

Two Best Practices, 2020-2021

Shanti Paath: Environmental Peace and Harmony; and
Khazana-e-Virasat: Treasure of Heritage of Knowledge, Historical Traditions, Art and Culture.

Best Practice I –

Shanti Paath is the Vedic *mantra* which calls upon Peace for the entire Universe and the cosmos. The phrase ‘*vanaspateh shaantih*’ is unique in our *Shashtra*, as it is the only one which calls for Peace upon Vegetation, which is a Divine gift. The environment consciousness of the College is inspired by this phrase in the *Shanti Paath* and the College nurtures its environment in this spirit of peace and harmony to emphasize on the value and significance of environment the cosmic system and its inhabitants. The College inculcates an organic connection of its community with the environment. The dense green cover and phenomenal biodiversity on the College campus serves as a living laboratory for both observation and practices, and in the interest of sustainability, the College is committed to the optimization of its available material and human resources, and promotes a life-style governed by ‘Repair, Reuse and Recycle’, following the principle of ‘No Waste Leaves the Campus.’ *Shanti Paath* encourages the philosophy and practices of sustainable life and gratitude for its bounties.

Several steps have been taken to widen the scope of *Shanti Paath* to examine and implement pragmatic experience and knowledge.

Environment Consciousness is inculcated on a sustained basis to encourage an eco-friendly campus. Its 100 year old heritage campus serves as a laboratory for both observation and practices. The College is a Green Habitat carefully nurtured and forms a part of the green lung of Delhi extending into the Aravalli Ridge. As per the census conducted by the College Department of Environment Studies, with students and teachers, there are 800 trees with 91 species, 56 bird species, 12 butterfly species, 4 species of dragonflies and more than 50 varieties of seasonal flowers and plants, including 7 species of medicinal plants. Student activities are conducted around the campus biodiversity which is yet to be recorded completely. Migratory birds are spotted on the campus, and birding is a regular activity. The campus has a textured nightlife and is animal friendly.

The College functions on the principles of ‘Repair, Reuse and Recycle’ and ‘No Waste Leaves the Campus.’ Student’s activities are organized around a vigorous Waste Management Program – Project ‘Nidaan’. The College has its own composting plant to recycle fallen leaves and food waste, which is used as manure for its organically grown fruits and vegetable gardens. Paper, Electronic and plastic waste is disposed for recycling in collaboration with expert bodies. There are seven water harvesting pits on the campus. The College has shared its indicators under the Swachhta Action Plan of the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education.

The Project ‘Dhyan’ is a Community Outreach Program for Disaster Preparedness developed by the Department of Geography of the College. It is committed to pursue Sustainable Development Goals such as Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10).

Specific Initiatives Taken by the Institution to Make the Campus Eco-friendly

- i. **Regular Tree Plantation to increase green cover for dust attenuation and decrease pollution.**
- ii. **Solar panels are installed for the pathways and the hostels**
- iii. **Rainwater harvesting pits are there.**
- iv. **Waste segregation is a regular practice.**
- v. **Ban of Single-Use Plastic.**
- vi. **Recycle of Plastic for reuse.**
- vii. **Recycle of paper for reuse by the College**
- viii. **Ethical and normative disposal of E-waste**
- ix. **Production of Leaf Compost with a Plant on campus installed for the purpose.**
- x. **Production of Manure from kitchen waste generated on campus.**
- xi. **Reuse of construction material rubble for walking tracks.**
- xii. **Activities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign)**
- xiii. **Green Audit around Tree Census and Bird Census.**
- xiv. **Bird rescue and controlled release in appropriate habitat**
- xv. **Green Lab for urban farming**
- xvi. **The College's Centre for Earth Studies conducts Certificate Course on Climate Change**
- xvii. **The College has been a centre for monitoring air quality under a project initiated by the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.**

Best Practice II –

Khazana-e-Virasat is inspired by the College's commitment and passion to preserve and conserve its historical legacy and traditions. Moving towards celebrating 100 years of its existence, IP College is the oldest women's college of the University of Delhi. Its history has intersected the Freedom Movement, the movement for women's education, and that of women's empowerment. The College is the proud custodian of vast resources of historical knowledge inherited in the form of artifacts and documents that can be traced to the beginning of the twentieth century, to as early as 1904. To preserve, conserve and display its heritage and historical traditions, the College established its own Archive in 2006, thus becoming the only College of the University of Delhi to house its own Archive. This was expanded in 2016 to become the Museum and Archive Learning Resource Centre (MALRC). *Khazana-e-Virasat* as a best practice of the College encourages the consciousness of heritage, history, tradition, conservation and restoration of tangible and intangible heritage.

The Museum and Archive Learning Resource Centre helped to disseminate a sense of ownership, as well as belonging in the College community, making it the shared custodian and participant of a tangible and intangible heritage.

The Museum and Archives Learning Resource Centre captures not only the history but also the cultural and political ethos of the College. There are many fascinating details, interesting moments and events in the life of the College – now in its 97th Year – which deserved to be retrieved, preserved and brought to a larger audience. The commitment of the College to

preserve, conserve, digitize, catalogue and house the inheritances on a continual basis and sensitize the College community to its heritage led to the extension of MALRC, adding another wing for display, projections, seminars, symposiums and research projects. The Museum and Archives features the period 1904-2006 and 2007-2020. It displays rare documents and photographs of the colonial period, the city of Delhi, the history of the College and its transition over time to a modern, progressive institution of liberal learning.

MALRC is a significant addition to the corpus on institutional histories, heritage learning, gender and the city of Delhi and has facilitated researchers, scholars and all such persons who wish to explore these issues. The documents, newspapers and photographs are digitized, conserved, restored and catalogued, making MALRC into one of the gleaming, modern centres of the College. A few QR (Quick Response) codes with details on selected displayed items have been put up in the MALRC, which can be scanned with Smart Phones and accessed through the College Website.

The Museum and Archives Learning Resource Centre, since 2016 has continued to attract Research Scholars, both national and international, interested in the history of Delhi, institutional history, gender studies, freedom movement, women's role in it, women's education and the invaluable contribution of Indian and Australian women, significantly to the making and consolidation of the College. Research conducted in the MALRC by national and international groups have led to the focus on connections between Indian and Australian women in the mid-twentieth century with the focus on Ms. Leonara G'meiner, the first Principal of the College, who was an Australian. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement in August 2016, newspapers have covered the College under *Yaad Karo Qurbani*. The College collaborated with *Sahapedia*, an online encyclopedic resource on South Asian History and Culture for a Project on 'Education in Delhi: Charting its History' featured Indraprastha College for Women https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d12_LHnd_ZQ .

To sensitize new entrants to the College to values of heritage, conservation and awareness about the history of the College, a visit to the MALRC and a Heritage Walk of the historical campus of the College is conducted regularly as part of the Student Orientation Program. MALRC has often participated in Delhi Walk Festival in association with Delhi Heritage Walk and conducted heritage walks for the visitors and the College community.

The MALRC since 2016 releases a Heritage Calendar annually, encapsulating nuggets of information and pictures from the MALRC.

Thus the College's endeavour to excite passion, sensibilities and consciousness of a glorious legacy, and pay tribute to these is enshrined in the Best Practice ***Khazana-e-Virasat***.