

दिल्लीवालों की जुबानी, सुनें दिल्ली कहानी

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : जिनकी हर सांस दिल्ली को समर्पित है। ऐसे ही दिल्लीवालों की जुबानी दिल्ली की कहानी सुनाने की योजना दिल्ली अभिलेखागार विभाग ने बनाई है। इसमें दिल्ली की 30 प्रसिद्ध शख्सियतों से बातचीत का ऑडियो-वीडियो रिकार्ड किया जाएगा।

अब तक पूर्व उप प्रधानमंत्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी, इतिहासकार आरवी स्मिथ, दिल्ली घराने के खलीफा उस्ताद इकबाल अहमद खान, वयोवृद्ध चित्रकार कृष्ण खन्ना, उर्दू लेखक गुलजार देहलवी समेत कुल 20 लोगों के नाम तय किए गए हैं। इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में सोमवार को इसकी औपचारिक शुरुआत की गई। उद्घाटन समारोह में इतिहासकार सोहेल हाशमी, आरवी स्मिथ, इरफान हबीब, ऊषा पुरी

इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में औरत हिस्ट्री प्रोग्राम का उद्घाटन, दिल्ली के 100 लोगों से उनके अनुभवों को लेकर की जाएगी बातचीत

ने यादें साझा कीं। कला संस्कृति व भाषा विभाग की सचिव रिकू दुग्गा ने कहा कि इतिहास दर्ज किए जाने की प्रक्रिया में आम लोग भी शामिल होंगे। इसके लिए इसके लिए इच्छुक लोग अभिलेखागार से सीधे संपर्क कर सकते हैं। एक समिति लोगों से मिलकर तय करेगी कि उनकी आवाज में इतिहास दर्ज किया जाए या नहीं। इसके बाद अभिलेखागार की टीम उनका साक्षात्कार करेगी।



ओरल हिस्ट्री प्रोग्राम के उद्घाटन समारोह में बोलती कला संस्कृति भाषा विभाग की सचिव रिकू दुग्गा व मंच पर मौजूद गणमान्य लोग ● जागरण

प्रतिक्रियाएं

मौखिक इतिहास बाकि अन्य इतिहास के संकलन से बिल्कुल अलग है। इसे तत्काल शुरू कर देना चाहिए, क्योंकि जितना विलंब होगा, उतना ही इतिहास की घटनाओं को सुनने से हम वंचित होंगे। ओरल हिस्ट्री के जरिये वे भी इतिहास को जान सकेंगे जो लिखना पढ़ना भी नहीं जानते।

प्रो. इरफान हबीब, इतिहासकार

शहर से जुड़े बहुत से किस्से, कहानियां हैं, जो लोगों के बीच हैं। यह कार्यक्रम लोगों तक पहुंचेगा और उनकी दिल्ली से जुड़ी यादों को संरक्षित करेगा। इससे शोध करने वाले छात्रों को भी मदद मिलेगी।

सोहेल हाशमी, इतिहासकार

यह शहर लोगों को एकता के सूत्र में पिरोने वाला है। भले ही लोग कई मायनों में अलग हों, लेकिन उनके जायके में समानता है।

अभिनंदिता, दिल्ली सरकार की कल्चरल एडवाइजर

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मौखिक इतिहास कार्यक्रम शुरू

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के मौखिक इतिहास कार्यक्रम का सोमवार से शुभारंभ हो गया है। इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में दिल्ली अभिलेखाकार और आंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय दिल्ली (एयूडी) की तरफ कार्यक्रम की विधिवत शुरुआत की गई है। कार्यक्रम के तहत आम आदमी की आवाज में दिल्ली का इतिहास रिकॉर्ड किया जाना है, जिसके लिए दो वर्षों में 100 लोगों का साक्षात्कार किया जाएगा।

मौखिक इतिहास कार्यक्रम के शुभारंभ पर सोमवार को उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया को शामिल होना था, लेकिन उनके आने की असमर्थता की वजह से शुभारंभ कार्यक्रम में उनका लिखित संदेश पढ़ा गया, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली की ऐतिहासिक कहानियों में सामान्य नागरिकों के अनुभवों को छोड़कर शासक वर्ग का दबदबा रहा है, यह अंशुतलन दिल्ली का वास्तविक चित्र बनाने में विफल हो जाता है। ऐसा इतिहास लोगों के लिए अविश्वसनीय हो जाता है।

महेश वर्मा होंगे आईपीयू के वीसी



नए कुलपति डॉ. महेश वर्मा।

नई दिल्ली। गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय (आईपीयू) को नया कुलपति मिल गया है। दिल्ली सरकार ने सोमवार को मौलाना आजाद इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ डेंटल के निदेशक व प्रिंसिपल डॉ. महेश वर्मा को आईपीयू का कुलपति नियुक्त किया है। उनके नाम को लेकर चर्चा लंबे समय से चल रही थी। सोमवार को इसे लेकर दिल्ली सरकार के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग की ओर से अधिसूचना जारी कर दी गई है। वह पांच साल के लिए कुलपति रहेंगे।

6 Aug 2019 | Delhi | Adrija Roychowdhury adrija.roychowdhury@hindustantimes.com ■

Romila Thapar, Raghu Rai may be part of city's oral history initiative

NEW DELHI: Delhi Veteran writer and journalist RV Smith, historian Romila Thapar, dancer Uma Sharma, and photographer Raghu Rai are a few of the names under consideration for the Delhi government's oral history initiative. The programme, launched on Monday, will be carried out by Delhi Archives in collaboration with Ambedkar University. "All these names are renowned in their fields and have made a significant contribution to the history of Delhi," Sanjay Garg, head of the office of the Delhi Archives, said. "The rest will be decided by a high-level committee," he added.

The project, which aims to fill gaps in history by capturing the memories and experiences of Delhi's citizens from different walks of life, will record 100 interviews in a span of two years.

"The story of Delhi is not just about epic wars and the fall and rise of kingdoms, it is also about intimate details—the songs, festivals, weddings, the recipes, the businesses—that will come alive for the younger generation," deputy chief minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia said.

Speaking about the parameters through which the interviewees are being decided upon, professor at Ambedkar University Denys Leighton said that "it is important to select people who represent all walks of life."

The Delhi Archives currently possess oral histories of 50 illustrious personalities, including politician and freedom fighter Sushila Nayyar, politician Gulzarilal Nanda, and feminist writer and social scientist Kamala Bhasin. Speaking about the importance of oral history as a source of history writing, historian S Irfan Habib said that "this is unlike other sources of history, such as archives, epigraphy, or archaeological sources. This history depends on the experiences of people. When they die, we lose out on their memories. For instance, those who saw the 1942 Quit India movement are no longer around. Therefore, we need to take this project very seriously."

Archivist Usha Purie emphasised upon the need to democratise the accessibility of the archives. "Once you develop an archive you must also think of making it available to anybody who is interested in Delhi," she said.



Some of the other people who are also being considered for interviews in the first phase of the project are musician and head of Dilli Gharana Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan, artist Kishen Khanna, senior advocate Ram Jethmalani, theatre personality Vinod Nagpal, journalist Arun Shourie and newsreader Salma Sultan.

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ओरल हिस्ट्री प्रोग्राम लॉन्च

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : 'इतिहास में राज करने वाला वर्ग ही हावी रहा। दिल्ली सरकार चाहती है कि आम इंसान की आवाज का भी आलेख हो।' दिल्ली के डिप्टी सीएम मनीष सिसोदियान ने इन शब्दों के साथ सरकार का ओरल हिस्ट्री प्रोग्राम लॉन्च किया। यह प्रोग्राम दिल्ली आर्काइव्स और आंबेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी का है, जिसके तहत दो सालों में दिल्ली में रहने वालों के 100 इंटरव्यू लिए जाएंगे। इस प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की बातों से होगी, जो उन्हें दिल्ली से जोड़ती हैं।

इंडिया इंटरनैशनल सेंटर में सोमवार को हुए कार्यक्रम में सिसोदिया ने कहा, दिल्ली की कहानी सिर्फ ऐतिहासिक युद्ध, साम्राज्य को गिरने उठने की कहानी नहीं है, बल्कि यह गानों, उत्सव, शादियों, व्यंजन, बिजनेस की कहानी भी है, जो युवा पीढ़ी के लिए जिंदा रहनी चाहिए। इस मौके पर इतिहासकार प्रोफेसर इरफान हबीब, इतिहास के लेखक आर वी स्मिथ, आंबेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी के डॉ डेनिस लिंगटन, कल्चरल एडवाइजर अभिनंदिता माथुर और एक्टिविस्ट रुषा पुरी और इतिहासकार सोहेल हाशमी के साथ पैनल डिस्कशन भी चला।

Oral History Project sees fresh push from Delhi govt: 100 interviews in two years

SOMYA LAKHANI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

IT WAS in the '80s that the Delhi Archives department first began an oral history project by interviewing 56 personalities about the city, its history and changing nature. From politician Gulzari Lal Nanda, who served as the acting Prime Minister twice in the '60s, to Sushila Nayar, a close aide of Mahatma Gandhi — the interviews, stored in audio cassettes, detail their memories of Delhi.

After 56, however, the project was stopped. Reviving the project, the Delhi government launched the 'Oral History Programme' at the India International Centre Monday afternoon. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Delhi Archives department and the Ambedkar University (AUD).

"We will add 100 more interviews in the next two years," said Ajay Kumar Garg, director of Archives.

The launch was accompanied by a panel discussion with historian S Irfan Habib, author and journalist R V Smith, Professor Denys P Leighton from AUD, and former All India Radio programmer Usha Purie. It was moderated by historian Sohail Hashmi and the topic was 'Mapping Delhi through Oral Histories, potential and possibilities'.

While Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was supposed to inaugurate the programme, couldn't make it, he said, "Through anecdotes, stories, songs and experiences, the archives will record lesser-known narratives of the public. The first phase of the initiative



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Delhi Archives department and Ambedkar University

will map senior citizens' connect with Delhi. The elderly are a treasure trove of stories, custodians of our history."

Hashmi stressed on the need to "document since history is being re-written".

In the backdrop of the Centre scrapping special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370, Hashmi said, "that people like us being able to buy land there would result in the loss of linguistic, cultural history. It will be forgotten. We need to document."

While Smith said, "oral history is not found in books but in *galis* and *mohallas*", Purie commented on accessibility of archives. She said, "Once you document, also think of accessibility. Filmmakers, research scholars want access to such archives and so do common people just for keepsake. Will it come with a rate card or be free for all?"

Archivist Sanjay Garg said that the department aims to record 50 personalities — from

Smith and Mahashay Dharampal Gulati of MDH spices to farmers, traders and teachers — this year.

"The project which began in the '80s stopped due to lack of resources and manpower. This is a revival of sorts. We have the 56 recordings and transcripts too. This project has a team of 20 and will be available on the Delhi Archives website free of cost," he said.

Habib emphasised on the urgency to document as oral history "depends on people and if they disappear, the memories go away with them".

He said, "We should have done this sooner but better late than never. While recording oral history, both the interviewer and the interviewee have to report honestly what they know."

He added that unlike "written history," oral history empowers the voiceless. "An illiterate person cannot write down what he knows but he can tell that story and that needs to be recorded."



Delhi's rich history, as told by the people who have lived it

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New Delhi: When it comes to history, there is a dominant view that it is written by victors. Or, it is dominated by the voice of the ruling classes with the aam aadmi's voice almost non-existent or being pushed to the margins. Even though the academia has progressively focused more and more on 'history from below', starting with the Subaltern School, since the late 1970s, in the realm of popular history, this view is still current.

The Delhi government's 'Oral History Programme' reflects this popular view and is a response to it. Over the next two years, the Delhi government, through its department of art and culture and Delhi Archives, will join forces with Ambedkar University to conduct 100 interviews of people who have seen the city in transition since Partition until now. The idea is to collect their memoirs and recollections and put together a comprehensive record of the changing sights, sounds and tastes of Delhi, some of which may have been lost forever. These will be unique, individual perspectives.



A CHUNK OF THE PAST: A neighbourhood museum at Shadi Khampur with items used by people in Delhi in the 1930s and earlier

On Monday evening, the project was officially launched at an elaborate programme at India International Centre and a memorandum of understanding signed between Delhi Archives and Ambedkar University. Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia is believed to be the driving force behind the project, and everyone present there, right from secretary (art and culture) Rinku Dhugga to Delhi Archives director Ajay Garg, credited the deputy CM. However, both Sisodia and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal were conspicuous by their absence.

Sisodia was represented by his cultural advisor Abhinandita Mathur who read out his statement: "The historical narrative is dominated by the voices of the ruling

class, excluding the experiences of ordinary citizens. This imbalance leaves a critical gap that fails to project the real picture. It is perhaps for this one-sided historical perspective that history becomes unrelatable to most people. The story of Delhi is not just about epic wars and the fall and rise of kingdoms; it is also about intimate details, the songs, festivals, weddings, the recipes, the businesses that will come alive for the younger generation."

Oral history, already quite a fad abroad, has started becoming popular in India in the past few years, especially after a large collective effort to record voices of Partition victims that spanned not just India but also Pakistan in recent years. That one largely

involved recorded interviews with survivors and eyewitnesses of that cataclysmic event of the 20th century. This one will also start with voices of the elderly.

"The first phase of the initiative will map senior citizen's connect with Delhi. The elderly are a treasure trove of stories and the custodians of our history. Known for its composite culture, Delhi's history will have much to offer to the country. Through common experiences and shared histories, people might realise we have more in common than what those wanting to polarise our society would want us to believe. It is also essential to disseminate oral history as it will help tackle constant attempts to manipulate our past to advance a particular narrative," Sisodia's statement read.

The project will cost Rs 27.5 lakh. "Ambedkar University will collect and collate the interviews while we will monitor the project, select the interviewees and also check the transcripts," a source in the Delhi Archives informed.

Earlier in the day, a panel discussion was held on oral history, which had eminent historians S Irfan Habib and Sohail Hashmi.

Courtesy: Ambedkar University