Cultural Calendar - January 2019



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



Ayurvedic Diet and Nutrition Workshop by Dr. Maitri Nagar, SVyasa Yoga, Singapore

Kathak recital

Friday 6.00 pm

Thursday 4.00 pm



Remembering the Mahatma

by Thilini Rangika and her disciples

Venue: SVCC Auditorium

A tribute through dance by Natya Kala Mandhir Choreography by Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran











Venue: SVCC Auditorium

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

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6/2 Gregory's Roed Colombo 87

a coorted by

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

in collabration with AYM and AAYUSH

Venue: SVCC Auditorium

Cultural Tapestry

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 Khangah-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.

and worked for several years.

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.

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

MAWPHLANG, MEGHALAYA

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

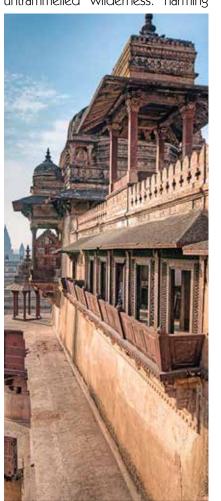


Left to right: the facade of a colourful house in Kashmir; A mosque along the heritage walk from patthar masiid to the shrine of Khanciah-i-mualla in Kashmir: A house in Kashmir

movement from South India, lived sacred forest, located approximately 25 km from Shillong, is a haven of flowering trees, exotic orchids lata lyer, the walk leader, tells us: "the and vibrant butterflies. Naphibahun reason I conduct this heritage walk Lyngdoh, a shillong-based walk is to familiarise people with Bharati 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, step beyond the green veil into a space of peace and untouched, untrammelled wilderness. harming





Left to right: the Jahangir mahal in orchha, madhva pradesh: the mahakavi Bharathivar 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