



Terracotta Parvati head, Gupta Dynasty ca. 4th century A.D.

# Chronicle

Department of History

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It is a veritable pleasure that the Department of History is releasing the fourth edition of its e-journal "Chronicle". This brilliant initiative was started by the Department in the golden jubilee year of the college to commemorate the long and eventful journey of this esteemed institution. The main objective behind this endeavour was to provide a platform to the students of the department for their innate creative abilities and for voicing their concerns. I felicitate the students, faculty members and editorial team for striving to continue this tradition started in January 2017. I extend my best wishes for the future and hope that with Mata Sundriji's blessings the department will reach new heights.

Dr. Harpreet Kaur

Principal

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

“And if it has to be remembered, it has to be chronicled”

It gives us immense pleasure to bring to you, the fourth edition of ‘The Chronicle’, the e-journal of the Department of History, Mata Sundri College for Women.

The Chronicle is the manifestation of the efforts made by the students of the department pillared by the support of our faculty. It is a platform through which students express their ideas in the form of articles, poems, paintings, photography et cetera. With the large number of entries which we received this year, we have tried to include most of them, to the best of our ability. However, we regret having to let go some equally interesting and informative pieces. We are extremely thankful to the students for their unmatched enthusiasm.

The continuous motivation provided by our teacher-in-charge, Ms. Shabnam Suri and Dr. Daljit Kaur have always kept us striving for better. We are extremely grateful to them and also our teacher advisors Panchali Ma’am, Divya Ma’am, Satveer Sir, Simmi Ma’am, Rupali Ma’am and Navendu sir for their constant support and guidance. We also thank Jasmeet for creating beautiful cover for this edition.

One of the most important things we have learnt being a part of an all girls’ institution for past three years is the need to stand up with each other and for each other. The importance of understanding how under recognized and underrepresented our gender has always been is the need of the hour. Women have been a section of society, which has received bare minimum attention from fellow male counterparts when they documented the history. We thereby find half the population either absent or reduced to just a passing reference in the chronicles of the past. And even today, we see women as being portrayed as what the society deems fit.

Women have been equally important part of human society as their male counterparts. They have played an irreplaceable role in ancient, medieval and modern history and still continue to do the same. We, thereby, dedicate the fourth edition of The Chronicle to recognize the part played by women in past.

We have also tried to highlight the recent archaeological findings, books which have been published, events that changed the world and the robust display of students’ creativity via Student Corner. We would take this opportunity to invite students to participate by engaging in the e-journal and contributing in the future as well.

Regards

The Editorial Team

Editor

Ms. Pranjali

Ms. Akshita

Teacher advisors

Ms. Shabnam

Ms. Panchali

Ms. Divya

Mr. Satveer



Jayanti Jha 3rd Year History Hons.



Amrapali is the combination of two Sanskrit words 'amra' meaning mango and 'pallawa' meaning young leaves or sprouts. Amrapali was born around 600-500 BCE. We do not have any information about her parents. She was found abandoned beneath a mango tree hence she was named Amrapali. Mahanaman who found her adopted her and set up residence in Ambara village of Vaishali.

Amrapali grew up to be a woman of extraordinary grace and charm. Manudev the king of Vaishali was so attracted towards the beauty of Amrapali that he killed her childhood love Pushpkumar. He then declared Amrapali as the "Nagarwadhu of Vaishali."

Amrapali was a good dancer and was proficient in many art forms. Stories of her beauty travelled in the ears of Bimbisara, king of Magadha.

He attacked Vaishali and took refuge in Amrapali's house. When she learnt his true identity, Amrapali asked Bimbisara to cease the war. She later bore him a son named Vimala Kondanna.

Ajatashataru, son of Bimbisara, after conquering Vaishali met Amrapali and fell for her beauty and charm. The residents of Vaishali were against this relationship and demanded Amrapali to be imprisoned. Due to this, Ajatashataru burnt the entire city of Vaishali. Amrapali was aggrieved after seeing the condition of her motherland. She left him keeping in view the good future of Vaishali.

Amrapali was a woman who successfully dethroned a megalomaniac ruler. In history she is emerged as a powerful character who dared to rise and go beyond the order of the day.



Rimpa Mula 2nd year



Gargi Vachaknavi born around 700 BC was one of the most renowned women of vedic period. She was the daughter of sage Vachaknu and hence she was named Gargi Vachaknavi. Right from the early age she had deep interest in the vedic scriptures. She had a deep inquisitiveness to unravel the mystery of Brahman (the supreme principle) and tried to expound the nature of atman (soul).

Gargi was a woman of sheer brilliance and a woman who was unparalleled by men of her time. Since she had deep knowledge of the vedic scriptures hence she was competent enough to have philosophical discussions with prominent intellectuals of that time. One such reference to her great brilliance could be found in Brihadaranyaka Upanishad of vedic age. King Janaka of Videha organised a "Brahma Yajna" - a philosophical meet. In this philosophical meet she debated with a sage named Yajnavalkya. In this debate she was the only one who spoke twice, firstly as a challenger and secondly she debated with Yajnavalkya.

Gargi was also a well known scholar and philosopher of vedic age. Her philosophical views are mentioned in the Chandogya Upanishad and she significantly contributed in the composition of Rig Veda. In the vedic lore, her name is mentioned in the Grihya sutra of Asvalayana . She was also been given the title of "brahmavadini" which means a person possessing the highest knowledge of Brahman.

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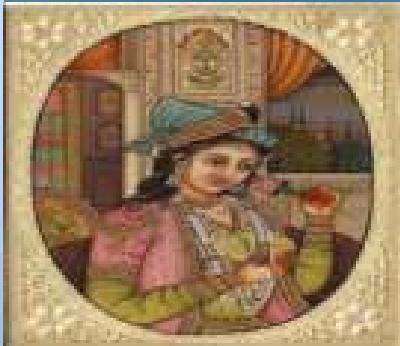
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## रज़िया सुल्तान



Gurusimran Kaur 3rd Year



मध्यकालीन भारतीय इतिहास में रज़िया सुल्तान का नाम स्वर्ण अक्षरों में अंकित है। रज़िया का जन्म 1205 ई. बुद्धेन गाँव में हुआ था। उनके पिता का नाम शम्स-उद-दीन इल्तुमिश तथा माता का नाम कुतुब बेगम था। 1236 ई. इल्तुमिश की मृत्यु हो जाने के बाद उत्तराधिकार का प्रश्न उठा क्योंकि इल्तुमिश के पुत्र तो थे परन्तु वह अयोग्य थे इसलिए रज़िया को 1236 ई. में दिल्ली के सिंहासन पर बैठा दिया गया। रज़िया को सिंहासन पर तो बैठा दिया गया परन्तु उनके सामने अस्पष्ट समस्याएं थीं जो कि उसके एक स्त्री होने के कारण उत्पन्न हुई थीं क्योंकि उस समय महिलाएं केवल हरम तक ही सीमित थीं लेकिन रज़िया बहुत बुद्धिमान, न्यायप्रिय, निडर और शूरवीर थीं और उन्होंने एक शूरवीर शासक के समान शासन किया। उसने अपनी वेशभूषा भी एक पुरुष के समान रखी और पर्दा प्रथा को भी नहीं माना। रज़िया को सिंहासन पर बैठते ही प्रांतीय सूबेदारों के विरोध का सामना करना पड़ा जैसे मुल्तान, हासी और लाहौर के सूबेदारों ने मिल कर वजीर मुहम्मद जूनैदी के नेतृत्व में दिल्ली पर चढ़ाई कर दी। रज़िया को पता था कि सैन्य शक्ति के द्वारा इन्हे हराना असंभव है इसलिए रज़िया ने सभी सूबेदारों के बीच इतना संदेह उत्पन्न कर दिया कि वे स्वयं आपस में ही लड़ने लग गए जिससे उनकी शक्ति कम हो गई और रज़िया ने उन पर आक्रमण कर उन्हें मौत के घाट उतार दिया। "मिन्हाज - ए - सिराज ने लिखा है कि वह एक महान समाजी, न्यायप्रिय, प्रजा - उपकारी, राजनीतिक विशारद, प्रजा-रक्षक और सेनानी थी।" रज़िया ने कई शासन संबंधी कार्य किए जिसमें उसने नए वजीरों की नियुक्ति की तथा प्रांतीय सूबेदार, अस्तबल अध्यक्ष आदि के पद विश्वसनीय व्यक्तियों को सौंपे। रज़िया के पतन के बहुत से कारण थे जो कि उसके शासन के अंदर ही थे जैसे सरदारों की मनमानी नहीं चलने देना, पुरुषों के वस्त्र अपनाना और पर्दा प्रथा का त्याग, सरदारों की बढ़ती हुई ईर्ष्या आदि। अतः अल्टूनिया के साथ अपना खोया हुआ राज्य प्राप्त करने की दृष्टि से वह दिल्ली की ओर बढ़ी, वहाँ दूसरी ओर बहरामशाह रज़िया का साथ हर पल देने को तैयार था। कैथल के समीप 13 अक्टूबर 1240 ई. में दोनों पक्षों के बीच युद्ध हुआ जिसमें रज़िया की हार हुई व रज़िया की मृत्यु हो गई।

## प्रथम मुगल महिला शासकः नूरजहां



Jyoti pal 3rd Year B.A (hons) History

नूरजहां मुगल काल की वह श्रेष्ठ महिला थी जिन्होंने अपने प्रभावशाली तथा चमत्कारी व्यक्तित्व से लगभग 15 वर्षों तक "मुगल दरबारी राजनीति और सांस्कृतिक जीवन" को प्रभावित किया। नूरजहां का वास्तविक नाम मेहरुनिसा था परन्तु उनकी सुंदरता के कारण जहांगीर ने इन्हे 'नूरजहां' की उपाधि दी। उनके पिता का नाम मिर्ज़ा गियास बेग तथा माता का नाम असमत बेगम था। केवल 17 वर्ष की आयु में मेहरुनिसा का विवाह शेर अफगान से हुआ। किन्तु 1607 ई. में शेर अफगान की मृत्यु हो गई, जिसके बाद नूरजहां ने एक विधवा का जीवन व्यतीत किया तथा 1611 ई. में इनका विवाह जहांगीर से हुआ। यही वह समय था जब नूरजहां के "मेहरुनिसा से नूरजहां" बनने का सफर शुरू होता है। नूरजहां एक अत्यंत महत्वाकांक्षी महिला थी जिनका मुगल साम्राज्य के विस्तार में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहा। नूरजहां के शासन काल (1611 ई. -1627 ई.) में धर्म और समुद्री व्यापार में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई। नूरजहां ने शासन के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों पर अधिकार कर अपने नाम के सिक्के जारी किए। नूरजहां फारसी भाषा और साहित्य की कुशल जाता थी और कला तथा साहित्य के अतिरिक्त स्थापत्यकला में भी अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। अपने जीवन के अंतिम वर्षों में उन्होंने कई शानदार तथा प्रसिद्ध मुगल मकबरों का निर्माण करवाया। नूरजहां ने जहांगीर की मृत्यु के बाद उनकी याद में एक शानदार मकबरा बनवाया। इन्होंने अपने पिता की याद में भी एक मकबरे का निर्माण करवाया जिसे "एत्माद उद्धौला का मकबरा" कहा गया। इसके अतिरिक्त जहांगीर ने भी अपनी मृत्यु से पूर्व नूरजहां की स्मृति में "नूरमहल" का निर्माण करवाया। यह सभी इमारतें भारतीय-फारसी स्थापत्य शैली के अद्भुत नमूने हैं। नूरजहां ने अपनी मृत्यु से पूर्व ही अपने लिए मकबरे का चुनाव कर लिया था जो उन्होंने स्वयं डिजाइन किया था तथा 1645 ई. लाहौर में उनकी मृत्यु के पश्चात उन्हें वर्ही दफनाया गया।



मकबरा बनवाया। इन्होंने अपने पिता की याद में भी एक मकबरे का निर्माण करवाया जिसे "एत्माद उद्धौला का मकबरा" कहा गया। इसके अतिरिक्त जहांगीर ने भी अपनी मृत्यु से पूर्व नूरजहां की स्मृति में "नूरमहल" का निर्माण करवाया। यह सभी इमारतें भारतीय-फारसी स्थापत्य शैली के अद्भुत नमूने हैं। नूरजहां ने अपनी मृत्यु से पूर्व ही अपने लिए मकबरे का चुनाव कर लिया था जो उन्होंने स्वयं डिजाइन किया था तथा 1645 ई. लाहौर में उनकी मृत्यु के पश्चात उन्हें वर्ही दफनाया गया।

"इस प्रकार नूरजहां मुगल काल की पहली महिला शासक बनी जिनका योगदान केवल मुगल हरम तक ही सीमित नहीं रहा, बल्कि मुगल दरबारी संस्कृति, राजनीति तथा साहित्य एवं स्थापत्य पर भी अपनी गहरी छाप छोड़ी। नूरजहां को हम एक ऐसे व्यक्तित्व के रूप में देखते हैं जो अपनी कुशाग्र बुद्धि और विवेक से मुगल काल की एक ऐसी शक्तिशाली और प्रभावशाली महिला के रूप में उभरी जिन्होंने अपने नाम के सिक्के जारी किए जो जहांगीर के द्वारा जारी किए गए सिक्कों की तुलना में अधिक मूल्यवान थे।"

इस प्रकार नूरजहां की छवि मुगल काल की एक कुशल महत्वाकांक्षी महिला शासक के रूप में उभर कर आती है।

## Velvet Sheaths-Women Rulers From the Indian Past

### Aruna Asaf Ali – The Grand Old Lady of India

Jyoti Kumari



***“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.” - Aruna Asaf Ali***



The reference to the struggle for India's freedom is incomplete without any mention of its great and brave leaders and their contribution. Similarly Indian women fought shoulder to shoulder with their men folk and earned well deserved recognition for their glorious role.

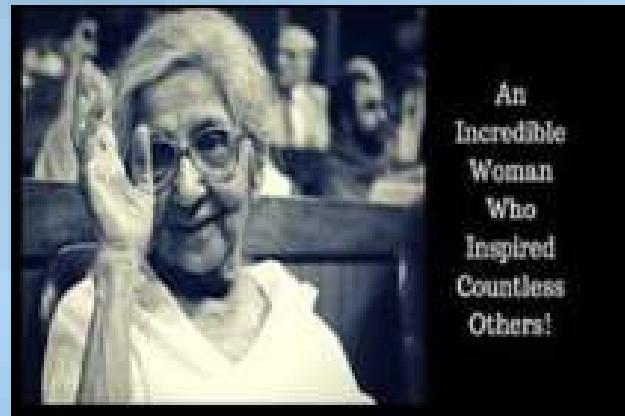
In ancient India women like *Maitrei* enjoyed a high status and had greatly contributed to enrich our cultural heritage. But in later periods their role was confined to their family.

As far as Indian freedom struggle is concerned, their role was to provide support rather than directly participating. By the time British finally consolidated their position in India, the Indian women ceased to enjoy high status in the society. However in appreciation of their role in the struggle as shift in the attitude of the society was seen.

Aruna Asaf Ali is one of the relatively lesser known participants in the freedom struggle. Born as Aruna Ganguly, she completed her schooling from Lahore's Sacred Heart Convent and later went on to All Saints College in Nainital. Soon she joined the INC.

She actively participated in the *Salt Satyagraha* in 1930 and was arrested for the first time. During Quit India Movement when all major leaders had been arrested, she gave the much needed push to the movement by hoisting the flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai. She went underground because the British Police wanted to arrest her. She continued the struggle through underground radio, pamphlets and magazines such as Inquilab to continue the struggle.

Aruna Asaf Ali was a graduate and later she started teaching in Calcutta. During this period not much attention was paid to women education in India. After independence she continued to contribute for the upliftment of women by encouraging female education. She started a weekly journal called Weekly and a newspaper called Patriot to attain this objective.



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Raj to Swaraj by Ram Chandra Pradhan

## Velvet Sheaths-Women Rulers From the Indian Past

### The Nightingale of India

Aksheta Chougaonkar 3rd Year



Sarojini Naidu, who is often known as, the Nightingale of India was born on 13 February 1879 in Hyderabad and died on 2 March 1949 in Lucknow. She was a political activist, feminist and a poet. She was the first Indian woman to become president of Indian National Congress and also the governor of Uttar Pradesh after the independence of India. She attended the University of Madras at the age of 12 and then went to King's College in London and later she attended Groton College. She took inspiration from the suffragist movement that happened in England.

According to P K Ghosh she attended the Congress Session of Bombay in 1904 as an observer but what shook her most was the partition of Bengal. Gopal Krishna Gokhale suggested that she use her education for a good cause. He also introduced her to other prominent leaders of India.

In 1916, she worked with Jawaharlal Nehru for the indigo workers in Champaran, Bihar. Along with this she was supportive of Gandhi and also supported Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, Khilafat movement, Sabarmati Pact, Satyagraha pledge and the Civil Disobedience Movement.

In 1917, she along with Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Raja Dasa and others established the Women's Indian Association.

She went to England in 1919 as a member of All India Home Rule delegation. In January 1924 she was one of the first two delegates of Indian National Congress to attend East African Indian National Congress.

In 1924, she went to southeast Africa to see the

condition and welfare of Indians there. Also in 1924, she became the first Indian women president of Indian National Congress. In 1928 she toured North America to spread information about the movement of Congress.

Due to her participation in the freedom struggle she was sent to prison many times. She also accompanied Gandhi to London for the inconclusive Second session of Round Table Conference for India-British Cooperation (1931).

In addition to being prominent leader of freedom struggle she was also a prolific writer. Due to her active literary life also which, attracted many notable Indian intellectuals towards her famous salon in Bombay. The title of Nightingale of India was given to her because of her poetry. Her poetry was lyrical, filled with rich imagery and ethos of patriotism. Her first volume of poetry - The Golden Threshold (1905) was followed by The Bird of Time (1912). In 1914 she was elected a fellow of Royal Society of Literature. Her collected poems were published under the title -The Sceptred Flute (1928) and The Feather to the Dawn (1961). In 1928, she received the Hind Kesari Medal.

Sarojini Naidu lived her life gloriously. She was a woman with extra ordinary courage and brilliant intellectual power. She is also remembered for her great charm and wit. In 2018 she was among 150 leading women featured by the University of London.

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Students Corner

## Royal Quarter Of Alexandria

Pranjali Saini 3<sup>rd</sup> Year



**The foundation walls of a monumental building dating to the era of Alexander the great discovered in Alexandria, Egypt.**

Excavations have been made in Alexandria, which provide us with some fascinating hints regarding about resting place of Alexander the great. This initiative has been taken up by Calliope Limneos Papakosta, a Greek archaeologist. She has been working on this for past 14 years and is determined to find the tomb of conqueror turned pharaoh.

A white marble Hellenistic statue bearing every hallmark of Alexander the great had been found on the site earlier by Calliope and her team. Seven years later again with her team, she dug 35 feet beneath modern day Alexandria and uncovered the

ancient city's royal quarter. Fredrik Hiebert, an archaeologist in residence at National Geographic Society, claims that "this is the first time the original foundations of Alexandria have been found."

At this site there is high possibility that the lost tomb of Alexander the Great could be discovered.



White marble Hellenistic Statue



Pottery remains

### SOURCE:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/02/lost-tomb-alexander-great/>

## News From The Past

### Toba Ash-Sumatra, Indonesia

Sanskriti 1st Year History Hons



We cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with knowledge, so that in future so many lives will not be lost.

Toba ash was a super volcanic eruption that occurred between 71,000 and 74,000 years ago at the site of present day Lake Toba, in Sumatra Indonesia. It expelled an estimated 2,800 cubic cm of ash and lava. This event is considered by many volcanologists to be one of the largest volcano eruptions in all human history, and according to some scientists after this eruption the planet suffered an ice age that severely affected the modern humans.

A study of the remains of a human settlement located in southern Africa and dated to the time of eruption suggests that some areas of the Earth with plentiful food supply may have served as refuges for human beings in the years following the eruption. In South Africa, humans not only survived but thrived during the biggest volcanic eruption of the last two million years. After the eruption the ground collapsed and left behind a depression called Caldera, therefore it is also known as Toba Caldera.



When Toba erupted, it emitted a volume of magma which was 28,000 times the volume erupted by Mount St. Helen in Washington in the year 1980. A severe bottleneck in human evolution was seen as the main consequence (reduction in the size of total human population due to the effect of eruption on the global climate).

**The evidence of the remains of stone tools of Toba Ash was found in India as well.**

Indian land was also showered by volcanic ash, which remains deposited on the ground even today. Contrary to reason, in January 2018, stone tools were found in southern and northern parts of India, both below and above the ash. These tools were quite similar to the tools found in

Africa. Thus, it became clear that homo-sapiens lived on Indian land even before the volcanic eruption. Due to these findings we have been able to conclude that the super eruption lead to a massive environmental destruction.

#### TOBA CALDERS GEOPARK

An initiative was taken by the UNESCO to provide protection and welfare for humans and to preserve land and heritage sites etc.

The theme of the Geopark is "Super Volcano Caldera"

which is the product of the largest caldera eruption in the quaternary age. This was proposed in 2014 as a result of GGM UNESCO. Through this some positive steps were taken to protect and preserve the environment and also the areas along with other remains after such a massive eruption. For example Ecotourism Potential Analysis, through which development plans and steps regarding how to manage investment, enhance cooperation, and improve potential were taken into consideration. Therefore UNESCO played a very important role in the development of areas affected by Toba Ash.

#### SOURCES

Britannica

Reports of American association of advancement science

Maps of India

UNESCO



## Kunal: A New Possibility

AKSHITA BEHL 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR (B.A) HISTORY HONOURS



A village in Ratia tehsil of Fatehabad district in Haryana, Kunal, has been making waves in the archaeological circles across the country. What is known to be a prominent pre-Harappan site, Kunal is spread over an area of around 15-20 acres and houses a thick habitation. The site has been subject to excavation thrice since 2017 following the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Haryana; the Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi and National Museum, New Delhi.

The three phases of excavation since 2017 were aimed “to see the origin of Hakra culture and to find out as to who were the earliest occupants of the site and where did they come from”, as stated by the Technical Assistant Shuman Malik. Owing to a wide variety of Hakra ware, red ware, black on red ware, black and red ware and painted grey ware that has been found in considerable quantities in Kunal during the course of the three diggings, he also added that his team has been trying to know about the craft-specialization of pre-Harappan period, their behavior and ceramic traditions through the recent diggings. Besides these, terracotta cakes, terracotta beads, bangles, gamesmen, steatite beads, seals, stamps, terracotta animal figurines, including one with pasted steatite beads, semi-precious stone beads, copper objects and other antiquities were also discovered.

Excavation co-director, Banani Bhattacharyya, said, “Mud brick walls and floors and multiple floors have also been found during the excavation. A large number of precious antiquities like silver objects and gold beads in early Harappan fabric pot were revealed by the excavators. Copper smelting furnace was also found along with a large number of copper objects and also typical classical Harappan crucible [terracotta] was found.” A large number of dwelling pits have also been found, some with remains of animals hinting to a possible ritual of animal sacrifice. Mr. Malik points to the discovery of marine shells which might be representative of trade between the occupants of Kunal and those from near the Arabian Sea, a possible source for these beads.

The archaeological site of Kunal has thereby opened a new array of questions and possibilities of pre- Harappan settlement in North India.



Figure 1: recent excavation in Kunal



Figure 2: categorical arrangement of artifacts

## Lost Civilization of Mizoram

Kritika Bhardwaj 1st Year History Honours



Indian Archaeologists' recently made an exciting discovery in Mizoram, where they found remains of a lost civilization that may hold the key to discovering unknown facts about North east India.

Located close to the border of Myanmar, the lush forested village of Vangchhia lies in the Champhai-Farkawn mountain range of Mizoram.

However, eight years before this great discovery, researchers from the INTACH, had come across 170 **menhirs** engraved with artwork depicting scenes of traditional hunting practices, music instruments and heroes from this ancient Mizo civilization. It was discovered by the Indian Administrative service officer and convenor of INTACH's Mizoram branch. He first spotted these menhirs on a hilltop in the forest in 1973 while travelling by helicopter.

Unfortunately, by that time, more than 100 menhirs were destroyed by the locals, who carved out parts of these structures to construct burial sites lined by stone. In conversation with Indian Express a local claimed that "Every time someone died in the village, us children and teenag-

ers would come here with the blacksmith. He would pound off a piece with his big hammer, large enough for us to carry, and all of us would carry one or two to give it to the young man for making the grave".

The remains of the found city have wide streets, manmade caves, intricate stairs, a watchtower, pavilions, retention walls and probably one of India's oldest rainwater harvesting system consisting of multiple stone structures with circular holes carved out of them. The found city was spread across a 10 square km area. Elephant and fish carvings are found on many stones. According to some historians this could be the link between Hindu kingdom and the Mizos before the arrival of British Colonialists.

This discovery brings fresh insight not only to the history of Mizos but also to the entire North-East and points to the vast untapped past of the region.

Sources- [thebetterindia.com](http://thebetterindia.com)

## News From The Past

### Excavation At Rakhigarhi

Bhavneet 2nd Year History Honours



The Indus Valley Civilization stands out as one of the most baffling periods of human history. A representative of the desire for human excellence in the past, that finally paved way for modern day development and progress.

In 1963 when the archaeologist of ASI discovered Rakhigarhi, a village in Hisar District in the state of Haryana, they realized that they had found a site which was more ancient and much larger than Harappa or Mohenjo-Daro. In April 2015, four complete human skeletons were excavated from here. These skeletons were of two male adults, one female adult and one child.

In 2016 a peculiar grave was found with the skeletons. It is believed probably that these skeletons belonged to a couple. The report states, "The man and the woman were facing each other in a very intimate way. We believe they were a couple. And they seemed to have died at the same time. How they died, however, remains a mystery".

They were buried in a half-a-meter-deep sand pit. The man was around 35 years old at the time of his death, while the woman was around 25. Both were reasonably tall - he was

5.8ft (1.77m) and she, 5.6ft. They were both possibly "quite healthy" when they died - tests didn't find any lesions or lines on the bones or any "abnormal thickness" of skull bones, which could hint at injuries or diseases such as brain fever.

Archaeologists are of the view that this unique "joint grave" was not an "outcome of any specific funeral customs commonly performed at that time". They believe that the man and the woman "died almost at the same time and that, therefore, they had been buried together in the same grave".

Archaeologists believe the "mystery couple" lived in a settlement spread over more than 1,200 acres, housing tens of thousands of people. To be sure, this is not the first time archaeologists have discovered a couple in a Harappan grave. At Rakhigarhi, archaeologists have discovered 70 graves in the cemetery, barely a kilometer away from the settlement, and excavated 40 of them. But this single grave of the "mystery couple" has turned out to be the most fascinating of all.



## HARIHARA



Harihara is a 1200 year old temple is situated in the town of Billawar, in the Kathua District of Jammu and Kashmir. This temple is an age old revered Shiva temple and is among the oldest monuments in this part of the country. Now, known as the Mahabilvakeshwar temple, according to tradition this temple was built by the son of Arjuna, Babhruvahana. The temple is remarkable for its architectural planning, sculptural wealth and the decoration it consists. It comprises of a square sanctum crowned internally by a sikhara, Antarala as well as a pillared mandapa. The wall portion of the Shiva temple

has plain molding at the base and top and comprises of niche shrines for Parsvadevatas on its central rathas. In addition to this, it is studded with dikpala figures and rosettes at the corners and flanking rathas. According to sources, it can be assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD. There is a legend associated with this temple that the Pandavas visited Billawar in the last year of their exile and were attracted by 'Bill' or 'Bilwa' trees which were in abundance in the town of Billawar. This Shiva Temple, Mahabilvakeshwar was built where Pandavas had worshipped.



## HARWAN

The Harwan Monastery lies on the outskirts of Srinagar comprising the ruins of an old Buddhist Monastery. Here in Harwan Shadarhadvana the fourth Buddhist Council of the Mahayana was held sometime during 1st or 2nd century BCE, around the reign of Kanishka. The remains include three-tiered base of a stupa and a set of rooms in pebble style of masonry, which is the only remaining building. The area surrounding this Buddhist stupa is paved with decorated terracotta tiles. The antiquities found include terracotta figures, and fragments of Buddha image and a few clay tablets bearing a miniature stupa. This ancient monument in Kashmir played an important role in the history of Buddhism in Kashmir.

It is also believed to be the home of one of the greatest Buddhist masters Nagarjuna(150-250 BCE) who propounded the theory of 'Emptiness' in Buddhism.

## Sanauli Excavations

Pranjali Saini 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

### **The copper remains of the chariots found inside the burial pits in Baghpat district, U.P.**

Sanauli, tehsil Barot, district Baghpat, U.P. is under excavation by the ASI since September 2005. The site was a chance discovery while locals undertook levelling operation for agricultural purposes. Subsequently, ASI identified the site as a prominent cemetery site of late Harappan period (early 2nd millennium B.C.).

The excavations have so far brought to light 125 burials all in north-south orientation; most of them are primary burials. Evidence for secondary and multiple burials have also been noted. In some burials, animal bones are also found next to the human bones. The burial goods consisted of vases, bowls, dish-on-stand, antenna swords and sheath of copper, TC figurines, etc. A good number of personal jewellery in the form of gold and copper bangles, beads of semi-precious stones (two necklaces of long barrel shape) and steatite, etc. were also found. The antenna swords from these burials have a striking resemblance with that of the copper hoards specimens.

Remains of a brick wall along with two dish-on-stands and a flat copper container (violin shaped) with nearly 35 arrow-head shaped copper objects placed in rows are among the important finds. Similar to the copper container, another symbolic burial yielded a careful arrangement of steatite beads in the shape of violin with a copper sheath placed across. These specimens may represent actual human beings.



**POTTERY REMAINS FOUND AT THE SITE**



**ROYAL BURIAL REMAINS**



One of the greatest impacts of World War One was the development of much more advanced war technology and weapons in comparison to those which were in use earlier. Most of these were developed between the interwar years i.e. 1920s and 1930s. The massive scale of destruction and loss of life was a product of such a massive boom in armament technology.

Development happened across various fields of combat. In weaponry, ships, vehicles, submarines, aircraft, tanks, artillery, small arms were modified. The most astounding and destructive of all biological, chemical and atomic weapons also developed during this time. Vehicles necessary for transporting soldiers and supplies, such as trains, trucks, tanks, ships, and aircraft were built as a part of strengthening the logistics. Communication and intelligence devices used for navigation, communication, remote sensing, and espionage were also introduced. Another important field that developed during the Second World War was Medicine. Surgical innovations and chemical medicines were brought in use in order to treat the wounded.

Second World War was the first war that targeted not only the military bases but also research efforts of the enemy. Such was the impact of the modern technology being developed by the warring nations.

Another interesting fact to be noted about the weapons used in Second World War was, apart from being technologically advanced, some of them were rather unusual. Two examples of such were “suicide dogs” and “rat bombs”. On facing the Wehrmacht i.e. the German forces on the Eastern front the Red army i.e. the Soviet army resorted to desperate measures such as the use of anti-tank dogs. The dogs became so effective that some Germans began shooting any dog on sight.

British secret agents were equipped with an assortment of disguised explosive devices that were made to look like soap, shoes, bottles of Chianti, bicycle pumps, suitcases — and even rats. These rats were skinned, filled with plastic explosive, and sewn up. The idea was to place a rat among coal beside a boiler. When they were spotted, they would immediately be thrown on to the fire, causing a huge explosion.

Thus, not only the Second World War saw a massive boost in technology of armaments but also the use of some very unusual ones.

## Sources:

- Britannica
- The Guardian
- Gizmodo.com

Viniyets Of History

## Role of Women In Cuban Revolution

BHAWNA SHARMA 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR



The **Cuban revolution** was an armed revolt led by **Fidel Castro**. It began in July 1953 & went on till December 1958. With the aim of replacing the American government with a revolutionary socialist state, the contribution of women aided the revolution to be successful. From the participation in the **Moncada Barracks**, to the **Mariana Grajales**, all-women's platoon served in **Fidel Castro's** personal security.

Before the establishment of **Mariana Grajales** platoon, the revolutionary women of the **Sierra Maestra** were not organized for combat but primarily



helped the revolutionary army with cooking, mending clothes, tending to the sick, and frequently acting as courier service. Apart from this, they also helped in teaching guerillas to read and write. The active participation of women started only in the later phase. Earlier, **Haydu Santa Maria** and **Melba Hernandez** were the only women who participated in the attack on the **Moncada Barracks**, and subsequently acting alongside **Natalia Revuelta** and **Lidia Castro**. **Celia Sanchez** and **Vilma Espin** were leading strategists and highly skilled combatants who held essential roles throughout the revolution and made it successful with their hard efforts.

Apart from their contribution, there were some problems which centered on women, such as illiteracy, exclusion from labour force, healthcare etc. The immediate aftermath of the revolution **Fidel** pledged that **Cuba** was to become free of illiteracy. This campaign was thus a triumph for women. As the most marginalized in pre-revolutionary society, women were the principle beneficiary of reforms. The Cuban revolution was determined to remove any underlying discrimination from the curriculum. There were reforms in healthcare and social services. Amendments in the healthcare contributed to improvements in women's reproductive health, including rural maternal facilities and a program of pap smears. Improved health services also rendered them free to enter labour force.

The Cuban revolution's accomplishments regarding women's equality have been noteworthy. Women could finally enjoy an education & training and employment opportunities.

Viniyets Of History

## Gutenberg Printing Press

SRISHTI DIMRI 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR



There are many events in human history that completely changed the way we live today. Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the "movable type" printing press is one such event of paramount importance.

It is possible that without it, there would have been no Renaissance, no Industrial Revolution, no Technological Revolution and no modern, western Democracy. In other words - no modern world! The Gutenberg Press impacted the Renaissance by making books and articles easier and cheaper to reproduce and prints,

spreading more information to vast audience, helping advance science and technology and by the economy grow stronger through creating new industries and a market for books.

Although the printing system had been invented in China a long time ago, Gutenberg's invention of the printing press meant that books could be produced in greater numbers and more quickly and cheaply than ever before. This led to a huge social and cultural revolution, the repercussions of which are still seen and felt today. Perhaps it can rightly be called internet of its day!

According to a legend the idea of the movable type printing press came to Gutenberg "like a ray of light" in the year 1439. His invention also meant that he could print in colour as the pages could be passed second, third and fourth time through the press to be over-printed with the colour settings. Scholars' believe that among his earliest productions were a German poetic work and a grammatical textbook for students. But he was to begin his most famous printing project in 1452. It was what is now known as The Gutenberg Bible. The Bible had exactly 42 lines on each page and must have been very difficult to read as there was no punctuation and no indentation of paragraphs!

The impact of the Gutenberg printing press was immeasurable. It caused nothing less than a dramatic social and cultural revolution. The sudden widespread dissemination of printed works - books, tracts, posters and papers - gave direct rise to the European Renaissance. The availability of the Bible not only in Latin which could be read by priests but also in the vernaculars which could be read by the common people, led inevitably to the Protestant revolution and the Age of Enlightenment.

Reference

<https://www.thoughtco.com>

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<https://www.livescience.com>

Viniyets Of History

## Oldest Figurative Art



PRANJALI SAINI (B.A) HISTORY HONOURS 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

World's oldest figurative art has been found in a cave in Borneo, Indonesia. It is dated to at least 40,000 years ago according to a study published in the journal, Nature. These paintings are similar to the figurative paintings found in the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. This region's rock art in limestone caves has been studied since 1994. It was first spotted by the French explorer Luc Henri Fage.



The reddish orange image depicts a slender-legged animal probably a species of local wild cattle. The figure is similar to a trio of large creatures that adorn the wall in the Lubang Jerji Saleh cave in the East Kalimantan province of Indonesian Borneo. Above and between the three beasts are hand stencils. The ghostly markings are made by spraying ochre over a hand pressed on to the rock.

Scientists came up with the ages of the paintings by dating Calcite crusts. These crusts are popcorn like pop-ups that have very common appearance on any limestone cave. The crusts are formed when rainwater seeps through the walls. Those which are underneath the painting give maximum age of the artwork and those on the top provide a minimum age.

Maxime Aubert who is an archaeologist and geochemist with his team found calcite crusts near the rear of the painted animal and to determine the age of the paintings used a technique called Uranium analysis. According to them if the measurement is accurate the Borneo paintings may be older than the depictions of animals that are on the walls in the neighbouring caves of Sulawesi.

The discoveries of these paintings are helping archaeologists to rewrite the history of artistic expression. These painters may have been among the very first humans to adorn stone walls with images of the ancient world they lived in. These figures also provide evidence that an artistic mingling occurred among our ancestors, simultaneously, on opposite ends of the Eurasian continent.

### SOURCES:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/nov/07/worlds-oldest-figurative-painting-discovered-in-borneo-cave>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2018/11/news-oldest-animal-drawing-borneo-cave-art-human-origins>



*“Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.”- Susan B. Anthony*



The above mentioned quote precisely sums up the women's suffrage movement, their struggle to attain their political right. Women, who form the other, very significant part of the population, had and have been excluded in various fields and the right of political representation was no different.

Politics and right to vote according to many was not a woman's cup of tea! As strange as it may sound women were considered to be too emotional to take political decisions and that their interests were best represented by men and hence, there was no need for them to vote, stand in elections. Surprisingly, it were not just men but women too who were making such astonishing statements against the demands for political rights which reached its peak in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century in various countries.

Female representation in the political arena, according to many, would make their families suffer and that they were delicate to be in this field, which unfortunately, is a belief that continues to exist till date.

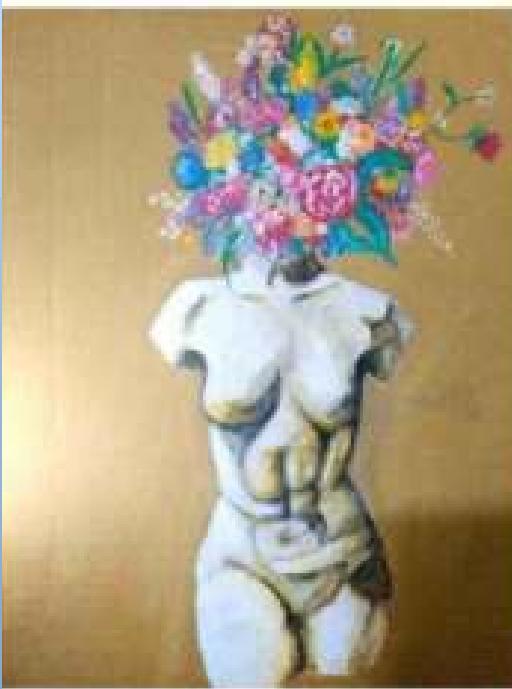
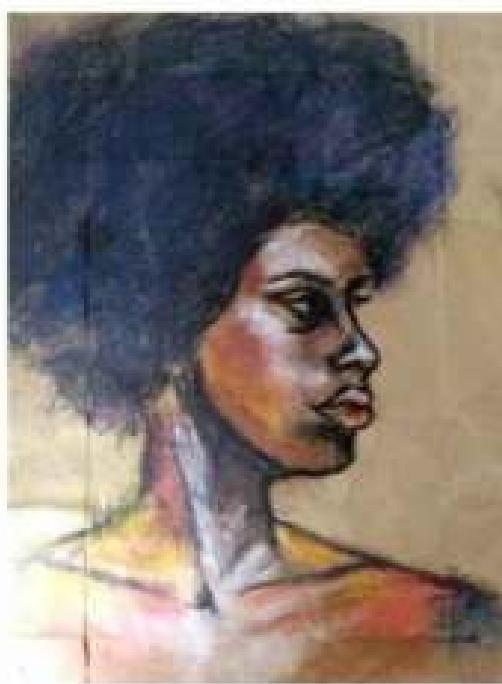
The women wanted nothing but the equal right to representation and for this they had to embark on long drawn struggle. The struggle for voting was different in various countries. The western countries started witnessing the emergence of movements demanding women's suffrage rights. The first country to recognize women's voting rights was New Zealand in 1893 after years of campaigns led by Kate Sheppard. Besides, Russia gave its female population the voting rights in 1917. In Germany, women could vote in 1918. However, it was the struggle of women in USA and Britain that garnered a lot of attention. The women in Britain were vested with voting rights in 1918 under the Representation of People's bill after a lot of opposition from the anti-suffragists. As far as USA was concerned, during the initial struggle, reformers and activists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton demanded voting rights for white women only. But later, due to the efforts of Carrie Chapman and Annie Howard Shaw, the women were granted their political right in 1920. After the Second World War, a number of countries expanded the voting rights to the women. Saudi Arabia, in 2011, became the latest country to enfranchise women.

Despite the struggles, protests, opposition finally women were able to get their demands met and for this women fought without losing hope. The voting right, which we often take for granted, came with a lot of sacrifices made on the part of women of the past to make it easy for the women of today! Hence, it should be treated as nothing less than a privilege.

From The Students' Pen

## The Shades

Simran Randhawa



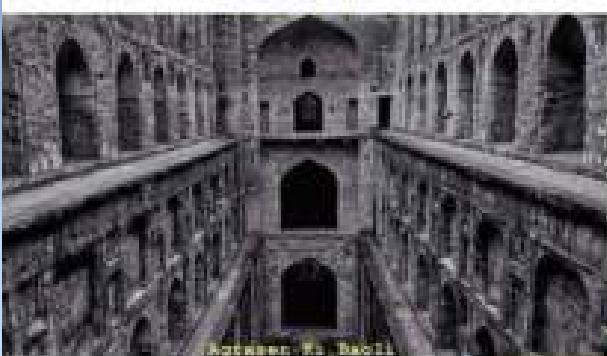
Simran Randhawa B. A History honours, 3 year

From The Students' Pen

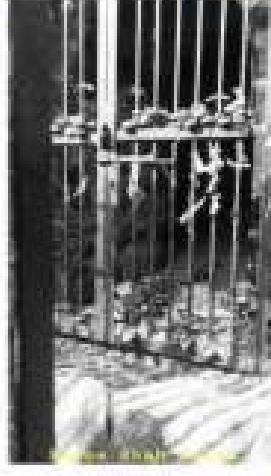
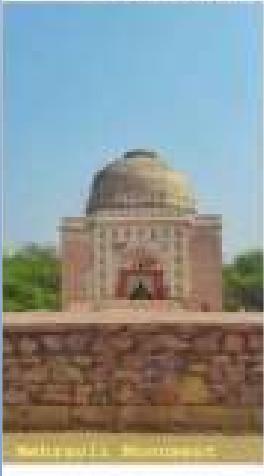
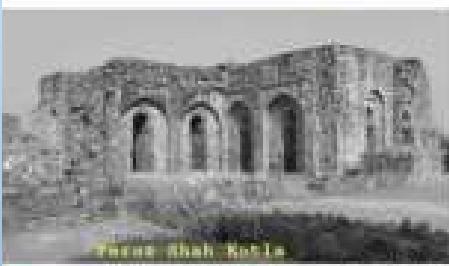
## Visit to National Museum



Jasmeet Kaur 3rd Year History Honours



PC- JASMEET KAUR  
B.A. HISTORY HONOURS, 3RD YEAR

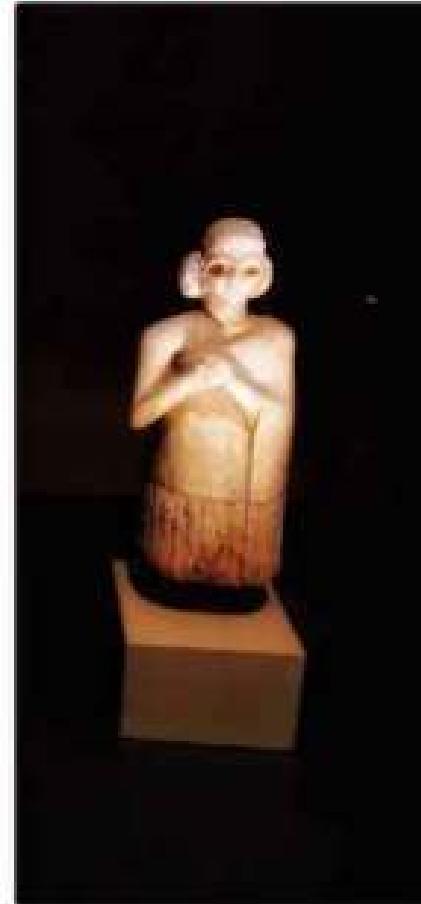


PC- JASMEET KAUR  
B.A HISTORY HONOURS, 3RD YEAR

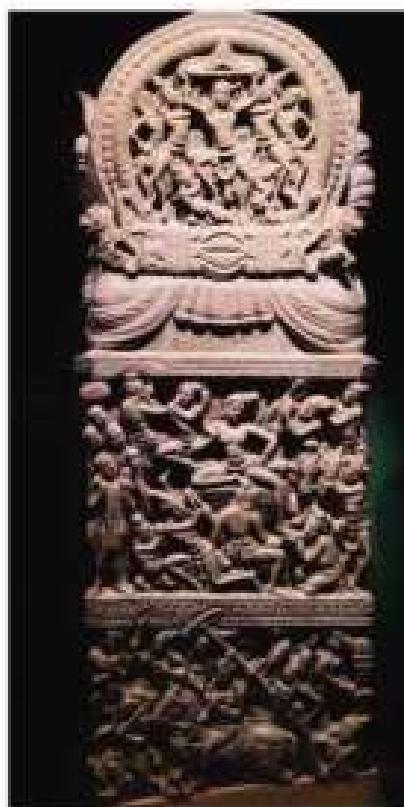
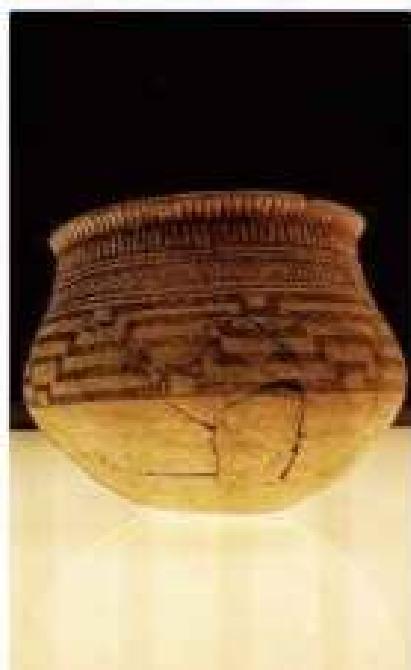
National Museum



Roman necklace  
AD 300-400, Tunisia



Statue of a woman  
2400BC , Iraq



Festivities around the  
making of the terracotta

## बस सवाल

Shreyasi



आज सुबह जब अखबार देखा  
फिर से केवल आतंक देखा  
किसी की बहन, बेटी, मां को  
फिर से दरिदंगी से सहमे देखा

नारी सशक्तिकरण की झूटी दलीलें  
रोज़ ही कानों में पड़ती हैं  
और रोज़ रास्तों, चौराहों पे  
हम कई नंगी नज़रों से गुजरते हैं

कल एक मां बनने का एहसास  
आज ही मन को सहमा जाता हैं  
उससे भी ज्यादा की  
कहीं मुझे भी बेटी हुई तो

क्या वह भी रोज़ गुजरेगी इस डर से,  
जो मुझे डराता है  
क्या वह भी झेलेगी, इन नंगी नज़रों को ?  
जो आज मुझे छल्ली कर जाती है।  
क्या वह भी हर गुजरते दिन के साथ  
ईश्वर को धन्यवाद देगी ?  
कि आज उसकी अस्मिता की रक्षा हो गई ?  
बस सवाल और सवाल ही है !

वह रक्षा, वो सुंदर संसार  
जो मेरी मां ने और उनकी मां ने  
हमारे लिए सोचा था,  
जो वो देने में सफल न हुई।

आज मेरे पास पंख है  
किन्तु पांव में जंजीरे भी हैं  
क्या मैं उसे उड़ने के लिए,  
एक आसमान दे पाऊंगी ?

केवल सवाल, बस सवाल और सवाल !

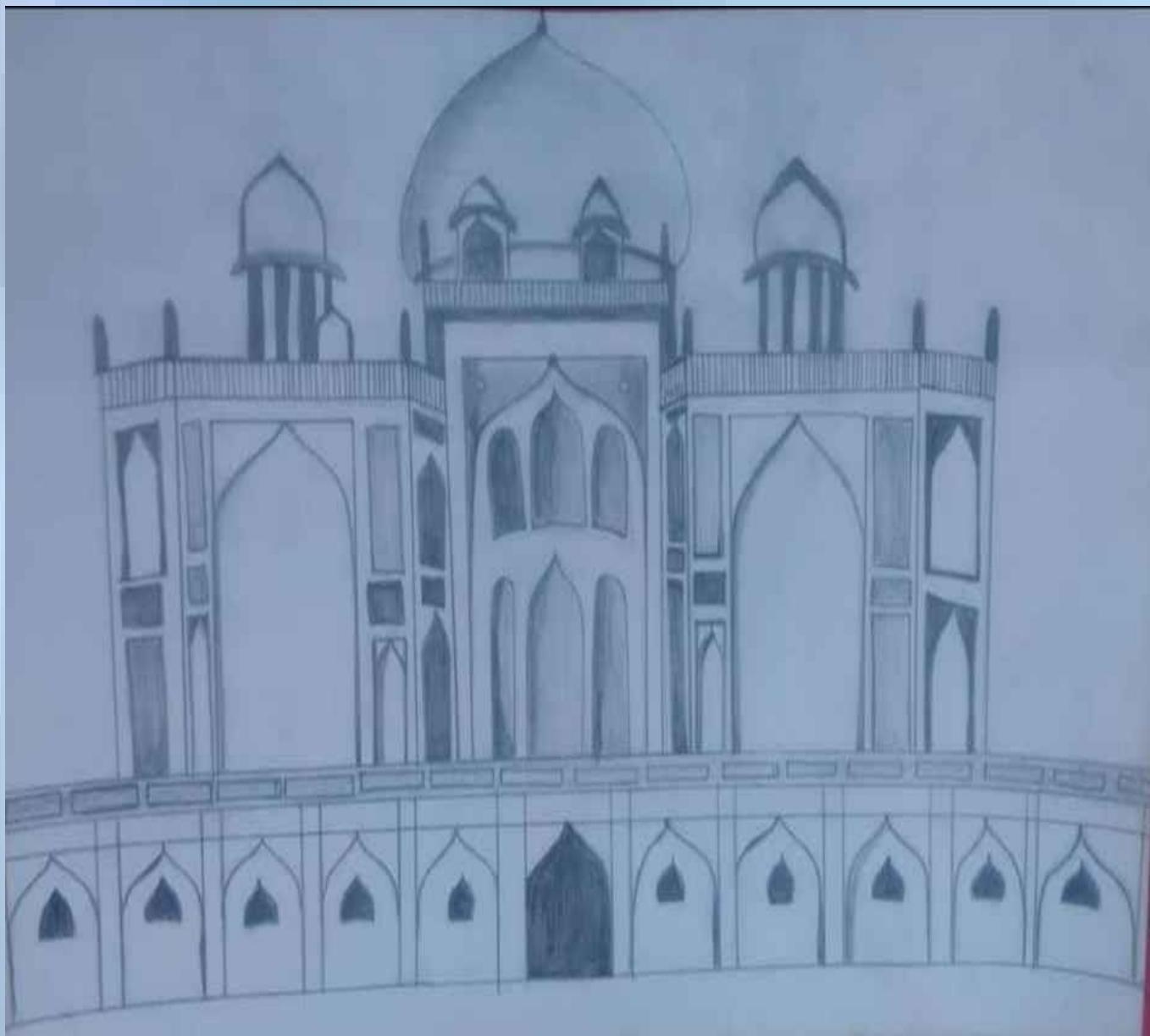
- श्रेयसी दत्त  
(प्रथम वर्ष, इतिहास ऑनर्स)



From The Students' Pen

## Taj Mahal

Aksheta



Students Corner

## The Tomb of Tutu

AKSHITA BEHL 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR (B.A) HISTORY HONOURS



The tomb of Tutu located in the Egyptian town of Sohag was unveiled on April 5, 2019. This well preserved tomb is believed to be from early Ptolemaic period and houses the mummified bodies of Tutu and his wife, Ta-Shirit-Iziz. It is one of the seven tombs which were discovered last year in October, when authorities found smugglers digging illegally for artifacts. Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, described the burial chamber as a "beautiful, colourful tomb". Its painted walls depict funeral processions and images of the owner working in the fields, as well as his family genealogy written in hieroglyphics, as reported by BBC news.



Two mummies, a woman aged between 35-50 and a boy aged 12-14, were on display outside the shallow burial chamber, in a desert area near the Nile about 390 km (242 miles) south of Cairo. Dozens of mummified rats, mice and falcons have also been discovered.

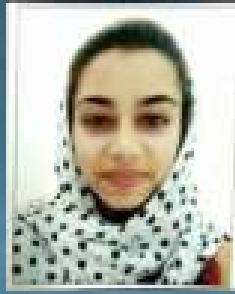


Courtesy: BBC News

Picture courtesy: Reuters

**Students Corner**  
**Gender Equality**

**Muskan Deep Kaur History Hons II Year**



Gender, Gender Everywhere,  
Humanity stays Nowhere.  
Fighting for the equal rights,  
Ends up in the inhuman fights.  
Why to be dependent on gender-fraction?  
When we both, can be the centre of Attraction!!

Who have to screw ,  
The ladder of indiscrimination.  
The ladder of togetherness.  
Which ultimately led to the path of humanity,  
Which is the only necessity.  
Because! As we know!

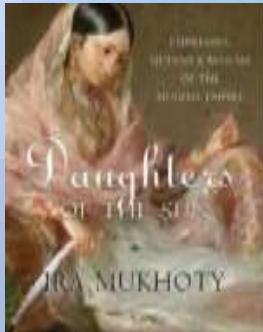
Past if fast, let it be,  
Come together without any spree.  
Past never heals the wound ,  
It just ruins the present boon.  
We all should realise,  
That we all are wise, So for what to fight, cries and dies?

Which ultimately led to the path of humanity,  
Which is the only necessity.  
Because! As we know!  
Gender, Gender Everywhere,  
Humanity stays Nowhere.

Not all the women but also the men ,  
Stop being a pseudo feminist!  
Because we all are the same Seminist.  
"Start working and cooperating together"  
This should be the only banner.

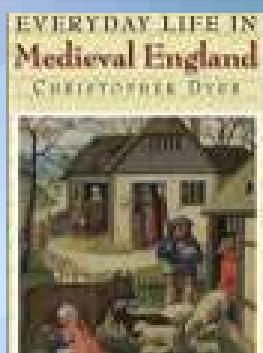
Don't be a so called open – minded,  
Infact, be a ladder to the caged surrounding.  
Words are many but time is few,  
Let me remind you  
You are the only one, who have to grew.

Anandita Pathak 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Kritika 1<sup>st</sup> Year



### **Daughter of the Sun: Empresses, Queens and Begums of the Mughal Empire- by *IRA MUKHYOT***

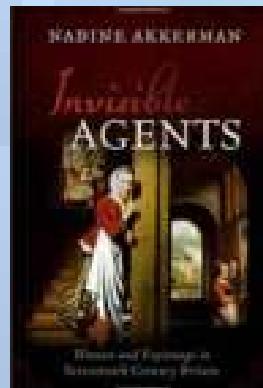
In 1526, when the nomadic Timruid warrior-scholar Babur rode into Hindustan, his wives , sisters,daughters,aunts and distant female relatives travelled with him. These women would rule India for the next 200 years and become a byword for opulence and grandeur. By the second half of the seventeenth century, the Mughal Empire was one of the largest and richest in the world. This is a chronicle for the women who played a vital role in building the Mughal Empire, Daughters of the Sun is an illuminating and gripping history of a little known aspect of the most magnificent dynasty the world has ever known



### **Chaucer's People: Everyday Lives In Medieval England-by *LIZA PICARD***

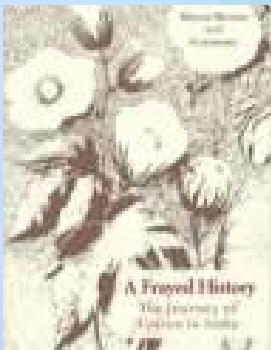
The middle ages were turbulent times. In the fourteenth century alone, England was ravaged by war, plague, revolt and the overthrow of a king. Among the surviving records, the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer is the most vivid.

Picard opens up the fourteenth-century world to us. Drawing contemporary experiences from a vast range of subjects like trade, religion, toe-curling remedies and hair-raising recipes.



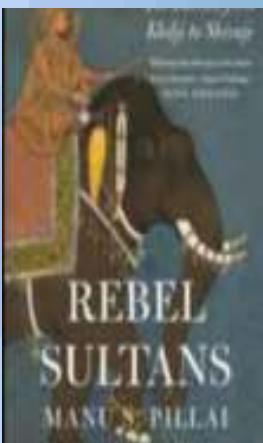
### **Invisible Agents: Women and Espionage in seventeenth century Britain-by *NADINE AKKERMANN***

It would be easy for the modern reader to conclude that women had no place in the world of early modern espionage, with a few seventeenth-century women spies identified and then relegated to the footnotes of history. Even the espionage carried out by Susan Hyde, sister of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, during the turbulent decades of civil strife in Britain escape the historiographer's gaze. Akkerman has immersed herself in archives, libraries, private collections, transcribing hundreds of letters, breaking cipher codes and their keys, studying invisible inks and interpreting riddles, acting as a modern- day spy mistress to unearth plot and conspiracies that have long remained hidden in history.



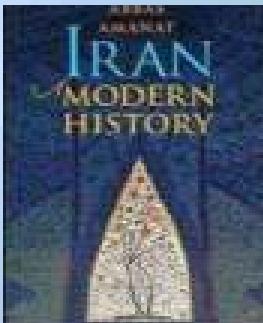
## **Daughter of the Sun: Empresses, Queens and Begums of the Mughal Empire- by *IRA MUKHYOT***

This book documents the history of cotton, its patterns of cultivation, the expanding use of hybrid varieties etc. A comprehensive study of cotton farming, this book explores the loss of local varieties of cotton and cotton-weaving traditions. The book concludes with some pertinent questions on the future of the fabric and its ever changing use. A study aimed at documenting the history and politics of this fabric in India, its works towards making the story of cotton relevant for the present and future generations.



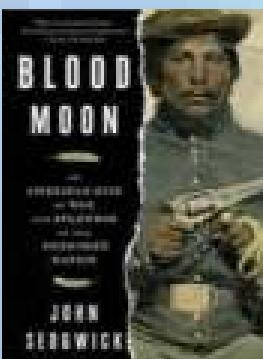
## **Rebel Sultans: The Deccan from Khilji to Shivaji by *MANU S. PILLAI***

In rebel sultans, Manu S Pillai narrates the story of the Deccan from the close of the thirteenth century to the dawn of the eighteenth. Packed with riveting tales and compelling characters, this book takes us from the age of Alauddin Khilji to the ascent of Shivaji. We witness the dramatic rise and fall of the Vijayanagar Empire, even as we negotiate intrigues at the courts of the Bahmani kings and the Rebel Sultans who overthrew them. From Chand Bibi, a valorous queen stabbed to death and Ibrahim II of Bijapur, a Muslim prince who venerated Hindu gods, to Malik Ambar, the Ethiopian warlord, and Krishna Deva Raya on Vijayanagar's Diamond Throne – they all appear in these pages as we journey through one of the most arresting sweeps of Indian history.



## **Iran: A Modern History by *ABBAS AMANAT***

This history of modern Iran is not a survey in the conventional sense, but an ambitious exploration of the nation that offers a revealing look at how events, people, and institutions are shaped by trends and currents that sometimes reach back hundreds of years. Abbas Amanat covers the dynasties, revolutions, civil wars, foreign occupation, and new Islamic regime of this complex period in history. Amanat combines chronological and thematic approaches, exploring events with lasting implications for modern Iran and the world.



## **Blood Moon: An American Epic of War and Splendour in the Cherokee Nation by *JOHN SEDGWICK***

Veteran journalist and author Sedgwick dispels any notion that the Native American world was either monolithic or pacific. In the absence of other powers, tribes and alliances of tribes fought for land and influence, and in their presence, they became blunt-force instruments.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

The Department of History, Mata Sundri College for Women has always sought to expand education beyond the confines of classroom. This is achieved by the means of different workshops, heritage walks or lectures by distinguished scholars. Not only does this helps students in a better understanding of the subject, but also helps them to practically apply the knowledge.

The academic year 2018-19 was no different from the previous years. A number of such activities were conducted for the students to provide them with the necessary exposure. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, a talk on "Our Heritage" by Ms. Purnima Dutt, Principal Director INTACH (HECS) was organized in the college. The talk focused on different kinds of heritage and how it can be preserved and how as students of history we can give our contribution. The talk was followed by an interactive session between the members of INTACH and the students.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, a lecture by Dr. Bharti Jagannathan was organized on the topic "Perspectives on Bhakti" in the college. She spoke about the Shaiva and Vaishnava bhakti sects that prevailed in South India with main focus on Tamil Nadu. The topic being a part of the academic curriculum was extremely helpful for better understanding of the students. The interactive session followed by the lecture was full of many interesting topics such as the epic culture and the history of Sabrimala temple. It helped pique the interest of students in Bhakti Movement even further.

A heritage walk to the Firoz Shah Kotla Fort was organized on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Students from the department of history were accompanied by teacher-in-charge Dr. Shabnam Suri along with other faculty members. The walk was aimed towards introducing students to local history of the medieval city of Firozabad at the same time pointing towards the need to conserve our heritage.

Every year INTACH organizes a workshop for the students for professional development and experience in the field of understanding our role towards safeguarding heritage. This year the workshop was held on 18 January, 2019 (Friday) and was organized and coordinated by Mrs. Poornima Dutt, Head of INTACH and her team. Five students from the department accompanied by Ma'am Panchali Devi took part in the same. The workshop started with a brief introduction of herself by Poornima ma'am and was followed by a documentary on INTACH and a Presentation on Heritage and its types. The

event moved forward with 2 lectures, 30-minutes each, on the topic 'Views on Heritage'. The first lecture was by Mr. A.G Menon who talked about the re-development of Chandni Chowk followed by Ms. Narayana who introduced heritage as a subject. This was followed by Ms. Padhma who explained how INTACH and its team help in the conservation and preservation of heritage. After experiencing the conservation process first-hand the students went for a Heritage Walk in Lodhi Gardens. The workshop concluded with an interactive session between the students of different institutions and the members of INTACH.

On 16th of February, Gatha- the History Society of Mata Sundri College for Women organized a lecture on "Looking into the Household and Family of Mughal Women in 16th-17th century." The lecture was delivered by Dr. Ruchika Sharma, Assistant professor, Department of History, Gargi College, University of Delhi. While using various examples such as those of Mumtaz, Jahanara and Roshanara, Dr. Ruchika explained how these women were often sought for their advice in both personal and administrative issues. Along with this she also talked about the different achievements and talents of numerous Mughal women. Concluding the lecture with an insight that women's history could be somewhat different from how we know it today if it is written by women themselves. The lecture was followed by a student interaction round wherein students could ask questions or present their own thoughts. The lecture brought new insight into the Mughal era and piqued interest on women history.

A Symposium on Mirza Ghalib was organized on 1st of March. Dr. Iffat, Associate professor, Mata Sundri College for Women and Dr. Sumail Singh Sidhu, independent historian were the main speakers. While Dr. Iffat gave a literary view point about Ghalib's life, Dr. Sidhu on the other hand gave historical perspective on the life of the poet. Apart from the lectures, ghazals written by Ghalib were also sung. In addition various letters written by him at different stages of his life were read out by the students of the department. The symposium helped the students to understand the origin of Urdu along with the contribution of Ghalib to the flourishing of Urdu. The symposium threw light not only in the literary aspect but also aided the students in placing Ghalib in history, especially in context of Delhi and the uprising of 1857. The event was perhaps a first step towards understanding the prolific personality of Mirza Ghalib.