

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GURGAON
REPORT ON INTACH(HECS) WORKSHOP-TREE OF LIFE
14 MAY 2021

Here I sit beneath a tree. Heartbeat calm. Soul hums free.

-Angie Weiland-Crosby

The INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), organized a virtual workshop on 14th May 2021, to revisit and promote the importance of trees in today's life as Ms. Purnima Dutt, Principal Director, HECS, enthusiastically introduced their concerted efforts in the form of the book *-Tree of life*, a compilation of engaging activities revolving around trees, for young children. The first eminent speaker was Ms. Narayani Gupta, a historian and an author, presently a consultant with INTACH. She advised various interesting and simple activities such as climbing the trees, naming and bonding with trees, growing plants and knitting a story around trees, to awaken love of nature in children, at the primary level. More reflective activities like recording and analysing ways of nature, going on to opting a career in nature conservation, were suggested for the senior students. She expressed her concern over the unmindful destruction of nature for material output and recommended a few books for nature lovers. The next presenter, Dr. Ritu Singh, from the Natural Heritage Division, INTACH, laid stress upon minute observation of nature through all the five senses. She highlighted the importance of planting trees in diversity and explained the role of five elements of nature in their healthy growth. The session was wrapped up by Mr. Verhaen Khanna, a dedicated, young entrepreneur of Delhi, who runs an NGO named New Delhi Nature Society(NDNS). He gave an insight about *tree blindness*, a term which describes negligence of trees, a condition mostly affecting the urban people. The organisation works around saving fallen trees, removing nails from tree trunks, decementing their base and training people to climb trees safely to enjoy, embrace and love nature. It was a remarkable learning session.

