



## INTACH

DELHI CHAPTER

Weekly News Clippings – 135

12<sup>th</sup> January- 18<sup>th</sup> Januarv

### Editor's Note

*In New Year, heritage body lands maintenance job of prime plots*

*Conserve to score better?*

*Heritage tomb in way of DMRC parking project*

*At Purana Qila, a musical bond*

*A war memorial lost in time*

*Delhi's Mahabharata connection*

### IN NEW YEAR, HERITAGE BODY LANDS MAINTENANCE JOB OF PRIME PLOTS

The year 2010 has started on a good note for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It has finally got two plots of land for 'care and maintenance' in the vicinity of centrally protected monuments. A piece of one acre land is near Siri Fort adjoining its existing Children's Museum. The other land -- 13 acres -is near Humayun's Tomb in Nizamuddin. While for the first plot, the ASI was at loggerheads with the Delhi Development Authority, in the latter, it was fighting for removing encroachment by Delhi State Bharat Scouts and Guides. The ASI had earlier fought a long legal battle to claim halfan-acre of land on which the DDA had built a concrete building to be used as an officers' club. The building was handed over to the ASI, which opened a children's museum there to create awareness among youngsters about heritage. "An additional one acre of land was handed over to us last week. We now plan to use the space for life-size replicas of popular images like the Buddha statue at Sarnath or Anant Sheshshayi Vishnu idol near Lalitpur in Madhya Pradesh or Rudrashiva in Chhattisgarh," said K.K. Muhammed, the ASI Delhi circle chief. The land, which the ASI took over on Friday, has been given to the ASI for "care and maintenance", he confirmed and not on ownership basis. Similarly, the ASI received possession of 13 acres of land on the north of Humayun's Tomb in Nizamuddin area. The land was occupied by Delhi State Bharat Scouts and Guides for almost three decades. This land too was given to the ASI last week. The ASI will also develop the place, defaced by continuous occupation and at times commercial use, as part of the ongoing conservation project being carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for the area.

#### SOURCE

12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Hindustan Times

#### CONSERVE TO SCORE BETTER?

Imagine Red Fort or Humayun's Tomb helping you get those extra marks? Surprised! According to the new CBSE guidelines, heritage conservation will be introduced in the curriculum to sensitise students towards monuments. But will it teach them the value of heritage? To begin with, it will act as a reminder, says Nalini Arul Raj, principal, Somerville School, Noida, adding, "Heritage walks have been a part of school curriculum. Introducing it as a project is an inspiring step. Students will get a first hand experience of our cultural treasure. After all, they are the ones who will take forward the legacy". But the real challenge is that of the HRD ministry which needs to ensure the dream turns into reality. Comments R K Sharma, principal, Ahlcon Public School, Mayur Vihar,

“The heritage conservation project will bring a sense of belonging in our students. But it should go beyond grades and be introduced as an alternate career choice.” And will parents allow their wards to indulge in such field trips? Says Kiran Banerji, principal, Tagore International School, Gurgaon: “Monuments need to be conserved. Adding it as a school activity in the form of poster making, organising skits etc is an alternate,” she asserts. In fact, parents, sums R R Kumar, principal, Hansraj Model School, Punjabi Bagh, “need to look beyond the report card.”

#### **SOURCE**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Times of India**

#### **HERITAGE TOMB IN WAY OF DMRC PARKING PROJECT**

The fate of the Delhi metro Rail Corporation’s fully automated multi-level parking lot for Delhi High Court seems uncertain with NDMC notifying a 15<sup>th</sup> century heritage monument at the site. The state Level Expert Appraisal Committee, which had a few months back given in principle approval to the project, reconsidered its decision recently after the NDMC notified the unnamed tomb in its list of 141 heritage monuments and structures. “The proposal was reconsidered by the Committee in a recent meeting when members expressed their dissatisfaction with the information provided by the project proponent on the status of the unprotected monument located inside the site,” a SEAC member said. No alterations or demolition can be made to any of the structures in the list without referring the proposal to the Heritage Conservation Committee.

#### **SOURCE**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Pioneer**

#### **AT PURANA QILA, A MUSICAL BOND**

On a cold January night, two singers from both sides of the fence turned the 16th century Purana Qila into an amphitheatre of harmony. Songs sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Kailash Kher soared from the heart, forming an invisible bridge of musical notes between India and Pakistan. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra were part of the appreciative and enthusiastic audience on Saturday. The occasion was also graced by Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit and the MP from Kurukshetra, Naveen Jindal. The concert was part of Aman ki Asha, an Indo-Pak peace project, initiated by The Times of India and the Jang group. “It is a historic day. Every song today will be dedicated to the noble cause,” said Kher before beginning his performance. Then he dished out a string of superhits that blended folksy notes with contemporary rhythm: Tauba tauba, Teri diwani, Heere moti, Chak de fatte (film: Khosla Ka Ghosla) and a few more. Dressed in all white, Kher was at his interactive best. The 36-year-old singer from Meerut had the audience clapping, dancing and singing. Oscar winning composer A R Rahman had once said Kher’s voice is “pure soul” with “its own unique space”. It was a performance worthy of the remark. Kher recalled that he had performed his first concert with Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. Before beginning his performance, the latter said, “Hum jab bhi ikattha huen hain, aman ki ashah lekar huen hain (Whenever we have come together, we have always hoped for peace.)” The nephew of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was in sublime form. A well-known singer of qawwali, Rahat has also made a name for himself singing some of the finest romantic tracks in Hindi films in recent years. He began with Nazar mein rehte ho, the theme song for the peace project. Then he regaled the audience with some of his choicest Bollywood hits: Lagan laagi tujhse man ki lagan (Paap), Tujhe dekh dekh hasna (Kalyug), Teri ore (Singh Is Kinng) and Aaj din chadheya (Love Aaj Kal). He was at his best in his rendition of Allah hoo when he seemed to be in communion with the creator. The music was unforgettable soul curry for everyone within the ramparts built by Emperor Sher Shah Suri. The audience, braving the cold and undeterred by the long queues, was duly rewarded. As the music rose, it often burst into spontaneous applause. With hot tea served in chukkars, the cold only proved to be a mood enhancer. It was an evening of hope where music bridged all differences. It was an evening to remember.

#### **SOURCE**

## **A WAR MEMORIAL LOST IN TIME**

Not many are aware of tence, but a beautifully maintained War Memorial, in the form of a stone pillar inside the Noida Golf Course, bears testimony to a piece of history. The Battle of Delhi altered many an equation and gave the British leeway over Delhi in 1803. The proportionate stone pillar built in 1916 as per inscriptions on it stands as a memorial for the war fought between the Marathas and the British forces in 1803. An inscription on the pillar tells us: 'Near this spot was fought on September 11, 1803, the battle in which the forces of the Mahrattas, commanded by M Lois Bourquien, were defeated by the British Army under General Gerard Lake.' The stone pillar, approximately 35-40 feet tall, has a square bottom and a slimmer top and is situated on a mound inside the sylvan surroundings of the 100-acres of Noida Golf Course. "It has been part of the Golf Course ever since 1987-88. We have been taking care of it since then," said Brijendra Sahay, founder president of the Noida Golf Course. "I have been living in Noida since 1993, but I am not aware of such a memorial," said Mohammad Shafi, a resident of Sector 12. The pillar does not find mention in any archaeological list as well. Said a senior Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official, "For any monument to be included in centrally protected list, it needs to be atleast 100 years old. But then, the proposed Heritage Bill 2009 will take care of all such monuments." HISTORIC PILLAR The pillar stands testimony to a forgotten episode in history. WHAT WAS BATTLE OF DELHI (1803)? According to the Haryana government website: In 1803, the area of what is present day Haryana and Delhi came under the control of the East India Company of Great Britain. At that time, Mughal ruler Shah Alam was ruling Delhi but the real power lay in the hands of the Maratha leader Daulat Rao Sindhiya. On September 6, 1803, the battle between General Lake's British forces and the Marathas took place near Patparganj village. Many people from Haryana fought along with the Marathas. The Marathas lost. On September 30, 1803, Sindhiya also decided to make peace with the British by signing a treaty with the East India Company. Under this treaty, the areas of Haryana and Delhi came under the control of the British.

### **SOURCE**

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Hindustan Times**

## **DELHI'S MAHABHARATA CONNECTION**

The Purana Qila has many secrets hidden in it, among them the Talaqi Darwaza and the Kunti Devi temple. The latter is said to have been built by the mother of the five Pandavas and is dedicated to Shiva and Durga. Hence, it is known as Shiv-Durga Mandir. History books are mainly silent on this little temple, which was renovated in 1915 by Pandit Ghasiram Bhardwaj, the 108<sup>th</sup> Mahant of his sect. even now the mandir is being looked after by his heirs, under whose possession also come the adjoining dharmshala, platform, garden and surrounding land, as stated in the inscription displayed outside the temple. Few visitors to the old fort are attracted to this place, which should originally date back to 1000 B.C, more than 1,500 years older than the fort built as Dinpanah by Humayun and later built upon by Sher Shah Suri, who ousted the second Moughul emperor barely 10 years after his reign. Sher Shah ruled for only five years and then his son Salim Shah came to the throne, after which Humayun, who had taken refuge in Persia, came back and recaptured his kingdom. But he ruled for less than a year before falling to his death from the Sher Mandal inside the fort.

### **SOURCE**

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Hindu**

**Should you have any comments or suggestions, you could reach us at**

**INTACH Delhi Chapter**

**71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110003**

**Tel : 2463 2267, 2463 2269 Ext. 105**

**Email : [feedback@intachdelhichapter.org](mailto:feedback@intachdelhichapter.org)**