

GURGAON HISTORY FESTIVAL 2024

The much awaited Gurgaon History Festival (GHF), in association with the Jaipur History Festival and Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust, was hosted by DPS, Sector 45, Gurgaon on 5th and 6th April 2024. This festival was a successful execution of Pro-Vice Chairperson, DPS Sec 45, Gurgaon, Ms Devyani Jaipuria's vision aligned with the National Education Policy. Thirty schools across the country, participated in this event wherein the theme of 'Education Through Monuments' offered an enriching experience for students and educators alike.

Day 1 commenced with the inauguration of the exhibition by the esteemed Chief Guest, Ms Ameeta Mulla Wattal, Chairperson and Executive Director Education, Innovation and Training, DLF Schools and Scholarships, Ms Jaipuria, Mr Sandeep Sethi, Director Education, MSMS II, Museum Trust, Jaipur and various Principals supporting and participating in the ETM project. The exhibition showcased an array of projects and monuments by the participating schools. Subjects like Science, Social Science, Economics, Mathematics and English were integrated with History to create the exhibits, thus highlighting the theme of this festival. DIY Experiential Corners like pottery making, weaving, braiding, etc were an all time hit with over one thousand students and teachers who visited the exhibition.

The cultural programme, commenced with the address by Ms Jaipuria, who elucidated her belief that knowledge of our heritage and culture when intertwined with education, results in the holistic development of our students. Director Principal, DPS, Sector-45, Gurgaon Ms Aditi Misra, thanked Ms Jaipuria for providing the school with a platform, where education meets innovation. She extended her gratitude to the chief guest, Ms Wattal for being a guide and mentor to many. Ms Wattal took to the podium and termed the event as a 'Monufest', describing it as an embodiment of memory, metaphor and meaning, and said that the need of the hour was to preserve antiquity of these monuments. This was followed by a book launch, where four graphic novels, conceptualised and authored by the faculty of DPS, Sector 45, were released by the eminent guests.

The cultural programme put together by the students of various schools, including the host school, was a treat to the eyes. It comprised of various folk and classical forms of dance, songs of different genres, skits, street plays and short video presentations that left the audience mesmerised at its grandeur. Various guest speakers, through their speeches focussed on the importance of ETM as a transcending experience beyond the conventional realm.

Day 2 of the festival unfolded with many more distinguished guests enjoying the exhibition and the cultural presentation. Ms Misra lauded the participants for being the successful 'architects' of the event. She expressed her gratitude towards Mr Sandeep Sethi for the ideation of such events, thus helping children learn better. She said that all must make an effort towards experiential learning. The guests of honour, Dr. Anju Chazot, Principal, Mahatma Gandhi International School (MGIS), Ahmedabad and Dr. Pascal Chazot, Honorary Head of School, MGIS, addressed the gathering and stated that monuments are postcards from the past that enable time travel and the students, through their exhibits and presentations, have beautifully ushered them into history. Dr. Pascal Chazot also spoke of lucid dreaming being the key to transforming ideas and imagination into reality.

The novel, *My Friend Tholu*, an endeavour in tandem with the CBSE Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat initiative and created by the DPS, Sec 45 faculty, was launched. It was followed by performances, which were no less in fervour than the previous day. The mega event culminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Dean, Student Welfare, Ms Sapna Dhawan. From concept to creation, she expressed her gratitude to one and all. The festival left an indelible imprint on the minds of all.

