



Celebrating 70th Republic Day of India
 High Commission of India, Colombo
 presents

Strings of Peace

a Sarod recital by
Ustad Amjad Ali Khan
 with Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash



at 6.45 pm on Friday, 25 January 2019
 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall
 Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

Supported by



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Admission by invitation only
 Cards can be collected 16th January onwards from
 Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre,
 16/2 Gregory's Road, Colombo 07
 Tel: 2384698 | E-mail: iccrcolombo2@gmail.com

Cultural Calendar - January 2019

8
 Tuesday
 6.00 pm

Hindustani Classical and Semi classical music concert

By Dr. Asit Roy, Professor, and Dr. Podminee Dey, Chairman
 Department of Music, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh
 Accompanied on Tanpura Shila Dutta
 Venue: SVCC Auditorium

Vishwa Hindi Divas (World Hindi Day) - 2019
 Venue: SVCC Auditorium

10
 Thursday
 4.00 pm

13
 Sunday
 9.00am - 11.00am

Ayurvedic Diet and Nutrition

Workshop by Dr. Maitri Nagar, SVyasa Yoga, Singapore
 in collaboration with AYM and AAYUSH
 Venue: SVCC Auditorium

Kathak recital
 by Thilini Rangika and her disciples
 Venue: SVCC Auditorium

18
 Friday
 6.00 pm

30
 Wednesday
 6.00 pm

Remembering the Mahatma

A tribute through dance by
 Natya Kala Mandhir
 Choreography by
 Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran
 Venue: SVCC Auditorium



Programmes subject to change
 Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis.
All are cordially invited



Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Jan 2019



A WALK TO REMEMBER

Scattered across India are historical and cultural treasures that merit more than a cursory glance. Heritage walks in different states are introducing travellers to many of them anew. We bring you glimpses of four that you must experience



Even as some of India's most iconic landmarks continue to draw travellers from across the world, hidden across its vistas are treasure troves of history that are waiting to be explored. Curated by a bevy of organisations today, heritage walks are gaining a lot of popularity in the country. Introducing people to unseen facets of various cities, boasting rich cultural and architectural heritage, they are enabling them to see more of the India they are already proud of, in all its glory.

KASHMIR, JAMMU & KASHMIR

Kashmir has about 12 heritage corridors. But the one that encapsulates the art, culture, heritage and architecture of the state most evocatively begins from the historic Patthar Masjid, near river Jhelum, and

concludes at the shrine of Khanqah-I-Mualla. "the 18th-century Patthar Masjid was built by Noor Jehan and stands tall today as a symbol of power," says walk leader Taha Mughal, who leads us across the old Zaina Kadal bridge, one of the seven scenic bridges over river Jhelum constructed by king Zain-ul-Abidin. Jhelum ghat is one of the best places to view the local architecture from. "The homes here are the finest examples of Kashmir's architecture and also reflect colonial influences. The structures are built using the construction system of Dhajji Dewari, which consists of a braced timber frame in different patterns. The gaps between the frames are filled with stone or brick masonry traditionally laid into mud mortar. This technique is said to make the structures earthquake resistant," Mughal adds.

ORCHHA, MADHYA PRADESH

The quaint town of Orchha in Madhya Pradesh is laden with stories. It is believed to have been the second capital of the Bundelkhand dynasty and was founded by its first king, Rudra Pratap Singh. Nitin Kumar Khare, the walk leader, shares that one of the highlights of a heritage walk in Orchha is Jahangir Mahal,

an ornate palace built in honour of Mughal emperor Jahangir. With several exquisite arches and domes, it was built by Bir Singh deo sometime during the 17th century. As I am led through it by the walk leader, it becomes for me a maze of steep staircases, mysterious passages and intricate lattice windows.

Another must-visit along the walk are the Chhatris, or the 14 royal cenotaphs built in honour of Orchha's kings. A walk across the shallow water gets me an endearing glimpse of local life, as people bond over the washing of clothes and indulge in cheerful banter.

PUDUCHERRY

Hundreds of people walk in and out of the Easwaran Dharmarajan Koil street in Puducherry every day. But few among them are aware of its significance. This is the same street where poet Subramania Bharati, one of the pioneers of the Independence

movement from South India, lived and worked for several years.

lata Iyer, the walk leader, tells us: "the reason I conduct this heritage walk is to familiarise people with Bharati and Bharathidasan, two of the most venerated figures of South India. people walk past Bharati's house daily without knowing that it is the centre from where he gave a clarion call for India's freedom struggle and composed some of his best verses. He also inspired his student, Bharathidasan, who sang of social justice, equality and the eradication of poverty." Bharati's last known residence in puducherry has been renovated to house the Mahakavi Bharathiyar memorial museum, which sheds light on Bharati's life and work.

MAWPHLANG, MEGHALAYA

Did you know that tucked away amidst the lush green foliage of the Khasi hills in Meghalaya, lies a forest that has been considered sacred by natives for centuries? the Mawphlang

sacred forest, located approximately 25 km from Shillong, is a haven of flowering trees, exotic orchids and vibrant butterflies. Naphibahun Lyngdoh, a shillong-based walk leader, tells me that it might also be home to sacred beings.

"It is believed that this forest is the abode of U Ryngkew U Basa, its guardian spirit or protective deity," he says. A few minutes later, I step beyond the green veil into a space of peace and untouched, untrammelled wilderness. harming



Left to right: the Jahangir mahal in orchha, madhya pradesh; the mahakavi Bharathiyar memorial museum in puducherry

the trees in any way is a taboo here nature holds tremendous significance in Khasi culture and the spirit of conservation is embedded as deeply in the lifestyle of the natives as it is in the thriving forest I see around me. As Lyngdoh tells me more, I wonder how many more such secret treasures there are in India, scattered across its landscape.



the view from mawphlang sacred forest, meghalaya

by **Madhavi Kapoor**

India Perspectives Vol 32 - Issue 4
April - June 2018



Left to right: the facade of a colourful house in Kashmir; A mosque along the heritage walk from patthar masjid to the shrine of Khanqah-i-mualla in Kashmir; A house in Kashmir