



**Training Programmes on
'Interpreting History through
Archaeology by Undertaking the
Glory of the Past'**

**UGC SPONSORED
TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON
INTERPRETING HISTORY THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY BY UNEARTHING THE
GLORY OF THE PAST**

HISLOP COLLEGE

20th NOVEMBER, 2017

REPORT

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A UGC Sponsored one day Teachers Training Programme on 'Interpreting History through Archaeology by Unearthing the Glory of the Past' was organized by Hislop College in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur Circle on 20th November 2017. The programme was an initiative to create awareness among teachers and to impart an adequate knowledge about archaeology and its allied discipline. The programme focussed on developing critical attitude towards history and archaeology so as to promote interest and curiosity in understanding the heritage of the region. The Teachers Training Programme was inaugurated at the hands of Dr. Rajan Welurkar, Vice-Chancellor, G. H. Rasoni University, along with Dr. N. Taher, Patron and Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur Circle, Dr. (Ms.) Dipti Christian, Principal, Hislop College, Dr. R.J. Andrew, Vice-Principal and Convenor of the programme and organizing secretaries, Dr. I. A. Hashmi and S. Vijay Kumar.

Teachers Training Programme – November 20th, 2017



Dr. R.J. Andrew, Vice-Principal and Convenor of the programme, welcomed the distinguished guests and participants. The objectives of the teachers training programme was introduced by Dr. N. Taher who emphasised on interdisciplinary approaches to integrate archaeological methods and field experiences to understand the nuances of our glorious past. According to him such techniques will enable the teachers to develop interest in teaching learning process. With this in mind, the programme was designed in such a way as to provide training that will enrich the cultural understanding and research potential of the teachers and students. The programme aimed to provide training and exposure to the teachers in a variety of professional contexts allied to archaeology and its practical implications in contemporary life.

Teachers Training Programme – November 20th, 2017



The chief guest of the programme, Dr. Rajan Welurkar, Vice Chancellor, G. H. Raisoni University, enlightened the gathering by emphasising the importance of archaeological methods in retrieving the material culture of our glorious past represented by various cultures, some of which are unique to Indian context. He also advised the participants to not only have theoretical knowledge but also practical exposure by participating or visiting the sites being excavated or conserved and preserved sites of historical importance.

Teachers Training Programme – November 20th, 2017



The presidential address was delivered by the Principal, Dr. (Ms.) Dipti Christian who emphasised the need for collaborative expertise in different branches of social studies to create awareness as well as interest in subjects related to our culture and heritage. She also added that in these days of fast developing technology and too much of materialistic outlook, we tend to forget our cultural roots and our past heritage, thus giving rise to the need for organising such programme wherein the participants are exposed not only to various methods of retrieval of our past cultural remains but also to conserve and preserve them for the future generations. The programme was conducted by S. Vijay Kumar who also proposed a vote of thanks.

Teachers Training Programme – November 20th, 2017



The inaugural function was followed by technical presentations divided into 5 sessions moderated by Dr. N. Taher, Patron and Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur Circle.

SESSION – I

THE SAGA OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

Dr. Vijay Kumar Nair and Dr. Ravikumar J, Deputy Superintending Archaeologists, Prehistory Branch, ASI, Nagpur

They explained to the participants the systematic evolution of mankind from Primate stage to Modern humans. Their presentations included gradual cultural evolution along with physical evolution explaining various cultural stages including Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic and early Iron age to the historical cultures.

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SESSION – II

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGY: INTERPRETING THE EXCAVATED SITES IN VIDARBHA

Dr.PrahsantSonone, Assistant Archaeologist, Excavation Branch – I, ASI, Nagpur

He briefly discussed with the help of slides the results of the important excavations conducted at various places like Junapani, Tuljapurgarhi, Adam, Panchkhedi, Arambha, Mansar etc. and their significance in understanding the cultural heritage of Vidarbha. Besides, Dr.Sonone also explained various techniques of archaeological excavations.

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SESSION – III

PERSONALITY OF MONUMENTS OF VIDARBHA

Dr. I. A. Hashmi, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Nagpur Circle, ASI, Nagpur

He emphasized the need for understanding and upkeeping not only the ninety-four centrally protected monuments but also other important standing monuments like caves, temples, forts etc. He highlighted the art and architectural grandeur of 10th – 11th century Markanda temple in Chandrapur district and our duty to preserve it for our future generations.

Dr. Shilpa Jamgade of the same department also spoke about the functioning and the activities of the ASI

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SESSION – IV

RESTORING CULTURAL HERITAGE: A CASE STUDY

Mr. N.B.D. Kempegowda, Conservator, Nagpur Circle, ASI, Nagpur

He discussed the importance and methods of conservation and restoration of monuments including Rock-cut temples, structural temples of various architectural styles like Nagara, Vesara and Dravida etc. He explained the procedures involved in conserving the historical secular and religious monuments at Hampi in Karnataka.

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SESSION – V

CULTURAL GLEANING THROUGH PERSIO-ARABIC EPIGRAPHY

Md. Tarique Rasool & Muntazir Ali, Epigraphists (Persian and Arabic), Epigraphy Branch, ASI, Nagpur

Based on the Persian and Arabic & other inscriptions, both the scholars traced the origins of socio-economic and political history of the societies. They also discussed the beginning of writing and the ancient scripts tracing their origin and development in India. Especially both the scholars explained the beginning and the gradual development of various styles of Arabic and Persian scripts.

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Dr. N. Taher, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur Circleably moderated the entire workshop sessions. After every presentation by the scholars, before opening the session for interaction among the audience, Dr. Taher summarised each presentation with his own scholarly interpretations based on his vast field knowledge and guided the interactive discussions.



VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

The valedictory function was presided by Dr. Chandrasekhar Gupt, Former Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, RTM Nagpur University. In his address Prof. Gupt appreciated the efforts taken by the ASI and Hislop College in organizing this very informative and useful training programme for the benefit of the teachers with an emphasis on the bounden duty of every Indian to conserve and protect our glorious cultural heritage. Dr. I. A. Hashmi, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Nagpur

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Circle, ASI, Nagpur summed up the entire deliberations of the training programme. The participants representing various schools appreciated the programme by giving their positive feedback with a request to the organizers to hold similar programmes in future for creating cultural awareness. Dr. R.J. Andrew, Dr. Prantik Banerjee and Dr. Prashant Shelke, Vice Principals of the college, were prominently present.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by S. Vijay Kumar, the organizing secretary of the Teachers' Training Programme.




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