



India Heritage Walk Festival

## FOREWORD

Walking is a basic human activity, and our reasons for walking are many: there are the retirees who walk the neighborhood park, the commuters who rush from bus and metro stations to their offices, and the pet parents who make brief forays to the backs of their colonies for their dogs to do the necessary. Then there are those who walk to know the city, to be the city. Named flâneurs (men) / flâneuse (women) in French, they observe the city, and walk for the sake of walking. In other words, their interest is the city, its streets, its people and the stories of its colonies, ruins, mainstays and migrants.

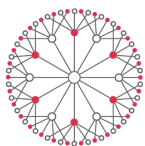
It is this last purpose—walking for discovery’s sake—that the India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWf) is about. The Festival will be held throughout February and across 20 Indian cities. Leading the walks for this festival are people who feel their cities, and who feel for their cities. And so, they have generously agreed to share their observations, their research and their love for their urban neighborhoods with others, and their focus ranges from food gali-s, historic spaces, past monuments to specific museums. Participants who sign up for IHWf may be walkers in their own cities but visitors to others, or those who are just beginning to explore urban experiences on their own, or people who are longing to take a break from the daily hustle they experience their lives to be.

Apart from walks, IHWf 2018 offers other heritage-related activities such as film screenings on Sahapedia’s Youtube channel throughout February, talks on themes ranging from performing arts to literature and Instameets for visual storytellers. Generously sponsored by Yes Culture Institute and curated by area experts from Sahapedia, we hope that the India-wide festival will be a catalyst for greater public interest in India’s history-soaked city narratives. And that it will stoke conversations about thoughtful ways of weaving our past and present knowledges with our plans for India’s future.

We hope you’ll come and walk, stroll or saunter, listen and question, watch and wonder at the India Heritage Walk Festival 2018.

*Neha Paliwal, Festival Director, India Heritage Walk Festival*

*Vaibhav Chauhan, Festival Director, India Heritage Walk Festival*



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