

# VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

*Jnana Sangama, Belagavi- 590018*



## **Social Connect and Responsibilities (BSCK307)**

### **Report On: Activity-2**

### **“Heritage Walk and Craft Corner”**

*Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the **Third Semester** degree of **Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science Engineering** of Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi*

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**MS Engineering College**

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## OBJECTIVES

Heritage walks, are best way to learn and recognize our culture, tradition, philosophy, myths and associated rituals with them. The walk makes one look back and reminds us of our rich culture and history, provoking us to thing about the existence of every historical structure and place.

It also helps in bringing focus of authorities towards the degrading conditions of heritage place, promoting their care and restoration. The primary objective being is to appreciate and celebrate the diversity in culture carried over generations.

The main aim of heritage walk is to provide directions and make it easier for tourists to link themselves to interesting places and important nodes so that tourists become aware of the great historical and cultural value of the old urban nucleus and also of the importance the old fort ton along economic generation. A comprehensive, integrated and clear construction of signposts and guidance system should be adopted along the heritage walk.

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## INTRODUCTION



Prayagraj, formerly known as Allahabad, stands as a city steeped in history, spirituality, and cultural significance in India.

Nestled at the confluence of the sacred rivers Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, Prayagraj holds immense religious importance, earning it the title of "Tirthraj" or the "King of Pilgrimage Sites."

Renowned for hosting the historic Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, Prayagraj attracts millions of devotees who come to bathe in the holy waters, seeking spiritual purification and enlightenment.

Beyond its religious heritage, Prayagraj boasts a rich historical legacy, having served as a prominent center of governance, learning, and culture for centuries.

From the Mughal era to the British Raj, the city has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, leaving behind architectural marvels such as the majestic Allahabad Fort and the iconic Anand Bhawan.

Today, Prayagraj thrives as a bustling metropolis, blending ancient traditions with modern aspirations, offering visitors a glimpse into its vibrant past while embracing the dynamism of the present.

## HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE CITY

Prayagraj is one of the historic and mythological cities of India with glorious past and present. It continues to enjoy the distinction of being a place of haunting and lasting memories.

Prayag is an ancient holy city of India mentioned in the Vedic scriptures and texts. Some people believe Prayag was renamed Allahabad by the Mughal ruler Akbar around 1575 or even later, but others believe Prayag was never a city and Allahabad was created during Mughal rule. Akbar was grandson of the Mughal conqueror Babur.



### Heritage Tour:

- ❖ **Allahabad Museum:** Allahabad Museum is located at Kamla Nehru Road inside the picturesque Chandrashekhar Park (Company Bagh) about 2.5 kms from Prayagraj railway junction. The collections of the museum have been displayed in the sixteen galleries of the museum including one gallery for temporary exhibitions. These galleries are Introductory Gallery, Decorative Art Gallery, Arms, Armors and Bronze Gallery, Textile Gallery, Modern Indian Painting Gallery; Freedom Struggle Gallery etc.





- ❖ **Chandra Shekhar Azad Park (Alfred Park):** Chandra Shekhar Azad Park earlier known as Alfred Park. The Park was the site for official ceremonies at the times of British. That were often followed by musical performances of the police band. In its very Centre, the Alfred Park houses a huge statue of George V and Victoria.



- ❖ **Kumbh Mela and Sangam:** The Maha Kumbh Mela is the largest religious congregation in India, attended by millions. The over month-long fair is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures. It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.



- ❖ **Sangam:** This is the point where the brown water of the Ganga meets the green water of the Yamuna, along with the mythical Saraswati. A dip in the Sangam water is supposed to be the holiest of the holy pilgrimages for the devout Hindu.

## CRAFT IN THE CITY

One of the most famous craft in the Prayagraj is Moonj Baskets. The craft gets its name from the Moonj and Kaasa grass wild grasses that abundantly grow near the banks of the river Yamuna and Ganga and in and around the vast areas of Prayagraj.



The Moonj Baskets are made using a traditional coiling method. The dried balla is soaked for a few minutes in cold water to ensure flexibility and is wrapped around the dried Kaasa to make coils. These coils are winded in a series to make the base of the basket.

These wild grasses are harvested by hand and then skilfully processed to be woven into exquisite baskets. While the Kaasa grass is available and grows throughout the year, the Moonj grass grows for only two months and it is usually harvested in the winter months (around October- December).

These moonj baskets not only showcase the artisans' exceptional weaving techniques but also reflect the cultural heritage and ingenuity of the people of Prayagraj.

Often used for various purposes such as storage, transportation, and even as decorative pieces, moonj baskets are prized for their durability and aesthetic appeal. Moonj, a type of wild grass found abundantly in the region, is skilfully transformed by local artisans into sturdy and intricately designed baskets.



## EVOLUTION OF CRAFT

Moonj basketry has also evolved in response to changing needs and demands. For example, during the colonial period, British officials in India commissioned local artisans to create baskets for their use, resulting in the development of new designs and techniques.

Today, moonj basketry is still practiced in many parts of South Asia and the Middle East, and it continues to evolve as artisans adapt to changing markets and customer preferences.

Initially Moonj Basket was made by women but now it is made by machine. The process of making Moonj Basket was time consuming and laborious but it can be made in large amount in less time interval.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The whole Activity is carried out by all the group members by collecting the information from various source. First, we gathered the information about many cities and then out of those we selected Prayagraj (a city of Uttarparadesh) by seeing their historical and Heritage site.

Moonj basket weaving in Prayagraj is a traditional craft deeply rooted in the region's culture and heritage. Artisans adept in this craft skillfully harvest moonj, a type of wild grass native to the area, which grows abundantly along the riverbanks and marshy areas. The process begins with the careful selection and harvesting of moonj, followed by drying and processing to ensure flexibility and strength.

Once prepared, the moonj strands are intricately woven together by hand to create baskets of various shapes and sizes. The artisans employ traditional techniques passed down through generations, using simple tools such as needles and knives to weave the strands into intricate patterns and designs. The weaving process requires precision and patience, as each basket is crafted with meticulous attention to detail.

Moonj baskets serve a multitude of purposes in daily life. They are used for storing grains, fruits, and vegetables, as well as for carrying goods to market or transporting belongings during travel. Additionally, these baskets often feature decorative elements, making them popular as gifts or decorative pieces in homes and ceremonies.

The craft of moonj basket weaving not only provides a livelihood for artisans but also preserves cultural traditions and fosters a sense of community pride. Visitors to Prayagraj can witness this age-old craft in action at local markets or workshops, where skilled artisans demonstrate their expertise and share the stories behind their craft, enriching the cultural tapestry of the region.

## CONCLUSION

Heritage walks are the preservation of local craft, monuments and religious sites. The important aspect of any tourism activity is the upliftment of the local communities. The heritage walk can produce an opportunity to the local entrepreneurs to get benefited by the tourism.

Heritage is an integral part of India, focusing upon the social-cultural diversities within communities, customs etc. We need storytellers and heritage walk leader in the form of India City Walks to build on the legend and carry forward.

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## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This Certificate Is Presented To

**Sample Name**

For the completion of

**"Heritage Walk and Craft Corner"**

Activity in the subject of Social Connect And Responsibility



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