

## DASTAAN: THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY

Dastaan: The Art and Architecture Society provides a learning platform for all those interested in Delhi's rich tangible and intangible legacy, which is a synthesis of many cultures that together form our beloved 'Dilli'. In Delhi's vibrant heritage all individuals can find their homes and in the folds of its history, answers for the present. Dastaan attempts to instill a passion to discover the past among pupils from all walks of life within and beyond Jesus and Mary College. In doing so, it is able to provide a safe channel for healthy discussions engaging diverse viewpoints through its academic talks, heritage walks, competitions and social media outlets.

Dastaan's academic session 2021-22 started off with the election for office bearers, wherein Shaivie Sharma (3<sup>rd</sup> Year, B.A. History Hons) and Jeseentha Anne Joji (2<sup>nd</sup> Year, B.A. History Hons) were announced President and Vice-President, respectively. Following a two-fold registration process, Dastaan was joined by a spirited team of 300 students.

The events conducted by Dastaan during the first half of this academic session were online in nature due to the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. Dastaan organized three informative academic talks in collaboration with the Department of History, Jesus and Mary College.

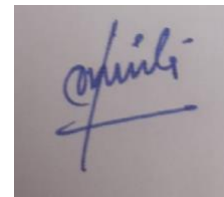
- 1) Dastaan's first talk was delivered by Dr. Akbar Joseph A. Syed on 'De-Historicizing 19<sup>th</sup> Century Literary Works: A Case Study of John Masters' Novels' on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- 2) Following this, Dastaan conducted a talk by Dr. Harbans Mukhia, a retired professor from Jawaharlal Nehru University with expertise in the field of Medieval History. Based on the genealogy and interpretations of the discipline of history, it was titled 'Evolving Contours of the Discipline: The Past and Present of History' and was delivered on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 3) Dastaan's final talk of the academic session was delivered by Dr. Arthur Needham, an expert in the study of Protohistory, Prehistoric Rock Art and Coinage of India. Titled 'The Acceptance of Coinage in the Marketplace', it was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and covered a brief history of numismatics and coinage in the silk road trade.

In the second half of the academic session, Dastaan, in collaboration with Cauldron, the Hindi Magazine Society, Jesus and Mary College organized a Slam Poetry Competition titled 'Ishq Aur Inquilab' (Love and Revolution) on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The theme was befitting the social climate of love and revolution becoming the driving forces of each other. The event was bilingual in nature with poetry presented by a wide array of participants from various colleges and backgrounds, in English and Hindi.

Following the resuming of classes in offline mode, Dastaan conducted two heritage walks which were enthusiastically attended by a myriad of people.

- 1) In the first walk, we traversed through the Mughal Mausoleums, looking closely at the extravagant architecture of Rahim's Tomb and Humayun's Tomb on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM; The walk was led by Dr. Amita Paliwal who brought to life the Mughal personalities with her intriguing tales.
- 2) The second walk consisted of us travelling across age and time in the Northern Ridge, distinct with natural biodiversity, and charming architecture; it was led by Dr. Maya John on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 9:00 AM onwards.

The society owes its heartfelt gratitude to the Principal Prof. Sandra Joseph for her constant encouragement. Dastaan's success is fueled by the unrelenting guidance and support of Dr. Amita Paliwal, our convenor as well as other staff members and the active and constant hard work put in by the Core Team.

A square image containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Amita Paliwal'.

**Dr. Amita Paliwal (Convenor)**

**Ms. Shaivie Sharma (President)**

**Ms. Jeseentha Anne Joji (Vice-President)**