

## THE ITIHAAS SUMMER HERITAGE PROGRAMME AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, 2019

**ITIHAAS** organised its Summer Heritage Programme at the National Museum, Delhi from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. This was open to students of 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.



### Day 1

The programme kicked into action with Smita Vats, Founder Director, **ITIHAAS** briefing the students about the programme which was followed by a quick round of introduction. The students were divided into groups of 4, each headed by a sherpa.

As part of project work, each group was expected to pick one gallery from the museum on which their activity kit or audio guide would be based. Along with this, each student had to pick an individual object from the museum on which they would research and explore the unknown and the unsaid. Before

leaving for the day, each group discussed with their sherpas the gallery they would like to work on.

### Day 2

The remaining galleries were visited on the second day following which, each group gave its preference for the gallery they would like to work on. The galleries selected included The Harappan Gallery, The Bronze Art Gallery, Miniature Paintings, Decorative Arts, Coins and the Musical Art Gallery. After a lot of brainstorming each group went home with a rough plan for their activity kits.



### Day 3

The third day was where most ideas started taking shape. The groups were assisted by their sherpas to refine their ideas. An interactive session was organized with the Head of the Security Department, Mr Anil who talked to the students about the various security measures undertaken by the museum. He also talked of extra security measures that are taken when artefacts were moved in the museum or temporary exhibitions like that of the Nizam's Jewellery are organised.

### Day 4

On day 4 students did a museum audit which further helped them understand the museum and its functioning. After working on the gallery and the individual objects, the students got the opportunity to interact with Mr. Sarthak Malhotra who is currently pursuing his PhD in Anthropology & has been an **ITIHAAS** student.

The students worked at their individual objects, completed the workbook and made the various components of their activity kits at home since the museum remains closed on Monday.



### Day 5

We had the chance to meet Ms Rige Sheba, the Museum Education Officer who told us the various ways in which we could get associated with the museum and enrich our experience there.

### Day 6

On the sixth day, we had the chance to visit to the Arms and Armour Gallery which took everyone by surprise. Many groups tested their kits and audio guides with visitors and made the necessary changes.



### Day 7

On the concluding day of the programme, the students came colour coded and arranged their game in the gallery. The judges for the day were Ms. Shivani Chander, Ms. Ruma Mukherji and Mr. Sarthak Malhotra.

The games ranged from treasure hunt in the Harappan Gallery to finding the bigger picture in the Miniature Paintings. Games like 'dress the doll' were designed especially for children. Games like 'Sound of Music' and "Journey to the Throne' were enjoyed by both the visitors and

the judges. The students also interviewed the visitors and the museum staff individually.

The day ended with declaration of results for both, the individual project and the group activity.

A learning and enriching experience, the students went back home not only with knowledge and team skills but with friendship bonds that they would cherish for life.

The programme wrapped up with a number of group pictures and smiling faces waving each other good-bye.

