Message from INTACH

We are pleased to share the seventh issue of the College Heritage Volunteer e-Newsletter, ‘Parampara’. It highlights the heritage activities undertaken by colleges and other contributions from students. We appreciate the efforts of the history departments of 14 colleges of the University of Delhi (DU).

Hope you are safe, healthy and well. Please take good care of yourself and those around you, while we are trying our best to cope with the situation. These are difficult moments and hope we may collectively strive to overcome the challenges in the post Covid landscape.

Parampara stands for heritage and supporting a legacy for heritage preservation. We conclude this message with the Heritage and Citizenship Pledge - which we hope continues to inspire and guide us in our Heritage Volunteering endeavours -

“As a responsible citizen of India … I care for the wonders of nature that are mine to protect. I am proud of the richness of culture and heritage that I promise to respect. I pledge to conserve and preserve the heritage of our country. I will save, protect and promote - the heritage of India, which is our national wealth....”

Thank you once again – to all the colleges, faculty members and students for your participation in the INTACH College Heritage Volunteer Training Programme (17 January 2020). We appreciate your contribution and your feedbacks.

Please do stay in touch with HECS through:
• Facebook: www.facebook.com/Young-INTACH-1560600330928597/
• Instagram: www.instagram.com/intach_hecs
• Young intach webpage: www.youngintach.org
**Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is a membership organisation of volunteers, committed towards preserving and conserving, art and cultural heritage in India. Established in 1984, INTACH protects unprotected monuments and sites, preserves and conserves the environment and living heritage, and fosters an awareness and appreciation of our past.

INTACH’s mission to conserve heritage is premised on the belief that living in harmony with heritage enhances the quality of life and is the duty of every Indian citizen.

INTACH has successfully undertaken numerous heritage restoration, preservation and awareness initiatives. It has widened its membership-base to involve more individuals to address its core heritage concerns.

Membership is important, as it gives weight to INTACH’s representation as a premier Indian institution dedicated to preserve and conserve the country’s art and cultural heritage. The representation must stretch across social strata and not remain only with the educated elite."

[IntACH Chapter guidelines]

For more information, visit:

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**INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY (IHA)**

INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) was set up in 2012, undertakes trainings, research and capacity building in all aspects of heritage conservation management, specialist academic institutions, authorities, departments and organizations (government and non-government), crafts people, the general public and communities.

Envisioned as a centre of excellence and one of the first of its kinds in the country, IHA aims at strengthening the implementation of INTACH objectives.

Capacity building by developing skills through training programmes.

Develop guidelines for conservation training at various levels.

Special courses on conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage in different parts of the country.

For more information, visit:
http://heritage.intach.org/

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**HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE**

Education is at the heart of INTACH’s endeavours to promote heritage.

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) set up in 1998, works towards raising heritage awareness among undergraduate college students and faculty members. Training them to become heritage volunteers to lead a nation-wide movement for heritage protection and promotion.

- Training and capacity building workshops for college heritage volunteers.
- Interactive forums on heritage conservation and management.
- Cultural Heritage walks for students.
- Design and support heritage activities for colleges.

For more information, visit:
http://www.youngintach.org
INTACH's Heritage Volunteer Training is a pioneering initiative undertaken with the support and endorsement of the Government of India in November 2012. It aims at sensitising youth to protect their heritage and train them to lead a nation-wide movement for heritage conservation and preservation. Since its launch, over 2,000 undergraduate student volunteers have been trained through several workshops organised by INTACH.

The e-newsletter is a celebration of our efforts and the work undertaken by students, as well as, college faculty members. We truly appreciate your volunteering spirit and commitment to protect heritage. Without you, it would not be possible to embark on this journey.

We do believe all our project cities are valuable links who have been undertaking interesting work. In the financial year – 2019/20, reached out to 7 cities, over 500 students, over 100 faculty members and 50 institutions.

INTACH HECS invites more volunteers to become a part of the college heritage volunteer programme and unleash –
A nation-wide movement to protect, promote and safeguard heritage.

College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop in Delhi

The College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop was organised by INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) was held on 17 January 2020 at INTACH New Delhi. It was attended by 96 participants (representing 14 colleges - 12 faculty members and 84 college students) from Delhi University. A detailed presentation on understanding heritage was shared by Ms Purnima Datt (Principal Director, Heritage Education and Communication Service). Dr Narayani Gupta (Historian and Former Director, Documentation Centre, INTACH) discussed Historic Delhi - Its Heritage and the Role of Youth, urges the students to have some sort of relationship with one’s heritage and see heritage as works of art. Dr Swapna Liddle (Convenor, Delhi Chapter, INTACH) spoke about the Historic precincts of Delhi. Dr Padma Rohilla (Art and Material Heritage, Centre Coordinator INTACH Delhi) offered an understanding Material Heritage and the restoration work undertaken during a guided tour of the INTACH Conservation Laboratory. Heritage based development of Delhi and its related conservation issues; Nomination of Modern Architecture was shared by Ms Annabel Lopez (Project Coordinator and Consultant, INTACH Delhi Chapter). Students made group presentations highlighting ways in which they could promote Heritage in their respective Educational Institutions and their contributions as College Heritage Volunteers. The workshop concluded with words of encouragement from Maj. Gen. (Retd) L. K. Gupta, Chairman of INTACH and Dr (Mrs) C. T. Misra, Member Secretary, INTACH and a commemorative group photograph.
DID YOU KNOW?

Archaeological findings in Delhi, have revealed continuous cultural layers from 3rd-4thC BC to the Mughal Period, and pottery fragments that date from approximately 1000-500 BC, Lal Kot, the 1st city of Delhi was founded by the Tamar dynasty in 1060 AD. The Chauhans replaced the Tomars in the mid-12th C and extended Lal Kot to form Qila Rai Pithora. Delhi grew to be the capital of an empire in the time of the Delhi Sultanate, with the establishment of Siri, the 2nd city of Delhi.

Delhi’s unique cultural landscape evolved through multiple streams of cultural and historic impulses over centuries. The historic cities of Delhi have included, Lal Kot, Qila Rai Pithora, Mehrauli, Kilugarhi, Siri, Tughlaqabad, Janhanpanah, Firozabad, Khizrbad, Dinpanah, Shahjahanabad and New Delhi. In the 20th century, the capital city was spread across the cultural precincts of Shahjahanabad and Lutyens Delhi. Currently, the World Heritage Sites in Delhi, include, Humayaun’s Tomb; Qutub Minar and Red Fort.

Glimpses from the Workshop in Delhi

Heritage Volunteerism Session at Dr BR Ambedkar University

The College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop Session was organised by INTACH HECS on 9 September 2019 at the Dr BR Ambedkar University Delhi (Ambedkar University Delhi, AUD), Karampura Campus.

The session was attended by 25 undergraduate students from the bachelors programme in Vocational Studies. In the first segment, an overview of INTACH was shared through a film and a detailed discussion on the work undertaken by the organization by Ms Shivaa Rawat (INTACH HECS). It was followed by a session on heritage - explaining what it meant and an overview of its varied dimensions (natural, built, material and living). The role of students and need to imbibe the spirit of ‘heritage volunteerism’ to safeguard the precious heritage of Delhi was emphasised upon.
Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC)

Qudsia Park situated in old Delhi was selected by the college students to understand the history and heritage of the Qudsia Park - its present condition and offering suggestions for its conservation.

As a part of the endeavour, field trips, interviews with visitors and awareness workshops were organised in colleges. It was revealed that the site was an epicentre during the fight between the British soldiers and Indian fighters during the uprising of 1857. The colonial records alluded the beauty of park and large number of causalities suffered on both sides. The park and the Mosque situated inside it suffered damage too. Much has changed since then. The physical spaces have been developed incorporating new pages from the history of India.

During the site visit, students saw the statue of Maharana Pratap. They viewed the residence of Sir Thomas Metcalfe that had been converted into a library. However, the construction work had not been completed. On the sideways, there was an NGO within the park and a mosque adjacent to it. Some parts of Qudsia Park had been developed into a park. While it was well maintained and open to public. However, a lot of its historic past had been erased. Visitors did not have any information about its history. Visitor interviews revealed that no one had any information about the place. It was felt that there was an urgent need to revive heritage tourism on-site to ensure the history of the site remained intact in public memory.

Some site recommendations by the college students:

1. Heritage Tourism can be revived with the help of volunteers.
2. A proper billboard describing its history in English and Hindi may be installed.
3. Civil society and prominent people of old Delhi in particular can be involved in conservation initiatives.
4. Schools can be encouraged to visit and raise awareness among its pupils.
Hindu College

Heritage Walks

Sakshya Society - the History Society of Hindu College organised Heritage Walks to the National archives, National Handicrafts Museum, Qutb Complex, Tughlaqabad fort, the National Gallery of Modern Art, the Taj Mahal and Agra fort being the more recent ventures. At the Tughlaqabad Fort and Qutb Complex, the students had an opportunity to analyse the various monumental features. Ms Ruchika Sharma’s energetic guidance encouraged the students to keep an eye for detail and participate in the discussions.

The trip to Taj Mahal and Agra Fort was enthralling, especially for those who viewed it for the first time. In the midst of all the grandeur that we experienced and gained within our senses, certain things were clearly out of place. Some of the walls of the monuments visited were scribbled and tampered with, depicting a callous maltreatment of such entities which are a source of our Nation’s pride. To protect our past is to guarantee our present, especially in an age of misinformation and data profiteering. It is necessary to protect these material wonders as it highlights the rich history of the Indian Nation.

Visit to the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)

Sakshya, the History Society of Hindu College organised a heritage walk to the National Gallery of Modern Art, NGMA (31 January 2020). The walk aimed at connecting history and learning to interpret paintings through their symbolisms. The NGMA boasts of a delicately curated catalogue of famous artists in pre/post-colonial and modern times of India, as well as, overseas.

Upon entering, the students were received by the Director General of NGMA, Mr Adwaita Gadanayak, Ms Ritu Sharma (Director) and Mr Auro Banerjee (Junior Curator) who also guided the students through the exhibition. Mr Gadanayak and Ms Sharma gave factual details about the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) and their personal experiences.

Following an introduction, Mr Banerjee facilitated a session about the interpretation of Indian miniatures and colonial era paintings by Indian, as well as, European artists. Thereafter, he interpreted the paintings of Ghats to reveal the dressing of contemporary population. About 30 British portrait painters trained in oil paintings and 28 miniaturists travelled to India between 1770 and 1825 in search of commissions. Amongst the earliest European artists who visited India were John Zoffany, William Hodges, Tilly Kettle, William and Thomas Daniells, Emily Eden and others.
From around 1760 till the mid-19th century, these itinerant artist-travelers toured India working for local patrons making paintings and prints of monuments, landscapes as well as portraits. The artists worked in oils on canvas utilising a western technique of academic realism with an emphasis on linear perspectives. Moving towards more contemporary times in a more chronological framework, students were shown paintings of Raja Ravi Varma who played a huge role in shaping the modern Indian art based on European techniques. Thereafter, traditional Indian art forms were also covered as numerous artworks of Kalighat, Kalamkari and Chitrapatta were displayed on the first floor. The exhibition shifted towards modern art with the beginning of artworks by Abaindranath and Rabindranath Tagore.

The Jaipur House was an even more interesting spectacle to view. Mr Banerjee informed how the Jaipur house was the seat of the Jaipur Royal family whenever they visited Delhi. Infact, Her Highness Lt. Maharani Gayatri Devi was its last occupant. It currently houses the artworks of Upendranath Maharathi, a Padma awardee who has also been the director of Indian Institute of Industrial design. NGMA has recreated his work/living space in one of the rooms (out of 25). A great proponent of local artforms, several of his artworks and weaves of Mythili art, Bamboo art etc. are displayed at the Jaipur House.

Student’s experience about the heritage visits and walks

The experience at the Crafts Museum taught us about kavus, tribal art, as well as, how havelis looked in the past. It provided a chance to know textiles from different parts of the country. The heritage walk to Qutub Minar highlighted the first days of Islamic architecture in the subcontinent. The walk enabled the students to know how Indian artisans worked on an unknown style that was imported from Central Asia. The complex portrayed an amalgamation of Indian workmanship with new and complex building technology.
Seminar on Heritage Conservation

The key speaker for the programme was Professor Vijay Ramchandani. He shared how conservation and heritage preservation activities were facilitated. In fact, several students and teachers were actively involved in such heritage conservation projects which made it inspiring and eye opening experience for everyone.

News from the Heritage Desk: We are pleased to share that Dr Archana Verma who has been spearheading heritage activities with Hindu College has been nominated as a member of the Heritage Conservation Committee for Delhi. We congratulate Dr Verma for all her efforts and her prestigious nomination to the Heritage Conservation Committee.
Jesus and Mary College (JMC)
Dastaan, the Art and Architecture Society of Jesus and Mary College was action packed with numerous heritage activities.

Activity highlights:

Purana Quila and Khair ul Manzil Walk was among its best. The students enjoyed and learnt a lot.

Red Fort Walk was the next. The students examined the marvellous Mughal structure. The red sandstone and white marbles had many tales to tell, therefore, even the rains could not prevent the students from listening to the exciting heritage facets.

Heritage Walk across the Lodhi Garden. The Bara Gumbad, Bara Gumbad Mosque and Sheesh Mahal were explored. The interactive session with refreshments was a perfect opportunity for Dastan members to interact with each other.
The fourth walk was at Mehrauli wherein, participants ventured through Adham khans tomb, Zafar Mahal, Dargah of Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki and Baba Bandasingh Bahadur Gurudwara.

The final walk was at the Tughlaqabad fort. The magnificent and beautiful well preserved tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq were explored.

Dastaan organised its annual festival 'Utsav’20' (14 February 2020). Aks-i-Dilli: the photography competition beautifully captured images on the theme 'motion' and 'nostalgia' while Khayal: The slam poetry competition and Tasvir: the painting competition celebrated our fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression by providing participants with a space to constructively portray dissent and their idea of ‘Connecting India’. The response was overwhelming and showcased student’s creativity at their best!
Kamala Nehru College (KNC)

Webinar on the Syncretic Culture of Delhi: ‘Dil-o-Dilli’ (11 - 12 June 2020)

Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi in collaboration with INTACH HECS hosted a webinar on the syncretic culture of Delhi City. It was enthusiastically attended by over 150 participants comprising of senior faculty members, college students, eminent experts and professionals (national and international) from the field.

Day 1

The programme began with an introduction to the webinar by Dr Archana Ojha. Ms Jayanti Bala Gupta, Teacher-In-Charge of the Department of History Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi introduced the first speaker of the session Dr Swapna Liddle (Convenor, INTACH Delhi Chapter and Historian). In this session Dr Swapna Liddle talked about the making of New Delhi. What was the idea or symbolism involved? She started by talking about the British political history that took over India from the Mughals. Stressing on the use of symbolism in the creation of the new capital in Delhi. The architectural design of the Viceroy’s House, using the symbolism of the Dome of Sanchi Stupa was used. The need to use Indian pattern was a political symbol. Many architectural features of the building were inspired by the imperial style architecture. The new capital was inaugurated on 13 February 1931 and Lord Irwin was the first viceroy to occupy the Viceregal Lodge. She distinguished New Delhi from the old city of Shahjahanabad with the help of captivating pictures.

Mughal Delhi and the Romance of Urdu Poetry: Mir- o- Ghalib ki Dilli was discussed by Dr Saif Mahmood. The idea behind Mughal Delhi and the Romance of Urdu Poetry was to survey the evolution of Urdu as a language and its adoption by the linguists, poets and scholars to create some iconic prose and poetry (18th century). His talk traced the life histories of poets and authors across the late medieval period, instrumental in elevating the position of the language from that of the masses to that of the intelligentsia. He spoke of pioneering Urdu poets namely – Wali Muhammad Dakhani/ Aurangabadi as he was known to Delhi in the 1700s and laid the foundation of classical Urdu poetry as well as, references to him as the Father of Urdu Ghazal.

Day 1- Session 1: Dr Swanpa Liddle and Dr Saif Mahmood
Day 2

Began with an address by Dr Shubhra Sinha (Faculty member). She welcomed the panelists and introduced Dr Yousuf Saeed. He spoke about Poets and Saints of Delhi’s Nizamuddin Basti: a History in Continuum. The syncretic culture of Delhi with the help of biographical accounts of Sufi Saints was recounted. References to the interactions between India and Central Asia with its impact on shaping the belief systems was highlighted. He shared how the exchange of ideas between sufis and yogis created an interesting syncreticism. Such as, the ideas on meditational techniques, retreats, chillas in the caves with poets participating in a cultural exchange. It was in this context, that Nizamuddin Chisti of the Chisti order was described. It was explained how the Chisti’s became the most popular messengers of Sufism and used local dialects to patronize a strong Qawali tradition. The current day shrine in Ajmer was an example of a famous tradition that exists till day. With reference to the saints, it was pointed out that Muhammad Nizamuddin Auliya (Hazrat Nizamuddin) was a Sunni Muslim scholar and Sufi saint of a major Chisti order. He was regarded as a famous sufi saint of the subcontinent. Another revered and well-known Saint was Amir Khusro known. It was pointed out that the dargahs were lively multi-faith site visited by the hindus as well as, the muslims. It was a hybrid culture that was open and flourishing. It allowed different people to communicate and interact with each other more freely.

The revolt of 1857 was discussed by Dr Rana Safvi with the help of a presentation and detailed talk. Interesting visuals from the sepoy revolt of 1857, Bahadur Shah Zafar and the seize of Delhi through iconic Lahori Darwaza were shared. It was followed by a short poetry recital from the speech of the rebel soldiers and the cartridge smearing episode too. The thought provoking lecture traversed through Begum Samru’s Palace on the Delhi Bank, the capture and lockout at the Delhi Bank with an eye catching view of the Telegraph memorial. Dr Safvi spoke about the various monuments that played an integral role in the development of the uprising, such as, the Mussaman Burj, among its other facets. The final session by Mr Vinod Dua focused on the changing face of Delhi since the time of partition. He spoke about Delhi as a city of migrants and its evolving culture. The interesting and thought provoking two-day webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Archana Ojha (Professor, History Department, Kamala Nehru College).

Day 2-Session1: Dr Yousuf Saeed and Dr Rana Safvi
Lady Shri Ram College for Women

Talks and Seminars

A Talk on ‘Early Literary Sources and Sculptural Antiquities: A Confluence’ By Dr. Nilima Chitgopkar - The Editorial Board of Ijtihad, in collaboration with the Department of History organised the session as a part of the Annual Research Writing Workshop (6 February 2020). The sculptural remains of early medieval and medieval India were analysed with respect to Puranic sources and how they serve as a primary source of historical research. The inter-linkages drawn between the prevalent art, women’s rights, tantra, and the perception of goddesses in Hindu religion were particularly insightful.

A Talk on ‘Not Just Biryani: Historicising the Mughal Elite Cuisine’ by Ms Neha Vermani - Discussed the elite Mughal culinary practices, recipes and journeys of certain food products (7 November 2019). It was a highly interactive and interesting session that caught onto everyone’s mind, eyes and taste buds! The lecture explored food as a source of heritage and added more flavours to what we know about Mughal history.

A Talk on ‘Kohinoor: The Hypothetical Diamond’ By Ms Shaleen Wadhwana - Highlighted the illustrious history of the Kohinoor Diamond, its cultural significance and the dispute surrounding its ownership. The possibilities of its eventual return and the legalities associated with it were discussed as well (6 September 2019).
Berlin Wall week
November 9, 2019, marked thirty years since the fall of the historic Berlin Wall between East and West Germany. In remembrance and commemoration of the historic event, the BFH Club of the Department of History organised a week of discussions and activities.

Activity highlights:

Screening of Testimonials: Included an introductory discussion on the Berlin Wall and Cold War politics. A few testimonials were screened, which showcased the varied perspectives and insights of individuals who witnessed and were deeply involved in this momentous event (13 November 2020).

Open Mic on ‘Borders: Beneath and Beyond’: Organised in collaboration with the English and Hindi creative writing societies explored the ideological implications of borders or barriers. The recitation of heart-rending poetry by the young writers was followed by a thematic discussion on boundaries, dealing with the theme of the partition and other portrayals (13 November 2019).

Exhibition Commemorating the Berlin Wall fall: The exhibition display on the back gate of the college presented photographs from journalists and news agencies in a chronological manner showcasing the important events from 1945 to 1990. It highlighted the social and cultural impact on the people of Germany due to the construction of the Berlin Wall as well (14 November 2019).

Screening of ‘Good Bye Lenin!’: Snippets of the acclaimed German film followed on the theme of ‘Ostalgie’ or nostalgia for a communist past narrated the story of a family in East Berlin during the tumultous late 1980s and the collapse of communism (15 November 2019).

Blog Post: Berlin Wall Week
Blog post compiled by the members of BFH Club provided an introduction to the history of the Berlin Wall and its impact on pop culture, books, films and music.
Heritage Walks

**Walk to Bhuli Bhatyari ka Mahal** - Photography team of the Department organised a walk to Bhuli Bhatyari ka Mahal in Karol Bagh as an initiative to explore the famous "haunted" monuments of Delhi. The walk was led by a member of the BFH club, Azra (20th October 2019).

**Walk to Purana Qila** - the Books, Films and Heritage Club, Department of History organised a walk to Purana Qila. Approximately 70 students attended the walk which was led by Preksha Sharma, Third year student (21 September 2019).

The heritage walks were an enriching experience for the students who were able to appreciate history and heritage beyond classroom learning.
The History Society of the Mata Sundri College for Women, ‘GAATHA’ organised various heritage activities, such as, workshops, seminars, academic lectures, heritage walks, visit to museums during the academic session.

**Activity highlights:**

- Dr Ruchika Sharma delivered a lecture on ‘Looking into the Household and Family: Mughal Women in 16\textsuperscript{th} and 17\textsuperscript{th} Century’. She enlightened the students about different achievements and talents of many Mughal women, and how some of them were sought for their advice in both personal and administrative issues (16 February 2019).

- A symposium on ‘Mirza Ghalib - His Verse and Times’, was organised to raise awareness about the origin of Urdu language and how it flourished during Ghalib’s period but also. Dr Iffat Zarin, Associate Professor, Urdu and a poetess of Mata Sundri College. Dr Sumail Singh Sidhu presented the historical perspective on the life of the poet (1 March 2019).

- The first year students went for a visit to the National Museum. This has been a tradition of the department to make youth realise the importance of museums for better understanding of the academic text (27 August 2019). Heritage walk to Firoz Shah Kotla Fort with a purpose to introduce them local history of the medieval city of Firozabad was organised (12 January 2019).

- Commemorating 150\textsuperscript{th} birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the famous movie ‘Gandhi’ directed by Sir Richard Attenborough was screened. Principal Prof. Harpreet Kaur delivered a lecture and a students sang a bhajan loved by Bapu.
In a Guest Lecture, Dr Santosh Kumar Rai from Department of History, University of Delhi spoke on 'Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and Indian National Movement’. The highlight of his lecture was the way he weaved the topic with generous use of literary sources (20 October 2019).

An International National Seminar was organised on ‘Practices and Pedagogies for Sustainability’ in which Dr Swapna Liddle, Convener, Delhi Chapter INTACH, delivered an enlightening lecture (3 - 5 February 2020).

Dr M. V. Shobna Warrier delivered a lecture on ‘Gender and Reforms in Modern India’. She explained to students not only what gender meant but what had been the issues faced by women in India and also threw light on the effort done for their reforms in Modern India (19 February 2020).

A national webinar was organised on ‘History and Anthropology, Stigma: Past and Present’. Eminent anthropologist Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava delivered the lecture. The session dealt with pandemic in history and the issue of stigma attached to them giving an anthropological perspective (12 June 2020).
Shaheed Bhagat Singh College

MIRAAS-E-MAAZI

‘Historia’ the History Society of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College began a new initiative, titled, MIRAAS-E-MAAZI that conducted heritage walks open to all the college students.

During the academic year (2019-2020), three walks were organised. These included, Hauz Khas Complex, Qutub Complex and Purana Qila. The walks were interactive with several activities. Such as, quizzes and questions. Cumulatively, these were attended by 100+participants. With each heritage trail, the walk leaders got better and it is hoped that Miraas-E-Maazi team grows even more. In addition to, refine our walk organization skills too. It is our endeavour to raise awareness about heritage and help students understand it better!

HERITAGE OF MY NATIVE PLACE
JABALPUR - SANSKARDHANI

Jabalpur is rich in natural, as well as, built heritage. Historically, it is believed to have existed since the time of the Mahabharat. In a later period, it became the part of Mauryan, Gupta dynasty and eventually, the Kalchuris made it their capital (875 AD). The most famous and historically significant monument is the Madan Mahal Fort. Built by Madan Shah, son of Rani Durgavati and dates back to 11th century. Apart from many temples some of which known to more than 800 years old, the Chausath yogini temple is a glowing example of ancient architecture tracing it’s roots back to 10th century. The images in the temples belong to three different periods. Bhedhaghat and Dhua Dhar Falls are very popular natural heritage spots. The Dhua Dhar Falls are a delight to eyes and a well-known destination for filming of movie recently used for mohanjodaro.
LUCKNOW – CITY OF NAWABS
Popularly known for its culture, the heart of Lucknow lies with its people. They are known to be courteous and it is evident in their polite language. Such as, ‘hum’, ‘aap’. Lucknow has been influenced by the Mughals, and possesses a royal touch. Lucknow’s cuisine is another dimension of its heritage that is relished by all! From Galaouti kebabs to biryani, Lucknow has so much to offer!

Lucknow is well known for it’s Chikan work in textiles and art. The monuments have a distinct architecture and are beautiful to explore. Right from the lip-smacking cuisine, the delightful music and dance forms or the conversation language, everything has a touch of the royal splendour. Once you step in this city, you realise that every bit of it is brimming with royalty and love!

Cities and their Heritage:

Rajahmundry is one of the major cities in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It is located on the banks of the Godavari River, in East Godavari district of the state. Also known as Rajamahendri is the city of poets and art. Rajahmundry is regarded as the birth place of Telugu language. It was once the seat of the powerful Chalukyas as well.

Munger is a small city and situated in the neighborhood of Jamalpur city in the eastern part of Bihar. It is located close to sacred Ganga river and is an old historic city. Munger has been identified with Modagiri, that finds reference in the epic of Mahabharat. It was the capital of a kingdom in eastern India near Bhanga and Tamralipta. It houses historic temples, an old fort, numerous parks, and other natural attractions. Such as, the Pir Pahar.

Jamshedpur was the first planned industrial city of India. It was founded by the late Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata. It is also known as Steel City, Tata Nagar or Tata. The City was conceptualized by late Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata. Planned by an American, Julian Kennedy on the basis of J N Tata’s blueprint, apart from undertaking his task of designing the Steel Works.
Parampara stands for heritage and supports a legacy of heritage preservation. With the Van Mahotsav in July (1 – 7 July), we share our tribute to Trees and our relationship with them. Hope you enjoy the snippets we share and we recognize the marvelous heritage of Trees within your communities, neighbourhoods and states.

"It is tree that brings rain
Trees that hold the essence of the soil
Kalpa-Taru, the tree of wishes fulfillment
Virtually resides on earth
To serve all purposes

In the trees lie the roar
Of all life on earth
When it vanishes
The land exemplified by the name
Of the Jambu tree ...

One should never slacken in one's efforts
To preserve and conserve nature's energy"

- Dalai Lama

Human beings and trees have co-existed for centuries. Universally, all cultures regard trees as sacred. Their veneration and reverence can be traced back to prehistory. Trees were associated with divine attributes, including healing and wish-fulfilling powers.

It is interesting to note that temples in ancient India were built near trees. The temples were mere stone platforms under trees. The tree used to provide shade and cover for the object of worship.

Early seals from the Indus Valley Civilization depict the tree as a powerful symbol of abundance. The mythical, 'Kalpavriksha' was a wish-fulfilling tree at whose roots lay pots of gold and bags filled with jewels. It was indeed a metaphor for the significance attached with trees.

CELEBRATING TREES

Annual Tree Plantation
Van Mahotsav (the annual tree festival) is celebrated every year throughout the country in the first week of July (1st – 7th) at the onset of monsoon. During this time, lakhs of saplings of different tree species are planted.

Across the world the following are days important for trees.
World Forestry Day – 21 March
Earth Day – 22 April
World Biodiversity Day – 22 May
World Environment Day – 5 June
World Habitat Day – First Monday in October
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:
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Abhishek Das
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