

A group of about six people are sitting on a high, weathered stone wall. They are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts and jeans. The wall is made of large, dark stone blocks. The background is a bright, overcast sky. The overall scene suggests a moment of rest or conversation in an urban or historical setting.

women you don't know, but should

They're the women that are silently making your city a slightly better place to live. They could be hidden behind makeup on stage, or propping up heritage monuments, or simply helping you be a kinder person, but they all have one thing in common: they're changing the social landscape of their hometowns. It's time to turn the spotlight on these unsung heroes

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Kanika Singh

For making Delhi's heritage more visible

Living in Delhi is like living in the midst of history. With Purana Quila on one of the city's busiest roads, Red Fort standing tall in old Delhi, and the imposing Humayun's Tomb towering the city's skyline, it's safe to say that every time you turn a corner in Delhi, you're going to find a monument of some historical significance.

Perhaps, because of the abundance, Delhiites take their heritage for granted. But not 26-year-old Kanika Singh. As the co-founder of Delhi Heritage Walks, Kanika not only lives and breathes history herself, but encourages jaded city dwellers to do it too. Kanika used to organise heritage walks for other organisations before she founded Delhi Heritage Walks, but she wasn't satisfied with the impersonal way in which these

walks were conducted. "I once organised a walk for school kids but later found out that they were hearing-impaired children. If I had known, I would have designed the route keeping their needs in mind." So she teamed up with friend Rajesh Ranjan and set up Delhi Heritage Walks in 2009, designing walks according to the interests of visitors. "We have a large group of followers. Most of them have become friends—they are walking buddies now!" Delhi Heritage Walks is popular for their walks in the lesser-known areas of the city. Kanika is full of excitement as she shares their future plans. "We'd love to explore other aspects of heritage, like food, music, language, literature and so much more. The sky is the limit." Considering she's covered so much ground, indeed it is! ▶

PHOTOGRAPH BY MANPREET SINGH

