

Heritage Club

Annual Report 2024-25

Educational Visit to the Indian Parliament

The Heritage Club organized an educational visit to the **Indian Parliament**—covering both the historic **Old Parliament House** and the newly inaugurated **Parliament Building**—on **23 April 2025**. The visit aimed to provide students with a deeper understanding of India's democratic institutions and architectural heritage. A group of **50 students** accompanied by **6 faculty members** participated in this enriching experience.

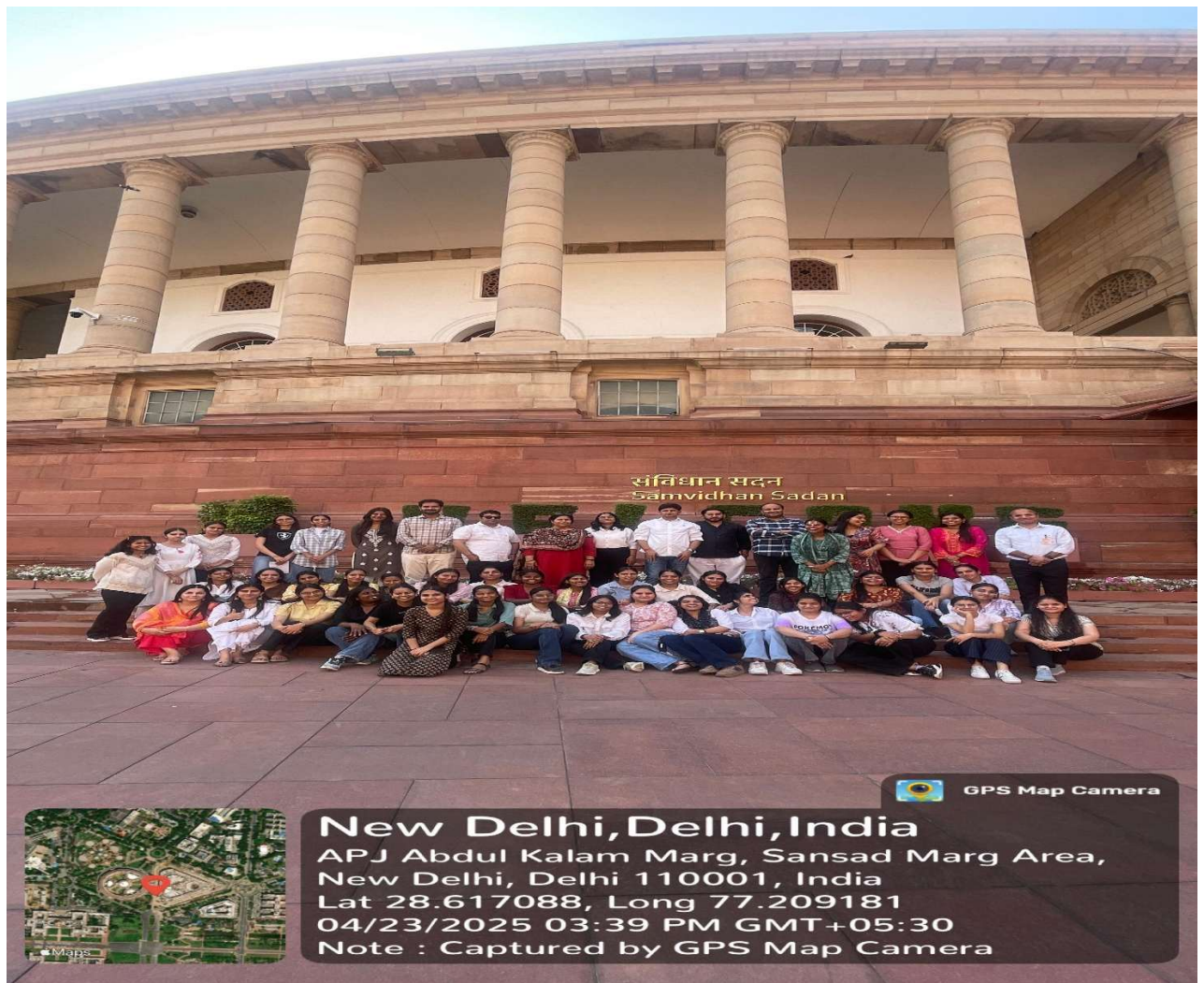
The tour commenced with the Old Parliament House, a colonial-era architectural marvel designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. Students were introduced to its historical significance, including its role in shaping the country's legislative framework since 1927. They explored the Central Hall, which witnessed landmark events such as the adoption of the Constitution and the transfer of power in 1947.

The visit continued to the **New Parliament Building**, an embodiment of modernity and self-reliance, showcasing contemporary design blended with traditional motifs. Students admired its state-of-the-art facilities, energy-efficient infrastructure, and cultural symbolism reflected in its artwork and motifs representing India's diversity.

The educational tour was both informative and inspiring, offering insights into India's legislative process, architectural evolution, and democratic ethos. Although Parliament was not in session, the experience allowed students to visualize the functioning of the highest law-making body.

The Heritage Club expressed gratitude to the authorities for facilitating the visit and to the teachers for their guidance. The initiative successfully deepened students' appreciation for India's democratic heritage and architectural grandeur, fulfilling the Club's mission to foster heritage awareness through experiential learning.





Felicitation Programme and Farewell

The Heritage Club of Janki Devi Memorial College organized a special felicitation programme on **16 April 2025** to honour the contributions of its student office bearers and to bid farewell to **Prof. Gurinder Harnam Singh**, the outgoing Convener of the Club, on the occasion of her retirement.

The event began with a warm welcome by the faculty members, followed by a brief overview of the Club's achievements during the academic year. The student office bearers, who had actively contributed to organizing seminars, lectures, and heritage visits, were felicitated with certificates of appreciation. Their dedication and teamwork were commended as integral to the successful execution of the Club's activities.

The highlight of the programme was the farewell ceremony for Prof. Gurinder Harnam Singh, who had served the Club with great commitment and vision. Under her guidance, the Heritage Club expanded its scope of activities, enriching the academic and cultural experience of students. Faculty members and students shared heartfelt memories, expressing gratitude for her mentorship and leadership.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging Prof. Singh's invaluable service and wishing her a fulfilling retired life, while also celebrating the promising leadership of the student office bearers.





Lecture: “Contribution of Archaeology in Reconstructing History and Career Prospects in Archaeology”

The Heritage Club of JDMC organized an enlightening lecture on **25 March 2025** titled *“Contribution of Archaeology in Reconstructing History and Career Prospects in Archaeology”*. The session was delivered by **Dr. Sajjan Kumar**, a distinguished faculty member from the Department of History, University of Delhi, known for his expertise in archaeological studies and historical research.

Dr. Kumar emphasized the critical role of archaeology in uncovering material evidence that helps historians reconstruct the past with greater accuracy. He elaborated on how excavations, artifacts, and inscriptions offer valuable insights into social, economic, and cultural life in ancient and medieval periods, complementing textual sources. Real-life examples from Harappan sites and early historic excavations enriched the discussion.

The lecture also highlighted the vast career opportunities in the field of archaeology, including roles in research institutions, museums, heritage conservation, and cultural resource management. Dr. Kumar provided practical guidance on academic qualifications, training, and competitive examinations required for aspiring archaeologists.

The interactive session that followed witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who sought advice on internships and professional pathways. The event was highly appreciated for

its academic depth and relevance, reinforcing the Heritage Club's commitment to promoting heritage studies and career awareness.



Lecture-cum-Demonstration: “The Tawaif Story”

The Heritage Club organized a thought-provoking **lecture-cum-demonstration** on **19 February 2025** titled “*The Tawaif Story*”, presented by the renowned classical dancer and cultural revivalist **Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi**. Known for her pioneering work in blending performing arts with social narratives, Ms. Chaturvedi is celebrated internationally for reviving forgotten traditions and advocating gender discourse through dance.

The session aimed to shed light on the cultural history of the **Tawaifs**—women performers who were once the custodians of art, music, and etiquette in the courts of India but later marginalized due to colonial morality and changing social norms. Ms. Chaturvedi’s lecture traced the evolution of Tawaif culture from its zenith during the Mughal period to its decline in colonial and post-colonial times.

Interspersed with a captivating dance demonstration, the lecture vividly portrayed how Tawaifs nurtured Kathak, thumri, and ghazal traditions, shaping the subcontinent’s cultural fabric. Ms. Chaturvedi emphasized the need to re-examine the unjust stigmatization of these artists and recognize their invaluable contribution to India’s intangible heritage.

Her graceful performance combined with scholarly insight mesmerized the audience, leaving them with a deeper understanding of the intersection between art, gender, and history. Students interacted enthusiastically during the Q&A session, reflecting on contemporary perceptions of art and morality.

The Heritage Club expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Chaturvedi for her enriching session. Her passion, eloquence, and artistic excellence made “*The Tawaif Story*” not only an academic discourse but also an unforgettable cultural experience. The event reinforced the club’s mission of preserving and celebrating India’s diverse heritage.





Delhi, Delhi, India

Staff Quarters, Janki Devi Memorial College, Old Rajinder
Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, Delhi 110060, India

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Lecture: “Dama Dam Mast Qalandar – A Sufi Anthem or a Popular Song”

The Heritage Club organized an insightful lecture on **17 February 2025** titled “*Dama Dam Mast Qalandar: A Sufi Anthem or a Popular Song*”. The lecture was delivered by **Dr. Kumkum Srivastava**, an eminent scholar of Sufi traditions and cultural studies.

The session aimed to explore the historical, cultural, and musical significance of the iconic composition *Dama Dam Mast Qalandar*, which has transcended boundaries over centuries. Dr. Srivastava traced the origins of the song to the veneration of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, a revered Sufi saint, and examined how the piece evolved from a devotional qawwali into a globally recognized musical expression.

Through her engaging narrative, Dr. Srivastava analyzed the interplay between spirituality and popular culture, questioning whether the song retains its sacred essence or has become a commercialized cultural product. Students were introduced to various renditions across time, highlighting its adaptation in films, concerts, and festivals.

The lecture concluded with an interactive session where students shared their perspectives on cultural appropriation and continuity of traditions. The event was highly appreciated for its depth and relevance, reaffirming the Heritage Club’s commitment to fostering dialogue on India’s rich syncretic traditions.





Delhi, Delhi, India

Staff Quarters, Janki Devi Memorial College, Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, Delhi 110060, India

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Inter-College Documentary Making Competition

The Heritage Club successfully organized an **Inter-College Documentary Making Competition** on the theme “*Delhi’s Food Heritage: A Culinary Journey*” during the month of **October 2024**. The competition aimed to promote awareness and appreciation of Delhi’s rich and diverse culinary traditions while encouraging students to explore and creatively present the city’s gastronomic legacy.

Participants from various colleges showcased their talent by presenting documentaries that captured the evolution of Delhi's food culture, its Mughal influences, street food diversity, and the blend of traditional and contemporary cuisines. The submissions highlighted famous food hubs like Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid, and modern culinary spaces, while also addressing sustainability and cultural significance. The documentaries were evaluated on the basis of content, creativity, research, technical quality, and presentation.

The **Prize Distribution Ceremony** was held on **25 November 2024** in the college. The event began with an address by the students, who emphasized the importance of preserving and celebrating intangible cultural heritage such as cuisine. The judges appreciated the exceptional quality of the entries and the research undertaken by students.

Three winners were felicitated and awarded a **total prize money of ₹10,000**, with the first, second, and third prizes being ₹5,000, ₹3,000, and ₹2,000 respectively. The event concluded with a vote of thanks to the participants, faculty, and the organizing team for making the competition a grand success.

The initiative not only encouraged creative expression but also provided a platform to rediscover and celebrate Delhi's culinary heritage, reinforcing the Heritage Club's commitment to cultural awareness and preservation.





Geo-Tagging Camera

2024/11/25 13:00

New Delhi, Delhi, India
J.D.M.C Rd, Pocket B 1, North Extension Area,
Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110001, India
Lat 28.641607 Long 77.192379

Storytelling Session “Re Kabira”

The Heritage Club of organized an engaging storytelling session titled “*Re Kabira*” on **20 September 2024**, featuring the renowned storyteller **Mr. Baasab Chandana**. The session focused on the life, philosophy, and times of the 15th-century mystic poet and saint, Kabir, whose verses continue to inspire generations.

The event began with a warm welcome by the Convener of the Heritage Club, who introduced the resource person and highlighted the relevance of Kabir’s teachings in contemporary society. Mr. Chandana captivated the audience with his unique narrative style, blending historical anecdotes, dohas (couplets), and interpretations to bring alive Kabir’s worldview.

Through his storytelling, he explored themes such as unity, spiritual wisdom, and social reform that were central to Kabir’s philosophy. Students were encouraged to reflect on Kabir’s message of harmony and simplicity in today’s fast-paced world. The interactive nature of the session allowed students to share their thoughts and seek clarifications, making it a truly participatory experience.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Chandana for his insightful presentation. *Re Kabira* left the audience enriched and motivated to delve deeper into India’s rich cultural and philosophical heritage.





Orientation Programme “Deeksharambh”

The Heritage Club organized its orientation programme “*Deeksharambh*” on **12 September 2024** with the objective of introducing and inducting newly enrolled students into the club. The event aimed to familiarize students with the club’s mission, activities, and opportunities for active participation in preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

The programme began with a welcome address by the Convener of the Heritage Club, who highlighted the significance of heritage conservation and the role of the club in fostering awareness among students. This was followed by an engaging presentation showcasing the club’s past initiatives, including heritage walks, workshops, and cultural exhibitions. Faculty coordinators shared insights on the importance of student involvement in such activities for holistic learning and personal growth.

Interactive sessions and ice-breaking activities were conducted to encourage participation and build a sense of community among the new members. Students were invited to share their ideas for future projects, which generated enthusiastic responses.

The event concluded with the formal induction of new members and a vote of thanks to the Principal and faculty for their guidance and support. *Deeksharambh* proved to be an inspiring start for the new members, setting the tone for an active and vibrant year ahead.

