

PARAMPARA



College Heritage Volunteer Programme
Annual e-Newsletter (2015 - 16), Issue-3

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Learn about the crafts in Delhi and how they serve as expressions of Royal and Popular Culture.

Message from INTACH

We are pleased to share the third issue of the INTACH HECS College e-Newsletter 'PARAMPARA'. This e-Newsletter displays the efforts of the students from the colleges of Delhi University to promote heritage at their respective educational institutions. This issue of the Newsletter highlights the heritage activities taken up by the colleges in the current academic session 2015-16, as well as the activities proposed for the next academic session. INTACH appreciates your efforts, and thanks Gargi College; Kamla Nehru College; Jesus and Mary College; Lady Shri Ram College for Women; Daulat Ram College; Sri Venkateswara College and Delhi College of Arts and Commerce for their participation in the Heritage Volunteering initiative.

We look forward to your continued interest and contributions to bring out 'PARAMPARA' annually.

Heritage Activities undertaken
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Find out about the heritage activities undertaken by students of Jesus and Mary College, Sri Venkateswara College, Lady Shri Ram College, Gargi, Kamla Nehru, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce and Daulat Ram College.

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Editorial

Education is at the heart of INTACH's endeavours to preserve national heritage, and the Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop is a pioneering initiative taken in that direction, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, since November 2012. It aims to sensitize the youth to protect their heritage, and train them to lead a nation-wide movement for heritage conservation and preservation.

As a part of this initiative, a Heritage Volunteering Training Workshop was organized by INTACH, New Delhi, in October 2015. The student volunteers were encouraged to promote heritage conservation initiatives in their respective institutions. The feedback received from the participants has been positive and confirms that our collective efforts have made a difference! This e-Newsletter is meant to function as a platform to highlight the efforts of our student volunteers towards heritage awareness.

We at HECS would especially like to extend a special thanks to the students of Jesus and Mary College, Sri Venkateswara College, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Gargi College and Kamla Nehru College for the initiatives they undertook as well as their contributions, ideas and suggestions for this e-Newsletter. It would not have been possible to compile it without you! We look forward to your continued support in taking up such heritage conservation initiatives in the future too.

Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop

The Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop for undergraduate and postgraduate students of Delhi was held at INTACH, New Delhi on 8th and 9th October 2015. Close to 69 students from eight colleges of the University of Delhi with four teacher representatives participated. A panel of eminent scholars including Dr. Narayani Gupta, Dr. Swapna Liddle and Prof. A. G. Krishna Menon conducted sessions. The workshop also included a heritage walk to Safdarjung's Tomb, a visit to the Material Heritage division, and a flashcard game followed by a quiz related to the heritage of Delhi. The students were trained to become active heritage volunteers and undertake various initiatives in their institutions to promote heritage. They were given a time period of four to five months to organize various heritage activities in their respective colleges. The subsequent pages of the newsletter provide a glimpse of some of these initiatives.



Crafts of Delhi

The range and diversity of Delhi's crafts today is staggering. The city is home to a rich variety of crafts and craftspeople who are either indigenous, belonging to the Hindu or Muslim cultures both of which flourished during the Mughal rule, or are immigrants from the surrounding regions. A walk through Delhi makes one aware of the fact that the city is virtually embedded within the roots and remnants of different dynasties that have ruled over it for nearly 5000 years. Much of the Delhi's craft legacy comes from the period of Mughal rule, especially that of Shah Jahan who established Delhi as his capital. He was behind the creation of Chandni Chowk- a thoroughfare lined with havelis and distinct shopping areas determined for sale of specific commodities, where religious and commercial activities mixed as easily as different historical epochs.

The legacy of craft acquired through successive generations reveals that the Indian system of manufacture was based on the hereditary transfer of skills rather than individual liberty and freedom of choice. The major crafts that originated in Delhi, received royal patronage and have survived until today are naqqashi i.e. engraving, jewellery, pottery, embroidery, wood inlay, woodcarving, metalwork, paper-mache, ivory carving, sandalwood carving and products made of glass.

Stone Carving and Inlay

Islamic invasions led to a number of monuments being constructed in the Indo-Islamic style with intricate carved and inlay work. The Qutb Minar is one of the examples of inlay work; it is indented with fluting and inscribed with Arabic calligraphy, geometric and floral patterns.

Akbar's buildings display the most vivid and intricate detailing with floral forms. The Rang Mahal and the Diwan-i-aam of the Red Fort at Delhi exhibit an intricate work of stone inlay and carving that present the graceful foliations in the inlaid technique.

The craft of *naqqashi* faded with the rise of modernism that came with the advent of industrialization all over the world.

'It is uncanny how we can see traces and signs of culture frozen in stone and clay and metal and wood, all of which echo the roots of a particular cultural system that produces or uses the craft object'

--M.P. Ranjan, Aditi Ranjan. *Handmade in India: Crafts of India*



Embroidery

Embroidery has been aptly described as painting by needle; embroidery is an expression of emotions, rendered with patient labour that has the ability to introduce grace even into articles of everyday use. Earlier the use of expensive and exquisite materials including gold, pearls and precious tones were popular which has now been replaced by inexpensive materials, without sacrificing the elegance and beauty of the finished work.

Zardozi- Gold Embroidery

The name and the craft itself are of Persian origin. The term refers to the use of gold, silver metal wires, pearls and sequins, cords which are couched on expensive fabrics. The craft was probably brought to India by the Mughals and was used to make costumes of the members of court, wall hangings and the trappings of the elephants and horses used by the emperor. During the seventeenth century, many artisans migrated from Delhi to neighbouring kingdoms of Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat temporarily, in search of better employment, which later led to multiplication of social and cultural diversity in the artwork.

Ivory Carving

This craft started in the walled city in Delhi, where the art was encouraged and patronized enormously by the Mughals around the sixteenth century. It developed a distinctive form with the use of floral motifs and intricate geometrical patterns worked in the fine jali latticework.

In due course, the modern work absorbed all the styles- Mughals, Persian and today the artisans of this craft are Hindus. It consists of rich arabesque tracery with lace-like gaps arcading mythological or animal panels. In earlier times the articles usually produced were bedposts, *chauris*, *surmadanis*, back scratchers, bangles etc.

Paper Mache

The craft of paper mache is visible every year in its most glorious form as effigies of Ravana, Meghnath and Kumbhkaran, from the epic *Ramayana*, is burnt every Dussehra as part of a symbolic reenactment of Rama's victory. Although this makes the craft seasonal as the effigies are in demand only during festivals especially Diwali and Dussehra.



Jesus and Mary College

DASTAAN is The Art and Architecture Society of Jesus and Mary College, which is dedicated for the awareness of the rich tangible and intangible culture, had a year packed full of activities. The society this year saw an enthusiastic response from the students and now 200 more students have become a part to promote our tangible and intangible culture. Their campaign **#Knowtheunknown** started last year continues to gain strength. In the campaign they conduct walks to not only widely known but also unknown monuments which is near Delhi. The campaign despite trending on social networking sites also became a mission for their society to lift the obscurity surrounding these monuments. This year DASTAAN organised walks to the following places:



*Zafar Mahal Purana Qila Northern Ridge Area
Matka Pir Dargah Humayun's Tomb
Kahir-ul-Manzil
Monuments around Mohammadpur and R.K.Puram*



The walk was taken by a large number of enthusiasts who joined in their quest to “know the unknown” and delineate the past, which is present in our city. DASTAAN also organized talks, which enlightened the students about new facts of their city and taught them about the Mughal paintings, which are an integral part of the heritage Delhi. The guest professors were:

- Prof. Rana Safvi who gave a lecture on the ‘Unknown Monuments of Delhi’
- Prof. S.P. Verma who talked about ‘Mughal Paintings and their Interpretations’

Other activities taken up by the college:

➤ **Tie and Dye**

In order to appreciate the intangible aspect of heritage, the student members of DASTAAN picked an idea of making tie and dye scarves for sale in order to raise money for the society. (What a great idea!). What started with just 15 scarves now requires them to dye upto 30 scarves since the first 15 were sold out!

- Apart from being physically active about the society’s aim, DASTAAN has also been actively posting articles on the blog, which is designed and written by student members themselves. Articles on each of the talks and walks have been posted on their blog in detail and been shared through different social media.
- DASTAAN’S Annual Festival, *UTSAV* that has been scheduled for 10th and 11th of March will have a line-up of exciting events regarding Heritage. For instance, one of the events of online story writing competition on topic *AFSANA-I-DILLI*, a poetry slam called *KHAYAL*, which is to be hosted in collaboration with INTACH, and a painting competition called *TAWIR*.

To keep in touch with the people who follow their society, the society has a Facebook and Instagram account alongside a Twitter handle that has been active throughout the year. Their goal is that in coming years more people are involved in preserving our heritage through various interesting activities.

Sri Venkateswara College

The students of Sri Venkateswara College along with their teacher Dr. Ruchika Sharma took a Heritage walk at the Humayun's Tomb. They examined the architecture of the complex and placed it in the context of the consolidation of the Mughal Empire by Akbar. This was to develop an understanding of the importance of conserving our heritage, in light of the restoration and conservation work carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, the Aga Khan Foundation and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust at Humayun's Tomb.

Malavika Subramanyan is a third year BA History Honours student who has provided us with a detailed report of their excursion in the following words:

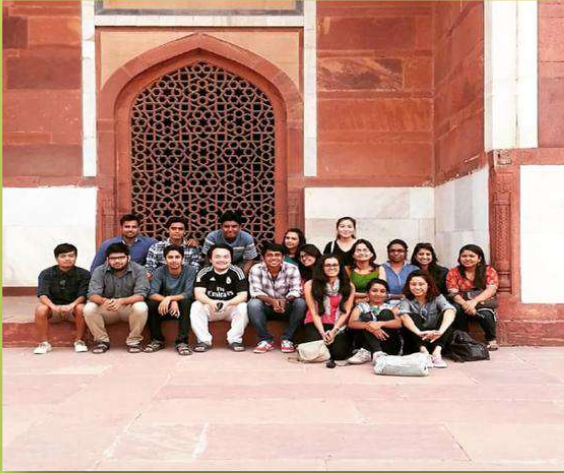
"The first garden-tomb complex to be built in India, Humayun's tomb had fallen into a grave state of disrepair. No expense was spared in its renovation, with age-old techniques such as making lime mortar, as well as modern technology such as 3D laser scanning, being used in the process. A team of artisans, and a conservation architect did the recreation of the original colours from Uzbekistan worked with the local team, experimenting with quartz, clay, and different types of soil and chemicals to get the exact shades used on the tomb.

The complex had to be cleaned, rid of its rodent infestation, and several missing doors had to be replaced. The decorative carvings on the plinths and arches had to be enhanced, while dull grey cement used for previous, clumsy repair work had to be removed and newly fired tiles set in place and painted.

The work was finished, and the restored monument was inaugurated on September 18, 2013. Humayun's Tomb now stands proud, fully deserving of its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Built by Emperor Humayun's widow, Hamida Banu Begum (also known as Haji Begum) built the tomb in memory of her late husband. In size and style, it was the first important Mughal monument in India, and marks the advent of Indo-Persian architectural style in the subcontinent. It stands as a precursor to the Taj Mahal at Agra.

The size and style both make an important point about the way Akbar intended the Mughals to be viewed within the subcontinent: it functions both as a fitting mausoleum to an Emperor claiming descent from Changez Khan and Timur, as well as being a grand statement of the resources and power the Mughals had at their command."



“The placing of the tomb near the khanqah of the respected Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya also allowed later Emperors to pay their respects to both the saint and their ancestor in the same trip, thus associating the Mughals with the liberal Chishti Sufi order. This relates to the use of Persian architectural elements rather than Akbar’s (and Humayun’s) native Turkish; Persian culture was far more cosmopolitan and inclusive, and these characteristics were manifested in the language as well as the art of Persia. Akbar’s vision of empire was more liberal and tolerant than that advocated by the orthodox ulema at court, and by figures like Bairam Khan and Maham Anga. The use of Persian elements in building, and the harmonious marriage between Persian and Indian styles, is a marker of Akbar’s developing aspiration regarding the Mughal Empire, which would ultimately evolve as his policy of sulh-i-kul (peace with all).

The walk to Humayun’s Tomb was an enriching and educational experience. Not only did we realise the importance of conserving our tangible heritage, it also brought to our attention the importance of preserving ideas. 21st century India is multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-racial and multi-religious than the 16th century Mughal Empire; at a time when blood is freely spilled and hatred is peddled in the name of religion, the idea of sulh-i-kul seems more important than ever. ”

Malavika Subramanyan

Lady Shri Ram College for Women

Lady Shri Ram College celebrated their annual cultural festival 'TARANG' on the 5th and 6th of February. As a part of their fest, the Voluntary Agency Placement Programme (VAPP) set up a Bamboo and Cane workshop in association with INTACH.

The workshop saw the sale of bamboo crafts such as pen stands, stools, flower holders, baskets etc. from the traditional handicrafts person alongside teaching visitors how to weave a bamboo basket on their own that the students could take home for a nominal fee of Rs.30. The way students explained their experience with the handicraft person Mr. Suresh Kumar and his family is truly heart-warming and in order to preserve the authenticity of the emotions the excerpt has been taken directly from the report submitted to us,

“The handicrafts-persons who held the same were Mr. Suresh Kumar, his wife Mrs. Draupati Devi and their son Mr. Sagar. Having his ethnicity rooted in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Kumar was born and brought up in Mangolpuri, Delhi within a family which is traditionally occupied in bamboo and cane handicrafts. Their little store at 34/A, Baba Kharag Singh Marg, Hanuman Mandir, Chudi Market near Connaught Place is a home of their crafts and handmade pieces of eco-friendly, cultural heritage of this land. They sell all handiworks in bamboo and cane – right from baskets up to furniture (chairs, stools, tables and the rest) yet the location of their store (it's caught in the midst of a cramped lane) and the lack of marketing, probably, have led to Mr. Kumar's family earnings being a meagre hand-to-mouth amount. On asking what I could do for them, this humble man and his family didn't ask me to publicize his work, or visit his store, or anything that a person living in a growing capitalistic society losing its art, tradition, and small-scale traders would expect. He simply said that they would wish for my well wishes and affection. One can only imagine then, with what warmth their workshop at College took place. Maybe everybody who saw or visited the stall felt it? Maybe.”



Mr. Vikas Kalra held a very artistic and colourful paper craft workshop. The students were left with beautiful handmade diaries, paper bags and envelopes.

He is a 31-year-old, Delhi born artist, whose father used to be an electrician in a Tent house. When Kalra Sir was in his 10th class, his father expired and the whole load of earning family livelihood came onto his shoulders. He then out of his poor economic stance learnt the art of paper designing for four years in Jaipur. Later, he came back to Delhi and worked in a handmade paper craft shop in Adhchini village, Hauz Khas, New Delhi for quite some time. After mastering the art, he along with his friend thought of starting their own business of paper craft items. He contributed to a factory at Kotla, South Delhi and ran an independent stall at Delhi Haat, Janakpuri District Centre alongside; paving varied ways to more income and market outreach.” His art and craft capabilities have gained appreciation and he’s been invited to fairs around India. He brought out the artists in all of the students and they are eagerly looking forward to their annual fest TARANG’17.



Gargi College

Gargi College sent us a proposal enlisting the activities they plan to take up in association with INTACH in order to promote heritage in their institution.

Aim: To Adapt a Craft and its Craftsmen

Proposal: INTACH provides the college with an inventory of artisans who can come and conduct a workshop in the college.

Plan of Action: During the Departmental History Fest or Fine Arts Fest, a workshop be conducted along with the fine arts society HUES, to create awareness of a dying craft and its persevering craftsmen.

A nominal fee would be collected from the students who would attend the workshop, half of which would be given to the artisans conducting the workshop and have spent on the items required in the workshop. A stall would also be set up for the sale of their crafts

Long Term Goal: Gargi would keep up with a yearly tradition of creating awareness of dying crafts and the artisans. Help to create awareness in other colleges and among the public. In addition, adopt a craft and the artisans by trying to organize such workshops as much as possible.

Kamla Nehru College

The annual department fest CHRONO'16 of Kamla Nehru College was a hit among the students. The programmes that the students had attended in the INTACH workshop inspired the events conducted as a part of the fest. Inspired from the ancient art form of Urdu storytelling 'Dastangoi, the students wrote biographies of a monument which they liked and presented it on stage. Prof. A.G.K. Menon delivered the annual lecture. In January, the students were taken on a heritage walk with their class teacher around Shahpur Jat, where they explored the leftover structure of the Siri fort complex and traced its geography around their college. The students are enthusiastic to learn about their heritage and thus will be conducting more of such heritage walks around different monuments in Delhi. They also plan to propose workshops in association with INTACH regarding promotion and education of heritage and its conservation, both tangible and intangible.

CHRONO'16
ANNUAL HISTORY FEST OF
KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

INTACH
TITLE SPONSOR

DU beat
MEDIA PARTNER

FEBRUARY 12TH 2016

10 00AM-11 00AM
LECTURE BY PROF. A.G.K MENON
TOPIC-A CASE FOR NOMINATING DELHI
AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITY
VENUE - AUDITORIUM

11 00 AM-12 00PM
OPEN SESSION BY PHOTOGRAPHER
AND POET - PRATYUSH PUSHKAR
TOPIC-ART, PERSPECTIVE AND
APPEARANCE
VENUE AUDITORIUM

12 30PM-2 30PM
QUIZ-JASHN-I-DILLI
VENUE SEMINAR ROOM

2 30PM-4 30PM
DASTANGOI-MY STORY
VENUE COUNCIL ROOM



Delhi College of Arts and Commerce

Delhi College of Arts and Commerce held their annual departmental fest *DHAROHAR* on 11th and 12th February in association with INTACH. Day One of the fest began with a lecture by noted historian Prof. Najaf Haider on *Numismatics and History*. It was then followed by a Film Screening and an exhibition on *Numismatics: An Indian Perspective*. The college had kept interesting activities such as the Poster Making competition, Treasure Hunt, Poetry and Singing competition. Day Two of the fest was composed mostly of interactive events such as the Street Play and Debate Competition, Rangoli, Dancing and Online photography. All of the events saw enthusiastic participation from the students. Over all the fest was well organised and a hit amongst the students.



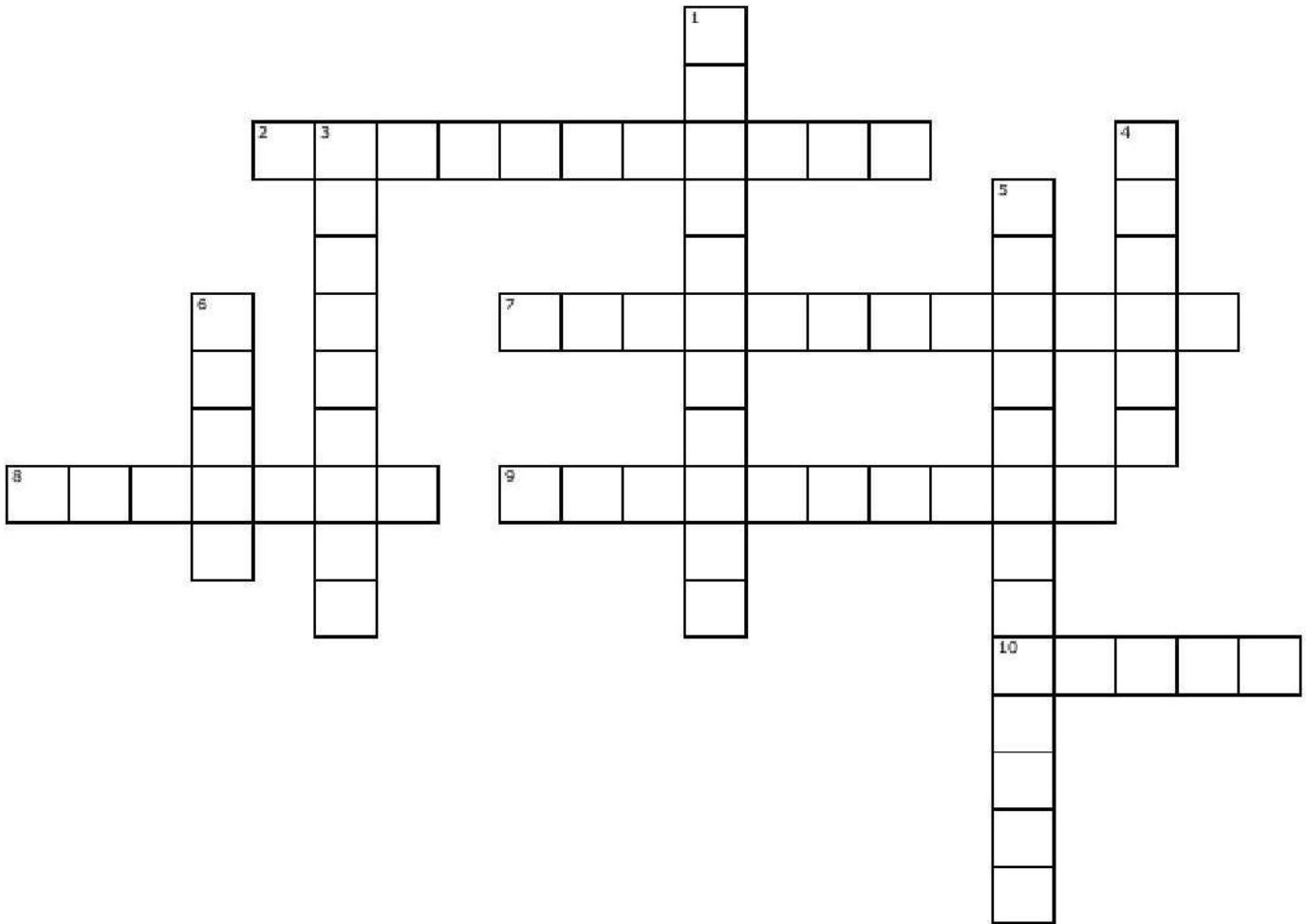
Daulat Ram College

The teachers of Daulat Ram College have been educating their students about heritage for years and the Youth Volunteer Programme by INTACH helped the purpose of the teachers and the students. During the workshop, the students wished to be a part of the conservation of monuments in North Campus area apart from the monuments in their native towns. The students were interactive throughout the programme and suggested that they would like to adopt a monument, although their wish has not materialised yet, nevertheless the students remain determined and eager for this project.

The Department of History organized their Annual festival on 4th of March where they plan to introduce the concept of Dastangoi to the students and they will be encouraged to perform it with the guidance of the teachers and they hope to bring results that are more meaningful in an attempt to explain intangible heritage. They will also be organising a folk music competition that would also assist in encouraging the students to know the concept of intangible heritage. The efforts of the students and teachers of Daulat Ram College to promote intangible heritage is commendable and encourages us at INTACH to keep up the volunteer workshops and spreading the message.



World Heritage Sites (Name the states)



Across

2. NandaDevi and Valley of flowers
7. Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri
8. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park
9. Sundarbans
10. Kaziranga

Down

1. Elephanta Caves
3. Chola Temples
4. Sun Temple
5. Khajuraho Group of Monuments
6. Mahabodhi Temple Complex

CREDITS

INTACH HECS EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms. Purnima Datt
Ms. Srishthi Kumar Tandon
Ms. Bashobi Banerjee

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Ms. Srishthi Kumar Tandon

TEXT AND PICTURE CONTRIBUTION

- Ms. Dolan Samanta, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi
- Dr. Ruchika Sharma, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi
- Voluntary Agency Placement Programme Union, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi
- Mrityika, Gargi College, University of Delhi
- Anoushka Jha, Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi
- History Society, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi
- Dr. Smarika Nawani, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

REFERENCES

- *Delhi: A Living Heritage*, Published by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and INTACH;
- <https://crosswordlabs.com>;
- image courtesy: google images

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1. ORISSA
2. GUJARAT
3. UTTAR PRADESH
4. BIHAR
5. MADHYA PRADESH
6. TAMIL NADU
7. MAHARASHTRA
8. WEST BENGAL
9. UTTARAKHAND
10. ASSAM

CONTACT US

HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE

INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

71 Lodhi Estate

New Delhi 110003 INDIA

Tel: + 91 - 11 - 2463 1818; 2464 1304; 2464 5482

E-mail: intachhecs@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.intach.org>

