

Department of History: RKMV-Shimla

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Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

One Day Workshop

On

‘Walk and Learn: Heritage Walk of Shimla’: 5th March, 2024

Schedule of the Programme

10:15 AM-10:30 AM	Inaugural Ceremony, Welcome Address	Ms. Hemlata Assistant Professor
10: 30 AM-11:15 AM	Introduction of the Workshop British Heritage of Shimla: An Overview	Dr. Anurita Saxena Principal RKMV-Shimla
11:15 AM-12:00 PM	Role of INTACH to Preserve Tangible and Intangible Heritage with special reference to HP	Mr. Raja Bhasin Historian and Writer
12:00 PM- 12:15 PM	Tea Break	-
12:15 PM- 1:00 PM	Importance of Heritage and its Preservation	Ms. Nisha Kumari Assistant Professor
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break	-
2:00 PM- 2:30 PM	Walk and Learn (Heritage Walk)	From RKMV (Shimla Hills)to Ridge Maidan
2:30- 3:30	„	Himalyan Topography, Water Distribution system of Shimla
3:30 PM- 4:00 PM	„	Library & Church
4: 00 PM- 4: 30 PM	„	History of US Club
4: 30 PM -5:00 PM	„	Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Scandal Point- Ridge Maidan
5:00 PM : 5:15 PM	Student Feedback	

**Patron: Dr. Anurita
Saxena
Key Note Speaker:
Mr. Raja Bhasin**



One Day Workshop On Walk and Learn : Heritage of Shimla

From: RKMV to Surrounding Area
of Ridge Maidan

**Organisor:
Department of History
In Collaboration with INTACH**



Report
On
One Day workshop
‘Walk and Learn: Heritage Walk of Shimla’
5th March, 2024
Session: 2023-24



On 5th of March 2024, Department of History in collaboration with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) organised one day workshop on **‘Walk and Learn: Heritage Walk of Shimla’**. The workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session was a talk session of various speakers where they shared the information on various aspects of Shimla Heritage. In the second session the hands on information was provided to students through walk and learn activity from the RKMV to the surrounding places of Ridge Maidan. 29 students participated in this activity. The workshop was organised in order to achieve the following objectives.

1. To enhance the knowledge of the students about British History of Shimla.
2. To sensitize the students about the Shimla Heritage.
3. To instil a sense of social responsibility among students.

4. To develop the ideas to protect and preserve Shimla's living, built and natural heritage by undertaking necessary actions and measures.



The workshop began with an inaugural talk by Ms. Hemlata, Assistant Professor, History at 10: 15 AM in Room No. 1. Ms. Hemlata further briefed about the aims and objectives of the workshop being conducted to enhance the understanding and knowledge of the students about Shimla Heritage.

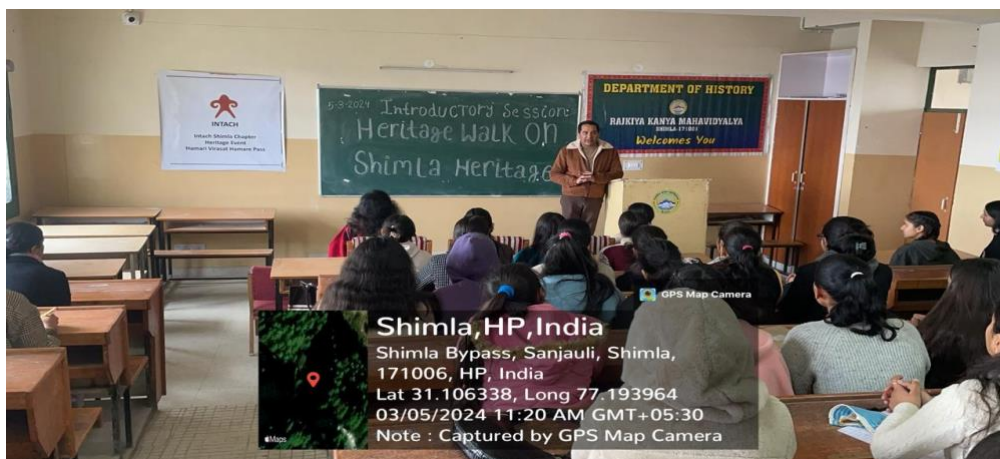


Dr, Anurita Saxena, Principal RKMV, Shimla, welcomed Mr. Bhasin, the resource person of the workshop, faculty members and students. Dr. Saxena apprised the students about the role of INTECH to preserve the heritage of shimla. She talked about the

architectural heritage of Shimla and emphasised on the historical significance of the various buildings existing in Shimla town. She further added that a sense of social responsibility is very important amongst the youth to preserve India's common heritage.



Mr. Raja Bhasin who is a writer, historian and a co-convener for Himachal Pradesh and convener for Shimla of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage gave a talk on Role of INTACH to Preserve Tangible and Intangible Heritage with special reference to Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. He shared some interesting historical facts on the cultural and architectural history of colonial-era. He further added that Shimla's cultural and architectural heritage is a great attraction for tourists from all over the world. He also laid emphasis on the necessity of protection of Shimla's tangible and intangible heritage. Mr. Bhasin mentioned that the youth of the state needs to be aware of their historical and cultural heritage.



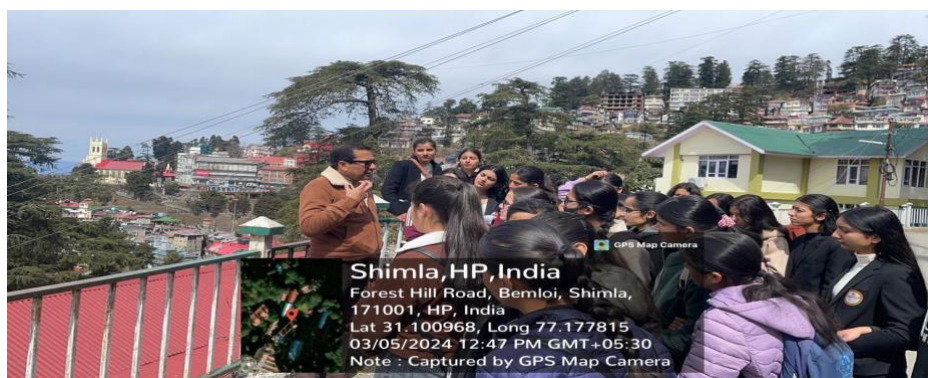
Ms. Nisha Kumari, Assistant Professor, History gave her talk on '**Importance of Heritage and its Preservation**'. She emphasised on the fact that awareness among people about their heritage is very important. She further explained that documentation of heritage sites/ monuments etc. are important as documentation helps putting things in context. She also mentioned that after documentation & research, conservation strategies need to be formulated to preserve our cultural heritage for the generations to come.

In the second session, heritage walk began from the RKMV campus, via Lakkur Bazaar to Ridge Maidan, U.S. Club, Sports complex and The Mall. Students of History Department started this walk and learn activity with Mr. Bhasin along with two faculty members of History i.e. Ms. Nisha (Assistant Professor) and Ms. Hemlata (Assistant Professor). Mr. Bhasin began his talk by explaining the history of the RKMV College. Walking towards the Ridge Maidan, students learnt about the climate and topographical aspects of Shimla hills, its history and architectural style of the buildings on the Mall. Mr. Bhasin explained the two fine architectural styles i.e. Neo-Gothic and Tudor style of the Christ Church and building of state library respectively. He also talked about Victorian era Gothic style of Gaiety Theatre and the office of Municipal Corporation, which is known as Town Hall of Shimla. Mr. Bhasin also explained construction of the water tanks that is beneath the Ridge Maidan which was constructed during the British time in Shimla.





Mr. Bhasin explained how Britishers controlled over economic and agricultural activities in India and 2/5 of the world trade profit was earned by East India Company. Politically too, Shimla became more relevant to Britishers after 1864, when Shimla became summer capital of British India. Britishers built proper water supply system in Shimla by the time of 1880s. Earlier there were 12 water ponds in Shimla that were used as main water sources. The water was lifted using steam motors.



Walking towards U.S. Club, students learnt about the history and architectural style of old residential houses and Govt. offices. Using Dhajji style in the windows and stone material for constructing buildings were one of the prominent features during british times, explained by Mr. Bhasin. The entry in the U.S. Club was only for males. A historical meeting was also occurred in the U.S. Club. A meeting of Sir Redcliff Boundary commission was conducted here in this club to decide boundaries between India and Pakistan.



During this Heritage Walk, students also learnt about the flora of the Shimla. Students got to know that there are only four Chinar trees in the entire area of Shimla. The Chinar trees are originally found in the Kashmir valley. Here in Shimla, these trees were gifted to a British official by rulers of Kashmir. These trees are located on the ridge, U.S club areas. After that students went on walking towards Indira Ghandhi Sports Complex and learnt about the structure of the building. The walk was ended on a good learning experience with Mr. Bhasin. At last students were given refreshments.





Department of History

RKMV-Shimla

Principal

RKMV-Shimla