



INTACH

DELHI CHAPTER

Weekly News Clippings – 137

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YOUTH TO HELP SAVE HERITAGE

Two organizations- one a prominent government body and another an NGO- have decided to rope in youngsters from schools and colleges for preserving and colleges for preserving India's ancient and often neglected heritage. According to officials of the two organizations- Delhi Chapter of the ASI and INTACH an NGO-bringing in youngsters and sensitizing them to the need of preserving symbols of India's rich past is the need of the hour. while the ASI has roped in students of several schools and colleges, INTACH has started a project 'Filmit India. The project which is currently underway in three cities of Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata, involves training students on preserving nation's monumental heritage. ASI officials said they would hold interactive sessions with students to educate them about preservation of monuments.

SOURCE

26th January 2010, Tribune

INTACH MEET TO FOCUS ON MEDIA, YOUTH

The role of the youth and media in preserving climate as well as endangered languages, ancient music and dance will be top on the agenda of an all India meet to be held in Delhi later this week by INTACH. The all-India covenors meeting, being organized by INTACH on Wednesday and Thursday, will bring the curtains down on the body's silver jubilee celebrations. According to an INTACH release, setting up of rural chapters of the Trust, community involvement in capacity building and preservation of endangered languages, ancient music and dance forms will be the other highlights of the two-day meet.

SOURCE

26th January 2010, Pioneer

YAMUNA BED SET FOR GREEN, TOURIST-FRIENDLY MAKEOVER

WHILE Union Sports minister M S Gill last week said the Yamuna is so dirty that foreign visitors should be kept away from the river during the Commonwealth Games, plans are afoot to make the riverbed a tourist-friendly zone -- keeping in mind environmental issues. Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Tejendra Khanna said there are plans to make concentric layers or sub-zones on the riverbed. He said, "The peripheral layer will allow recreational activities for visitors, like picnics." Khanna heads the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which plans land-use of the area. Maintaining too much construction on the riverbed will not be entertained; Khanna told Newsline that DDA already has a plan in place by which this can

be done. Khanna chaired a high-level meeting last week in which feasibility and implementation of the plan had been discussed. "There will be three layers on the riverbed," he said. "At the heart of the riverbed, alongside Yamuna, will be a biodiversity zone. There will be no construction here, and visitors will not be allowed to enter. The next layer will be the 'interactive zone' -- while heavily forested, people will be allowed to enter this area. "The last zone, farthest from the river, will be permitted to host recreational activities," he said. Khanna said at least 3,000 hectares of approximately 10,000 hectares of the riverbed had been "lost" to construction. So, "it is important to make judicious use of the remaining 7,000 hectares". While the nature of "recreational activities" is yet to be determined, he said a few suggestions that came up -- a Formula One course, among others -- during the meet were turned down. Ruling out canalisation of the Yamuna, Khanna said this was not possible in Delhi due to the nature of the river and the pattern of rainfall in the city. "We studied the possibility of canalisation and ruled that out -- this is primarily because rainfall pattern in our country is very different from that of Europe, and the amount of surface runoff in Delhi is much higher. "The Yamuna also carries a very heavy silt load. While it has been possible to canalise the Thames or the Danube, this is not the case with the Yamuna." Khanna said his main aim would be to "preserve as much of the riverbed as possible". He said there are 20 "experimental wells" on the riverbed to study the pollution levels and the feasibility of cleaning the river. Planning is a major issue right now. Is the Masterplan-2021 cleared for implementation? The Masterplan is still pending with the Supreme Court, although there is no stay on the implementation. There are a number of planning issues which have to be sorted out in Delhi such as the increasing need of pedestrian safety with safe pedestrian crossings, especially in the light of the increasing number of accidents. As there are no clear-cut pedestrian walkways, pedestrians spill onto the main carriageway which is dangerous. We will also look at bringing in a proper hawking policy with hawking zones across the city. Since the inception of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in 1956, there has been no comprehensive plan to incorporate vendors into mainstream urban planning. There are certain proposals, like my suggestion to have country homes instead of farmhouses and doing away with major agricultural tracts which are pending with the Urban Development Ministry. I have also asked the DDA to fast-track housing schemes and clear the backlog. Slum rehabilitation for instance, will now be carried out through biometric identities of slum-dwellers.

SOURCE

26th January 2010, Indian Express

THREE ROAD PROJECTS GET PLANNING BODY'S OKAY

The Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre (UTTIPEC) has approved three road development projects for S.P.Mukherjee Marg, the Chandni Chowk main road and the traffic plan around the Civic Centre precincts integrating the entire walled city. UTTIPEC is a regulatory body that clears all infrastructure projects in Delhi. The MCD will implement these three projects. Three architects -Abhimanyu Dalal (for Chandni Chowk project), Pradeep Sachdeva (for S.P. Mukherjee Marg project) and A.G.K. Menon (for integration of the walled city with the Civic Centre) -- worked in tandem to chalk out micro-level details. Once implemented, these would give equal space to all road users and preserve and conserve the heritage area. Taking a "practical approach", MCD officials said they would concentrate on only those things that are 'do-able' till June to avoid a mess ahead of the Commonwealth Games in October 2010. "Our project will see the integration of all agencies, including the railways. We will focus mainly on road widening and up-gradation part of these projects in phase-I," MCD Commissioner K.S. Mehra told HT. Welcoming the approval, Menon said, "It is a revolutionary step."

SOURCE

27th January 2010, Hindustan Times

[PARKING PLAN AT PATADE GROUND HITS ROADBLOCK](#)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) ambitious plan to construct multilevel parking lot at Parade Ground has hit a roadblock. The proposed parking was supposed to provide a permanent solution to the parking woes in Walled City. Shri Dharmik Ramlila Committee, who organizes Ramlila at the grounds every year, has written a letter to the civic body protesting the move. "We had received a letter from the Shri Dharmik Ramlila committee in which they have raised concerns over the parking. The committee feels that the parking will disrupt the Ramlila functions they hold at Parade Ground every year," said Deep Mathur, director press and information, MCD. "We are planning to hold a meeting with the committee members this week to sort out matter. Since the parking will be underground, it will not disrupt any kind of activity at the ground level," he said. "The Walled City is a commercial hub and the lack of any parking site here is a major problem. For years now, we have been given empty promises of a parking lot being constructed in the area, but nothing happened. And finally, when MCD has started groundwork for constructing the parking site at Parade Ground, the Ramlila Committee is opposing it," said Sanjay Bhargava, general secretary of Chandni Chowk traders association. MCD had zeroed in on Parade Ground after the underground multi-level parking lot they had to make at Shaheed Park hit a bump with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). ASI had refused to give permission, saying it was near two centrally-protected monuments Khooni Darwaaza and Ferozeshah Kotla ruins.

[SOURCE](#)

[27th January 2010, Hindustan Times](#)

[SIX GET INTACH AWARDS FOR CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE](#)

ON the silver jubilee celebrations of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), six people were awarded the INTACH Indira Gandhi Lifetime Achievement Awards for Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Ebrahim Alkazi, theatre personality, Kapila Vatsyayan, art historian and cultural diplomat, Martand Singh, textile researcher and curator, Rajeev Sethi, leading designer and expert on South Asian culture, O P Jain, involved in the preservation and nurturing of India's cultural heritage and O P Agrawal, instrumental in establishing Lok Kala Sangrahalaya for the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage of all religions, were awarded on Wednesday. Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit and Secretary Culture Jawahar Sircar attended the programme and also assured INTACH that there will no funds crunch for the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage. In his inaugural speech, S K Misra, Chairman, INTACH elaborated in detail the developments that took place in the last 25 years of its existence. "The work of the various divisions like Architectural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Material Heritage, Chapters Division, HECS Division, Heritage Tourism, Cultural Heritage Division have now been extended. The Divisions of Intangible and Cultural Heritage have also been added to the INTACH's fold," Misra said.

[SOURCE](#)

[28th January 2010, Indian Express](#)

[BOOK YOUR TICKET TO QUTUB ONLINE](#)

Planning a weekend visit with your family to Qutub Minar or the Red Fort? Just log on to the Internet and get the entrance tickets online. This facility would soon be available to the people, who will not have to stand in queue to get a common entry ticket. The facility would cover all Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monuments across the country. "The recently introduced common entry tickets have received a very good response. Now, these tickets would be available online," said Jawahar Sircar, Secretary (Culture), on Wednesday. Stating that it was an initiative of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who also holds the portfolio of Culture Ministry, Sircar said the ASI monuments would soon get communicative signage, telling visitors about the importance of

the places. He was speaking at the silver jubilee celebrations of Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a non-profit organization working in the field of conservation. The day also marked the NGO's two-day All India State Convener's Meet. "Delhi has the largest number of monuments (but) heritage should not just mean monuments. Water bodies are equally important," said Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit. "There was a time when Delhi had more than 325 water bodies. Of these, few have been used for constructing houses." Praising INTACH for its 25 years of work, Dikshit said funds for heritage conservation should not be a problem at all. "The government should help a good cause. I recommend on behalf of INTACH that the Ministry, the ASI and also the (Delhi) state can give money for conservation work," she assured.

SOURCE

28th January 2010, Hindustan Times

HC ASKES ASI TO EXPLAIN JANTAR MANTAR'S SORRY STATE

Concerned about the deteriorating condition of Jantar Mantar, the world famous observatory in the heart of the city, Delhi High Court has sought an explanation from the Centre and ASI. A bench, headed by Chief Justice A P Shah, asked the government to respond to the allegation of a lawyer who has accused it and ASI of being negligent in maintaining the astronomical observatory built in 1724. Since the land on which it is located comes under New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the HC has issued notice to the civic agency also, seeking its response. The court was hearing a PIL filed by an advocate seeking its direction to the authorities to take steps for proper maintenance of the heritage structure.

SOURCE

28th January 2010, Times of India

COURT NOTICE ON JANTAR MANTAR UPKEEP

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the centre and the ASI on a PIL by an advocate alleging negligence in the maintenance of the historic Jantar Mantar here. The petitioner, Ravindra Nath Sharma, urged the Court to issue directions to the respondents to restore the ancient observatory to its original glory and working condition. Describing its present condition as miserable, the petitioner submitted that it was disheartening to note that it was not only lying neglected but looked rampaged and distorted.

SOURCE

28th January 2010, Hindu

HC RAPS ASI ON OVERDUE JANTAR MANTAR REVAMP

The Delhi High court on Wednesday sought an explanation from centre and ASI on a petition seeking its directions for restoration of 18th century observatory-Jantar Mantar built by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur. While deferring the matter for February 24, a bench comprising Justice Ajit Prakash Shah and Justice Rajiv Sahai Enlaw directed the government and ASI to file their reply within two weeks.

SOURCE

28th January 2010, Pioneer

NORMS RELAXED FOR WORK NEAR MONUMENTS

The Ministry of Culture has come to the rescue of ongoing infrastructure projects in the capital. Having been pulled up by Delhi High Court for violating its own rules — by allowing constructions within 100m of protected monuments — the Centre, in an attempt to strengthen its position before the next court hearing on Friday, introduced an ordinance that regularizes these constructions and allows repair and reconstruction work in prohibited zones. The newly drafted Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment & Validation) Ordinance, 2010 comes as a huge relief to the state government because a number of Commonwealth Games related projects were affected by the high court order. "The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) issued show cause notices to 92 projects

HC declared the committee illegal and it was dissolved. These projects were crucial for the Games and the government was getting very jittery," said an official. The speed with which the ordinance has been drafted is not only because of the high court hearing on Friday. According to highly placed sources, the parliament session is due next month and the Ministry of Culture and the Commonwealth Games organizing committee (OC) were worried that if the session is announced, then the ordinance would not be notified. Sources said the ordinance will most probably be ratified in the parliament session in February. "Now, ASI can tell the high court that the constructions have been regularized and at the same time, there is time to make an amendment to the ASI Act of 1992 where any construction work within 100m of a centrally-protected monument is illegal. This ordinance cannot be challenged in court now," said sources. Some of the crucial project that would have suffered if the ordinance had not been enacted include the elevated road over Barapullah Nallah, DMRC's Central Sect-Gurgaon line, Salimgarh Fort-Velodrome Road bypass, DDA's Siri Fort sports complex construction, DJB underpass near Nizamuddin etc. "With the state government already under immense pressure because of the Games, they could not have afforded any more delays if ASI withdrew permissions. All these projects were near protected monuments like Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Salimgarh Fort, Siri Fort wall, Subz Burj etc," said senior officials. According to highly placed sources, the ordinance will apply for six months, till the Commonwealth Games, so infrastructure work by various agencies like PWD, DDA, DMRC, MCD etc can continue. "The ordinance will provide for flexibility on constructions, depending on necessity. It will be of six-month duration, after which ASI will complete framing monument specific guidelines and make some amendments to their 1958 rule," said a source.

SOURCE

29th January 2010, Times of India

LET THE MONUMENTS GLOW

The beautifully lit jharokhas (overhanging balconies with pierced stone screens) at the Red Fort attract a lot of appreciative looks from visitors. Delhi's centuries-old monuments are on their way to achieve the same -- with a Rs 6.98-cr boost from the Centre. On the lines of illumination of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monuments ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2010, the archaeology department of the Delhi government will get help for conservation and illumination of over a dozen monuments situated near various Games venues or at prominent locations. Mutiny Memorial (on the northern ridge), Makbara Paik (Mukerba Chowk), Turkman Gate (near Ram Lila Maidan), Bada Laav Ka Gumbad & Baradari (Vasant Vihar) and Mohd Quli Khan's tomb (Mehrauli) apart from a turret and a mosque inside the Lodhi Garden are some of the prominent ones in the list of monuments that would be preserved, conserved and illuminated before the Games in October. "The Union Ministry of Tourism has already transferred 80 per cent of the amount and the work would start soon," a senior government official said. The monuments are identified keeping in mind their proximity to Games venues and also to main arterial roads in the city. An unnamed tomb near National Stadium (venue for Hockey tournaments), another unnamed tomb in a DDA Park at Lado Sarai (near MB Road crossing) and Gol Gumbad (near Lodhi Road flyover) are two such examples. The list includes monuments still to be notified by the department but are in the pipeline like the Bijri Khan Ka Gumbad (R K Puram), the official said. The monuments would be ready along with illumination work well before the Games, he added. The other monuments to be illuminated in the list are: A mosque, gateway and four walls (Lodi Garden), Munda Gumbad (DDA Park, Hauz Khas) and Mosque Darvesh Shah (Khel Gaon). The ministry of tourism, through India Tourism Development Corporation, is also working on illumination of more than 24 ASI protected monuments in Delhi.

SOURCE

29th January 2010, Hindustan Times

SCARRED WITH BEAUTY

A stone-paved lane hedged with marigold flowers leads to one of Delhi's strangest monuments. The 16th-century tomb of Mughal noble Abdul Rahim Khan-IKhana is both ugly and beautiful. Its exterior stonework is stripped off. The plaster on its inside walls is chipped. Its niches are cobwebbed. The ceilings are painted with romantic messages. But before you notice the flaws, the weathered dome, as well as the chhatris and the arches, take you in. The underground tomb is inaccessible but the sarcophagus in the upper chamber is bare, quiet, dark and windy. Bordered by the tony Nizamuddin East apartments on one side and the noisy Mathura Road on the other, the large garden around the ticketed tomb is like a city getaway. It's dotted with Bottle Palm, Ashoka, Mango and Sangwan trees. A giant Neem leans onto the tomb itself. In the mornings, the neighbourhood's health-conscious gentry treats the complex like its local Lodhi Garden. It troops in with its passes for exercises and games. At other times, the place remains forsaken, save a few sight-seers, stray dogs and restless squirrels racing across the grass, climbing the trees and playing catch-me-if-you-can with one another. Emperor Akbar's prime minister and son of his trusted aide Bairam Khan, Khan-IKhana or Rahim was a popular poet of his times. Though known for his dohas, he is also said to have translated Mughal emperor Babar's memoirs from Chaghtai to Persian and written two books on astrology. Although a Muslim by birth, he was a big devotee of Krishna and had a good command over Sanskrit. This ruin was built for Khan-I-Khana's wife and, as it happened, he too was interred here. During the last years of the Mughal reign, the tomb and the dome had their marbles stripped off and put on the tomb of Safdarjang, another noble. The scarred look works well for those who find beauty in melancholy. Ticket Rs 5 Time Sunrise to sunset Where Nizamuddin East, next to the entrance

SOURCE

29th January 2010, Hindustan Times

GRAMOPHONE TO E-BOOKS

Sixty years on, it has kept pace with the times. The rows of books have increased with years and old gramophone records occupy the pride of place with DVDs. Now, the Delhi Public Library -- the biggest public library in the country -- is ready to rewind. The library, located opposite Old Delhi Railway Station, is celebrating its 60 years of existence. And to mark the years, it is organising a six-day exhibition themed Delhi Public Library Rewinds: A Saga of Times Gone By. The exhibition will be held from February 1 to February 6 at Lalit Kala Academy and the occasion would feature display of rare archival material, audiovisual recordings and books from the library, apart from programmes like meet the authors, story-telling competitions, seminars and debates. The highlight of the event will be 'Newseum' that will showcase a selection of advertisements, cartoons, photographs and editorials, etc. published in the newspapers from 1952 to 2009. Rare gramophone records from the library's collection of 4,000 records will also be on display. "We wish to highlight the role the library has played in providing people information and insights into the country's polity, society and culture," said Shailaja Chandra, chairman of the Delhi Library Board. "The idea is to convey the message that there is more to a library than books." "After the exhibition, we plan to make Newseum a permanent section at the library," said Chandra. The library was inaugurated by the country's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, in 1951. It lends books, DVDs, and Internet services to its members for free. The renovated children's section has about 70,000 books and an audio-visual section with an LCD screen for watching movies and educational DVDs "What sets us apart from other libraries in the city is that our library has been a hub of community activities. We regularly organise competitions, seminars and debates in our auditorium for children and adults," said Banwari Lal, director of the library. The library has a literature group, a drama group and music group all formed by its members. The library, which has seen years of declining membership and little use, saw a turnaround in fortunes in the last few years, thanks to the renovation and modernisation. In the last two years, its membership has shot up from 42,000 to 59,000. "This is the only library where one can get such a large collection of books, DVDs, newspapers and access to Internet free. I visit the library at least four days a week," said Deepak Singh, 22, an engineering student. Chakshu Roy, 32, a research analyst with Centre for Policy Research, was a member of the library when in school.

SOURCE

30th January 2010, Hindustan Times

CP REVAMP IN SANDSTONE UD MINISTRY

It's official. The flooring of Connaught Place's (CP) corridors will be rebuilt using the original building material — sandstone. After Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) shot down NDMC's plans to use granite for the flooring, the civic body appealed to the UD ministry to reconsider the matter. But the UD ministry agreed with DUAC, and the floors will be made of sandstone. NDMC spokesperson Anand Tiwari confirmed: "The UD ministry was asked to reconsider the matter. But the appeal was turned down." Both NDMC and CP's shopkeepers — the New Delhi Traders' Association (NDTA) — were pushing for the usage of granite for the flooring but DUAC shot it down and insisted on NDMC sticking to sandstone. A senior DUAC member said: "CP is prime heritage and this is a restoration project. The basic principle of restoration is to stick to the original material." NDTA members are upset with the UD ministry's decision. NDTA chairman Atul Bhargava said: "This is unfortunate. Sandstone is weak and not a good choice for a heavy pedestrian area like Connaught Place. It breaks too easily and is difficult to maintain. Our only option now is to go to court." But conservationists claim the CP restoration project has to be carried out according to Edwin Lutyens' original plans.

SOURCE

30th January 2010, Times of India

KIDS MAKE SHORT FILMS ON CAPITAL'S HERITAGE

An unusual festival, featuring short films made by 10 to 12-year-old Delhi schoolkids on the capital's heritage, would be held on February 1. Organized by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), the aim of the festival is to spread awareness about the city's cultural heritage and the importance of its conservation, said an INTACH official. "This is a capacity building programme among the children. All the kids have been involved in the film making process — from conceptualizing, script writing, shooting to editing," he said.

SOURCE

30th January 2010, Times of India

HUMAYUN'S TOMB TO GET BACK ITS CROWN JEWELS

World heritage site Humayun's Tomb is all set to regain its lost architectural marvels. The eight canopies on the dome of the 16th century monument — which originally had striking blue, yellow and green colour tiles — will be restored as per the original Mughal design and architecture. Experts said that the process of rebuilding the tiles was a very long process and involved detailed studies aimed at understanding the original design and composition of the Mughal-era tiles. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) director-general K N Shrivastava said: "We are going to reconstruct the original blue tile work on the canopies of the monument. Since the monument is a world heritage site, we will have to keep Unesco updated about the plan and also about the progress of the conservation work. Under the principles of conservation, monuments have to be conserved according to the original design and shape. Reconstructing the lost blue tile work is a structural requirement of the tomb." According to ASI officials, the smaller canopies on the roof of the tomb were originally decorated with ceramic tiles in lapis blue, turquoise blue, green, white and yellow as was the tradition at that time. "These striking colours were highlighted by the contrasting milky whiteness of the marble dome in the background. During the early 19th century, most of the original tiles started peeling off. Only traces of them remain today," said a senior ASI official. Experts said that traces of tile work that remained have helped reveal the original pattern, and laboratories in Roorkee, Oxford and Barcelona have tested the tile samples. "An international workshop — co-sponsored by Unesco and ASI — on conservation of Humayun's Tomb tile work was held in April 2009 to discuss, debate and find possible

missing tile work,” added officials. About 40 participants from nine tile producing countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the workshop. According to historians, tile work is a significant element in several Lodhi and early Mughal period structures and remnants of tile work can be seen on several monuments in Delhi. However, the tile-making traditions followed by the Mughals have been lost over the centuries and hence very little in conservation terms could be done when the tiles have fallen, vandalized or simply gone missing. Tile work is a significant architectural element, and it also protects the underlying surface. The loss of tile work severely disfigures the historic architectural character/integrity of the monument. “Conservation of existing tile work should be a priority at all sites and efforts should be made to minimise further loss of the original tiles. Any new tile work that will replace missing tiles should match the original ones in colour, texture, composition and other physical and chemical properties and the conservation work should respect the original patterns,” said Ratish Nanda of Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). AKTC will also train youths of Nizamuddin Basti to produce Mughal style tiles and to preserve tile-making traditions in the country. The conservation work at the Humayun’s Tomb is part of a public-private partnership between the ASI, AKTC, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Aga Khan Foundation. Some months ago, ASI and AKTC officials had removed a thick layer of cement concrete from the roof of the mausoleum. The concrete was putting a pressure of about 10 lakh kilos on the structure. This layer that had been added to the monument during the British rule to prevent water seepage also blocked the water drainage channels on the roof, leading to accumulation of rainwater causing considerable damage to the monument. Making History Again The eight canopies on Humayun’s Tomb were originally covered with ceramic tiles in lapis blue, turquoise blue, green, white and yellow. Tile-making techniques used by the Mughals have been lost over the centuries and very little in terms of conservation has been done when the tiles have been vandalised, fallen or simply gone missing. Traces of the original tile work on the canopies of Humayun’s Tomb helped reveal the original pattern of the tiles. Built in Mughal emperor Humayun’s memory in 1562 by his widow Hamida Begum, Humayun’s Tomb was the first structure to use red sandstone on such a large scale and also the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent. It was given Unesco world heritage status in 1993

SOURCE

31st January 2010, Times of India

HERITAGE TOUR ORGANISED

A 10-km-long heritage ride was organised in the Walled City of Delhi (Shahjahanabad) by the Delhi Cycling Club on Sunday. The event was supported by Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and Delhi chapter of INTACH. The twin purpose of the event was to promote use of bicycles as an environment-friendly, healthy, economical and most sustainable mode of transport and spread awareness and bring pride among the citizens about the rich heritage and history of Delhi. The heritage ride was flagged off by Delhi Mayor Kanwar Sain from Pragati Maidan. The event saw the participation of people from varied fields such as IT professionals, scientists, engineers, architects, environmentalists, academicians, researchers, students, journalists, social activists, management professionals from Delhi and the National Capital Region. They visited various heritage and historical monuments of Shahjahanabad during the two-hour guided journey. Key monuments and buildings of historical significance covered during the ride included Delhi Gate, Jama Masjid, Red Fort, Jain Mandir, Gauri Shankar Mandir, Begum Samru Ki Kothi, Gurdwara Sisganj, Sunehari Masjid, Fatehpuri Masjid, Town Hall, Khooni Darwaza and Ferozshah Kotla. The history and significance of these buildings and landmarks were explained by walk leader Jaya Basera from INTACH who cycled along with event participants. This is the fifth heritage ride organised by the Delhi Cycling Club, a non-profit group dedicated to bicycle advocacy.

SOURCE

1st February 2010, Hindu