbolic value but also long-term socio-economic benefits². Similarly, highlights that heritage-led approaches must balance conservation with contemporary urban needs, particularly in growing cities of the Global South.³

International precedents demonstrate this synergy. The Medina precinct in Fez, Morocco, illustrates how heritage sites can be reactivated through pedestrianization, inclusive public spaces, and community-oriented governance⁴. Similarly, Istanbul's urban regeneration of Süleymaniye Mosque precinct reflects how historic religious cores can be integrated into sustainable mobility networks while retaining spiritual character⁵. These cases provide transferable lessons for Lahore's shrine precincts.

¹ (Ashworth, 2011; Pendlebury, 2013)

² Ashworth (2011)

³ Pendlebury (2013)

⁴ (UNESCO, 2015)

⁵ (Özcan, 2014)



Figure 1: Side gate of Mian Mir shrine, by Author



Figure 2: Gate of residence of mian mir, by Author

2.1 Sacred Precincts in South Asia

Shrines across South Asia historically functioned as both spiritual sanctuaries and civic anchors⁶ notes that shrine complexes in Pakistan embody a unique blend of devotional, commercial, and social life, yet urban encroachment and weak governance increasingly undermine their roles. Heritage-led planning approaches have been recommended to preserve these dual identities.

Within Lahore, shrines like Data Darbar have undergone urban interventions that expanded plazas and regulated circulation. While these interventions improved accessibility for pilgrims, critiques highlight limited inclusivity and a lack of community engagement in planning⁷. Similarly, the Shahe Iran Rahguzar **project** demonstrated the potential of integrating shrine precincts into larger circulation systems, yet also revealed tensions between commercialization and preservation of sacred ambiance.

These local case studies emphasize that shrine-led regeneration must move beyond infrastructure provision, incorporating cultural identity and community participation as central drivers.

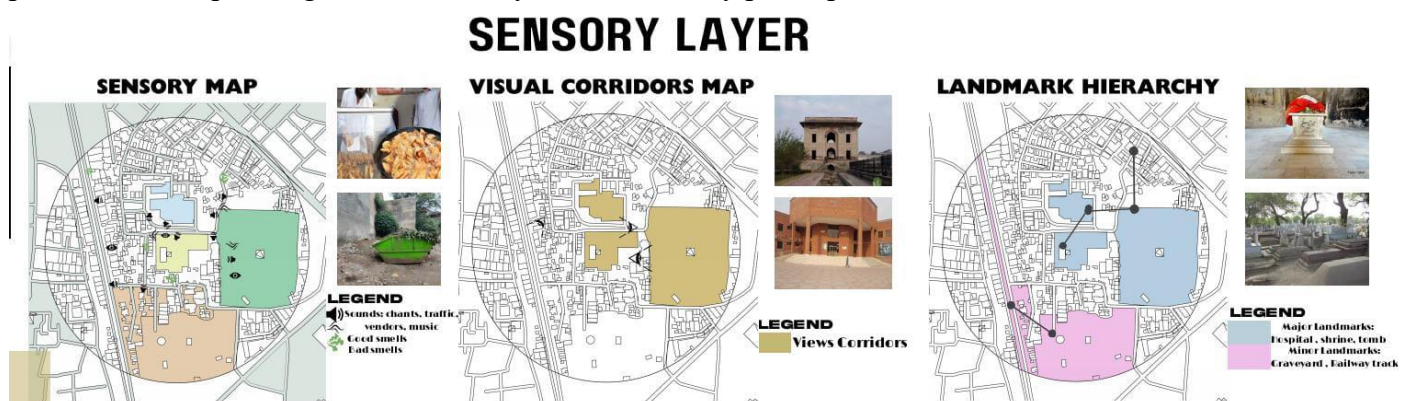


Figure 3: Photoshop image of survey of sensory layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

2.2 Morphology of Public Spaces in Lahore

In the study “Evolving Morphologies: Public Squares of the Walled City of Lahore,” cartographic and morphological analyses are employed to trace the transformation of Lahore’s historic squares

⁶ Qureshi (2019)

⁷ (Khan & Mahmood, 2018)

over time. The findings reveal that these public spaces historically functioned as dynamic, multifunctional urban nodes shaped by cultural traditions, economic activity, and civic engagement. The study contends that any contemporary interventions within Lahore's historic core must holistically address both the tangible physical fabric and the intangible socio-cultural dimensions that have historically defined its urban form. Sajjad, Naz, and Anjum (2020)⁸, This morphogenetic perspective is directly relevant to the Mian Mir Shrine, where fragmented circulation and underutilized open spaces mirror the challenges observed in Lahore's Walled City. Recognizing the shrine precinct as a historic civic node aligns with the idea that regeneration should preserve the organic morphology of public spaces while adapting them to contemporary urban needs.

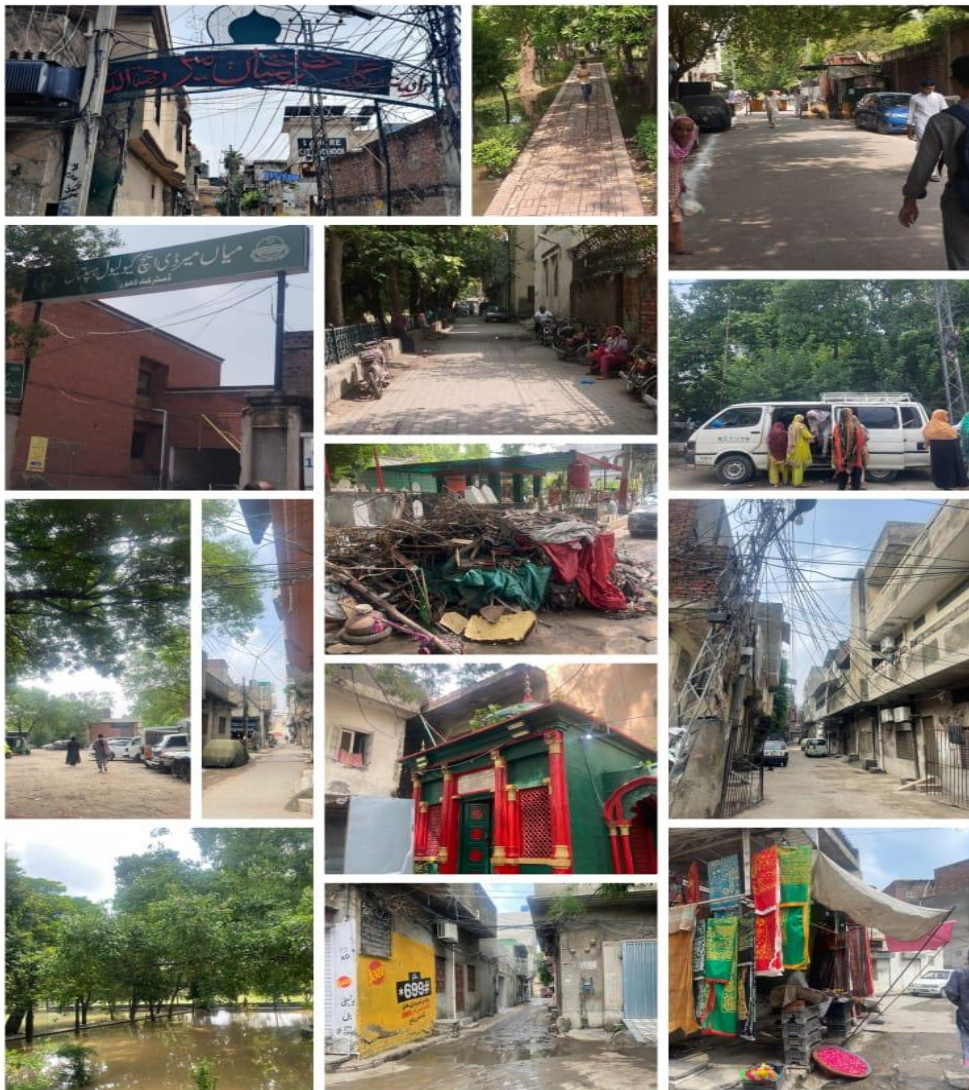


Figure 4: Collage of different areas around Mian Mir Shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

⁸ Sajjad, Naz, and Anjum (2020)

2.3: Heritage-Led Regeneration in Pakistan

In Pakistan, heritage conservation has often been approached through architectural restoration, with limited integration into wider urban systems highlights the shortcomings of heritage policies that neglect mobility, inclusivity, and governance⁹. More recent approaches, however, advocate for precinct-level regeneration that considers land use, circulation, and socio-cultural dynamics. The Lahore Walled City Authority projects demonstrate this shift, yet their replication remains limited outside the Walled City core.

The Mian Mir Shrine case extends this discourse by examining how a non-Walled City heritage site can serve as a catalyst for inclusive urban regeneration. By integrating mobility, governance, and cultural identity, the study seeks to fill the research gap between architectural conservation and comprehensive precinct revitalization.

While global and local literature underscores the potential of heritage-led regeneration, there remains limited scholarship on shrine precincts in Lahore outside the Walled City. Existing studies focus on either architectural conservation or urban mobility, with insufficient emphasis on how spiritual sanctuaries can serve as catalysts for sustainable public space transformation. This study addresses that gap by proposing a heritage-led regeneration framework for the Mian Mir Shrine, blending conservation, mobility, inclusivity, and governance.

3. Architectural Framework of study:

The research is geographically limited to a 250-meter radius around the Mian Mir Shrine in Lahore. This radius encompasses circulation systems, open spaces, commercial activities, and adjacent civic infrastructure that directly influence the shrine's accessibility and sanctity.

3.3 3.1 Primary Data Collection Methods

The primary data for this study was obtained through a combination of site-based surveys, structured interviews, and visual documentation.

- **Site Surveys:** Comprehensive field surveys were conducted to map existing land use patterns, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, spatial encroachments, and open spaces. These surveys provided a foundational understanding of the site's functional and spatial dynamics.
- **Structured Interviews:** Interviews were systematically carried out with shrine visitors, local vendors, nearby residents, and relevant municipal authorities. The objective was to gather diverse perspectives regarding accessibility, safety concerns, and the community's spatial and social needs.
- **Visual Documentation:** A series of photographs and observational sketches were produced to visually record the site's conditions, including pedestrian-vehicular conflicts, encroached areas, and underutilized open spaces. This visual data supported the qualitative analysis and aided in identifying critical spatial issues

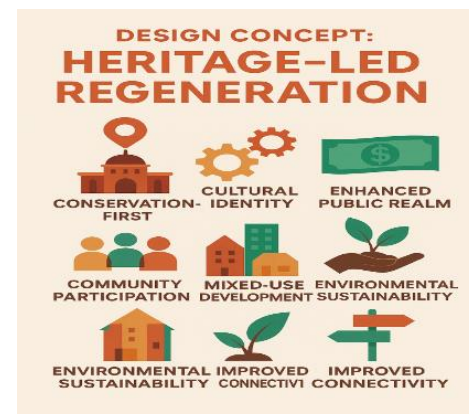
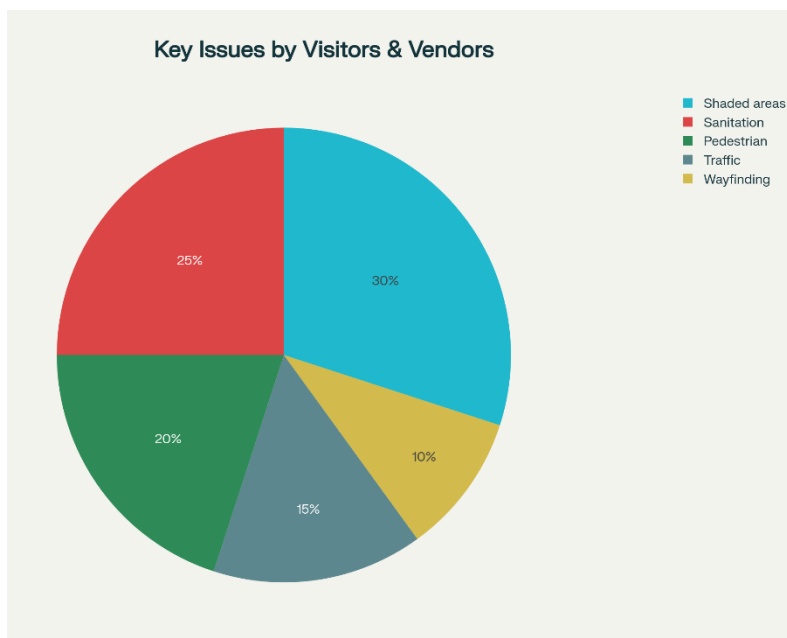


Figure 5: Ai generated by Author, Dated August 2025

⁹ Jamil (2017)



Pie Chart 1: showing percentages of key issues by visitors , prepared by Author , August 2025

3.2 Secondary Data Collection Methods

Secondary data were gathered through a review of archival materials, planning documents, and relevant scholarly sources to contextualize the study within its historical and spatial framework.

- **Archival Research:** Historical records and literature concerning the evolution and significance of the Mian Mir Shrine were examined to understand its cultural and urban transformation over time.
- **Planning Documents and Official Records:** Municipal and development authority reports, zoning plans, and heritage conservation records were analyzed to identify existing policies, land-use regulations, and spatial planning frameworks.
- **Published Research Articles:** Relevant academic studies, reports, and case analyses were reviewed to establish theoretical grounding and to compare local findings with broader research trends.

3.3 Sampling Strategy

The study adopted a **purposive sampling** approach, focusing on stakeholders directly associated with the Mian Mir Shrine precinct. This method ensured that responses were contextually relevant and captured the diversity of user experiences.

- **Visitors / Pilgrims:** A total of 50 respondents representing varied age groups and genders were surveyed to understand user experience and mobility challenges.
- **Vendors / Shopkeepers:** Fifteen respondents, encompassing both formal and informal commercial actors, were interviewed to assess economic dependencies and spatial constraints within the precinct.

3.4 Tools and Instruments

A combination of quantitative and qualitative tools was employed to ensure comprehensive data collection and analysis.

- **Questionnaires:** Structured questionnaires were designed around core themes including accessibility, amenities, mobility patterns, and cultural perception.
- **GIS Mapping:** Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were utilized for spatial analysis, enabling the mapping of land-use distribution, circulation networks, and encroachment zones.
- **AutoCAD and Manual Sketches:** Digital drawings and hand-rendered sketches were produced to visualize circulation systems, site dynamics, and proposed design interventions.
- **SWOT Analysis:** A strategic analytical framework was applied to identify the precinct's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, informing the development of context-sensitive recommendations.

3.5 Data Analysis Techniques

A combination of spatial, statistical, and qualitative analytical techniques was adopted to derive meaningful insights from the collected data.

- **Spatial Analysis:** Conducted through GIS to map circulation conflicts, encroachment patterns, and underutilized open spaces within the study area.
- **Descriptive Statistics:** Quantitative data from surveys were analyzed to evaluate user perceptions of accessibility, safety, and available amenities.
- **Thematic Coding:** Interview transcripts were coded to extract recurring themes related to spiritual identity, inclusivity, governance, and spatial experience.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Findings were benchmarked against local precedents such as Data Darbar and Shahe Iran Rahguzar, as well as international case studies including Fez and Istanbul, to identify best practices and contextual parallels.

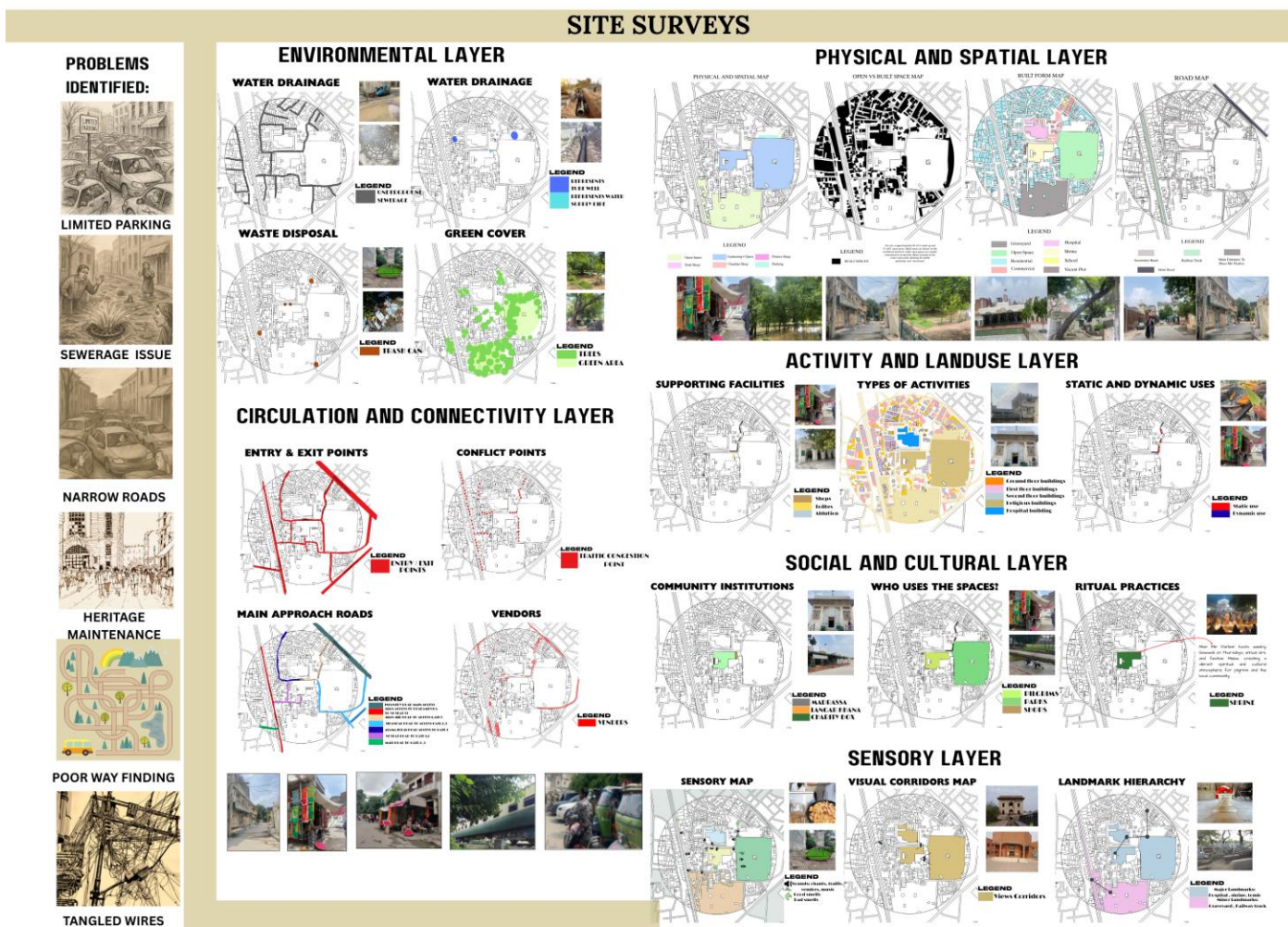


Figure 6: Photoshop image of surveys of urban layers near Mian Mir shrine and identified problems, prepared by Author, August 2025

5. Synthesis of Empirical Findings:

The analysis of data derived from site surveys, stakeholder interviews, visual documentation, and spatial mapping highlights multiple layers of challenges and opportunities within the 250-meter radius of the Mian Mir Shrine precinct. The findings reflect both the tangible spatial conditions and the intangible socio-cultural dynamics influencing the area's functioning.

To ensure clarity and depth, the results have been organized into key thematic categories that collectively illustrate the shrine's spatial character, community interactions, and development potential. These themes include:

5.1 Encroachments and Land Use

- **Encroachments:** Approximately **20% of the circulation space** is occupied by informal vendors and roadside stalls. These activities are concentrated along the main road leading to the shrine, creating localized congestion and restricting smooth pedestrian flow.
- **Commercial Pressure:** While commercialization is not widespread across the entire precinct, it is highly concentrated along the shrine's primary access road. The clustering of stalls and shops here alters the visitor's approach, often overshadowing the spiritual experience with commercial activity.

- **Land Use Fragmentation:** The shrine's immediate surroundings show inconsistencies in land utilization. Several adjacent plots remain underdeveloped or are used informally as parking. Notably, the Tomb of Nadira Begum, located next to the shrine, is an underutilized heritage asset. Despite its historical and architectural value, the tomb and its garden are poorly integrated into the shrine precinct's civic and cultural fabric. The tomb's Mughal Chahar Bagh garden layout holds potential to be reactivated as a formal gathering space during shrine-related events such as Urs celebrations and melas. This adaptive reuse would not only strengthen heritage-led regeneration but also ease pressure on the shrine's main courtyard during peak gatherings.

5.2 Traffic and Mobility Challenges

- **Traffic Congestion:** Peak congestion was observed at the shrine's main entrance and at road junctions where vehicular and pedestrian flows intersect.
- **Vehicular Dominance:** Streets designed originally for pedestrian access are now dominated by motorbikes, rickshaws, and cars.
- **Lack of Pedestrian Infrastructure:** Sidewalks are either narrow, discontinuous, or completely absent. Devotees often walk on roads, creating unsafe conditions.

5.3 Open Spaces and Public Realm

- **Underutilized Spaces:** Several open plots near the shrine remain vacant or poorly maintained, representing missed opportunities for community plazas, shaded courtyards, or gathering areas.
- **Absence of Urban Furniture:** The precinct lacks benches, shaded seating, drinking water points, and waste management systems, diminishing its livability and comfort for visitors.
- **Poor Wayfinding:** No signage or organized circulation plan exists, leading to confusion for first-time visitors and pilgrims.

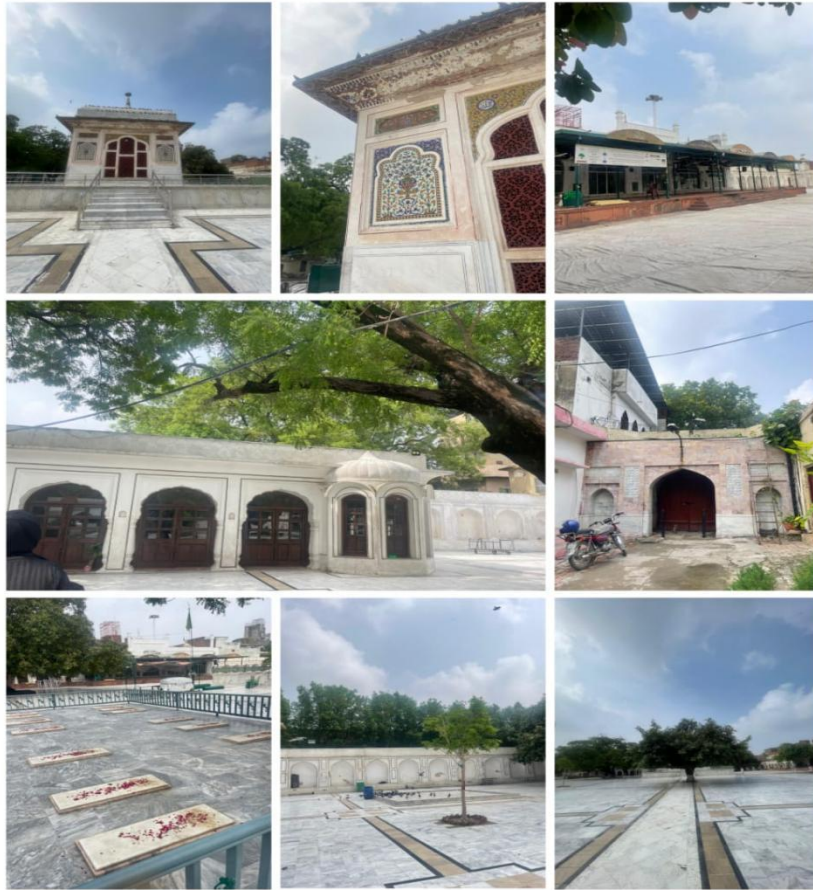


Figure 7: Collage of different areas inside Mian Mir Shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

5.4 Civic Amenities

- **Inadequate Facilities:** Toilets and ablution spaces are limited and insufficient for the large number of devotees, particularly during Urs gatherings.
- **Waste Management:** Garbage disposal is inconsistent, with visible litter around market areas.
- **Lighting Infrastructure:** Poor lighting reduces safety for visitors at night, contributing to a sense of neglect.

5.5 Community and Stakeholder Insights

Findings from interviews and surveys reflect deep community concerns:

- **Visitors:** Expressed the need for shaded pedestrian walkways, more sitting areas, and better sanitation facilities.
- **Vendors:** Acknowledged their dependence on shrine-related commerce but also recognized that unregulated stalls create circulation problems.
- **Community Perception:** Stakeholders strongly emphasized preserving the **spiritual sanctity** of the shrine while simultaneously upgrading its civic infrastructure.

5.6 Comparative Findings (Case Studies)

- **Data Darbar:** Intervention through plaza expansion improved capacity but failed to fully address pedestrian comfort and inclusivity.



Figure 8: Aerial view of Data Darbar ,
Source:Government of Pakistan (2022)

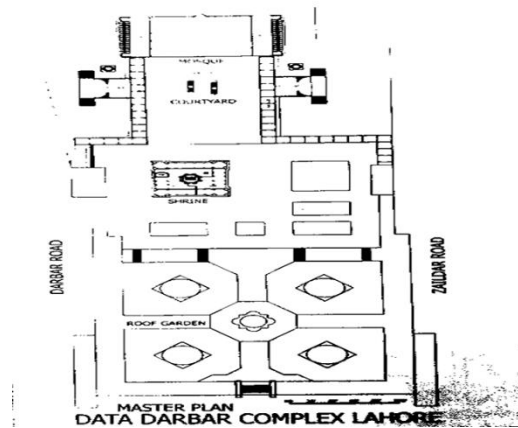
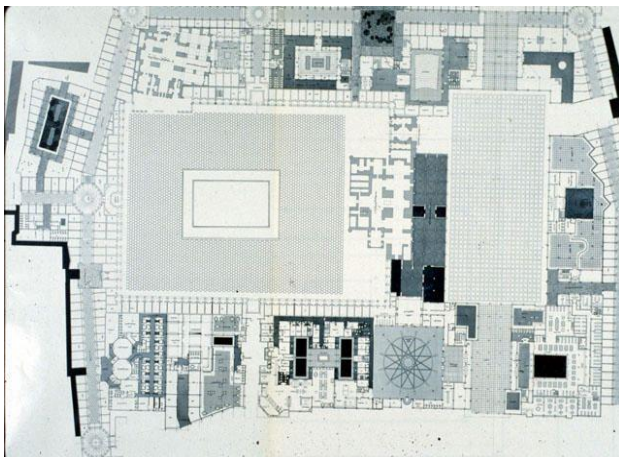


Figure9: Masterplan of Data Darbar
Source:Government of Pakistan (2022)

Shahe Iran Rahguzar: Demonstrated how circulation corridors can be redefined, though commercialization pressures continued to affect sacred



ambiance.

Figure 10 : Masterplan and main entrance of Shah e Iran Rahguzar , Source:
<https://www.archnet.org>

- **Application to Mian Mir:** The shrine precinct shares similar pressures of commercialization and congestion it lacks formal regeneration initiatives — making it a critical case for testing a **heritage-led regeneration model**.

6. Findings and Spatial Implications

The analysis of surveys, interviews, and site observations within a **250-meter radius of the Mian Mir Shrine precinct** reveals the following key findings:

- **Encroachments:** Around **20% of circulation space** is occupied by informal vendors and stalls, concentrated along the main approach road to the shrine.
- **Commercialization:** Commercial activity is localized but creates congestion and alters the spiritual ambiance at the shrine's entrance.

- **Land Use Issues:** Adjacent plots remain underutilized, including the historically significant **Tomb of Nadira Begum**, whose Mughal **Chahar Bagh garden** could be reactivated as a formal gathering space during Urs and melas.
- **Traffic & Mobility:** Vehicular dominance at the shrine entrance and fragmented pedestrian infrastructure restrict safe and efficient access.
- **Public Realm Deficiency:** Lack of shaded seating, signage, lighting, sanitation, and waste management weakens the visitor experience and reduces livability.
- **Community Insights:** Visitors demand comfort (shade, seating, toilets), vendors acknowledge encroachment issues but rely on shrine-based commerce, while authorities highlight weak coordination among municipal departments.
- **Comparative Lessons:** Like Data Darbar and Shahe Iran Rahguzar, Mian Mir Shrine faces similar commercialization and congestion pressures but lacks structured governance and regeneration efforts.



Figure 11: Photoshop image of survey of social and cultural layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

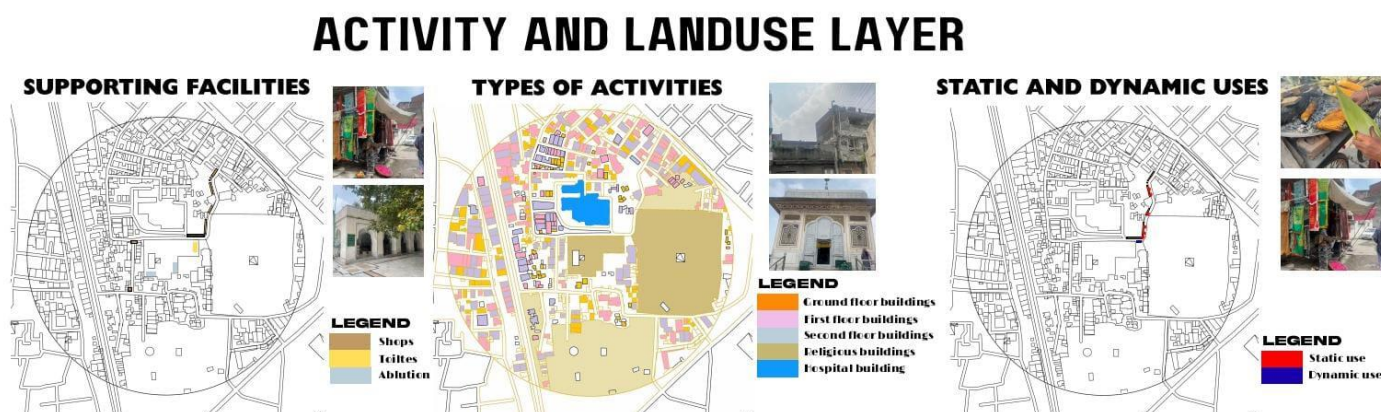


Figure 12: Photoshop image of survey of activity and landuse layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

7. Discussion / Analysis

The findings from the Mian Mir Shrine precinct underscore the dual nature of shrines in South Asia as both **sacred sanctuaries** and **civic anchors**. The current conditions of congestion, fragmented circulation, and lack of amenities reveal how unchecked urbanization and weak governance erode this dual identity. When analyzed alongside literature and precedent studies, several key insights emerge:

7.1 Encroachments and Localized Commercialization

Encroachments occupying roughly **20% of circulation space** mirror the challenges observed in other shrine precincts such as **Data Darbar**. While localized commercial activity sustains livelihoods, its concentration along the shrine's approach road alters the visitor experience and undermines spiritual sanctity¹⁰ notes, shrines must balance their roles as devotional and economic spaces, requiring governance frameworks that regulate commerce without displacing community livelihoods.

7.2 Land Use and the Underutilized Tomb of Nadira Begum

The presence of the **Tomb of Nadira Begum**, with its Mughal **Chahar Bagh** garden, highlights the untapped potential of integrating adjacent heritage assets into regeneration strategies. While currently underutilized, this garden could host formal gatherings such as Urs celebrations and melas, easing pressure on the shrine's main courtyard. This resonates with¹¹ argument that Lahore's historic public squares evolved as **multifunctional civic nodes**, shaped by cultural and social practices. Reactivating the Chahar Bagh would therefore not only preserve heritage but also revive its social logic.

PHYSICAL AND SPATIAL LAYER

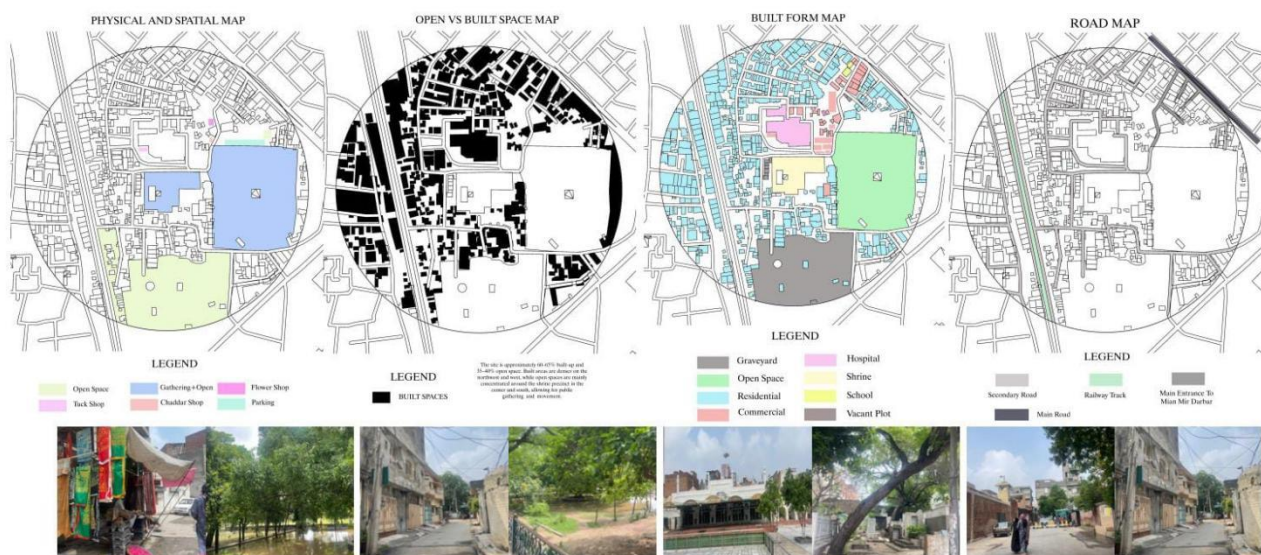


Figure 13: Photoshop image of survey of physical and spatial layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

7.3 Mobility and Pedestrian Prioritization

The dominance of motorized vehicles at the shrine entrance, coupled with inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, reveals a disconnect between urban mobility and heritage preservation. This condition parallels challenges identified in the Shahe Iran Rahguzar project, where circulation improvements were undermined by commercialization. Global precedents, such as the Medina of Fez¹², demonstrate that pedestrian-friendly regeneration around sacred cores can restore both accessibility and sanctity while enhancing livability.

¹⁰ Qureshi (2019)

¹¹ Sajjad, Naz, and Anjum's (2020)

¹² (UNESCO, 2015)

CIRCULATION AND CONNECTIVITY LAYER

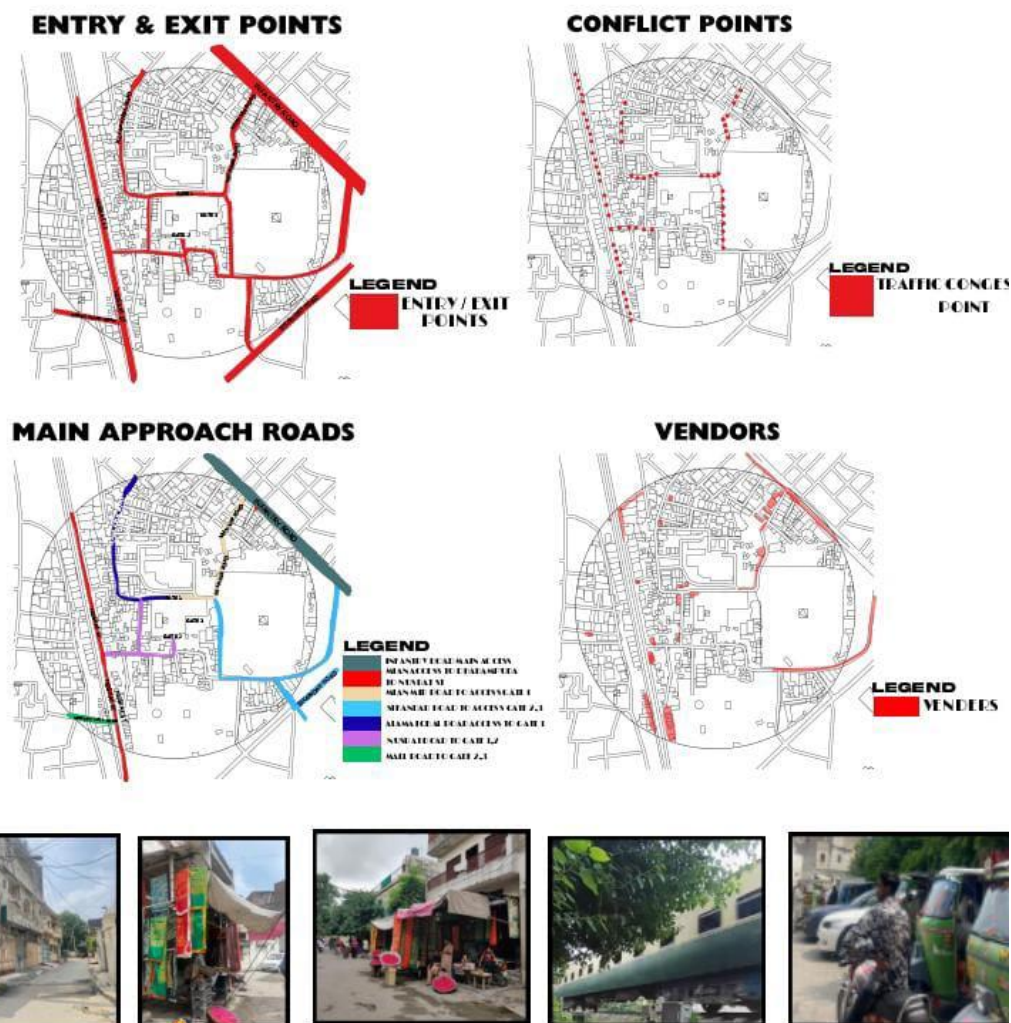


Figure 14: Photoshop image of survey of circulation and connectivity layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

7.4 Civic Amenities and Livability

Survey results indicate strong community demand for shaded seating, sanitation, waste management, and wayfinding systems. These deficiencies reduce the shrine's inclusivity, particularly for women, children, and elderly visitors. As argues, sustainable regeneration depends not only on preserving physical heritage but also on ensuring comfort and accessibility for diverse user groups. Addressing these amenities would align the shrine precinct with global principles of inclusive public space design.¹³

¹³ Ashworth (2011)

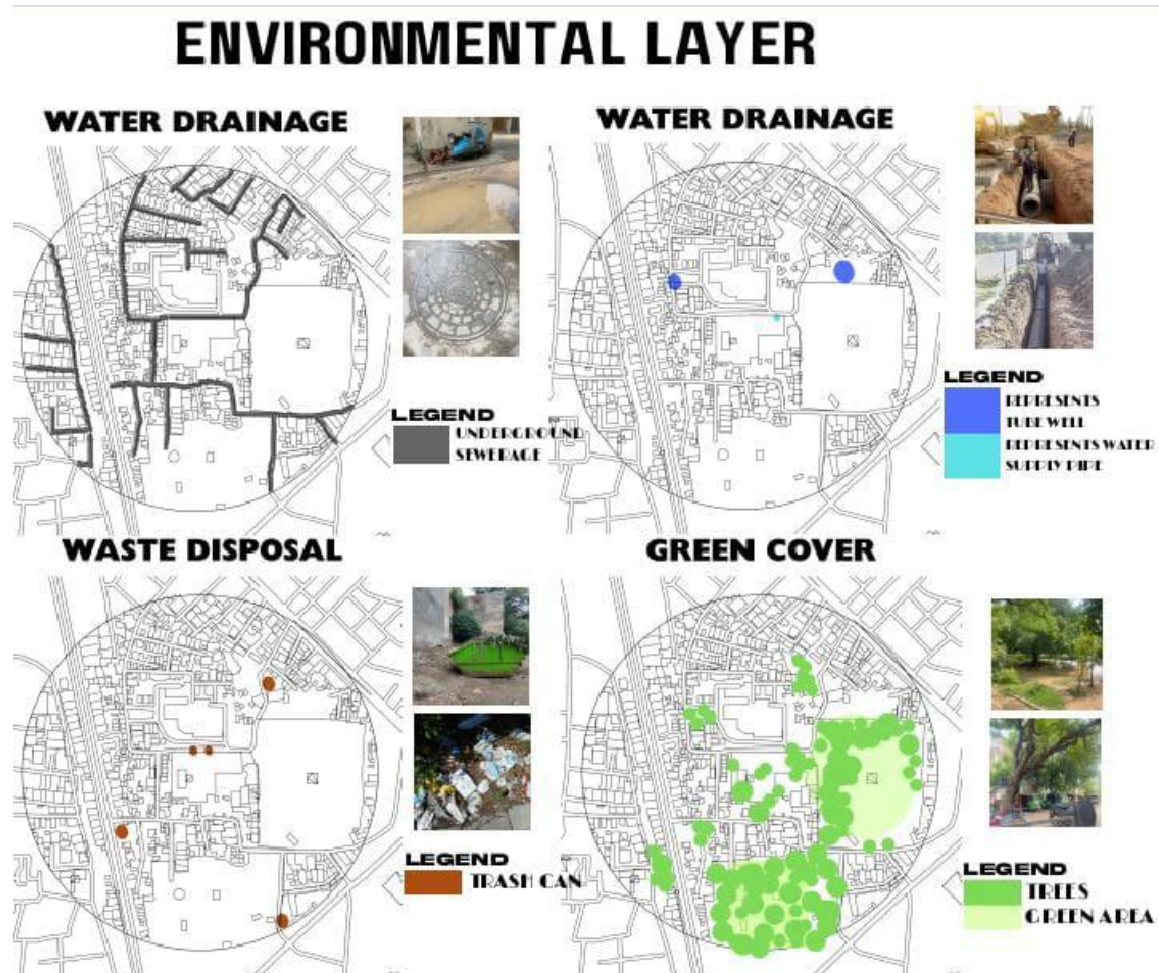


Figure 15: Photoshop image of survey of environmental layers near Mian Mir shrine, prepared by Author, August 2025

7.5 Governance and Community Participation

Interviews with authorities revealed a lack of inter-departmental coordination in managing the precinct. Vendors acknowledged encroachment pressures but emphasized their dependence on shrine-based commerce. These perspectives highlight the need for **participatory governance models**, where local authorities, community groups, and vendors collaborate in managing space¹⁴ stresses that heritage-led regeneration must extend beyond conservation to encompass governance frameworks that ensure inclusivity and resilience.

7.6 Towards a Heritage-Led Regeneration Framework

The synthesis of findings and literature suggests that the Mian Mir Shrine can serve as a **catalyst for urban regeneration** if interventions align with its spiritual identity, cultural significance, and civic potential. By integrating lessons from Data Darbar, Shahe Iran Rahguzar, and global precedents, the study proposes a framework centered on:

- **Pedestrian-friendly circulation** with regulated vehicular access.
- **Adaptive reuse** of the Nadira Begum Chahar Bagh garden for formal gatherings.
- **Resilient civic infrastructure** (toilets, lighting, shaded seating, waste management).
- **Governance reforms** promoting stakeholder participation.

¹⁴ Pendlebury (2013)

8. Conclusions & Recommendations

This research explored the regeneration potential of the **Mian Mir Shrine precinct** within a 250-meter radius, emphasizing its dual identity as a sacred space and an urban public realm. The study revealed persistent challenges such as localized encroachments, fragmented land use, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, insufficient civic amenities, and weak governance. Despite these constraints, the precinct holds significant opportunities for heritage-led regeneration.

Conclusions:

- The shrine precinct is under pressure from commercialization, but this activity remains localized along the main access road, indicating scope for regulation rather than displacement.
- The **Tomb of Nadira Begum** and its Mughal **Chahar Bagh garden** remain underutilized, representing a missed opportunity for cultural programming and spillover gatherings during Urs and melas.
- Encroachments (20%) and poor pedestrian pathways highlight the need for circulation redesign, with pedestrian priority as a central strategy.
- Lack of resilient civic infrastructure — toilets, shaded seating, waste management, and signage — reduces accessibility and inclusivity, particularly for women, elderly, and differently-abled visitors.
- Governance remains fragmented, with weak inter-departmental coordination and limited community involvement in precinct management.

Recommendations:

- **Pedestrianization Strategy:** Redesign the approach road to prioritize pedestrians and manage vehicular flows, supported by shaded walkways and seating.
- **Adaptive Reuse of Nadira Begum Tomb Garden:** Reactivate the Chahar Bagh as a formal gathering space for Urs, melas, and cultural programs, thereby reducing pressure on the shrine courtyard.
- **Civic Infrastructure Upgrade:** Introduce gender-inclusive sanitation facilities, shaded rest areas, lighting, and waste management systems to enhance visitor experience.
- **Integrated Governance Model:** Establish a participatory governance framework involving local authorities, community representatives, vendors, and shrine administration for coordinated decision-making.
- **Heritage-Led Regeneration Framework:** Use the shrine precinct as a pilot project for heritage-led urban renewal in Lahore, contributing to sustainable urban futures while preserving cultural identity.



Figure 16: Ai generated by Author, Dated August 2025

DESIGN PROPOSAL

MIAN MIR SHRINE

HISTORY OF ISLAMIC STAR

- Originated with Sumerians as a symbol of Venus.
- Ottomans popularized it in architecture and flags.
- Adopted by Muslim countries, later linked to Islam by Europeans.
- Now widely seen as an Islamic symbol.

CONCEPT: HERITAGE-LED REGENERATION

"An urban approach that revitalizes areas by preserving and reusing historical and cultural assets."

Key Features :

- Conservation
- Cultural Identity
- Economic uplift
- Enhanced public realm
- Community participation
- Environmental sustainability
- Improved connectivity

Concept/Idea Behind the Star

- Rub-et-Hizb: 8-pointed star made of two overlapping squares.
- Used in **Quranic recitation**; seen in Islamic art since Umayyad era.
- Also called **Seal of the Prophets** or Seal of Solomon.
- Symbolizes God's throne and 8 angels on Judgment Day.

CONCEPT BEHIND SHRINE

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"EIGHT HEAVENS"

ESTIMATED VISITORS RATIO FOR MIAN MIR SHRINE

DATE	PERCENTAGE	ESTIMATED VISITORS	ESTIMATED VISITORS PER HOUR
2025	65%	525	6000
2026	25%	125	2500
2027	10%	50	1000

BUBBLE DIAGRAM

FACADE TREATMENT

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- Conservation of Heritage Fabric
- Strengthening Cultural Identity
- Economic Revitalization & Local Commerce
- Enhanced Public Realm & Open Spaces
- Community Participation & Inclusivity
- Environmental Sustainability & Resilience
- Improved Connectivity & Wayfinding
- Pilgrim Management & Festival Infrastructure
- Streetscape Design & Pedestrian Priority
- Safety, Security in Spaces

USER DIAGRAM

ZONING DIAGRAM

RAIN WATER HARVESTING

MASTER PLAN:

RAIL TRACK FURNITURE AND GREENERY

MIX-USE BUILDING 1395577

PARKING AREA 280247

TOMB OF MADRAH AL-BELAW

MUGHAL STYLE STREET

MIX-USE BUILDING

PARKING

GAZEBO

CHAHAR-BAGH

STREET FURNITURE

STREET VIEWS

WAY FINDING

PATTERNED PASSAGEWAY

STAR FOUNTAINS

FRAMED ENTRANCE

Figure 17:Photoshop image of Proposed Masterplan of Mian Mir shrine precinct, prepared by Author, August 2025

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