

## Report of trip to Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Feroz Shah Kotla and National Archives, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

On April 12, 2024, the history department organized an educational trip to three significant sites in Delhi: Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Feroz Shah Kotla, and the National Archives. This visit aimed to provide students with an immersive learning experience about Delhi's rich historical and cultural heritage. The first stop was Mehrauli Archaeological Park, a sprawling complex that houses structures from different eras, including the Tomar, Delhi Sultanate, Mughal, and British periods. Students explored notable monuments such as the Qutub Minar, Quli Khan's Tomb, Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb, and the Rajon ki Baoli. The intricate architecture and historical significance of these sites provided students with a tangible connection to the past. A guided tour by the teachers helped elucidate the context and evolution of the area, highlighting the park's importance as a continuously inhabited site for over a thousand years. Next, the students visited Feroz Shah Kotla, an ancient fortress built by Sultan Feroz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century. The citadel's ruins, including the Jami Masjid, Ashokan Pillar, and Baoli, provided insight into Tughlaq architecture and urban planning. The students were particularly intrigued by the Ashokan Pillar, an ancient monolithic structure transported from Punjab. This visit offered a glimpse into the medieval period's political and architectural advancements, fostering a deeper understanding of Sultanate history. The final destination was the National Archives, which houses a vast collection of documents, manuscripts, and records dating back several centuries. Students had the opportunity to view rare historical documents and learn about archival practices. The visit to these historical sites was an enriching experience for the students, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of Delhi's historical landscape. It reinforced classroom learning by offering direct engagement with historical artifacts and structures, fostering a deeper appreciation for India's rich cultural heritage. The trip was an invaluable educational opportunity, contributing significantly to the students' academic growth and historical knowledge.









## Report of field trip to Sanjay Van, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

The department of History organised a historical-cum-ecological trip to Sanjay Van on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for history students. Sanjay Van is a protected forest situated in the vicinity of Mehrauli area of South Delhi. The trip was organized to provide students with a hands-on understanding of the historical and ecological significance of the heritage site, intertwining the study of environmental conservation with local history. The visit began with a brief introduction by Mr Dinesh Kataria and Ms. Sneha Ganguly, who outlined the historical importance of Sanjay Van. Sanjay Van has a long history associated with pre-sultanate, Sultanate, Mughal and British period. However, over the centuries the site has transformed from a place of political authority to an urban forest in the periphery of erratic, congested urban village. The teachers emphasized its role in preserving the natural habitat amidst the urban sprawl of Delhi. Students were fascinated to learn about the rich biodiversity of the park, which includes a variety of flora and fauna, some of which are rare and endangered. The students engaged in discussions about the importance of urban forests in combating pollution, mitigating climate change, and providing a green lung for the city. A significant part of the visit was spent exploring the historical remnants scattered within the park, including ancient ruins and tombs from the medieval period. The teachers narrated stories of the site's evolution from an abode of rulers associated with sultanate period to a modern-day sanctuary, enriching the students' knowledge of its multifaceted history. The excursion concluded with a reflective discussion on the need to balance urban development with conservation efforts, leaving the students with a deeper appreciation of Sanjay Van's historical and ecological heritage.







## **Report of Annual Festival Gatha, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

The Annual Festival, Gatha was celebrated on the World Day of Social Justice on February 20, 2024. The festival included an International Seminar on Social Justice with Prof. Prabhu Prasad Mahapatra, Head, Department of History, University of Delhi, Dr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Nottingham and Mr. Nagraj Adve, Founder Member, TACC, delivering the lectures in the seminar. A National Young Scholars Conference was also organised as a part of the festival where undergraduate and postgraduate students from different universities of India presented their papers. The best papers were awarded prizes. The festival was also marked by cultural performances by the students.

The inaugural ceremony commenced at 10:30 AM with an enlightening introduction to the significance of Gāthā by student anchors, setting the stage for the thought-provoking discussions in the International Seminar. Following this, the Principal, Prof. Swati Pal, extended a warm welcome to all attendees and felicitated the esteemed guests.

Prof. Prabhu Prasad Mohapatra, in his keynote address, skilfully intertwined the theme of the festival, “Social Justice,” with historical perspectives, particularly in the realm of worldwide labour rights. Drawing upon historical events such as World War I & II and the Bolshevik Revolution, Prof. Mohapatra specifically highlighted caste-based and labour-based social injustices in India, urging for proactive measures to address these systemic issues. Mr. Nagraj Adve shed light on the urgent issue of climate change and its interconnectedness with social justice. Through compelling narratives and staggering statistics, he underscored the detrimental impact of human activities on the environment, emphasising the disproportionate burden borne by the marginalised communities and sparked reflections on the ethical responsibilities of individuals and societies towards environmental stewardship and social equity.

Dr Arun Kumar delivered a thought-provoking talk on social justice in the sphere of education, focusing on the pervasive influence of the caste system and historical figures such as Jyotiba Phule in challenging entrenched inequalities. His impassioned plea for educational reforms resonated with the audience, prompting contemplation on the role of education as a catalyst for social transformation. The seminar concluded with a vibrant exchange of ideas during the interactive Q&A session, wherein attendees engaged with the speakers on various facets of social justice and its intersections with historical contexts.

Following this, the Young Scholars’ Conference on Social Justice was held as part of the fest. It was a dynamic forum where emerging historians and scholars explored the theme of social justice through diverse lenses. Presenters delved into historical contexts, contemporary issues, and future prospects, fostering engaging discussions and critical insights. The conference served as a platform for intellectual exchange, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding social justice within historical frameworks. Total five sessions were held, with a chair and a discussant, from each session. One best paper award was presented from each session.

Gatha’24 came to an end with a cultural program on the theme showcasing the diverse talents and cultural background of the students of BA Honours (History), creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. The program featured a variety of performances and began with an evocative play ‘Made in China’ exploring the theme ‘Social Justice’ followed by dance performances and a group song. In addition to these performances, there were also food stalls



offering a variety of traditional dishes from different cultures, adding to the overall cultural experience of the event.

Overall, Gāthā'24 provided a platform for interdisciplinary discourse on pressing issues of social justice. The insightful and engaging discussions in the International Conference and the Paper presentations by the students of different discipline in the Young Scholars' Conference followed by a cultural program underscored the imperative for collective action towards a more just and equitable society.

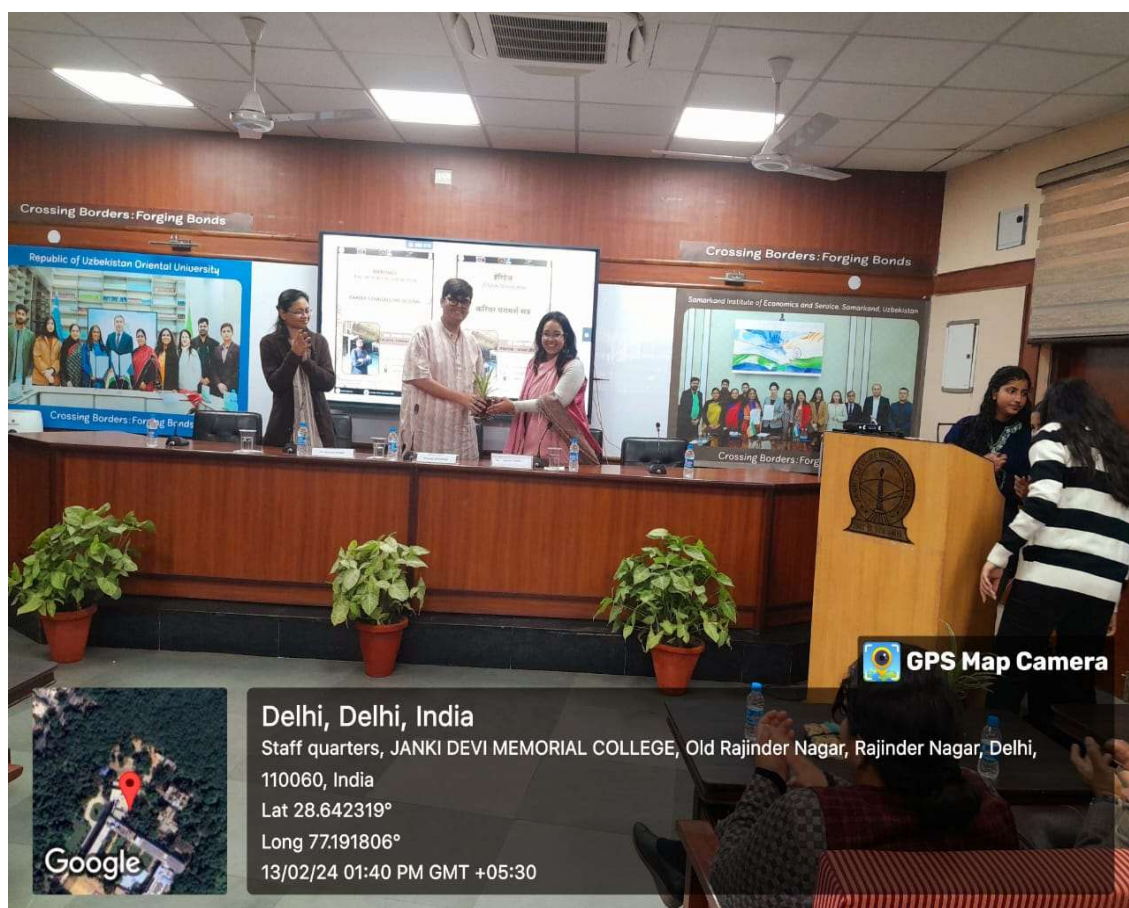






## Report of Career Counselling Session, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Heritage – The History Association of Janki Devi Memorial College, under the aegis of IQAC organised a Career Counselling Session – “Making History Cool Again”, on Tuesday, 13th February, 2024. Mr. Eshan Sharma, was the speaker of the session. Eshan Sharma is a writer, TEDx speaker, and a heritage activist. He is the founder of ‘Karwaan: The Heritage Exploration Initiative’. Mr. Sharma informed the students that History has always been cool, but due to some poor pedagogical practices, history became boring for the students. To make the session interactive, he started with the question, ‘What is History?’, and asked the students for their opinions on history. He informed the students that history is not just about dates, kings and battles, rather history is all about addressing the questions such as, why, what and how, rather than when. He also cleared the difference between the concept of past and history. He made history interesting and students curious, by saying ‘everything has history’. To make this clear, he picked up many basic examples such as chairs, tea, clothes, needles, etc. According to him history includes, the context, process and change. He also urged the professors to change the pedagogy, to make history cool again, by taking help of memes, songs, movies, etc. The whole session was very interactive. The session consisted of various songs, documentaries, memes, various activities, deep-thought provoking questions and conversations. The session was followed by a healthy round of questions and answers. The talk was very fruitful and the students enjoyed and benefitted a lot from this session.





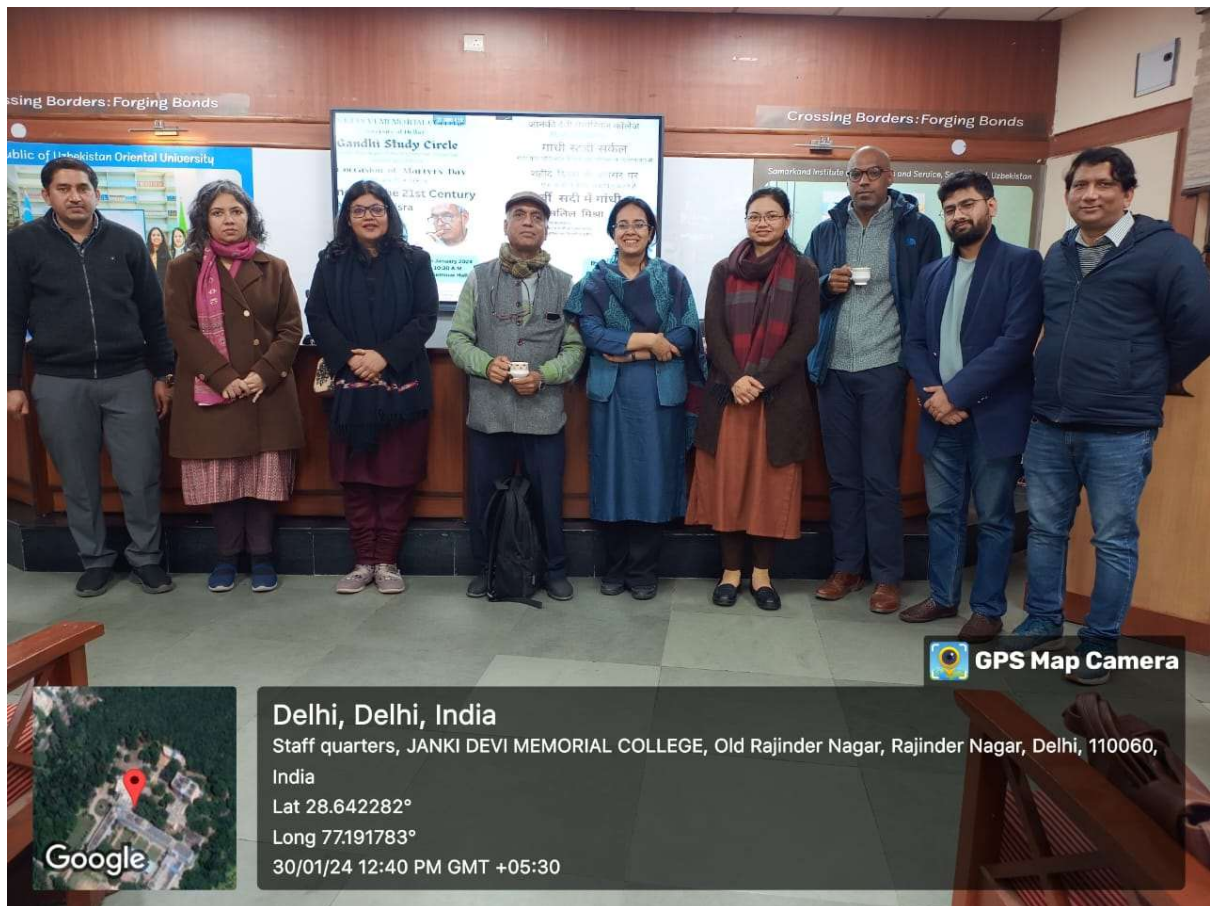


## Report of Lecture by Prof. Salil Misra, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

On the occasion of the Martyrs' Day on January 30, 2024 Prof. Salil Misra, faculty of the Department of the History, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi delivered a talk on the topic Contemporaneity of Gandhian Thought. The lecture, held on the death anniversary of Gandhi, offered a profound exploration of his enduring relevance in modern times. Professor Misra began by contextualizing Gandhi's philosophy within the early 20th-century struggle for Indian independence. He emphasized Gandhi's innovative strategies of non-violence and civil disobedience, highlighting how these principles not only galvanized the Indian masses but also inspired global movements for civil rights and social justice. Misra argued that Gandhi's emphasis on ethical politics and personal integrity remains profoundly relevant in today's world, where political corruption and moral crises are prevalent. The speaker delved into specific aspects of Gandhi's thought that resonate with contemporary issues. He discussed Gandhi's ideas on sustainability and self-reliance, which align closely with today's environmental movements advocating for sustainable living and local economies. Prof. Misra pointed out that Gandhi's vision of Sarvodaya (welfare for all) can inform current debates on social equity and inclusive development. Further, Professor Misra explored Gandhi's views on communal harmony and the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts. In an era marked by increasing polarization and violence, Gandhi's commitment to peace and his belief in the power of non-violent resistance provide valuable lessons for addressing contemporary social and political challenges. The lecture concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students and attendees posed questions about applying Gandhi's principles in various modern contexts. Professor Misra encouraged the audience to critically engage with Gandhi's ideas, adapting them creatively to address today's complex issues. Overall, Professor Salil Misra's lecture underscored Mahatma Gandhi's timeless relevance, inspiring the audience to reflect on how Gandhi's ideals can be reinterpreted and applied to contemporary societal problems.







## Report of trip to National Archive and National Museum, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

An educational excursion to the National Archives and the National Museum was organised for the students of B.A. (Hons.) History on November 7, 2023. The students embarked on an enriching educational tour that provided profound insights into India's historical and cultural heritage. The day began with a visit to the National Archives of India, located near India Gate. As the students entered the iconic building, they were welcomed by the grandeur of its colonial architecture. The tour commenced with a detailed briefing by an archivist who explained the significance of the Archives in preserving the nation's documentary heritage. The students were taken through various sections, including the Public Records, Oriental Records, and the Cartography division. They were particularly fascinated by the original manuscripts of the Constitution of India, rare historical documents, and old maps of India dating back several centuries. The digitization process showcased by the archivist highlighted the efforts taken to make these valuable documents accessible to the public while preserving the originals.

In the afternoon, the students proceeded to the National Museum, a treasure trove of Indian art and history. The students were captivated by the extensive collection spanning over 5,000 years of cultural heritage. The museum's exhibits ranged from ancient artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilization to exquisite Mughal miniatures and contemporary art pieces. A guided tour through the Harappan Gallery, the Maurya, Shunga, and Satvahana Art, and the Gupta Gallery provided an in-depth understanding of India's ancient civilizations and their contributions to art, architecture, and culture. The students also explored the Decorative Arts section, featuring textiles, costumes, and jewellery, which offered a glimpse into India's rich tradition of craftsmanship. This visit to the National Archives of India and the National Museum was not only an educational experience but also an inspiring journey through India's past. The students left with a deeper appreciation of their country's rich cultural legacy and the importance of preserving it for future generations.



Students of History Department at the the National Archives of India, November 7, 2023





Students of History Department at the National Museum, November 7, 2023



Students of History Department at the National Archives of India, November 7, 2023




## Report of Trip to Delhi Art Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023

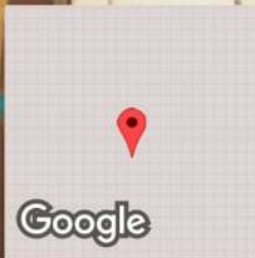
A trip to the Delhi Art Gallery (DAG) was organised for the students on November 2, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the students to the colonial history of Delhi through the exhibition of paintings and photographs curated by Rana Safavi and Swapna Liddle under the project named Delhi Darbar. The collection featured some of the rare artefacts in encapsulating the vestiges of the British rule in Delhi. A group of 24 students accompanied by two teachers went for the visit. The guided tour began with the pictures of Delhi in the aftermath of the revolt of the 1857. Dipanvita, the tour guide, informed students about the crucial position of Delhi in the revolt and the pertinent stories. The second stage of the tour focused on the urban developments in Delhi before it became the capital in 1911. The final and the germane part of the tour was concerned with the grand ceremonies and festivities that took place in Delhi between 1911 and 1918. These public spectacles were essential for the British to declare their rule tantamount to the Mughals. The grandeur of the British ceremonies attempted to emulate the Mughal rule. The visit concluded with a Q&A session. The teachers encouraged the students to think critically about the cultural and historical significance of art and its impact on contemporary issues. Overall, the visit to the Delhi Art Gallery was an enlightening experience, deepening the students' appreciation of Indian art and inspiring them to further explore their creative interests.







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## Report of lecture by Dr Dhananjay Rai, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

On 30th September, 2023, at 11:30 AM the Heritage History Association of History Department, Janki Devi Memorial College, organised a seminar on the topic “The Praxis of Poorna Swaraj”, in the Seminar Room. The students of history department and other departments joined the lecture. Principal Prof. Swati Pal joined the lecture and welcomed the honourable speaker with a planter. Dr Dhananjay Rai, the speaker and writer of the book ‘Poorna Swaraj: Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place’, enlightened the students about Gandhi and his constructive programme in the rural areas of India. Dr Rai informed the students about Gandhi’s vision of attaining real and complete independence or ‘swaraj’ for India. Dr Rai talked about Gandhi’s Road map for an egalitarian and ideal society through his ideas on communal unity, prohibition, basic education, emancipation of women, Adivasis’ concerns, farmers’ distress, removal of untouchability, demystification of leprosy, the role of khadi, charkha, village and small-scale industries, among others. The talk ended with a vote of thanks by the Association In-charge Dr Natasha Nongbri.





## Report on Debate competition under G20 events, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023

On September 22, 2023, at 12:30 PM, the Heritage History Association, Department of History, Janki Devi Memorial College, organized an “Intra College Debate Competition” under G20 events on the topic “Will Argentina be an asset to BRICS?”. The debate saw the presence of different faculty members such as Dr Ankita Kumar, DR. Md. Zubeer Ahmed and Dr. Kush Kumar Gayasen in the capacity of organiser and judges. There was a total of 17 participants, all the contestants put their best foot forward in the competition. The debate helped the contestants to develop confidence and to overcome fears of public speaking. They enjoyed a healthy, interactive and stimulating competition, also, they engaged in cross questioning each other, which made this activity a success. Lastly, the competition came to its end with the vote of thanks by Mr. Abhinav Mishra (faculty of History department, JDMC).



## Report of Lecture by Prof. Smita Sehgal, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023

The Heritage History Association of Janki Devi Memorial College organized the 8th Dr Vijay Nath Memorial lecture, on September 21st, 2023 under the aegis of IQAC. The lecture was delivered by renowned Prof. Smita Sehgal from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi. The Teacher in-charge of the history department Dr. Saumya Gupta welcomed all the guests in the packed seminar room and shared a brief biography of Prof. Nath. Prof. Swati Pal, principal of the college addressed the gathering and also called for a two minutes silence in memory of Dr. Vijay Nath. Prof. Sehgal delivered the lecture titled “Contesting the binary: Gender Norms and Departures in Early India.” The president of Heritage Association, Ranjana commenced the proceedings by welcoming the guest with her small introduction and later requested her to initiate the academic discussion.

Professor Sehgal started with sharing her memories with Dr. Nath. Further in her speech she talked about gender binaries and the implications of going beyond gender binaries. The major highlight of her speech was an academic focus on transgenders and their representation in Ancient Indian texts. She explained about trans sexuality and the important role of transgenders. She substantiated her arguments by bringing in examples from Mahabharata, Padma Purana and Vishnu Purana etc. Lastly, she gave special emphasis on Gender Equity and concluded by giving reasons on how gender binary can be contested. The floor was opened up for questions and answers after the talk. The students and faculty both interacted with the speaker. The event ended with a vote of thanks given by Vice President Palak and Association in-charge Dr. Natasha Nongbri.







## Report of Lecture by Prof. Riho Isaka, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

The Heritage History Association of Janki Devi Memorial College organized a Distinguished Speaker Series lecture under the aegis of IQAC. The speaker invited was Prof. Riho Isaka, Department of Area Studies, University of Tokyo, Japan. The topic was “Writing History: Location, Language and Dialogue.” The Vice President of the association, Palak commenced the lecture by welcoming the guests, followed by an introductory speech by Dr Saumya Gupta, the Teacher In-charge, briefly introducing Prof Isaka and presenting a memento.

Professor Isaka, in the very intellectually stimulating talk, explained about her work on South Asian History: Colonial and Post Colonial Gujarat. She explained about different styles of writing and how Indian History is basically focused on economic, social and political factors. Later on in her speech she talked about translation and how popular it is among Japanese historians and academics. The quality of translation work in Japan is worth appreciating. She also talked about her works as she has translated many books and had written several essays. One of the most exciting elements of the lecture was when she explained the importance of research papers and how history should be understood. She also emphasised on location and context in History Writing. The house was then opened for questions and the students as well as faculty interacted with the speaker. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Palak.

