**Best Practices of the Department**

The Department of History at our university excels in two significant areas: the establishment of a Heritage Museum and the development of an Oral History repository. These initiatives showcase exemplary practices in preserving and disseminating cultural heritage.

**1.** **Establishment of Heritage Museum:**

The department's Heritage Museum stands out as a best practice due to its comprehensive collection of significant antiquities from across the Kashmir valley. This museum not only preserves historical artefacts but also serves as an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and enthusiasts. Two key best practices associated with the museum are:

a) Interdisciplinary Engagement: The museum facilitates practical learning by offering students a tangible connection to historical objects. Through guided tours and hands-on experiences, students gain deeper insights into Kashmir's rich heritage. Collaborations with archaeologists and historians provide interdisciplinary learning opportunities, enhancing the educational value of the museum.

b) Community Outreach and Appreciation: The museum's success is underscored by the enthusiastic response from prominent archaeologists, historians, and amateur archaeologists who have visited and appreciated its galleries. This positive feedback reflects the museum's commitment to promoting historical awareness and fostering appreciation for Kashmir's cultural legacy beyond academic circles.

**2. Archaeological Field Surveys:**

Under the supervision of Dr. Abdul Rashid Lone, research students from the Department of History conducted impactful Archaeological Field Surveys in South Kashmir, particularly at Martand and Renzipora, documenting the cultural landscape and early Kashmiri artefacts. Their findings were published by esteemed institutions like *Ashoka University*, receiving widespread acclaim from historians and archaeologists. This initiative exemplifies the department's commitment to rigorous academic research, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical field experience, and contributing significantly to the scholarly understanding of Kashmir's archaeological heritage.

**3. Oral History Repository**:

The department's Oral History repository is another exemplary practice that contributes significantly to preserving and documenting the intangible cultural heritage of Kashmir. Here are two noteworthy best practices associated with this initiative:

a) Cultural Documentation: By gathering oral histories from various parts of the Kashmir valley, the repository serves as a vital platform for documenting diverse narratives and traditions. This inclusive approach not only preserves cultural memories but also promotes inclusivity and understanding of Kashmir's multifaceted heritage.

b) Community Engagement and Participation: The repository's success is rooted in community engagement. By involving local communities in sharing their stories and memories, the department fosters a sense of ownership and pride in preserving their heritage.