Climate Change & Environmental Degradation
IN THIS ISSUE

Climate Change & Environmental Degradation 3
News from Central Office 11
Special Features 12
  - The Kumbh
  - Conserving Uttar Pradesh’s Incredible Heritage
  - KEELADI — The Pompeii of South India
Natural Heritage Division (NHD) 25
Art & Material Heritage Division 30
INTACH Conservation Institute 39
Heritage Tourism Division 39
Architectural Heritage Division 39
Heritage Community and Craft Division 47
Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) 53
Cultural Affairs Division 56
INTACH Heritage Academy 58
Heritage Education And Communication Service (HECS) 63
Chapters 86
News from Here & There 147
It will be long remembered that a 17 year old Greta Thunberg grabbed world attention when she exclaimed at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit: “How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words….you are failing us”. Her words reverberated around the world. Many leaders admired her – some perhaps felt guilty – and a few philanthropists donated to the Climate Emergency Fund and salvaged their conscience. But there was criticism of a young teenager who dared to draw attention to the future of all young people. One important voice called her a “brat who has to work on her anger management”. Nevertheless, she was voted Person of the Year 2019 by the widely read Time Magazine…….. and this year, undeterred, she was there again at the World Economic Forum at Davos to remind the august gathering that the youth “will not let you get away with this” – perhaps in vain as the strongest voice continues to trump any concerted worldwide efforts, and dismisses all such talk by “perennial prophets of doom”.

The time has however come to face “An Inconvenient Truth”….. a mere film that shook people, but captured national interest of many countries - and triggered some small measure of action. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 90% of the world’s urban dwellers however continue to breathe air containing unsafe levels of pollution that cause multiple health problems and premature deaths. Moreover, during the past year there were floods, fire or famine periodically in some parts of the Earth. The poorest, who are in the majority, are always the first helpless, hapless victim of climate change compounded by environment degradation.

One of the earliest recognition of climate change in India was the National Forest Policy of 1988 which talked about maintaining “atmospheric equilibrium”. The warning of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made the earlier projected trajectory of 2 degrees Celsius increase in the average global temperature by the end of this century untenable. Another review on why climate change is a matter of great concern forecasts that by 2100, average global surface temperature will rise from 1.0 to 3.5 degrees Celsius. Sea level will rise 7-23 inches, carbon dioxide is expected to be 100% higher, annual river run off and water availability will increase at high altitudes and decrease in some dry regions at mid-latitudes and tropics, and the ability of ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate changes is likely to be severely reduced. (2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC).

India is the third largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world, a sinning contributor to our climate problem, hence likely to be one of the major victims of global warming and natural calamities. It was big news to discover that young
trees absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis better than tropical forests. But there is already so much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that solely planting trees will never be enough to remove CO2 through photosynthesis. Besides, there is not enough space on Earth to spare 1.7 billion acres of plantation (equivalent to the size of USA) that would be required to make a real dent in the world’s carbon emissions and it would obviously be at the cost of agricultural lands – hence not a solution.

With very hot climate emissions rising, realization has dawned that elimination of greenhouse gas pollution requires total shift in world views, power dynamics and social rules backed by the digital world.

Let us recall the unprecedented floods of Chennai in 2015 that impacted several strata of society, apart from generating massive insurance claims. In June 2019, there was the tropical cyclone VAYU over the Arabian sea (Indian Ocean) with its centre located west of Maharashtra and maximum sustained winds of 93 km/h (ECHO, 11th June). The Indian National Disaster Response Forces (NDFR) evacuated 270,000 people from the coastal areas of Gujarat on 12th June. In late June 2019, over 4 lakh people across 33 districts of Assam were moved to relief camps after the Brahmaputra flooded over 27,000 hectares of farmland. Many people died and some more also in Mizoram because of floods. On the other hand, people in Chennai prayed for some rain last summer, while Mumbai reeled under a deluge of water. Severe cyclonic storms like Amphon - will increase in Indian Ocean (because of global warming). What happens to rivers and mountains is a fall out of our energy usage and options. India has witnessed in 2019 the first trailers of extreme heat and cold climatic conditions in 2019, flooding of coastal areas, disruption of agriculture – all of which is expected to become worse in the coming decades. They are indicators of the risks we are taking all over India if we do not address climate change as one of our national priorities. They should be primary subjects of public concern in India while focusing on economic development as the major thrust for the 2020s decade.
Researchers from Potsdam have conducted studies of several hundred lakes in the Himalayan range. They created simulations and found some lakes’ levees that could burst as the ice is melting and slowly breaking barriers of loose rock and dirt. Models showed they are unstable and could result in “glacier lake outburst floods” causing a massive downstream flows that would be devastating for people living in the foothills. Experts warned that previous studies had shown that up to two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers are likely to disappear in the coming decades and pose a serious threat to the country. What counter measures have we taken or given some thought to this impending problem towering over the country at some future date? After recent tremors around Delhi, we also need a plan in advance if the capital should suffer a major earthquake at a future date.

Elsewhere, researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology, USA have used a robotic submarine to take the first ever images of the Antarctica Thwait glaciers for monitoring the ice sheet that can account for 4% of sea level rise globally. A particular area of concern was named Icefin which is a grounding line that is important for stability of glaciers. A runaway collapse of this glacier can boost sea level by as much as 25 inches. It is feared small islands in the Indian and the Pacific Oceans may be the first and worst to be affected by the subsequent fall out in future. They will not only be the first casualties but can even disappear.

Australia experienced record breaking temperatures in 2019 after months of severe drought. It was further fuelled by a series of massive bush fires south of its capital city Canberra. The fire burnt up 110,000 sq. kms of land and 33,000 people lost their lives including some brave firemen. For safely far away countries like India, it was a trailer of things that can happen.

Robotic submarine, Journal of Glaciology

Alaska glaciers will lose mass by 2100

Forest fires in Australia – activist protesting even outside Australian Embassy, Mexico
anywhere in the world.

The IPCC’s recent warning makes the earlier proposed trajectory of 2 degrees Celsius of average global temperature increase by the end of this century questionable. India has already witnessed the first symptoms of extreme heat and cold climatic conditions, flooding of coastal areas, disruption of agriculture in 2019 – all of these can worsen in the coming years. Delhi, for example, experienced some of the hottest and coldest days on record in 2019.

Last year was the second hottest and the warmest decade to date on record in India. The dangerous health effects of climate change begin with the emissions that cause it. Black carbon, methane and nitrogen oxide become powerful drivers of climate warming, alongside with pollutants like carbon monoxide and ozone. According to WHO, they already cause over 7 million deaths each year i.e. one in eight persons in the world succumbs to pollution or parched lands.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index released by German-based think tank Germanwatch, India is the 14th most climate change-affected country in the world. The World Bank calculated that climate change will shave off nearly 3% of India’s GDP and depress the living standards of nearly half its population. The vulnerability is not India’s own doing as its carbon emission is significantly lower than those of both USA and China, so perhaps we are partly paying for the excesses of the developed world in some ways.

Scientist Ravindranath was tasked with preparing the first national study on impact of climate change. He describes how unprotected and unprepared India is; nor is it fully equipped in terms of data and planning to confront the impact of heavy rainfalls, or rising sea levels or extreme weather conditions like major floods, heat waves, severe droughts that India has experienced only partially to date. In a country like ours which populates every seventh person living on this Earth, and the majority of our people’s livelihood depends on agriculture, we do not have any assessment of climate impact on agricultural products. Ever since climate change began hitting headlines at the height of winter or summer, the public debate is only about limiting greenhouse gas emissions, or converting carbon into renewable energy to make the Earth hospitable to Man. These are mere baby steps and inadequate to confront extreme challenges or common man’s hardships, the impact on the health of national economy, and on agriculture or successful business activities, with
their downslides more than predictable in future. An eminent former Foreign Secretary suggests a G-20 summit on climate change.

While climate change depends on the forces of nature, Environmental Pollution is entirely our own doing and another major challenge that India needs to take up on a war footing.

Environment pollution is not only about the air we breathe but also about how we construct our houses, workplaces, towns and cities, our garbage disposals, and what food we eat. There has been some innate awareness of these factors in our tribal societies and in their lifestyles. It is therefore not surprising that forest preservation, brazen encroachment, thoughtless mining and displacement of communities are important election issues for tribal societies – but after elections they remain mere storms in teacups of elected State Governments who want to gallop ahead obsessed by development at any cost. Is there hope that any political party will make environmental issues a major plank of their electoral agenda in the near future?

Unlimited numbers of masks flew off pharmaceutical shelves this past summer worldwide, with daily levels of pollution hitting the front page news. In the last four decades, dozens of new infectious diseases also made an appearance like Zika and Ebola. Masks and hand sanitizers were at first in acute short supply because of the spreading Coronavirus - the cause of which is still untraced but originated in the environment of Wuhan, China and imputed to the sale of wildlife meat. We continue to be in the grip of Coronavirus dread even till date.

It is reported that in India 80% of 1.5 lakh metric tonne daily garbage remains exposed – barely picked up and mostly untreated. It pollutes not only land but also the air, water, and food. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFFCC) provided details of growing garbage citing a 2016-17 report. It was estimated that a total of 5.4 crore metric tonne of solid waste is generated annually but nearly 50% remains unprocessed, while landfill sites look like hillocks on outskirts of big cities. Gujarat with its huge chemical belt, is one of the major contributors to hazardous waste. Only six States – Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Punjab have done some e-waste inventory in the past – while the total quantum countrywide has not been estimated as per the response of the Government to a query raised in Parliament. The rules emphasize recycling, and there are technological options after evaluation by the Pollution Control Boards. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) for example asked the AAP Delhi Government to deposit Rs.250 crore in an Escrow account to facilitate waste removal from landfills at Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Okhla landfills. Similar measures are required in all big cities. But first we have to overcome the Coronavirus pandemic.

Digital India has taken giant strides with crores of mobile users right down to street vendors, and an estimated 100 crore handsets are now increasingly in use for which there is no inventory of e-waste generation for the time being.
Polluting polymer has even managed to sink to the bottom of the oceans. 

In the deepest waters of Mariana Trench - 35,754 ft. below the surface in the Pacific Ocean – a plastic bag was found, the deepest known piece of human pollution in the world! A non-profit organization Ocean Voyages has scraped more than 40 tons of debris from a sea field they named as Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The haul by the cargo ship A/V KWAI and a plastic survey vessel AVEIA included beer bottles, children's toys, consumer plastics, fishing nets, broken furniture, etc. Such careless human disposals pose a serious threat to marine life, coastal environment, shipping and eventually public health. It is estimated that human pollution already kills 380,000 marine animals every year. Ocean Voyages was planning to tackle more ocean garbage with a specially adapted fishing gear to scoop out our mindless, careless debris during 2020.

In India, Minister of State Babul Supriyo informed the Parliament that after conducting a study across 60 major cities of India, the Central Pollution Board had estimated that our metropolitan areas generated 4,059 tonnes of plastic waste per day - a major scourge that is ravaging our planet. There was some success with some shop keepers refusing to provide plastic bags after shopping. But not at upmarket shops and Malls for whom shopping bags are walking advertisements.

Scientists led by Germans fear the world is facing an air pollution ‘pandemic’ after analyzing the deaths in many countries. Life expectancy has been cut by almost 3-4 years in countries like Japan and India.

Chairman Mukund Rajan of ECube Investment Advisors, an ESG focused platform, queries : Is it now time for Sustainable Development Green Party of India to emerge? He believes India needs the kind of success and speed in this field akin to what it successfully achieved by leap frogs in mobile communication technology. A key party in this effort has to be involvement of Corporate Sector in schemes like electric mobility, support to community enterprises, and environmental thrusts of the Government – as a mandatory obligation - rather than a voluntary 2% CSR tax deduction they currently avail as good Samaritans. Credit Suisse reported that 10% of Indians own over three-fourths of wealth in India. And that the wealth of 63 Indian billionaires is higher than the total Union Budget of 2020. Surely the upper crust of society can play a weightie role as their enterprises and future are also dependent on a good environment!

Lastly, the BJP Government can advise all States/Governments to consider the whole of India as Pavithra Bhoomi when it concerns environmental policy matters. It can propagate an ‘ecological dharma’.......as a priority National Mission of their political agenda for the 2020s.
WITH HOPE AND A PRAYER

There is consensus among scientists that the rise in zoonotic diseases in recent decades – Nipah, Ebola, Avian Flu and Zika were driven by climate change and loss of biodiversity. Then came Coronavirus-2020, at first like news from distant China, but by the end of March many countries were stricken including advanced countries in Europe and even the USA. India announced Lockdown 0.1 on 25th March. World Health Day came and went while people gradually woke up to the virulent nature and spread of this previously unknown pandemic that has taken a heavy toll across the world. The numbers kept piling with doctors and nurses working beyond the call of duty hours. INTACH salutes the white brigade everywhere in their protective shrouds and masked faces for their devotion to duty.

At the time of going to the Press we have un-Locked 0.4 but the numbers of the stricken as expected are inevitably curving upwards like collateral damage that must be paid to get the economy back on its feet. Hopefully financial packages for economic revival will henceforward be planned for sustainable livelihood for India and its migrant population in particular, rather than depending on global economies. The 50th anniversary of Earth Day also went by without any plantation drives this year.

The only ray of hope currently are laboratories across the globe frantically researching clinical studies for a vaccination against Coronavirus. Meanwhile some are taking homoeopathic Arsenicum album 1M as a protective measure to save themselves from the dreaded pandemic. One fine silver lining was improvement of air quality during the Lockdowns. The realisation has dawned in all countries that we must act in unison to create a safer planet to safeguard both the climate and environment as a first step for our own survival – nor forget that we must also share this only inhabited planet with animals, birds, plants and other living organisms for our own good. New Zealand became Corona free for example in record time as it is a country where the sky is bluer, the grass is greener and sheep fatter than anywhere else in the world.

Let us hope next year Davos is not just a beautiful resort which people who matter flock to see and be seen – but to do and get done. We should revisit economic systems and have a more meaningful dialogues about the perils of climate change and environmental pollution. The world may never be the same again – but we desperately need to make it a better one for us, our children and for the generations to come after us.

DOOMSDAY VAULT

An Arctic Doomsday Vault received 60,000 samples of seeds from around the world as the biggest global crop reserve stockups, presumably in case of an anticipated global catastrophe in future!

The seeds are deposited in a vault known as Noah’s Ark inside a mountain near Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island in the Svalbard archipelago of Norway, about 1000 km from the North Pole. Stefan Schmitz who manages this Crop Trust says that as the pace of climate change and biodiversity loss increases, there is a new urgency surrounding efforts to save food crops at risk of extinction. Countries that deposit seeds in the vault retain ownership and retrieval rights...
Several Heads of States and Organisations have expressed their views and sentiments about Climate Change at the world forum of the United Nations.

“There’s one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent threat of a changing climate”. – Barack Obama, former President of USA.

“Capitalism is unsustainable. It is irrational and unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and the growing and unjust concentration of wealth that are the main threat against the ecological balance of the planet”. Cardinal Pietro Parollin, State Secretary of the Holy See.

The small island countries...are on the frontline of being swallowed into an abyss created initially by human activity and increasingly by inaction”- Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister of the Bahamas

“The time is past when humankind thought it could selfishly draw in exhaustible resources. We know now the world is not a commodity” – Francois Hollande, President of French Republic.

“Climate change increasingly poses one of the biggest long-term threats to investments” – Christiana Figueres, Secretary of UNFCCC.

“Sea level rise is not only an existential threat to our small and low-lying island. Climate change also threatens an economic Armageddon if the tuna fishery disappears”. – President Lionel Aingimea of Nauru.

“We must now agree on a binding review mechanism under international law, so that this century can credibly be called a century of decarbonisation”. – Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany.

“People with conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change”. – Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus.

“We, the present generation, have the responsibility to act as a trustee of the rich natural wealth for the future generations. The issue is not merely about climate change; it is about climate justice.........to secure the future of the poor from the perils of natural disasters. – Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.
Annual General Meeting

The Notice for the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council was intimated to GC Members that elections to fill the vacancies would be held this time by postal ballot. This was the first time, given the environmental threat looming on the horizon, and it worked out smoothly and was also cost effective. The last date for receiving ballot papers was indicated as 19th March – fortuitously well timed before the first Lockdown had been formally announced.

The AGM was held as scheduled at the Multipurpose Hall with appropriate social distancing and masks worn by all present. Since the quorum was not complete, the meeting was postponed for half an hour and subsequently resumed. All the Agenda items were discussed and the results of the elections announced.

Three vacancies in the Founder Member category were to be filled but only one nomination was received. OP Jain was declared elected unopposed. He is one of INTACH’s longest standing Members and always at hand for consultation and advice on a number of heritage issues.

Against six vacancies in the Life Member category, 17 nominations were received and the votes garnered were as follows:

- Ashok Singh Thakur: 631
- Dr. Neel Kamal Maheshwari: 620
- Abha Narain Lambah: 591
- Madan Mohan Upadhyay: 537
- Sujatha Shankar: 524
- VK Kapoor: 520
- Lalit Surjan: 490
- Komal Anand: 484
- M Gopalkrishna: 471
- Col.Prof. N Ramachandran: 376
- Priya Chetty-Rajagopal: 355
- Rakesh Bishwadip Sen: 333
- Mathur: 288
- Col. RD Singh: 268
- Dr. Virendra Kumar Dubey: 248
- Deepak Kumar Baxi : 239
- Cheniram Borah: 114

Six candidates as detailed above polling the highest votes were declared elected to the Governing Council: Ashok Kumar Singh; Dr. Neel Kamal Maheshwari; Abha Narain Lambah; Madan Mohan Upadhyay; Sujatha Shankar; and VK Kapoor.

Ordinary Member Category

There were 2 vacancies in the Ordinary Members category against which 6 nominations were received and the votes polled were as follows:

- Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari: 116
- Sukhdev Singh: 76
- Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy: 70
- Rajesh Bherwani: 27
- Ashok Kumar Sharma: 17
- and Jaishri Anil: 4

Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari and Sukhdev Singh were declared elected as Ordinary Members of the Governing Council.

Hearty congratulations are extended to all the above elected Members. There was no vacancy in the Institutional Members category.

INTACH thanks Dilip Jha who assisted in the counting process as an Independent Observer, assisted by the Administration Division staff.
If one were to ask a diverse array of people to briefly describe the Kumbh Mela, one would likely get an equal number of varied replies. “A sacred tradition.” “The Supreme Pilgrimage.” “An Ascendance.” “A holy confluence of rivers.” “Divine meaning, divine order, incarnate in tangible, holy chaos.” “A gathering of people so large, it is beyond all comprehension of sight and sound.”

It is widely believed that the Kumbh Mela is an ancient religious festival with its origin deep in the formative stages of Sanatana Dharma. It was routine for early Aryan communities to organise yearly fairs at a specific time in various different locations.

Indeed, there are many Puranic references highlighting the significance of Prayag, sangam, magh month and the Sagar Manthan story, but the word Kumbh is not mentioned in the context of a mela. Despite its absence in early texts, there are accounts by foreign travellers of a mela similar to the Kumbh in early periods.

Megasthenes, for example, who was the Greek ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya, is said to have visited a mela for seventy-five days in the 4th/3rd century BCE. Later, in the 7th century CE, the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang travelled to India and visited Prayag during his visit. He writes of a grand mela, an “age-long festival,” organised here, and records the benevolence of King Harshvardhana at Prayag during the event, writing that he generously donated his property among the public.

Niccolao Mannuci, the Italian traveller who visited India from 1655 to 1717 CE, mentions a quinquennial festival held at Prayag. The earliest mention, by name, of the Kumbh Mela is found in the Persian records Khulasatu-t-Tawarikh (1695 CE) and Chahar Gulshan (1759 CE), which describe the fairs held at Haridwar, Prayagaraj, and Nashik. The Khulasat-t-Tawarikh, a contemporary chronicle of the Mughal Empire by Sujan Rai, gives a description of the Kumbh, mentioning the specific yearly cycles and astrological significance of the fairs.

A reference to the Kumbh Mela is also found in the Yadgar-e-Bahaduri (1834 CE) by Bahadur Singh, which states that the attendance at the Mela was drastically reduced that year because of impositions of pilgrim taxes by the British.

Mark Twain, the American author, visited Prayag in 1895 and marveled at the Kumbh Mela, “These pilgrims had
come from all over India; some of them had been months on the way, plodding patiently along the heat and dust, worn and poor, hungry, but supported and sustained by an unwavering faith and belief. It is wonderful that the power of faith like that can make multitudes upon multitudes of the old and weak and the young and frail enter without hesitation or complaint upon such incredible journeys and endure the resultant miseries without repining.”

Regardless of the debate over the exact historicity and antiquity of the Kumbh Mela, one cannot deny that it is a spectacular event that is unique to India. As the world’s “largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims on earth,” it is quite remarkable and a subject of great interest globally.

There are three types of Kumbh Melas, which are organised at four holy sites in India. Prayagaraj, which is considered one of the supreme tirthas, witnesses all three types of Kumbh. Every six years, an Ardhkumbh is organised here. Every twelve years, when Jupiter enters the Taurus constellation and the Sun enters Capricorn in the Vedic calendar, Poornakumbh is celebrated. After twelve cycles of twelve years—a hundred and forty-four years—the Mahakumbh is celebrated.

Another major pilgrimage centre is Haridwar, in Uttarakhand. In a region with the appellation devbhumi, or abode of the gods, the Ganga gushes through this city in its journey down into the plains from its source at Gaumukh. Every sixth year, an Ardhkumbh is held in Haridwar, while every twelfth year, when the Sun is in the constellation Aries in the Vedic calendar, the Moon is in Sagittarius, and Jupiter enters the position of Aquarius, the Kumbh is held.

The Kumbh is, in a sense, not an organised event so much as a phenomenon, intrinsic, ancient and constant. An enigmatic event systematically engaged with by millions. The fair is an occurrence of enormous religious, cultural, mythological and economic significance for the Indian subcontinent. There are two key aspects to it that distinguish it from other religious pilgrimages. These two aspects go hand in hand: the first being that all the four Kumbh melas must take place on the banks of a ‘sacred’ river, deeply connected as they are to the rites of bathing. The second key aspect is that these always take place during predetermined, unique, and auspicious astrological arrangements, which involve the Sun, the Moon, or Jupiter in different constellations.

To understand its impact, we must begin by considering it elementally. Water, of the five elements, has held deep, innate importance for humankind for about the same amount of time that humanity has had conscious existence. Water, the substance of spirit and giver of life, is the greatest constituent of both planet and body. In India, water’s significance has been textually recorded since the Vedic period. The Rigveda states this reverently:

या आपो दिव्या वा स्त्रवंति खनित्रिमा उत्त वा या स्वयंतजाः।
समुद्रायां या: सूचयः पावकास्ता आपो देवीरिह मामवंतु।

[Of the cloud and the drop, of the canals and the rivers and the oceans; all are extensions of the same. Let this water, which holds divine qualities, protect us.]

Add to this the legend of the nectar of immortality, amrit, falling at the four locations where the Kumbh Mela is observed today—and the belief in the beneficial qualities of bathing in the holy Ganga or at the sangam—and one begins to comprehend the powerful draw of the Kumbh.

It stands to reason then that the Ganga, India’s biggest river, fed by tributaries and smaller rivers, a ‘divine being’ deeply revered, would hold the most degree of sacredness. In a text of the Mahabharata, Bhishma, son of the river goddess Ganga, declares that all the hills, dwellings, and kingdoms located in the Ganga’s path are to be considered sacred land or punyabhumī—not only the Ganga, but every particle it touches is a pilgrimage spot.

In present-day Uttar Pradesh lies Prayagaraj, the tirtha raja, considered the crest of such holy sites. In Prayagaraj, the Ganga, which is believed to be the personification of piousness and is referred to as punyadayini—the giver of punya, righteousness—meets two other rivers. It meets the Yamuna River, which is both a symbol of devotion and
the Ganga’s biggest tributary. It also meets the invisible river Saraswati, which symbolises knowledge. Here, at this triveni, the “triple-braid” of rivers, the Kumbh Mela is considered most powerful.

According to the Matsya Purana (107.7), those who bathe in the bright waters of the Ganga where they meet the dark waters of the Yamuna during the month of Magh will not be reborn, even in thousands of years.

The Indologist Dr. GC Tripathi describes the most important part of the Kumbh as “the element of a cosmic force called amrit, or nectar.” Stating that the dates of the Kumbh Mela are determined astrologically, he adds, “The phenomenon that the Sun is behind the Moon in this phase; its heat and energy results in the release of the ‘nectar’ generated in the Moon. The belief is that taking a dip in the sacred waters during the Kumbh brings the blessings of the nectar.”

The Kumbh Mela is, undoubtedly, the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on Earth—as acknowledged in documentations by the National Geographic, the BBC, and Harvard University. In 2017, the Mela was inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as an event that is attended by millions, irrespective of caste, creed, or gender; a culturally diverse festival. It is interesting to note that the Kumbh Mela is not only a religious gathering for cleansing one’s sins and gaining spiritual merit, but also an occasion for holding religious assemblies where doctrines and national matters are debated.

When UNESCO considered the Kumbh Mela’s inclusion in this list, the Mela’s contribution to “cultural diversity and creativity, as well as tolerance and learning” was kept in view. This is best exemplified by how the Kumbh Mela embraces the old guru-shishya parampara, peaceful discourse, the imparting and imbibing of Veda gyan, chanting of traditional Vedic hymns to purify the environment, demonstrations by yogis, performances of music and dance, and so on. The sale of hundreds of craft items, merchandise and trinkets, and street food, lends a festive air to the Mela, adding the element of a ‘fair’ to a religious and deeply devotional tirtha.

The Akhadas, the traditional monastic orders of ascetics, an important component of Sanatana Dharma, get precedence at the Kumbh. They display a balance between devotion and discipline, tranquility and physical strength, practice and instruction. Physical fitness, to them, is equally significant as spiritual strength. For holistic living, they see both as required, believing in the old adage:

शक्ति के कवच बिन भक्ति दुर्बल
भक्ति के अंतःकरण बिन शक्ति उपन्यत

[Devotion, without the shield of strength, is feeble. But pure strength, without the conscience of devotion, is chaotic.]

The spiritual ecstasy they are enveloped in reflects the truth of eternal bliss (sat chit anand), which cannot be found
in the material sphere. The Akhadas give paramount respect to all elements of the natural world, reminding the rest of the world that harmonious co-existence with nature has been an age-old notion as well, and is not simply a modern push toward environmental sustainability.

It is not only the metaphysical aspect of higher forces at work that entices people to attend, but a more immediate, unshakeable faith in the power of the Kumbh and the snan or holy bathing to wash away one’s sins and renew oneself to the world. Thus, one hopes to achieve punya.

In the Ashtam Ashtak of the Rigveda, it is written that one who travels during the auspicious period may cleanse himself of his earthly sins with good deeds, charity, and piety. The poet Kabir wrote of ‘kumbh’ as a metaphor for the body:

॥ फुटा कुम्भ जल जलहिं समाना, यह तथ कथी गियानी।

[The atm tatv, the human soul, is inherited in the pitcher, kumbh, of the body. When the body is broken, it is reunited with the paramatv tatv, in transcendent absolute truth.]

To Kabir, the Kumbh is a time to fill up one’s inner pitcher with intellect and self-realisation.

The Poornakumbh itself, with its lotuses and water, is a symbol of not only auspicious plenty, but of the river goddess. The concept of river goddesses—nadi matrika—is as ancient as it is widespread. The idea of river as mother is mentioned in the Rigveda, which speaks of seven rivers and seven notes as Mata. AL Basham has expressed a similar idea held by people, stating, “In the flat plains, the land was cut by canals running from the great rivers and dotted with artificial reservoirs, which were made by and fed its smaller channels, which watered the fields. This water contained a great deal of silt, which helped the soil and the crops. This soil is known as nadi-matrika.” A river can support life in an integral way, indeed, birthing it. Across millennia, countless civilisations have emerged to not only dwell but thrive on the banks of rivers. As borne out in literature—written and oral, global and local, classical and folk—rivers have been simplified and elevated in equal measure to goddesses and mothers, cultural identities in their own right.

Thus, feminine personifications of rivers are common in India. While each has her own unique iconography, a common element among river goddesses is in the water pot they carry. Just as the Kumbh is held on the confluence of rivers, the river goddesses are united by their kumbh.

Of the three rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, the Ganga is the most revered. Described as a river goddess as striking as the peaks of the Himalayas the river originates from, the Ganga is said to have the Makar, the legendary
sea-creature, as her mount. In the Bhagwad Gita, Shree Krishna in verse 31 of chapter ten declares the Ganga as one of the *vibhutis*, glorious forms, of the Supreme:

वायुः पवित्रां रामः शस्त्रमृतामहम्।
झाणाणाः मकरश्वासिं गंगातसारसिं जाह्वी।।

[Amongst purifiers I am the wind, amongst wielders of weapons I am Rama, of fishes I am the makar, of flowing rivers I am the Ganga.]

The sanctity of the *sangam*, the confluence of the Ganga with the Yamuna, is such that the act of bathing in such waters can be more spiritually effective than the attainment of supreme knowledge itself—for it is through a bath in the two rivers merged is one assured liberation from the bonds of birth, death, and rebirth.

Though unseen, the river Saraswati too is a symbolic part of this tri-confluence. It is mentioned in the Rigveda as being between the Yamuna in the east and the Sutlej in the west. Later Vedic texts like the *Jaiminiya Brahmanas* and *Tandya*, as well as the *Mahabharata* mention that the Saraswati dried up to nonexistence in a desert. The local lore in Prayagaraj is that the Saraswati flows under the city in a deep well known as *Saraswati Koop*.

Numerous stories on the origins of the Ganga exist as well. One of the most popular such stories is from Vishwamitra’s *Ramayan Bal Kand*, wherein the cursed souls of King Bhagirath’s ancestors were liberated by the touch of the Ganga’s holy water.

One would be hard-pressed to find a ritual that does not involve the use of water. The water that accompanies one for worship is purified first, typically by the ‘*Jala-Suddhi*’ mantra. With this water, rivers are invited into the water to purify it. The Ganga is oft involved in these rituals, including the *shodash sanskara*, which is given in *Sanatana Dharma*. For those who live on the banks of the Ganga, there is little example of ritual which does not involve the Ganga in some way or the other. The last rites of a person, *antyeshti*, are pivotal on the Ganga, since the river is
believed to have power to elevate all who touch it, living or dead, up to heavenly realms.

The Kumbh Mela has a worldwide reputation as a ‘mega-event’—not only for the sheer number of attendants, but also for a wide display of cultural traits of the Indian subcontinent. A large number of pilgrims and visitors arrive to see the sadhus, or renunciants, who come to take the ritual bath in the holy waters. The number of pilgrims especially swells to millions when the Naga sadhus and Juna and Dasnami Akhada ascetics come for their ritual bathing. Per custom, they enjoy some degree of privilege, such as exclusive access to the sangam on auspicious days marked for shahi snan. As they arrive to the sangam in a colorful and grand procession, it is a memorable spectacle to witness. On this occasion other sadhus are seen in full grandeur; their procession march includes elephants and horses, which are ornamented. The leaders of various sects are borne in heavily adorned palanquins, and this royal procession culminates with the sadhus joyfully bathing in the Ganga. This event, called shahi snan, is famed, and one of the biggest draws for people to attend Kumbh, not only as a spectacle, but to get darshan, or sacred sight, of the ascetics.

The Kumbh Mela is open to anyone who would have an interest in attending. There are no conditions for visitors; the principle of inclusivity can be seen in how public activities like ritual bathing, discourses by prominent religious leaders, cultural performances and langar or community meals are open to all. In Kumbh 2019, the Kinnar Akhada of transgender ascetics was allowed to participate in the peshwai or procession for the first time. Later, the Kinnar Akhada was merged with the Juna.

There are constants in the rituals, beliefs, and customs that comprise the backbone of the Kumbh. When bathing in the sangam, it is seen as auspicious to donate, whatever one can afford, to the needy. The devout also undertake parikrama—the ritual of moving clockwise around the object of devotion—of Prayag. There is a beautiful ritual called the suhag pitari, wherein the rivers are offered the same objects and accessories that would be typically considered gifts for a married lady. There is also the kumbh kalash dan, an act of charity where fresh food and produce, money, matches and incense are donated. Another custom, specific to the Kumbh Mela, is in how people offer idols of Brihaspati—the wisdom-giver, synonymous with Jupiter.

According to the Mahabharata’s narration, Prayag is the most revered place of worship in the entire universe. It is believed that, by Lord Brahma’s declaration, all sins are immediately eradicated upon entrance to Prayag. The city is considered dear to Lord Vishnu too. The Prayaga Mahatamya mentions three eternal guardians of the sacred pilgrimage of Prayag, which correspond with the triframe of major deities in Hinduism. Vishnu is represented by
the four limbed idol veni-madhava, Brahma is represented by the shalmali or the silk-cotton tree, and Shiva is represented by the banyan-fig tree.

Despite lesser textual support to claims of the Kumbh’s historicity, there is no doubt that it holds the promise of deep meaning and joy to millions, both nationally and globally. It is believed by the most faithful that Kumbh Parv has been in existence since ananta kal—‘eternal time’. It is believed that in the universe, it will be there till the end of time, too. One could say that to calculate the age of the Kumbh, one would need to calculate the age of time itself. But then again, in the words of the great mathematician Aryabhata,

कालायमनाध्यन्तः

[Kal, Time, has no beginning or end at all. AryabhatiyaGranth, 499 CE]

People across the country, the globe, are drawn in faith to attend the Mela. The Kumbh provides an uncommon opportunity to escape from the strains of a literal, materialistic world, and experience a refinement of existence down to the unification of the soul with earth and its waters, with mass consciousness, and with the eternal. Despite its color and festivities, the heart of the Kumbh is this minimalistic refinement, the purifying, spiritual cleanse. One may consider that here, the essence of dharma is presented in its purest form—not by pushing to fulfill worldly needs, but by keeping them to the minimum, by rejoicing in the sensation of overflowing spirituality instead.

The Kumbh Mela is truly an awe-inspiring and remarkable confluence—in sacred time—of holy rivers and an enormous mass of humanity connected with deep religious beliefs and unimpeachable devotion. There is no other congregation that can match this collective set of circumstances.

Text: Nerupama Y. Modwel; Research: Bhawna Vyas; Some Photos: Harish Benjwal, INTACH
GANGA JAMUNA TEHZEEB - A MELTING POT OF CULTURES

The State of Uttar Pradesh (UP), often referred to as India’s heartland, is privileged to have been a confluence and a melting pot of a multitude of cultures and traditions in the Indian subcontinent, and is the best embodiment of our country’s highly acclaimed ‘Ganga Jamuna tehzeeb’. UP has seen it all, the mighty kingdoms of Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic and European rulers who influenced the cultural evolution of the State. Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsees and Buddhists experienced the freedom in the State that allowed them to follow their respective faiths. Not only that, immigrants from Afghanistan, Kashmir, Bengal, Punjab and many southern States have settled here and left a footprint of their native cultures in Uttar Pradesh.

CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The region’s history dates back to at least 4000 years. The hallowed water of India’s most revered river, the Ganga, flows through the State forming an incredible heritage trail. The Maha Kumbh Mela at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati in Allahabad, is the largest religious congregation in India, attended by millions of people every 12 years. Braj Parikrama, involving the circumambulation of the region, is another unique experience associated with Lord Krishna. Foundations of UP region go back to the Aryan civilization and the epics of Mahabharata, Ramayana, Brahmanas and Puranas written here. Geographically and historically, UP lies at the heart of Mahabharata and Ayodhya’s Kosala Kingdom. Many believe that epicentres of the Brahmanical culture were centred at religious places like Benares, Prayag, Ayodhya, Mathura and the Himalayas hermitages which were earlier part of the undivided state.

THE HISTORICAL EXPANSE

Salkhan Fossils Park in Kaimoor wildlife range in Sonbhadra, UP has rings on the boulders believed to be as old as several million years. Sometime between the 6th and 4th BC, India saw the advent of the Buddha who had delivered his first sermon in Sarnath. The Mauryan and Gupta civilisations prospered in what is the present-day UP. During the rule of the Magadha Empire, Buddhism and Jainism blossomed here. The region now called UP reached its pinnacle of glory during the reign of Harshavardhana and later during the Mughal period, especially
during the rule of Akbar. The role of the British in Awadh is well known, which led to the deposition of the last Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah. UP’s history ran almost parallel to that of India and the State played a key role in the First War of Independence in 1857 and beyond. UP has experienced it all, from the Kingdom of Rama to the rule of the East India Company.

**THE PROMISE OF HERITAGE ARC**

The State is uniquely blessed with the Heritage Arc comprising Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi regions, which takes the tourists through a kaleidoscopic voyage of wonderful monuments, rich cultural experiences, and fascinating wildlife. The State’s heritage landmarks include Buddhist era stupas and monasteries, royal palaces and forts, temples, mosques, churches and Sufi shrines in Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad, Jhansi, Mathura, Kanpur, Mirzapur, Meerut, Banda, Jhansi, Bithoor, Lalitpur, Gorakhpur and many other cities, towns and kasbas.

UP’s Mughal period heritage structures are a perfect blend of Islamic, Hindu, and Central Asian architecture which have received global acclaim. Agra already has three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely Shah Jahan’s Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and emperor Akbar’s dream capital Fatehpur Sikri. A major priority for UP should be to get the ‘Historic City of Lucknow’ and ‘Ghats of Benares’ listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites for a heightened sensitivity for conservation as well as tourism promotion.

One wonders as to how many other Indian states can boast of a truly iconic monument like Taj Mahal, a city with the world’s oldest living civilisation, Nawabi architectural wonders, the spiritual Buddhist circuit, the birthplace of Rama and Krishna, captivating wildlife experience of Dudhwa, Katarniaghat and Chambal Safari and the world’s largest congregation of people at the Sangam on Kumbh!!!

**KALEIDOSCOPE OF DIVERSE ARTS**

Culture encompasses every aspect of social life and is a celebration of diversity that finds expression through fine and performing arts. UP has the enchanting Kathak of Lucknow and Benares gharanas, the soulful classical music of Varanasi and Lucknow, and deep rooted folk music and dances spread statewide. No other Indian State has given so many maestros like Bismillah Khan, Birju Maharaj, Kishan Maharaj, Pt. Ravi Shankar, Naushad, Begum Akhtar and Girija Devi to the world of music.

UP, the land of Kabirdas, Tulsidas and Surdas, has also given us Urdu poets like Firaq Gorakhpuri, Kaifi Azmi, Josh Malihabadi, Majaz Lakhnavi, Ali Sardar Jafri, Nida Fazili, Shaqeel Badayuni and Javed Akhtar. Hindi authors like Munshi Premchand, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Mahadevi Verma, Amrit Lal Nagar, Bhagwati
Charan Verma, Shreelal Shukla and poets like Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Nirala, Sumitranandan Pant and Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, all had their roots in UP. We need to conserve their homes to enable posterity to celebrate their legacy, quite like the homes of Shakespeare, Wordsworth and other authors and poets in England.

**TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT CLUSTERS**

No other Indian State has such a vast expanse of traditional handicraft clusters like Lucknow’s *chikankari* embroidery, Agra’s marble ware, Saharanpur’s woodwork, Muradabad’s brassware, Kannauj’s ‘itr’ perfumes, Firozabad’s glassware, Bhadohi’s carpets, Aligarh’s locks, Khurja’s ceramic pottery and Varanasi’s woven silk. The world is waiting to experience these cottage clusters if we can package and showcase them well. Also, there is a need to conserve these crafts as the newer generation has been showing their reluctance to follow their ancestral professions. Government of UP’s *One District One Product* (ODOP) policy can potentially contribute a lot in identifying the gaps and strengthening these traditional clusters.

**THE CULINARY NARRATIVE**

UP food heritage is very well known. The State is a foodies’ delight with Mughlai, Awadhi and Banarasi cuisines reflecting the diversity of its cultural landscape. Awadh’s courts had been famous worldwide for their elaborate and sensual gourmet cuisine originally perfected for its royalty, astonishingly rich and yet subtle. Every aspect of Awadhi culinary experience is like a fairy tale with the celebrated *dastarkhwan*, the *khansamas*. *Rakaabdars* and *baawarchees*. Some recipes were based on *Dum Pukht* style food cooked on slow simmering fire. Painstaking process and top end quality assurance made the Nawabi food the most alluring in India. Braj region of Mathura and Vrindavan is famous for its rich vegetarian fare. Set in old traditions, Banarasi food was famous for purity, simplicity and great refinement with sweets being the hallmark along with the delectable *Banarasi paan*. Rampur kitchens also serve delectable food, somewhat different from Awadhi. Non-vegetarian Mughlai food is a significant heritage of UP. Visitors to the State are invariably enamoured by its culinary heritage.

**HERITAGE SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Several positive developments have taken place in UP in the last few years. These include world class expressways connecting Delhi, Agra and Lucknow. Purvanchal and Bundelkhand Expressways are under construction. Gorakhpur Link and Ganga Expressway are also in the planning stage. There are international airports in both Lucknow and Varanasi operating large numbers of domestic and international flights. Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur and Agra too have regular domestic flights. Lucknow metro is already operational. Such a network also caters to travellers and scholars who wish to experience UP’s heritage.
Last scale augmentation has taken place in the capacity of 5-star, 3-star as well as economy hotels in Agra, Lucknow, and Varanasi. App-based shared mobility services have made local transportation easier. As urban entities, there have been significant improvements in Lucknow, Varanasi and Agra which constitute the heritage arc.

**GAPS IN HERITAGE TOURISM**

Despite some enhancements, several critical gaps still remain in heritage tourism infrastructure and related amenities. The road connectivity between Lucknow and Varanasi continues to be mediocre. Traffic management within most cities and towns leaves much to be desired. Urban sanitation remains substandard in many cities of UP except the VIP areas and cantonments. Apart from sightseeing, none of the cities offer any worthwhile evening performances or night life.

UP Tourism's linkages with tour operators and promotion on social media remain far too inadequate. Conservation efforts by the Government of India’s Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Government of UP’s State Archaeology need to be stepped up. Heritage walks in UP remain discontinuous which need to have a consistent frequency. Light and sound shows are confined to Agra and Jhansi forts while the one at the Residency in Lucknow is yet to be restarted. Tourist guide services need a professional touch all across the State. Efforts by UP Tourism and the private sector remain in two parallel silos with inadequate synergy.

**RESPONSIBLE MONETISATION OF HERITAGE**

Hypothetically, if UP was to be managed by a tourist friendly North American or European country, a significant portion of its future GDP target of USD 1 trillion can come from the heritage tourism and hospitality sector alone. The truth is that most people, including those in Government and the private sector, are non-believers in the hugely untapped heritage tourism goldmine that we are sitting on. No wonder their efforts also remain halfhearted with suboptimal outcomes. We need to create a top notch think tank comprising hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, tourism professionals, consultants, experts and GoUP representatives, to ideate, visualise and lead the transformation of UP as Asia’s most sought after heritage tourism led economy.

* Jayant Krishna heads the INTACH in UP. He is also on INTACH’s Governing Council.
**Ajaish Jaiswal is a hotelier, businessman and a heritage photographer.
Nestled on the banks of the river Vaigai, Keeladi is located near the border between Madurai and Sivaganga Districts in southern Tamil Nadu, not far from the famous city of Madurai. Until a few years ago, Keeladi, also spelt Keezhadi, was a nondescript village, unknown beyond the local community. But presently, thanks to the efforts of archaeologists, this place has emerged as a major site unearthing unknown facets of the ancient Tamil Civilization.

The archaeological potential of Keeladi was first discovered around the year 2013. Since then the site, mostly covered with coconut groves, has been subject to large scale archaeological digs by different teams of archaeologists. Five phases of excavations have been successfully completed and the sixth phase began early this year. It was temporarily halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic but has recently been revived.

The excavations have revealed that the site was first inhabited around 600 BCE or perhaps slightly earlier. It flourished up to the third century CE or slightly later. At that time, the site appears to have been an extensive urban settlement dotted with large brick buildings built close to each other in straight rows. Many of these buildings had their own wells. Like the cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro of the famed Indus Valley civilization, Keeladi too had an advanced system of drainage with sewage canals made of terracotta. In fact, Keeladi appears to have had an efficient water management system with separate channels or pipes to move fresh water and waste water from one part of the city to the other.

Keeladi has revealed an amazing variety of ancient pottery, mostly in fragments. Some of these ceramics bear inscriptions in the old Tamil language and Brahmi script. Most of these inscriptions appear to be names of individuals, probably owners of the ceramics. The minor antiquities discovered at the site include terracotta objects and stone and glass beads.
It is now fairly established that in ancient times, Keeladi was a thriving city of the Sangam Pandya kingdom that had its capital at Madurai. Keeladi had both residential and industrial structures. One part of the city was used for the burial of the dead.

Many local scholars have repeatedly compared Keeladi with other archaeological sites such as Adichanallur, Karur and Kodumanal, all located in Tamil Nadu. Each of these sites is on the banks of a major river and all of them flourished almost during the same period. Keeladi however appears to be far older than many of the other sites.

The excavations at Keeladi have raised several interesting questions. How old is the Tamil Civilization and the Tamil language? Do the excavated finds at Keeladi point to any links between the ancient Tamil Civilization and the Indus Valley Culture? What role did Keeladi play in the maritime trade between the kingdoms of South India and the Roman Republic, and later with the Roman Empire? Answers to these questions await further excavations at the site, more scientific investigation and analysis including radiocarbon dating of some of the excavated finds and publication of the reports of all the phases of the excavations.

Meanwhile, Keeladi is attracting curious tourists and other visitors from different places. Dr. S Suresh, an archaeologist and INTACH Tamil Nadu State Convenor, and Tamil Nadu State Co-Convenor Sharmila Ganesan visited the site along with INTACH Members from different Chapters. INTACH has also offered its expertise in the establishment of a state-of-the-art museum at the site.

Dr. S Suresh
Archaeologist and Tamil Nadu State Convenor—INTACH
An Opportunity for Transition to Nature Based Economy

As the planet transitions from natural landscapes to human dominated ones, without respecting and understanding natural processes and the free services of Nature, the countrysides recede, resulting in a great disequilibrium causing climate change, global warming, erratic weather patterns. Through natural disasters Nature has been warning us to mend our ways and now Nature has struck back with a vengeance in the form of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The situation is not merely that of a health crisis but also causing an economic crisis as cash flows turn anaemic and most likely to extinguish certain sectors of the economy and seriously afflict livelihoods. The interdependency of sectors could result in the spread of the contagion. This trend not only compounds the sluggish economic growth witnessed in the recent past but will also clip Government’s revenues even as demands for subsidies and support for failing sectors will unfailingly balloon.

With this prolonged crisis the world will not be the same again. With productive work decreasing under lockdown situations, the pressure of targets and the relevance of many strands of work and competitive social behaviour will come under question. The only certain survivors would be those who till the earth and grow their own food.

For many decades the Government of India has acted on the advice of leading economists and the leading lights of the corporate sector in manufacturing the engine of growth, and placed its hopes of cashing the demographic dividend from India’s growing young population in that sector. The pundits have pointed out that this is the trajectory taken by most developed economies.

However, with advancing automation and robotization, the capital-labour ratio is continuously worsening. Manufacturing creates fewer jobs with greater investment – several crore rupees are needed to create one direct job in the manufacturing sector. The more sophisticated an industry, higher the capital to labour ratio. Further, the share of manufacturing in India’s GDP is 23% while its share in the national employment is 24.89%.

In comparison, the agriculture sector contributed 15.4% of GDP while providing for 43.21% of the national employment.

The services sector contributes 61.5% to the country’s GDP while providing 31.9% of national employment. But even here, rising digitalization and aggressive intrusion of artificial intelligence threatens a tapering of employment growth.

Economists agree employment generation is not happening in tandem with the growth rate - Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Care Ratings, said the link between job creation and growth is much weaker now than earlier. “The employment generation level is not consistent with the 7 per cent growth rate. In the past with the old methodology, when we were growing at 8–9 per cent, we had a much faster rate of employment generation”. Most economists say the rate of employment generation should ideally be equivalent to growth rate or slightly lower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total employed</th>
<th>Employment growth (%)</th>
<th>GDP growth (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>50,10,642</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>50,69,925</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>51,84,222</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CARE Ratings [Aggregate Employment Across 1473 Companies]
A single example reinforces the point. In 1991 Tata Steel produced 1 million tons of steel worth $800 million with 85,000 workers. In 2005 it churned out 5 million tons of steel worth $4 billion employing only 44,000 people (as reported in ‘Churning the Earth’ by Aseem Shrivastava & Ashish Kothari, 2012).

We are thus entering an era of jobless growth if we continue to think in terms of conventional patterns of growth. With an average 1 million people joining the job market every month and job creation at its lowest in decades, what happens to the demographic dividend – would the frustrated youth take to social unrest?

We may also come to terms with the fact that India cannot compete with China in manufacturing. The Chinese not only have a head start, and higher productivity, but their cost of production is unbeatable. Thus, in many sectors, as the ground reality demonstrates, it is cheaper to import Chinese goods than to manufacture equivalents.

It must also be recognized that the current natural resource exploitative patterns are destructive of our natural capital which is not factored in the cost benefit analysis of projects. Project finance experts do not admit the monetized cost of ecosystem services in their calculations. This has enabled environmentally destructive projects to be implemented. Thus, mining projects alone have turned vast productive terrains into deserts and devastated forests in the country. The present form of economic development is the driver of climate change, and India is the 6th most vulnerable country to climate change.

Currently, natural resource use is 2.5 times of what the Earth can sustainably supply. “An unrestrained market economy organized to maximize economic growth is today fundamentally at odds with the goal of ecological sustainability and social equity”. – “Churning the Earth”: by Aseem Shrivastava & Ashish Kothari, 2012.

So should India prioritize the manufacturing sector to the extent that is being done now? Or should we consider alternatives where economy and development are not destructive of Nature, and emphasize on the agriculture sector which still provides employment to bulk of the population?

The advantages in doing this are:

- Creating large employment opportunities in the agro-processing sector.
- Growing many commercial raw materials rather than destroying landscapes and ecosystems to extract finite raw materials.
- Strengthening the renewable base of the economy, making for sustainability.
- Creating a wide sound base for the secondary and tertiary sectors.
- Creating widespread demand for manufactured goods and services in the rural sector.
- Enhancing health impacts for the general population.

“A strong home market built on the foundations of a strong agricultural and rural economy would insulate us from the decline in fortunes elsewhere” – ‘Churning the Earth’ by Aseem Shrivastava & Ashish Kothari.

A look at the following table would show where India stands in terms of food productivity per hectare. Let us admit we are below the world average and nowhere near potential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cereal [Kg/ha]</th>
<th>Wheat [Kg/ha]</th>
<th>Rice [Kg/ha]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Average</td>
<td>4,074</td>
<td>3,531</td>
<td>4,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE [Highest]</td>
<td>23,476</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand [Highest]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,864</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia [Highest]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,820</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6,029</td>
<td>5,481</td>
<td>6,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,161</td>
<td>3,219</td>
<td>3,848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAOSTAT

India is facing a worsening water crisis further aggravated by climate change vagaries. The irrigation sector alone consumes about 80% of the water used in India. Here again, our crop productivity based on the amount of water used, is near the bottom of the table.
For a desirable and noble agricultural strategy India would have to: *Build capacities of the small holder farmers, incentivise small holdings - even today 40% of world food production comes from small holder farmers. Farms under 2 ha produce 30–34% of food supply on 24% of gross agricultural area. As farms get larger, crop diversity declines and post-harvest loss increases.

Small-holder farmers are vital for India’s agriculture and rural economy.

Small-land holder farmers - defined as those marginal and sub-marginal farm households that own or/and cultivate less than 2.0 hectare of land - constitute about 78 per cent of the country’s farmers (Agricultural Census 1990-91). These small-holders owned only 33 per cent of the total cultivated land; their contribution to national grain production was nonetheless 41 per cent. Their contribution to household food security and poverty alleviation is thus dis-proportionately high - and is increasing. Moreover, as the national population increases, so does the number of small-holdings.

Required:

- Increase productivity viz. water [kg/cu.m] – savings in water [possible from 30%-50%] can put the water crisis behind us.
- Improve soil health by increasing porosity and nutrient content.
- Increase acreage under-sustainable low input systems – which would result in production of healthy food, keeping toxic chemicals outside the food chain as well as from leaching into ground and surface water. It would also enable the return of vital pollinating fauna thereby helping increase productivity as well as quality.
- Changeover to low cost farm based inputs such as manure, compost, traditional seeds, water conserving techniques thereby decreasing the cost of production and enlarging the margins for the farmer and thus his income.
- Transition to water conserving climate resilient crops – this would help retain more water in our aquifers thus contributing to enhanced base flow in our rivers to face increasingly unpredictable monsoons.
- Increasingly use traditional seeds to attain greater climate resilience in crop production.
- Reorganize agronomic practices for agriculture to function as an agro-ecosystem providing habitats to fauna and thereby receiving the benefits of their services.
- Emphasize agro-processing industry in 3rd and 4th tier settlements thereby multiplying employment and wealth in rural areas and retaining rural migrants in smaller urban settlements thereby relieving the pressure on metropolitan areas. This also helps in curbing food wasted every year due to either drop in market price or transportation losses.
- With increasingly human dominated landscapes a new land use mosaic would have to be designed where agricultural fields resemble ‘wildscapes’, offering corridor connectivity between wildlife reserves.
- Promote urban agriculture and peri-urban agriculture, particularly for food items with short shelf life - vegetables and fruits, as part of ‘Smart Cities’ to meet basic needs locally.

The economy needs to reach a sustainable steady state by reducing its annual use of natural resources to a level equal to or less than the level of their natural replacement within the same period. The greater reliance on living within limits imposed by the renewable resources of the planet would put us on the path to sustainability.

The policies to implement this strategy is briefly outlined here. The State must change its priorities and keep in abeyance the interests of the manufacturing sector for a while. The agriculture first policy would:

- Increase the agriculture sector’s share of Union Budget from present 4.7% to double for the next 5 years.
- Increase minimum support price [MSP] for water thrifty
crops and reducing the same for water guzzling crops.

- Create capacity building for farmers’ training in agro-forestry, agro-ecology, organic farming and other proven models of chemical free and water reductive farming.
- Impart trainings to farmers on a massive scale based on spatially dispersed plots. The pilot plots would be guaranteed income for 3 years while the farmers become skilled in the new methods.
- Impart composting skills to rural women folk.
- Invest in traditional seed banks.
- Develop market linkages for the new variety of crops as well as promote them.

With overarching policy guidelines much else will fall in place. It is rightly said that opportunities multiply when they are seized.

**And Quiet Flows the Ganga**

Of all the rivers in the world, Ganga alone is celebrated for its definitive civilisation attributes. It is a river whose origins are defined not by science but by mythology. It was pollution of the river that finally brought it to the active notice of Government, media and civil society. Since 1986 Ganga has received much attention from scientists, engineers, media and civil society.

But can the objective of Ganga rejuvenation be narrowly defined as a healthy nirmal and flowing aviral stream of water? No, the fundamental objective is not to demystify the river (that is essential in order to understand it), but to reinforce its sacred mystique so that it continues to command reverence of the people. An example from Sudipta Sen’s recent text ‘Ganga: The Many Pasts of a River’ illustrates how the river completely dominates the Indian mindscape. It refers to a king named Dindiga (Prithvipati I) of the Ganga Dynasty of Talkad, in present day Mysore, who lived in the 9th century CE. His story is recorded on a copper plate inscription and talks of him being seriously wounded in the Battle of Vaimbalguri. Anticipating death but unwilling to lay down arms, and unable to reach the holy waters at such a defining moment, he himself cut-off a piece of his bone and sent the fragment so that it could “enter the water” of the Ganga. His dynasty had taken its name from the Solar Dynasty of the river, and this self-infliction shows the immense value attached to the expiatory powers of the waters, also seeking the blessings of ancestral lineage and the veneration for the river, even in South India.

Since *Vishnu Dharma Shastra* in 3rd century CE, the Ganga has played a vital role in Hindu rites of passage, birth, initiation, marriage and death. For a river as vast as the Ganga, and of such great significance to a civilization’s survival, it is not surprising ancient Indians thought of the river as a sacred Goddess in her own right. The *Padma Purana* refers to the centrality of the river in thought and action as:

> What need of expensive sacrifices,  
> Or of difficult penances?  
> Worship Ganga, asking for happiness  
> And good fortune,  
> And she will bring you heaven  
> And salvation.

*(Padma Purana V. 60. 39)*

Research is required to fully document the religious-cultural importance of the Ganga in India. A step in this direction was initiated by the NMCG sponsored project of documenting cultural heritage along the main stem of the river. The project spans the entire length of the river from Gaumukh to Ganga Sagar (2525 km) in a corridor 5 km wide on either bank of the river. The project involves listing of architectural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and several facets of natural heritage through 48 districts.

Thus, nearly 144 reports have to be submitted. The reports would include the cultural events calendar of the District, several GIS maps, an AV film (based on stitching short clips from various districts) and a draft coffee table book. A bibliography has also been prepared and is continuously being updated.

Space constraint here permits only a few vignettes from the work. So far 8 districts have been completed and work is ongoing in 10 other districts. A report on the *Kumbh Mela* of 2019 has been prepared and also a 35 minutes film on the *Kumbh 2019*. A monograph on the cosmology of the Ganga and another on its iconography are in the final stages.
Kannauj District is renowned for its rose perfumery. Many have appreciated the smell of fresh earth after the first monsoon rains. Extracted from parched clay and distilled with ancient techniques, it is known as ‘mitti attar’—Earth’s perfume - the villagers at Kannauj still make mitti attar during monsoons.

More than 700 Architectural Heritage buildings were recorded at Varanasi and over 400 in Patna. Interestingly till the end of the 19th century the mode of bulk transport was by boat before railways and roads killed the river traffic. Thus most prominent buildings of the city on the Ganga were oriented towards the river. In Patna the names of the ghats were after the cargo they catered to – Mirchi Ghat, Adrak Ghat, Gai Ghat, Pathar Ghat and so on. River borne tourist/passerenger traffic, if revived, can be critical to rejuvenation of river fronts (of course, rather than dredge rivers wholesale, light barges with shallow draughts are recommended).

Unexpectedly, Mirzapur has turned out to be an architectural treasure trove and can easily be integrated with Varanasi on a tourism circuit.

Several interesting insights in natural heritage can be reported. Riverine islands, functioning as wild life refuges, need to be protected from encroachments. Naturally occurring riparian grasses are a renewable biomass that come in handy to riverine communities. If put to use imaginatively, it can be an earning resource for the communities. Mapping, using several old and recent maps, has shown the wide changes in the river course especially in the plains stretch. Several old sacred trees were identified and GPS coordinates taken. Fishing methods and boat making techniques have been noted. Hundreds of kunds and water bodies have also been noted – the preservation of the latter is critical to the river flow.
LIME RESEARCH AND TESTING CENTRE (LRCC)

NABL/ISO 17025:207 Certification Process – Appointment of a Consultant

It was decided to appoint a consultant to help A&MH Division get accreditation for its Lime Testing Centre as per ISO standards. General Manager (Retd.) from National Council for Cement and Building Materials, R&D organisation under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry SC Huria was appointed as Consultant. He is working with Lime Testing Centre team at ICI Lucknow. He held a technical session on the requirements of standards for accreditation including legal aspects, and how to structure research and testing in order to optimize standards. He worked with the staff of Lime Testing Centre on various instruments for calibration and optimization of results.

Wall Paintings Directory

During the year 2019-20, WPD teams covered and documented many unknown wall painting sites in the States surveyed by them. Till now, more than 900 wall painting sites have been inventorised with total of over 9,91,527.67 sq.ft. painted surface areas documented from 9 States of India covering more than 140 districts by the teams.

In the last quarter of the year, WPD team of A&MH covered Kota District of Rajasthan and other districts such as Bareilly and Pilibhit from Uttar Pradesh. With completion of several areas in the country, WPD teams are now working on publications. While Delhi book has been released, a book from the series of wall painting sites of Rajasthan will be launched shortly, commencing with Jaipur District.

Perched on the banks of river Chambal, Kota palace or 'Garh' as it is popularly called, is a unique site. It attracts attention due to its superb architectural beauty. The palace is in possession of the former ruler of Kota and also houses the Rao Madho Singh Museum. The palace was built by Maharaja Madho Singh (1624-70). Most of the paintings in this palace were executed during the period of Maharao Ram Singh II (1826-64).

ICI DELHI

Early this year ICI Delhi received a varied collection of objects for conservation. The Centre worked on a variety of objects that included a Tanjore painting depicting Guru Nanak, polychrome sculptures made of wood and papier mache, a deer head (taxidermy), objects made of ivory, oil paintings, manuscripts and books including an old Guru Granth Sahib and regimental flags.
A Tanjore painting depicting the *Nanak Sabha* was restored during this period. The problems included flaking, powdering and loss of paint layer, waviness and bulges, detachment of support where the cloth was detached and presence of air pockets staining and loss of gold foil decorations. The treatment included cleaning, consolidation, reintegration of losses and reframing.

A polychrome wooden sculpture depicting Goddess Laxmi and a *papier mache* object depicting Lord Brahma were received for conservation treatment. The problems were the usual flaking, chipping and loss of paint layer, cracks, stains and previous interventions in form of unscientific fillings and retouching. The treatment included cleaning, consolidation and reintegration of losses.

**Regimental Flags**

Three old regimental silk flags belonging to Rajputana Rifles (dated 1820 and 1825) and one flag belonging to Armed Regiment Kapurthala (1930s) were conserved by the ICI Textile Division. These fragile flags with very brittle fabric support, suffered due to previous restoration attempts that had been unscientific with nailing and bad framing with original portions folded. The treatment involved preparation of new supports and dyed using conservation grade Lanaset for the treatment.
Ivory Objects

A pair of carved ivory tusks were received for conservation. Although relatively new, there were problems due to bad display methods, with various sections joined with nails and fillings done using marble powder and wooden pieces. It had developed cracks as the fragile ivory is highly sensitive to pressure. The main treatment involved removal of old filling and nails. A polyester resin support was designed and fabricated for supporting the tusks, and the iron nails replaced with new anti-corrosion metal pegs.

A taxidermy object - deer head was conserved and the main problems treated were loss of hair due to insect attack, cracks, loosening of tissues in the ears and around the horns, degradation of filling and detachment of the lower jaw.
The paintings conserved included a badly damaged oil on canvas and one on paper. The oil painting had cracks, tears, holes, thick yellowed varnish, flaked over-painting, and problems related to improper stretching.

An oil painting on paper was executed on a wasli support with various layers separating. A photograph was discovered in one of the wasli layers. The painting and the photograph were separated carefully from the surrounding paper layers and conserved.

**INTACH Utsav Lab Visit**

The ICI conservation staff at Delhi assists in promoting responsible care of art objects by conducting various awareness programmes. With this objective ICI Delhi organized an ‘open day’ during INTACH Utsav, 4th-7th February 2020 as part of the Foundation Day celebrations. The lab visit was conducted during which ICI conservators demonstrated various preventive conservation methods to the visitors. Also, case-studies
of various objects that had been treated at the Conservation Centre were displayed and discussed with visitors. The event created awareness as well as gave the public a glimpse into the world of conservators. It was very well received by students, professionals and general public.

ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation of manuscripts, rare books and displayed artefacts of Amir-ud-daula Public Library, Lucknow

The Centre recently conserved the rare and prestigious collection of manuscripts, rare books and displayed artefacts of Amir-ud-daula Public Library, Lucknow. The collection comprised 392 manuscripts on paper, 9 manuscripts on palm leaf, 310 rare books and 8 displayed artefacts having oil paintings, lithographs and statues. The work started on 30th January this year and large sized artefacts are being treated at the temporary laboratory established in the premises of the Amir-ud-daula Library. The conservation work on three oil paintings at site, one paper painting of Mehmoodabad State ruler, one lithograph of ‘The Last Effort and Call of Tipu Sultan’, one large sized relief map of India, one stone statue and one metal statue of Nawab Nasiruddin was started. Work is in process on oil paintings, a lithograph has been fully restored. The treatment involved removal of lithograph from the frame, and solvent cleaning, removal of stains, de-acidification, full lining, window cut mounting, polishing of frame and reframing of lithograph.
Manuscripts in process of conservation at ICI Laboratory

Manuscripts kept in fumigation chamber for disinfection of biological growth

**Conservation of Archival Records of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad**

Recently 201 books and 19 journals were received for the ongoing conservation from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad. The objects were properly documented in graphic and photographic form followed by step wise conservation treatment that comprised disinfection, cleaning with soft dry brush, neutralization, resizing, removal of stains, consolidation, mending of torn areas and small losses, full lining using Nepalese and lens tissue paper, stitching and binding.

**Conservation of Miniature Paintings from a Private Collector**

The Centre received five miniature paintings from a private collector for conservation. The paintings were in a bad condition due to water seepage which resulted in the mount getting stuck to the painting. The painting also suffered from flaking of paint layer, missing areas, fungal growth, stains, yellowing colour and bulging effect.
Conservation of Manuscripts under National Mission of Manuscripts, New Delhi

Preventive conservation of manuscripts is being carried out at Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad, Lucknow by the team from Manuscript Conservation Centre, Lucknow under NMM. During this period 478 manuscripts having 13161 folios was completed.

Curative Conservation on 5 manuscripts having 185 folios was also completed during this period.

ICI BANGALORE

Three artworks by well-known contemporary artist Sheela Gowda were recently conserved at ICI Bangalore. The abstract artworks executed in mixed media, where materials used are typically used by rural women in their everyday life are cow dung, rangoli powder, etc. The artist has used thick Tetra Pack paper as the main support, which was then pasted onto several layers of jute. Though these materials were used in all the three artworks, the way they have been used is different.

The artworks were severely damaged in a hurricane in the United States in 1990’s, when they were taken for an exhibition. They had been exposed to excessive water seepage that completely distorted the support and dislodged the hanging system. This exposure eventually led to heavy growth of mould and severe insect infestation. Cracks and losses in dung and several tears on paper support also resulted.
Conservation was undertaken by dry cleaning to remove the superficial dust and dirt. The fungal spores were killed and inactive mould spores vacuumed. Packaging paper, adhered to the paper support was removed mechanically. The art work was flattened in phases by introducing controlled moisture over several days to remove the undulations. The tears were mended and losses filled. Restricted reintegration was carried out in few areas. A hanging system was provided as per the artist’s request.

The conserved artworks will be displayed at an exhibition in Germany in future.

**Images of the art works after conservation**

*Woman's torso*  *Untitled 1*  *Untitled 2*

**ICI BHUBANESWAR**

**Conservation of Painting**

The 15th phase of conservation work of paper manuscripts, rare books, maps, volumes and other library materials of KR Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai was completed.
ICI KOLKATA

Conservation of Books from Hq-Eastern Command Library

The Centre received 20 rare books from the year 1905 in different sizes on extremely fragile condition and badly affected by insects. The books were first fumigated and dry brushed, following which all folios in the books were removed and conserved.

Eastern Railway Time Table, 1903

The Timetable containing 775 folios was in extremely fragile condition with pages crumbling and spine damaged.

Restoration of Paper Painting

Three water colour paintings in miniature format were treated at the laboratory, in size 15 cm x 11 cm with names and dates mentioned: Lalit Sen-1928, Tomimara Higuche-23 May, 1938 and Nanda, 26.1031. The paintings were pasted
on a paper board which had became brittle with layers separating. Water stains were present and surface layer of most parts lost. They also suffered from insect attack, having holes, stains, dirt etc.

**HERITAGE TOURISM DIVISION**

The Heritage Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 25th February at INTACH Central Office. The meeting focused on various issues facing the Tourism Industry especially in the wake of the Corona Virus pandemic. This has had a major impact on the industry along with curtailed national and international flights, and airport protocol and quarantines. In future there is an urgent need to create awareness of hygiene and cleanliness across all sectors of the trade that deal with tourists and at tourism venues, both domestic and international. All the more important now as the first step after the pandemic that has taken a heavy toll on the tourism industry world wide.

Various other facets of the subject were covered at the meeting ranging from tourist guide training courses to development of special tourist sites visited by pilgrim tourists. This is a fast growing domestic sector and a major revenue generator.

There was a lively and constructive interaction between all the Members with INTACH Divisional Heads present. It concluded with a vote of thanks by Member Secretary who chaired the meeting.

**ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION**

*Allahabad High Court, U.P.*

The Detailed Project Report for restoring the historic section of the 1914-1916 built Allahabad High court was submitted to the Building Committee comprising Honorable Justices of the Court, UPPWD for approval. The project undertaken is part of the MoU signed between the High Court, U.P.PWD and INTACH in 2017.

The building is in varying degrees of structural distress primarily due to lack of proper maintenance, water ingress and addition/alterations in the original construction and later interventions. The steel members of the truss, the false ceiling and reinforcements of RBC roof are suffering from corrosion that is causing cracks in the masonry. The central marble hall has corner cracks and a lot of damage due to inappropriate additions of infrastructure especially due to large number of split AC units. INTACH
recommended reorganization of the service infrastructure (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) including VRV system for air-conditioning to reduce installation of multiple A.C. units and wiring.

**Conservation of General Post Office (GPO) Building, Mumbai**

The 1909 General Post Office is a prime example of the Indo-Saracenic style architecture. Designed by Scottish architect John Beg, it came to be known as one of his eminent works. It has high vaulted ceilings, sweeping staircases designed for an ostentatious show of power during the last few decades of Imperial British rule in India. The majestic stone structure standing just outside the periphery of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway Station (CST) Railway Station today, completed 110 years in April 2019.

The building has undergone major alterations that led to deterioration of historic materials. The major issues are water seepage and incompatible renders that were left unattended over time. Poorly designed services like installations of HVAC system and introduction of toilets at inappropriate zones has added to further deterioration of the core structure. As per the MoU signed between GPO and INTACH in February 2018, a comprehensive Detailed Project Report was submitted to Dept. of Telecommunication, GoI for restoration approval that is awaited.

**Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites, Nepal**

A MoU between INTACH and the Embassy of India in Kathmandu for conservation of earthquake-affected cultural heritage sites in Nepal was signed on 12th December 2019 at Kathmandu. The 12 sites identified for conservation and restoration works include Seto Machhindranath, Nepal Bhasa Parishad, Jestha Verna Mahavihar, Agam and Digi of Guita Babi, Napichandra Mahavihar, Gopi Chandra Mahavihar, Bhimsen Temple, Adalat Bhawan, Hiranya Varna Mahavihar, Jangam Math, Namdorling Monastery and Kumari House. These cultural heritage sites are spread across districts of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Solukhumbu. The project is part of India's ongoing post-earthquake reconstruction efforts in Nepal. INTACH work includes setting up of a Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for preparation of inception reports, review of existing DPRs and preparing new detailed reports, supporting the executing agency as well as supervising and monitoring projects on behalf of MEA. INTACH will be working closely with the
Central Level Planning Implementation Unit (CLPU), the nodal agency on behalf of the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the projects.

In February 2020 a group of 21 elected local Government representatives from the 2015-quake-hit Nuwakot district of Nepal visited INTACH as part of their five-day exposure visit to India to learn about the country’s sustainable urban development and livelihood integration. The group included mayors, chairs, vice-chairs of eight rural municipalities and an official from the Federation of Nepalese Journalists. Their trip was in connection with India's post-earthquake reconstruction efforts in Nepal in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It is aimed at building capacities of the key local stakeholders for ensuring earthquake-resilient reconstruction by raising community awareness about disaster management, recovery and resilience. A presentation on post-earthquake conservation and restoration works done by INTACH was shown followed by a guided tour to different INTACH Divisions. The group was also taken to a nearby heritage site where they saw ongoing conservation works undertaken by INTACH Delhi Chapter.

A project orientation and capacity building exercise was also organized by CLPIU on 14th Feb. 2020 in Kathmandu focusing on heritage documentation and conservation in which INTACH participated. The workshop included site visits to three sites: Hiranya Varna Mahavihara, Bhimsen Temple and Kumari House in Lalitpur led by senior architect Purusottam Dongol, senior archaeologist Bishnu Raj Karki and INTACH Kathmandu conservation architect Anita Tamrakar. Several stakeholders like community representatives, priests and caretakers were also present during the site visit. Discussions were held on the history, condition of the sites and association of community with the sites.

Currently INTACH Project Office in Kathmandu which includes a team of conservation architects and engineers, are working closely with the Delhi team in preparing the Preliminary Project Reports (PPR) and Detailed Project Reports for Napi Chandra Mahavihara and Seto Machindranath.
Reports (DPR) of 12 projects in progress. Five PPRs and four DPRs have been submitted to the Embassy of India, Kathmandu which will be tendered for execution later this year.

Golden Threshold, Hyderabad

Golden Threshold in Hyderabad, the residence of the eminent poet and freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu was donated to the University of Hyderabad in 1975. The Golden Threshold complex is a moderate size (1.20 acres) site with three old structures - the Golden Threshold and Gopal Clinic – that are old buildings whereas Centre for Distance Learning is comparatively new.

The conservation effort was first initiated in 2012, when a DPR was prepared by AH Division but no further action was taken by the University. Recently the University requested revival of the project. INTACH team visited the site to re-examine the building condition and a revised DPR has been prepared.

Conservation of Temples of Madhya Pradesh

A MoU was signed between INTACH and the M.P.Govt. (Religious Trust and Endowments Department) in May 2018 for Conservation of Temples. Three DPRs - Bhesle Wali Mata Temple-Gwalior, Banganga Temple-Shivpuri with temple complex, and Kila Chowk-Datia were submitted to the Department in August 2018 and were approved. The Hanuman Temple at Kila Chowk, Datia has been selected for conservation during phase I. The temple covering a 110 sqm area is based on Bundela style of architecture, an amalgamation of Rajput and Mughal architectural elements. It is a single storied Baradari style temple with three shikbars over the Garbhagriha. The interior is decorated with beautiful paintings that have survived. The chhajja is broken at places. The shikharas are covered with thick soot. Tender for conservation of the temple was invited in March 2020 before the Lockdown. The conservation work onsite is now expected to commence.

Vadia Palace built in 1930 is a perfect example of Indo Saracenic style of architecture. It is set within a 151-acre estate, with well laid out formal gardens and orchards. The building was commissioned by Maharaja Vijaysinhji and was financed by the prize money he won from a horse race in the Epsom Derby. The interior is adorned with beautiful frescoes on the walls by well-known Italian painter Valli. The Palace houses Gujarat Forest Ranger's College which approached INTACH for its conservation. After signing the MoU, a detailed documentation and a project report
(DPR) was submitted. The first phase comprises water proofing and structural restoration, which has been initiated. DPR preparation for the second phase comprising art restoration, and reorganization of building services is in progress.

**Conservation of Baoli at Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh**

The Khairagarh Palace is one of the few reminiscent structures of the princely state of Khairagarh which the erstwhile ruler donated for establishing a University of Music and Fine Arts as a tribute to his daughter, Princess Indira. Named after the princess, the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (IKSV), It is Asia's first such university fully dedicated to various forms of music, dance, fine arts and theatre. It received many accolades since inauguration in 1956. The university campus has a 1898 baoli (stepwell) and its water initially used for the Palace, was later used by the University till a few decades ago. It is an important element of Khairagarh’s social construct.

The baoli is under major structural distress due to neglect. On the request of INTACH Khairagarh Chapter, Architectural Division carried out documentation and a technical conservation report for the baoli. The University agreed to fund the conservation part, while INTACH is providing free technical support with a matching grant. The work on the partially collapsed baoli commenced in November 2019 and has made good progress with systematic reconstruction of the walls. The structure and ancillary areas were stabilized by the time the nationwide lockdown came into force. With gradual lifting of lockdown, the repair work has resumed with strict precautions followed with distancing at site among masons and labourers, frequent hand-washing, sanitizing and compulsory use of face masks and hand gloves by each team member at all times.

The conservation process is always a successful model when custodians of a historic structure value the property and value conserving it with traditional materials and techniques.

**AH Lecture Series on Architectural Styles of India**

As part of research on Architectural Styles of India, AH is organizing regular public lectures. Six lectures have been organized in the series since Aug 2019. Earlier this year talks were held on 7th Feb and
26th Feb 2020 by Tapan K. Chakravarty on ‘A Glimpse of Uttarakhand: Studies in Vernacular Architecture’, and by Dr. Sanghamitra Basu on ‘Built Heritage of Bengal: A Crucible of Diversity’. These lectures were uploaded online weekly and are available on the INTACH website Architectural Heritage Division at http://architecturalheritage.intach.org/?page_id=785

Exhibition on A Momentous Journey through Architectural Heritage

An Archaeological Heritage exhibition was inaugurated during the State Convenors’ Meet on 4th Feb, on the first day of INTACH Utsav 2020. The Exhibition ‘A Momentous Journey through Architectural Heritage’ showcased selected conservation endeavors of the Architectural Heritage Division since INTACH’s inception in 1984. The sites were from different eras of the historical timeline of India. A parallel timeline of architectural history of the world was taken as reference to establish their context. The exhibition is still on display at INTACH Delhi Office, and was shared widely through social media platforms during the lockdown period.

BIMSTEC-Disaster Management Exercise, 11th-13th February 2020, Bhubaneswar and Puri

INTACH was invited as an observer to the 2nd BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) - Disaster Management Exercise-2020 held in Bhubaneswar and Puri from 11th to 13th of February. It was organized by NDRF in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and inaugurated by Chief Minister of Odisha. INTACH was represented by Ruknuddin Mirza, Asst. Director, AH Division.

On the first day, a table top exercise was scheduled in which all members of the BIMSTEC countries discussed Policies and Protocols adopted in their respective countries for disaster rescue and relief. On the second day, a simulation of disaster scenario in an area rich in heritage was organized. An artificial flooding situation was also created. The participating countries were divided into groups with NDRF personnel with each team doing a mock drill of rescue and relief work. It ended with a vote of thanks by DG NDRF extending his thanks to INTACH and other participating agencies and organizations.
AH Zoom Meetings

AHD held three zoom meetings on 15th April, 4th May and 18th May 2020 to review the work from home of the AH Team.

LISTING CELL

As part of the World Heritage Nomination of Jaipur Walled City, a MoU was signed between Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) and INTACH on 30th December for undertaking listing comprising 600 heritage properties in the first phase. A comprehensive listing proforma including layout plan of each property has been developed. The field survey was completed at Chowkri Modikhana, Topkhana Desh and Ghat Darwaja. The first draft of 65 inventories was submitted to JMC.

Architects from Listing Cell visited Shekhawati to undertake heritage mapping with the Sikar-Churu-Jhunjhunu Chapter Members and staff from 9th-13th February 2020. They visited and geo-tagged 130 historical sites at Ramgarh, Bissau, Tain, Mahensar, Churu, Dipalsar, Mandrella, Alsisar and Fatehpur. Three Chapters staff - Mukesh, Priyanka and Pintu - accompanied and guided them on how to conduct the site survey, and transfer and store data in Google Earth so that mapping can be continued at a future date. The listing done by Ilay Cooper (1985-1987) was referred to geotag the heritage properties and some new properties were added. Since the old listing had thumbnail size black and white photographs, new high-resolution photographs were clicked onsite with a brief description of each property added. The staff will continue the work onsite in due course under the guidance of the Listing Cell.
'Historic Sites of Changthang, Ladakh' has been published covering about 250 sites (Forts, Chortens, Monasteries, Petroglyphs, Rock Carvings, Caves, Pictographs, etc).

The final listing of Vellore town by Tamil Nadu State Chapter has been compiled covering 64 inventories.

The documentation of Wall Paintings of Tamil Nadu (Volume-1): Zamin Palace, Bodinayakkanur, Theni District done by Tamil Nadu State Chapter has been submitted to IKC.

The final listing has been compiled for Himachal Pradesh District (Hamirpur, Sirmaur, Una, Kangra, Mandi and Shimla) covering 251 inventories.

Listing of heritage buildings in the Jammu Cantonment in Satwari covers an area of about 3.6 square km (approx. 900 acres) and has a number of heritage buildings built in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. The unique character of this Cantonment is it housed the State forces under the erstwhile rule of Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir earlier, and later after accession to India in 1947 it came under the 26 Infantry Division of the Indian Army and 23 Wing of Indian Air Force. Under guidance of Major General (Retd.) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal and INTACH Jammu Convenor SM Sahni, eighty-one heritage properties have been identified and documented in the Cantonment. Topi Bungalow, Satwari House, Usman Officers Institute, J&K Army Training Centre are some of the prominent heritage buildings. INTACH submitted a copy of listing to the Cantt. authorities on 6th March 2020.

Listings were ongoing before the lockdown at Jalandhar by Jalandhar Chapter, Nashik by Nashik Chapter, Maihar-Satna-Panna by Maihar Satna Chapter, Basadis of Moodabidri and Karkala by Mangalore Chapter, Zanskar by Ladakh Chapter, etc. These will be resumed for completion in due course.

Thematic listing were ongoing for Chambal Valley by Madhya Pradesh State Chapter, Kota Chapter and Agra Chapter; Mahanadi River by Odisha State Chapter and Raipur Chapter; and Hoogly River (from Farakka to Nabadwip) by West Bengal State Chapter. They will be resumed in due course.
HERITAGE COMMUNITY AND CRAFT DIVISION

36th Foundation Day Celebration

The Division organized the staff picnic on 27th January, 2020 at Sunder Nursery. A heritage walk, was followed by everyone taking the INTACH Oath, INTACH Quiz: Know Thyself, talent performances and treasure hunt. Member Secretary appreciated that officers and employees joyfully participated in the various activities. Chairman INTACH extended his good wishes to all.

Intach Utsav 2020

The INTACH UTSAV was organized on 4th-7th February, 2020 as part of the endeavour to conserve and promote India’s cultural heritage, and create awareness of INTACH’s work in the field of Heritage Conservation. All INTACH Divisions participated in the various events during the UTSAV and contributed to its success.

The CRAFT UTSAV was organized by the Heritage Craft & Community Division which invited 30 artisans from different parts of India. They displayed exquisite crafts and textiles of their regions. Six Chapters also participated with new products developed through craft initiatives undertaken by them. Thus Sawai Madhopur, Maihar Satna, Hisar, Kollam, Sikar Churu Jhunjhunu and Aurangabad Chapters added to greater variety of crafts on display this year.
Heritage Walks by the Delhi Chapter at Lodhi Gardens were scheduled in the earlier part of the mornings and were extremely popular. They introduced visitors to the historical and cultural significance of each monument illustrating the richness of our heritage and history.

Visitors were given an opportunity to learn and understand the restoration of antique paintings, textiles and art objects with a visit to the INTACH Conservation Lab. These sessions were particularly popular with college students.

**MoU with Muziris Heritage Project Ltd.**

The Division entered into a MoU with Muziris Heritage Project LTD for the revival and development of languishing crafts of Thrissur District, Kerala. The craft clusters of the region suffered during the recent floods and require support to revive the craft community.

**Exhibition at DMRC Metro Stations**

MoU with DMRC was extended for three years and it is proposed to put up different exhibitions to showcase various aspects of Heritage in the spaces provided. Initiatives and work done by INTACH’s various Divisions and Chapters will also be displayed in this series of exhibitions.
Sacred Waste Programme

‘Sacred Waste Programme’ is an initiative of the HCC Division to convert temple floral waste into incense sticks and cones. A workshop-cum-demonstration was scheduled in Jammu for March. Other Chapters have also shown interest in holding such workshops for recycling sacred waste and generating employment.

Chapters and temple authorities interested in organizing a Sacred Waste Workshop can write to intachcrafts@gmail.com

INTACH’s 35 years Journey (1984-2019)

This INTACH travelling exhibition was displayed in Gwalior in January, 2020 by the Gwalior Chapter. Various events like lectures, seminars and cultural events held alongside were well received by the professionals, students and general public.

Panel Discussion, Changing Narratives, IGNCA, New Delhi

On 7th March, 2020, Director Vandana (Bindu) Manchanda, Head of Heritage Crafts & Community Division, was invited for a panel discussion on role of Women in Culture as part of the event ‘Changing Narratives’ organized by IGNCA. The panel comprised Joint Secretary MoC Narupama Kotru and Prof. Asha Baxi, Dean Academics at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi. It was moderated by Shreyanka Basu, Communications Faculty, IGNCA.

Bindu Manchanda shared her views on women’s participation in crafts sector and elaborated on INTACH’s initiatives to revive crafts by providing skill enhancement and design development workshops to women of the craft communities.

Documentation

Idol making traditions of India

The study and documentation of various styles and techniques of Idol Making across India is in progress. The consolidated
and comprehensive document of secondary research for idol making traditions was completed. Based on the format for evaluation developed by the Division, the selected list of Idol making traditions was researched indepth covering origin, authenticity, cultural value, vulnerability, etc.

Individuals and members can contribute towards this documentation by sharing unique idol making tradition of their region, at intachcrafts@gmail.com.

**Papier-mâché Documenting Traditional Building Crafts of India**

Research and documentation of Papier-mâché as a traditional craft in Kashmir is in progress. A directory of craftsperson associated with Papier-mâché is being developed. An interim report will be ready shortly.

**Kagzipura Project**

With regular online discussions between HCCD, Chapter Convenor, Kagzipura Society and the funding agency, a detailed stepwise structure has been made for implementation of the Kagzipura project.

MoU is under preparation between Aurangabad Chapter and the Kagzipura Society of paper craftsmen to establish responsibility, liabilities and outcomes.

With due consideration to issues of intellectual property rights, it was suggested that a lawyer from Aurangabad and HCCD will submit the draft MoU to INTACH Chairman and Member Secretary for suggestions before further proceedings.

HCCD released a call for Designers for skill-upgradation and design development workshops and received a good response with more than 15 statements of interest. Applications are being evaluated as per the parameters set by the Division.

**HCCD Collaboration with Creative Dignity**

*Creative Dignity* is an initiative by India’s leading artisan skill-based development organisations, Government bodies and experts in the field, coming together in an unprecedented move in response to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural manufacturing creative artisans across India. The initiative aims to provide immediate relief to the craft communities and felicitate sustainable supply chain systems for post-Covid scenarios. Millions of craftspeople have been in dire circumstances since lockdown as they have
had no means to sell their products and have unsold inventory. HCCD has through its association with Creative Dignity, documented clusters where there is urgent need for help. HCCD is also helping link crafts people to online selling platforms and other avenues for direct sale to customers.

HCCD collaboration with Creative Dignity was facilitated by Convenor Nagaland Sentila T Yanger. The movement has now been joined by few other Chapters from Jammu, Nagaland, Pune, etc.

Creative Dignity generated private funds have been sent to Chanderi weavers. These private funds provided rations for a month to one cluster of 25 weaver families in Chanderi.

Films

HCCD has used its social media platforms to promote and help craft communities across India during the lockdown. It also informed the audience about INTACH’s initiatives and impact. HCCD has started developing short films to be strategically released on dedicated occasions to amplify the impact and attract eyeballs.

‘Skilling Craft Communities’ Series

Six such short films have reached an audience of more than 4000. More films are in development phase and will be released shortly.

Papertrails: Paper-making craft of Kagzipura

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, Heritage Community and Craft Division presented a short film ‘Paper Trails’ on the 700 year old craft of making paper. INTACH works towards preserving and promoting India’s unique heritage and associated communities.

People Reached/views: 1403 Likes: 62
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6B43Jh0RXg&t=18s

• INTACH Sacred Waste Programme

Celebration of Earth Day is incomplete without action to serve environment and planet earth while enabling communities to sustain themselves. HCC Division offered an alternative to flower disposal while generating meaningful employment opportunities for women of the community. INTACH with its more than 207 Chapters were to make a positive difference to the lives of craft communities all over India.

People Reached/views: 750 Likes: 46
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8fXCAHc5U&t=10s

• INTACH Skilling Craft Communities Programme: Crochet Craft of Hisar

A large number of crafts-persons work another shift as daily labour especially in fields as they barely get enough to
sustain themselves on their meagre earnings. INTACH helps communities with training to upgrade their craft, provides design interventions to develop sustainable products and reach wider markets, proudly celebrating the labour of love of these communities, on the occasion of World Labour Day.

People Reached/views: 605 Likes: 40 | Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0qpWWNXscE

• INTACH Skilling Craft Communities Programme: Rag- Rug weaving of Shekhawati

INTACH’s Skilling Communities is a pan-India initiative to empower women of the community with enhanced skills, design interventions and market linkage. These efforts not only enhance the craft but also help mothers to make the ends meet.

People Reached/views: 550 Likes: 35
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSPfhFjfo4

• INTACH Balaji Ghat Museum, Varanasi, under Skilling Craft Communities Programme

INTACH Skilling Craft Communities Programme, sets up small museums portraying local customs, crafts and culture. The film was released on World Museum Day 2020.

People Reached/views: 500 Likes: 21 | Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUNPjxEW0hA

• INTACH Wood Inlay Craft of Hoshiarpur, Punjab

HCCD supported this 300 year old craft with new skills and designs that not only increased income generation options for the community but also enhanced livelihoods and provided new avenues of income.

Link: https://youtube/qVObPmc_xtE
To follow and get regular updates about INTACH activities:
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hccd_intach/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/intach.crafts/
**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)**

*Namami Gange – Documentation of River Ganga from Gaumukh to Gangasagar*

*Namami Gange* project was undertaken for the Jal Shakti Ministry, Government of India, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) scheme. INTACH is engaged in this project as a knowledge partner given its credibility in the field of culture, inclusive of tangible and intangible aspects. The project objective is to research and document existing/living culture at the Ganga riverside in a radius of 5kms; starting from its source the Gangotri to its point of dispersal at Ganga Sagar. The area recently covered/visited by the ICH team for research, documentation and cultural mapping of the cities and communities were Patna, Mirzapur and Sonepur.

**Patna**

During the visit to Patna, the team documented numerous elements of Intangible Heritage. The report covers the history of Bihar, the linkages of River Ganga with the Patna District, the various sagas related to the epical and mythological stories of the Ganga which changed direction over a period of time; and the different Empires that played a crucial role in contributing to the imagery of Ganga - both as an Imperial symbol and as a sacred element. The living communities across the Ganga in Bihar were also documented. Bihar is a cultural land of much linguistic diversity which has changed its forms often even during contemporary times. A few languages like Bhojpuri, Maghi, Maithi, Angika, etc. have become the vernacular majors of the region. Looking at this, the linguistic plurality of the region was also studied. The various ritualistic fairs and important festivals which take place through the year have been documented. The cultural diversity of food is also another facet taken into consideration.

**Mirzapur**

During a second visit to Mirzapur the team detailed a number of intangible aspects like Brassware, Kajri and Lorikayan and the folklore of Vindhyanchal and literary contributions of Mirzapur. The brassware tradition has been prevalent in Mirzapur for approximately 500 years and currently involves around 50,000 workers. There has been little development in entrepreneurship in the handicraft industry and traditional ways and processes still dominate it.

*Devotees offering rituals to the deity, Arga*  
*Sonepur Fair where animals are bought and sold*  
*Malpua, a traditional sweet dish of Bihar*  
*Billets of raw brass. Sheets are prepared from these discs*
The carpet industry is currently provided help by the Government under the ODOP (One District One Product) program. The prevailing view in the area is that brassware industry is in greater need of Government assistance under the ODOP scheme.

**Folk Songs**

The tradition of folk songs has been orally transmitted by the older generation to the younger generation of the community. They are also passed down within families/community as inherited tradition, and sung mostly during festivals as rituals. Mirzapur is known mainly for its Kajri, Birha and Laavani that are important folk song traditions. Famous Kajri folk singer Ajita Srivastava was interviewed by the team. She explained how Kajri is sung in the four months of the monsoon – Aasaad, Saavan, Bhado and Dvaara. The literateurs include Kajri in their writings and some Hindi authors wrote about Kajri celebrations. Although there are several popular opinions about its genesis, it is generally believed that Kajri emerged primarily from Mirzapur.

Lorikayan is a very popular folklore in the Vindhyaachal region and usually sung in Bhojpuri language. It is an oral tradition still prevalent among the tribal and non-tribal populace primarily of Abir community besides Gond, Dusadh, Teli, Kalavar, Kumbar, Mallab, Naai, Dhobi and Kherwar communities. It is sung with great love and emotions. There are many different versions of Lorikayan. Lorik’s place of birth is disputed. Some say it was Gaura village in Mirzapur District while others insist that he was born in Hardi in Ballia district (both in Uttar Pradesh).

The ICH Team also visited Sonepur and documented the intangible cultural aspects related to the Sonepur Cattle Fair. The team visited a number of sacred complexes in Sonepur including the Harharnath Mandir. The Managing Trustee of the temple was interviewed to know the historical mythological aspect about the cattle fair in...
detail. The team also visited the Bihar Museum and spoke to its officials about the historical aspects of Patna and Sonepur. Dr. Bijoy Chowdhary, Executive Director of Bihar Heritage Development Society; Dr. S Siddharth, Principal Secretary, Government of Bihar were also interviewed.

**Socio-Cultural study of Sehria Tribes of Rajasthan and M.P.**

The project on the socio-cultural study of the Sehria tribes was undertaken by the Sawai Madhopur Chapter. The detailed report in Hindi comprises visual and written description on the social customs, daily life and rituals, art, culture and the social setup of the Sehria tribes of the Baran and Kota Districts of Rajasthan and the Sheopur Kalan District of M.P. The Sehrias are found mainly in Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri and Guna Districts of Madhya Pradesh. They are also found in some regions of Rajasthan. Their agricultural income is marginal but they earn substantial additional income from working in the forests and collecting minor forest produce such as honey, edible gums, manufacture of *kattha*, collection of *chironji*, tapping Salai trees, etc. They also find employment in the large grass reserves of the Kuno Valley.

The report covers information about their history, folktales, their ornaments and costumes, religion, language, festivals, food and kitchen habits, marriage rituals, birth and death rituals among other facts. The folk arts, crafts and performing arts of the *Seheria* are also documented. In addition, the folk songs as well as songs sung during rituals and practises such as marriage, death and birth are covered in the Report.

*International Day of Yoga,* was marked by ICHD on 21st June with a revelatory Yoga session conducted by Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar. She is INTACH Shekhawati Chapter Convenor and a poet. She had invited questions in advance to make the event a meaningful 45 minute session for the participants on facebook and youtube.
The series of lecture/events organised by the Cultural Affairs Division headed by Manisha Singh have become very popular and invariably attract houlsfull attendance.

**People-Nature-Culture: Festivals of Sunderbans 15th January 2020**

Dr. Suptendu P Biswas, Architect and Urban Designer, spoke on the *Festivals of Sunderbans*. It was an interesting talk on how people and nature interact inseparably to shape the culture of the place. Social practices surrounding the festive events at Sunderbans have contributed to the structuring and formation of communities and social groups. He said to a great extent social interactions are a meeting ground for convergence in an otherwise divisive society.

Historically the ‘culture of festivals’ of the Sundarbans were founded on the negotiations of the Community with Nature down the ages, that continues to this day.

**During the 2020 INTACH Utsav**

During the INTACH Utsav cultural shows held every evening attracted a courtyard full of audience at INTACH. The concert ‘*Lo Phir Basant Aaya - a celebration of spring*’ by Vidya Shah, a musician and singer was held on 4th February. Initially trained in Carnatic music, she later received guidance in North Indian genres of Khayal from Shubha Mudgal and Mujahid Hussain Khan; and in Thumri Dadra and Ghazal from Shanti Hiranand. She is now a popular performer and a prolific composer herself. She is a recipient of the Charles Wallace Award instituted by INTACH. She also holds a Senior Fellowship from the Government of India for her project *Women on Record*, highlighting through performances the contributions of forgotten women performers of the Gramophone era. Vidya Shah gave an enthralling musical performance, in an eclectic mix of basant, sufi and gazals uniquely her own.

An illustrated lecture on *Delhi’s Architectural Heritage - Its Geographical, Cultural and Political Setting* by Dr. Swapna Liddle followed on 5th February. Convenor of Delhi Chapter Dr. Liddle, an eminent historian gave a lecture on the architectural heritage of Delhi which was detailed and educational, highlighting how complex is the layered backdrop
of Delhi in human history dating back to several millennia. Its geographical setting gave the city immense strategic importance even in olden times. The talk not only touched on the historic background, but also traced some of the salient features of Delhi’s architectural and cultural history. It covered the important historical moments and turning points that created the Delhi we know today.

*Book Discussion*: ‘Till Kingdom Come – Medieval Hinduism in the Modern Himalaya’—
*Dr. Lokesh Obri, 6th February 2020*
*Discussant - Dr. Sargam Mehra*

‘Till Kingdom Come’ is an anthropology of religion and the diversity of Hindu beliefs and practices. Hinduism, as is well known, has adopted a multitude of forms and practices. The speaker covered the influential cult of *Mahasu*, that has existed since medieval times in parts of the Western Himalayas.

**12th Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture**

The Lecture traditionally held on 14th April on INTACH’s Founders Day to mark the birth anniversary of INTACH’s Founder was indefinitely postponed due to the series of lockdown 23rd March onwards and people still avoiding large gatherings in the month of June-July.

**Publications**

*Special Corpus Fund; Programmes, Projects, Activities 2013-19*: This is a compilation of all projects, programmes and activities carried out by INTACH from 2013-2019 utilising the Special Corpus Fund, prepared on request from the Ministry of Culture and sent to the Ministry. It was also translated into Hindi.

INTACH Annual Report was completed and published by the Division.
Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies 2019–20

Heritage Economics, 6th January, 10th January, 12th February, 18th February 2020

The broad aim of this course is to consider built heritage as cultural and economic assets, and to develop an understanding of the economic aspects of heritage. The participants are able recognize a new paradigm for urban regeneration and revitalization of heritage towns and cities by placing ‘Heritage Economy’ at the core of the process. IHA Principal Director Navin Piplani introduced the project on Asia-Europe Network of Urban Heritage for Sustainable Creative Economies. Ritika Khanna presented the case studies on Sustainable Creative Economies. The expert speakers on the course included Urban Economist and Creative Networks Researcher Tanaji Chakravorty, former Administrator and New Delhi DC (city zone) Vijay Singh, and urban sociologist and author Dr. Binti Singh.

IHA Programme Associate Smita Babar conducted a working session on creative economics and presented the case study linking cultural heritage and economics in context of Kolhapur. A day long workshop was organized on proposal writing and pitching forward projects in the heritage sector by Niyati Mehta, an independent consultant in the field of culture and heritage philanthropy.

Adaptive Reuse, 7th – 8th January, 2020

This course discussed the philosophy and key issues such as what is heritage, importance of heritage properties, their significance and how adaptive reuse should be done in case of historic buildings without hampering their authenticity and integrity of heritage features.

A full day session was held on understanding the concept and its practical application with Aatika Manzar, an interior designer who has worked extensively on adaptive reuse of various stores and restaurants in Connaught Place area of New Delhi. The students visited the sites to get a better understanding of the practical application.

Continuing Professional Development: Nature-Culture Linkage, 15th–16th January 2020

The broad aim of the course is to understand the importance of the linkages between natural and cultural
heritage. Under this Continuing Professional Development Programme, the participants are able to understand complexities involved in exploration of the linkages in the context of a variety of sites in India. It enabled them to become aware of the challenges and scope in heritage related to natural and cultural heritage conservation.

The course addressed various case studies in India related to Nature-Culture Linkage, and also a global overview of relevant practices that Dr. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy, Cultural Heritage Research Specialist gave over a video call from Sydney, Australia. Project Manager, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Dr. Archana Chatterjee, talked about nature-based solutions for sustainable development.

The course was attended by two external participants, one of whom was Samnang Phin from Cambodia. He also attended the certificate course on Sustainable Development and Heritage and the seminar on Heritage Economics.

**Review II, 6th February, 2020**

As a part of PG Diploma in Heritage Studies 2019- 20, a second review was conducted at INTACH Central Office on 6th February 2020. Dean for Urban Design and Urban Conservation Manoj Parmar, from Kamla Raheja Vidhyanidhi Institute of Architecture and Environmental Studies (KRVIA), Mumbai was invited to assess students’ second project. The objective of this project was to prepare a comprehensive conservation development plan for Ballimaran Precinct at Chandini Chowk, New Delhi.

**Community led Conservation, 11th Feb. 2020**

The Masters class on Community led Conservation was held on 11th Feb. 2020 to discuss issues related to participation and encouragement of stakeholders and communities for conservation works in India. It introduced some key philosophical issues, and practical management challenges that arise in this process and create awareness and realization about how conservation needs community participation. It is an important key to heritage conservation.

**Traditional Knowledge Systems, Masters Class, 17th February 2020**

A one-day Masters class was held at INTACH on 17th February as part of the PG Diploma in Heritage Studies and was also open to other participants. The
broad aim of the Masters class was to understand traditional knowledge systems and explore their potential for applicability in conservation. Director of Design Innovation & Craft Resource Centre (DICRC) at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Jay Thakkar discussed *Traversing through Traditional Indian Wooden Habitat* that explored the architecture, life, and crafts of Northern India.

**Heritage Impact Assessments, 19th February 2020**

A one-day Masters class was held as part of the PG Diploma in Heritage Studies and was also open to other participants. The broad aim of this Master Class was to discuss issues, complexities and importance of heritage impact assessments for the conservation of historic buildings and sites. The toolkit prepared by Architectural Heritage Division was discussed by Director Vijaya Amjure, INTACH Listing Cell. Conservation Architect from Delhi Chapter Ritika Kapoor discussed the values and attributes for preparation of Heritage Impact assessments with reference to some case studies.

**Conservation Engineering, 20 February 2020**

The course introduced the concept of ‘Conservation Engineering’ that underpins the understanding, analysis and conservation of historic buildings from a structural engineering perspective. The discussions and case studies illustrated some of the key scientific and non-destructive methods of testing and analysis. The sessions related to understanding the structural systems in heritage buildings in order to introduce structural retrofitting with the help of related case studies. An interactive session was also planned for understanding the SORs and how to carry out rate analysis.

**Study, Use and Conservation of Timber, 27th Feb. & 4-6th March’20**

A four - day practical course on Study, Use and Conservation of Timber was conducted in collaboration with Benny Kuriakose and DIT Dehradun on 27th Feb. and 4th – 6th March. The broad aim was to provide understanding of conservation and use of timber in historic buildings. The theory behind the uses of timber as building material was supported by discussions, practical sessions at site with a range of problems in-situ, and discussed these issues with experts on building timbers, fellow participants and traditional timber craftsmen working at site. The course
also open to other participants. Its broad aim is to explore risks involved in a project during implementation, and to discuss the approaches and practices for heritage protection before, during and after a disaster. Professionals who had worked and were involved in HRIDAY and WMF projects were invited as resource persons to discuss the challenges and issues they faced while implementing these projects. A working session was also conducted by the Arts and Material Heritage Division, for vulnerability assessment of objects in the ICI lab and process of recovery post disaster. Students were also introduced to risk preparedness and disaster management for heritage structures.

was attended by PG Diploma students along with 30 participants from DIT Dehradun and SPA Delhi. The hands-on working session conducted in a DIT workshop explained the workability, tools and techniques to be deployed. It was followed by a special visit to the timber museum of the Forest Research Institute.

**CPD - Risk Preparedness, 11th – 13th March 2020**

A 3-day CPD held at INTACH during 11th-13th March 2020 was part of the PG Diploma in Heritage Studies and

Admissions for the academic year 2020 - 21 are now open. The prospectus for the next academic year is available on INTACH website. INTACH Bursary is announced for
INTACH Chapter Members. INTACH Member must be nominated by the concerned Chapter Convenor to enrol for this Diploma, with 50% waiver on fees. Only two bursaries are available under this programme.

The sixth Academic Council Meeting was held on Thursday, 20th February 2020. Prof. Vasavada, Prof. Vasant Shinde, Prof. Ravindran, Prof. Arun Menon and PD IHA Navin Piplani attended the meeting.

**INTACH Research Scholarship Programme 2020-21**

INTACH Heritage Academy received a total of 46 applications for the Research Scholarship 2020-21 cycle. The theme of the research scholarship for the current year is ‘Climate Change and Heritage’.

The Selection Committee comprised Dr. Sanghamitra Basu, Retd. Prof., Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Kharagpur; and Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. On completion of the evaluation and selection process, a total of nine applications have been shortlisted to undertake research on this most critical issue of Climate Change and its impact on Heritage.

A nation-wide lockdown was announced on 24th March, in response to the global pandemic caused by the spread of novel Coronavirus. This led to unforeseen delay in the evaluation and award process. Since the situation was extraordinary and unprecedented, the scholarship awards were announced in the month of May 2020. The renewed time frame of the scholarship has now been defined as June 2020 to May 2021.

**INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies – Volume 4, Issue 1**

The IJHS Volume 4, Issue 1 consists of research papers shortlisted from the papers submitted by scholars from Scholarship cycles 2016 and 2017. The Journal is ready to be printed as soon as possible.

**INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies – Volume 4, Issue 2**

INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies - Volume 4, Issue 2 will include abstracts based on the theme: ‘Heritage and Well-being’.
TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP (TTW)

Udaipur, 27th–28th February
68 Participants/32 School Teachers/17 schools/17 College Teachers (8 colleges)/19 Citizens

The TTW was organised by the Udaipur Chapter in collaboration with HECS and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) in their premises. Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar facilitated a group activity for participants. On the second day, the focus was on Heritage and Good Citizenship by HECS Principal Director Purnima Datt, and work done in this field by NHD Principal Advisor SK Verma. Lectures on Theatre, Music and Heritage Education by Dr. Vilas Janve from West Zone Cultural Centre, and on Geo Heritage of Udaipur by Prof. PS Ranawat were followed by a group presentation of the participants. Eminent dignitaries attending the workshop were former Vice Chancellor MLSU Prof. IV Trivedi, Director, Extension Education Dr. SL Mundra, DEAN, Faculty of Social Sciences, MLSU Prof. Hemant Dwivedi, former Vice Chancellor, KU Prof. PK Dashora, former Governor RI & Secretary Kumbha Sangeet Parishad Dr. YS Kothari, Dean, CSSH Prof. Sadhna Kothari, WZCC, Managing Director Martand Foundation Dr. Vilas Janve, Vice Chancellor KU Prof. ML Kalra and other eminent dignitaries from educational institutions. The sessions were facilitated by Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi and Faculty Member and Coordinator Dr. Peeyush Bhadviya.

The workshop concluded with an address by the Chief Guest, MPUAT Vice Chancellor Prof. NS Rathore. Participation certificates were distributed, followed by a commemorative group photograph and vote of thanks by BP Bhatnagar.

Lake Pichola was built by Pichhu Banjara during the Maharana Lakha period. The Lake is surrounded by lofty palaces, temples, bathing ghats and elevated hills on all sides. In the southern part of the lake is a hill, Macchla Magra, which affords a view of the Eklinggarh Fort. The City Palace of Udaipur lies along the eastern banks of this lake. Built by Jagat Singh, Mohan Mandir is situated in the northeast corner of Lake Pichola.

Chandannagar, 11th January
41 School Teachers/23 Schools

The TTW was organized jointly by HECS, West Bengal and Kolkata Chapters in collaboration with Chandannagar College, Hooghly, and supported by Hooghly River of Cultures Pilot Project at Chandannagar College. Dr. Debashish Sarkar welcomed INTACH and stressed on the importance of heritage conservation. Prof. Ian Magedera from Liverpool University spoke on the Hooghly River of Cultures project. State Convenor GM Kapur, spoke about protecting heritage as a duty and efforts to revive INTACH Hooghly Chapter. PD HECS Purnima Datt made a presentation on types of heritage, its important features and assets, role plays and ways to introduce heritage education in classrooms.
with the support of HECS educational resources and its webpage. Group presentation was followed by a heritage walk to the Chandannagar Strand by the *Hooghly River of Cultures Pilot Project*. Resource material and certificates were distributed.

Chandannagar is 50 kms from the main center of Kolkata in Hooghly District. A former French colony, it has been known for its decorative light works during Durga Puja. Owing to French influences, the city museum houses numerous French and British artefacts from colonial rule, and archaeological artefacts from the Gupta period.

**New Delhi, 3rd March**

**100 teachers, DIET, Old Rajendra Nagar**

Teachers Training Session for elementary school teachers was organised at the District Institute of Educational Training (DIET), Old Rajendra Nagar. The focus was on innovative lesson planning and use of heritage walks and site visits as a teaching pedagogy. A brainstorming session on heritage components was conducted by HECS representatives Shivaa Rawat and Teresa Walter, followed by an interactive session on ways to understand heritage engaging classrooms. The use of creative lesson planning, webpage and detailed conversations on ways to conduct a heritage site visit was emphasised. The session concluded with a summing up, encouraging participants to understand, observe, appreciate and design creative heritage activities.

**DIETs are Teacher Training Education Institutes run by the Government and offer courses for prospective, pre-service and in-service teachers through training, programmes, orientation and innovative approaches in education, teaching and learning for pupils.**

**COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (CHVP)**

This programme sensitises college students to become a part of a nationwide-youth movement to protect heritage.
New Delhi, 17 January
96 Participants (12 Faculty Members/84 College students/14 Colleges)

PD Purnima Dutt made a detailed presentation on understanding heritage. Historian and former Director, INTACH Documentation Centre Narayani Gupta discussed *Historic Delhi – its Heritage and the Role of Youth*, urging students to establish a relationship with heritage as works of art. Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle’s talk on historic precincts gave an understanding of heritage values. There was a guided tour of INTACH Conservation Laboratory with Centre Coordinator Dr. Padma Tohilla explaining restoration work.

Project Coordinator and Consultant for heritage based development, Annabel Lopez of Delhi, spoke on nomination of Modern Architecture and related conservation issues. Students made group presentations highlighting ways in which they could promote heritage in their respective Educational Institutions and their contributions as College Heritage Volunteers. The workshop concluded with encouraging words from Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) LK Gupta and Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra, and a commemorative group photograph.

The sessions by resource persons were enriching and informative. Kerala State Convenor K J Sohan spoke on the *Need for Heritage Protection* emphasising the role of Government/ULBs. Sakthi Murugan Rajendran spoke on *Built Heritage Conservation* through various case studies such as *Mani Koondu* or the Tower Clock, among others. Understanding Heritage and Citizenship Education was described by PD Purnima Datt, explaining its varied dimensions (natural, built, material and living). Rajesh Govindarajulu talked on Civil Society and voluntary initiatives and best practises in conserving heritage through works undertaken by *Siruthuli*. The session concluded with a presentation on heritage listing by Dr. S Suresh.

On the second day there was a site visit to the *Gass Forest Museum*, the natural history museum in the Forest College Campus and the State Government Museum situated near the VOC Zoo in the garage yards of the Nehru Stadium complex.

In the concluding session, there was Group activity and presentations of action plans by participants. INTACH Nilgiri, Palakkad and Thanjavur Chapters also made presentations. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by State Convenors K J Sohan and Dr. S Suresh.

**JAGO – HERITAGE & GOOD CITIZENSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME**

*Jago* was organised in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Chapter and the Coimbatore Chapter at Heritage Inn Hotel in Coimbatore. It was attended by 29 INTACH Members comprising State and Chapter Convenors, Co-Convenors, and active INTACH Members from both States. Inaugurated by Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. S Suresh and Coimbatore Convenor Prasad, PD HECS Purnima Datt gave an introduction to INTACH and the workshop objectives in her introductory remarks.
CREATIVE PROGRAMMES

Children’s Art Workshop – HECS in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)
4th March 2020, New Delhi
80 School Students/SV School, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
HECS in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) organised art workshops for primary school children, as part of an ongoing IGNCA festival ‘Changing Narratives: Kal, Aaj aur Kal’, a student project initiative of the P.G. Diploma programme in Cultural Management, celebrating the role of women in history and society. The workshop covered three thematic sections - Mosaic Art by Kanika Singh; Mini Mason, Calligraphy by Qamar Dagar; and Mandala Art by Deepa Govekar. It was followed by a curatorial walk of the ongoing exhibition ‘Museum of Womanhood’.

Many Chapters were unable to hold the National Poster and Essay Competition on GANDHl at 150 – An ICON OF CHANGE within the stipulated time last year, and missed featuring in the special booklet published. Some Chapters continued to celebrate Gandhi@150 till March 2020.

Kurnool 30th December
100 students/10 schools
Gandhi at 150 competition was held at Archaeology Museum of Kurnool and was covered by local media.

Coimbatore is often regarded as a City of Museums with a strong tradition of museums ranging from textiles, automobiles, archaeology, industry, police, etc. The Gass Museum has over 4000 exhibits covering wildlife, botany (fruits, seeds, barks, roots, leaves, natural fibers), important timber species, such as a, cross section of a 456 year old Teak with a girth of 5.7 meters and a massive Sandal tree weighing 1.75 tonnes, non-timber forest products (resins, dyes, oils, rubber, lac), geology (rock, mineral, soil formations), ethnology (physical, social and cultural aspects of tribes), mycology (fungal species in forests), forest engineering, entomology (butterfly and insect specimen), wood crafts (bobbins, shuttles, picker arms, handsticks and carving items).

Guntur 3rd February
85 students/18 schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Vidyashram, Guntur. The students were briefed about Gandhi’s ideas, his visit to the city and the relevance of his philosophy and thoughts to present day.

Anantapur 9th February
82 students/10 schools
The Chapter held the Gandhi at 150 competition at
Rotary English Medium School. Retired Principal Dr. P Ramesh Narayana was the chief guest for the event.

**Visakhapatnam 25th February**
**144 students/4 schools**
The Chapter conducted the national essay and painting competition *Gandhi at 150* at Little Angels School. It was followed by a Padyatra on 30th January, memorializing Gandhi’s martyrdom.

**Machilipatnam February/March**
**Over 500 students/22 schools**
The Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150* at various high schools of the city and at nearby villages of Machilipatnam. At each venue the competition was well received by students and saw enthusiastic participation.

**Kerala**

**Calicut 21st January**
**68 students/8 schools**
The Chapter organized *Gandhi at 150* at Sri Gujarati Vidyalaya. Jaiprakash Raghaviah welcomed the students and explained the theme of the competition. A talk on “Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in today’s context” was given by Vimala Jayaraj, Principal of the Sri Gujarati Vidyalaya.

**Kasargod 30th January, 14th February & 17th February**
**113 Students/7 Schools**
The Chapter conducted Gandhi at 150 national competition in 3 phases. The first phase was held at Gandhi Park Payyanur, followed by another at GHSS Vayakkara, and the third phase at GHSS Cheemeni.

**Tamil Nadu**

**Kodaikanal 29th October**
**110 Students/9 Schools**
The Chapter conducted the *Gandhi at 150* national essay/painting competition at Zion School. It was reported belatedly. The participation of students was really remarkable despite heavy rains!

**Chennai 25th January**
**135 Students/18 Schools**
The Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150* national competition at Vidya Mandir School. VR Devika spoke to the students about interesting facets of Mahatma Gandhi’s life, his principles and his often silent yet powerful battle with the British.

**Thanjavur 29th January**
**205 Students/9 Schools**
The Chapter organized *Gandhi at 150* national competition at the Little Scholars Matriculation Higher Secondary School. Principal of the host school MV Natanasigamani
welcomed the students. Historian N Selvaraj interacted with them and spoke about INTACH and how such activities help to develop their skills.

Jharkhand

Jamsedpur 16th January
128 Students/18 Schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 national competition in collaboration with TATA Steel Zoological Society at Zoological Park, Sakchi. Chapter Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh spoke to the students about Gandhi and his contributions to the socio-cultural developments in our country. Director TATA Steel Zoological Society Vipul Chakravarti welcomed the students to the campus.

Bihar

Bhagalpur 30th November
105 Students/7 Schools
The Chapter conducted Gandhi at 150 national essay and painting competition at St. Paul’s School. Dr. Prabhu Mandal, Former Prof. and HOD of Gandhian Thought, addressed them on Gandhian thoughts and principles. The event was well covered by local media.

Bettiah, 5th March

The Chapter in collaboration with Rotary Club Bettiah organized the Gandhi at 150 competition at the Government Upper High School, Singha Chhapar.

Ranchi 22nd January
106 Students/16 Schools
The Chapter, in collaboration with the State Art and Culture Department, organized the national essay/painting competition, Gandhi at 150 at Audrey House, Ranchi. Jharkhand Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh briefed the students about the competition. The event was covered by the local media.

Odisha

Balasore 5th January
97 Students/11 Schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 at Balasore Law College. Scholar and Prof. Dr. Prahalad Mohanty addressed the students on the philosophy of Gandhi and its relevance in today’s world. The event was covered by the local media.
Mayurbhanj 16th February
80 Students/7 Schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 at Utkalmani Gopabandhu B.Ed. College. Through this event students were better acquainted with the life and works of Gandhi. The event was also covered by the local media.

Alwar, 7th February
302 students
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 at City Palace, Alwar. The event was very well attended by various government as well as private schools of the city. Chief Guest Abhishek Khanna addressed the students on our legacy of values and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and the need to preserve heritage.

Sonepur, 22nd February
24 Students/6 Schools
The Chapter conducted the Gandhi at 150 national essay and painting competition at Saraswati Vidyा Mandir.

Jodhpur 10th February
180 Students/11 Schools
The Chapter organized the national competition, Gandhi at 150 at the Chokelao Palace of Mehrangarh Fort. The rules of the competition were explained by Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar. The students got better acquainted with the contribution of Gandhi to India’s freedom struggle, his life, philosophy and his role in the socio-cultural development of the country. Senior artist Ratan Singh Rajpurohit shared with them some insights for creating effective art work.

Bhilwara, 5th February
113 Students/9 Schools
The Chapter organized the national essay and painting competition, Gandhi at 150 at Government Higher Secondary School, Rajendra Marg. The event was also covered by the local media.

Rajasthan

Bhilwara, 5th February
113 Students/9 Schools
The Chapter organized the national essay and painting competition, Gandhi at 150 at Government Higher Secondary School, Rajendra Marg. The event was also covered by the local media.
Bikaner 16th February
215 Students/25 Students
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 at Jain Public School. The Chief Guest was Mayor Sushila Kanwar Rajpurohit. Speakers explained the philosophy and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi to the young students.

Chittorgarh, 20th February
201 Students/16 Schools
The Chapter organized the national essay -painting competition Gandhi at 150 at Shri Bhuvan Bhanu Su. Jain Senior Secondary School. The event was well received by the schools of the city and was covered by the local media.

Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur, 5th and 10th January
147 Students/19 Schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 in two phases. The competition saw participation of both Government as well as private schools. Prof. of Political Science Bharti Bhattacharya was the Chief Guest for the event on the last day. She addressed the students on various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi’s life and his philosophy.

Mahasamund 11th February
58 Students/11 Schools
The Bilaspur Chapter in collaboration with the Raipur Chapter conducted Gandhi at 150 competition at Government Boys Model High School. Social Worker-

Counselor Nischay Vajpayee as the Chief Guest addressed the students on the life and philosophy of Gandhiji. The event was well covered by the local media.

Raipur 14th February
124 Students/17 Schools
The Chapter organized Gandhi at 150 competition at Vaman Rao Lakhe High School, Gandhi Maidan. Social activist Tuhin Deb, a former Director of State Resource Centre, was invited as the Chief Guest and spoke about the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi. Principal, Mahant Laxminarayan Das College Prof. Debashis Mukherjee was the Guest of Honor. He told the students that the competition was being held at the venue which is very near to Gandhi Maidan where Mahatma Gandhi addressed a large gathering during his visit to Raipur. The event was covered by the local media.

Kawardha 19th February
78 Students/5 Schools
The Chapter conducted the competition, Gandhi at 150 at Amlidih Middle School. The event saw participation from both Government Middle Schools of the city as well as those in adjoining areas.

Khairagarh 23rd February
67 Students/7 Schools
The Chapter in collaboration with Raipur Chapter
conducted *Gandhi at 150* competition at Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya. The students and their accompanying teachers were introduced to INTACH and its role in preserving India's cultural and material heritage by Khairagarh Chapter Member Kapil Sharma. Convenor J Mohan spoke to the students about Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to our society and the high values propagated by him.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Burhanpur, 30th January**
The Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150* competition at Hotel Ambar and Holiday Resort. The event received good participation from various schools of the city. Alongside, an exhibition of photographs remembering Gandhi's life and the immersion of his ashes in the river Tapti was organized. Students from Kalyani Music School also sang various bhajans commemorating Gandhi's sacrifice and martyrdom. Gandhian scholar Prof. Balkishandas Shroff addressed the students elaborating on Gandhi's life and his philosophy.

**Dhar 9th February**
**31 Students**
The Chapter conducted the national competition *Gandhi at 150*. It was addressed by Gandhian thinker Dr. Shrikant Dwivedi who spoke on the political and socio-cultural legacy of Gandhi. His address highlighted “*that while we all know Gandhi, we need to understand him as well*”. The event was well covered by the local media.

**Gwalior, February**
**327 Students**
The Chapter conducted the national competition *Gandhi at 150* at Vidya Vihar School. It was attended by different schools of the city. A talk on the heritage of our country and Gandhi’s contribution in promoting Indian culture and heritage was given by Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari. The students got an opportunity to learn about the heritage of Gwalior as State Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari also interacted with them. The event was covered by the local media.

**Shivpuri, February**
**65 Students/5 Schools**
The Chapter conducted the essay-painting competition *Gandhi at 150*. The students were addressed by Mohte of Scindia Memorial. He also spoke on the importance of preserving heritage at this event which was well covered by the local media.

**Khandwa 29th February**
**40 Students/10 Schools**
The Chapter conducted the national essay and painting competition, *Gandhi at 150*. 
**Punjab**

**Patiala, 17th February**

102 Students

Patiala Chapter organized a ‘Paint or Write’ competition at Senior Secondary Model School, Punjabi University Patiala. Principal of the School Nirmal Goel, President Punjab Eco Friendly Association Paramveer Singh, Advocate Jatinder Singh Sarao, former Mining and Industry officer Laljit Singh Sidhu, Advocate Amandeep Kaur, Social Activist Navkiran Kaur, Teacher and Environmentalist Rajwant Kaur and Patiala Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk shared their ideas and perspectives.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Kanpur, 16th December**

55 Students/8 Schools

Kanpur Chapter organized the all India essay/painting competition at Milan Guest House, Kanpur. An eminent speaker Anoop Shukla gave an informative talk on Gandhi and his freedom struggle. The event was covered by the media.

**Banda, 30th January**

The Banda Chapter organised Gandhi at 150 at St. Mary’s Sr. Sec. School Banda involving students from various schools. Eminent Guest Speaker Jamuna Prasad Bose, a freedom fighter born in 1925, who had lived with Mahatma Gandhi, shared his experiences during the struggle for freedom movement with students which held them in rapt attention as this was a story by an associate of Gandhiji. It was therefore a very meaningful meeting with Bose who is popularly known as ‘Gandhi of Bundelkhand’.

**Mahoba, 9th and 18th January**

181 Students/2 Schools

Gandhi at 150 competition was organized by the Mahoba Chapter at Sai Inter College, Mahoba. Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir and Inter College, Mahoba participated. It was attended by Chapter Members and received notable media coverage.

**Brajbhoomi, 31st January**

101 Students/2 Schools

Gandhi at 150 competition was organized at Raghubir Bal Mandir Senior Secondary School, Aligarh. Principal of RBM School Alok Kumar Sharma presented an inspirational talk on Gandhiji and his contributions to the cultural heritage of India. Dr. Vivek Mishra from Gyan Mahavidyalaya mentioned how Gandhiji played a pivotal
role in gaining Independence using only non violent methods.

Gujarat

Jamnagar, 10th January
74 Students/5 Schools
Jamnagar Chapter conducted Gandhi at 150 competition at the Archaeological Museum. Convenor Air Commodore (Retd.) Surendra Tyagi gave a lecture on Mahatma Gandhi’s immense sacrifices and contribution towards India’s Independence and his lifetime values of peace and unity.

Allahabad

9th February
67 students/8 schools
Jawahar Bal Bhawan hosted the Gandhi at 150 competition organized by the Allahabad Chapter. Dr. Archana Singh from G.B. Pant Social Science Institute shared with the students some stories from Gandhi’s childhood. They were also taken for a heritage walk at Swaraj Bhawan from where Mahatma Gandhi had contributed so much to the country during the National Congress Meetings.

Ahmedabad, 5th March
75 students/7 schools
Gandhi at 150 competition was conducted by Ahmedabad Chapter in association with Shreyas Foundation School. Arya Chavda, a girl studying in class 5 of Anand Niketan School, was the Chief Guest. She had written poems on Ahmedabad in addition to some sketches. She read her poems to the students and inspired them to write and let their thoughts reflect on paper. Arya sets an example for all those who have an interest in writing and art. Principal, Shreyas Foundation Aarti Ben Trivedi also talked about Gandhiji and his values.

Lalitpur, 24th February
221 Students
Gandhi at 150 competition was held by Lalitpur Chapter at Kendriya Vidyalaya. Principal of K.V. SK Sharma elaborated that this competition provided a platform for students to know about Mahatma Gandhi’s life and his contributions to the country. Lalitpur Chapter Convenor said that Gandhi’s principles are still relevant today and we should follow them.
West Bengal

Kolkata, 20th December 2019
25 students/5 schools
The Kolkata Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150, an Icon of Change*, essay and painting competition with 5 schools of Kolkata. The event was conducted at Shri Shikshayatan School.

Santiniketan – 2 phases
33 Students
“Icon of Change: Gandhiji at 150” event was organised by the INTACH Santiniketan Chapter in two phases - first at Labpur SNSN Girls’ High School and the second one at Patha Bhavana, Santiniketan. It was indeed a great pleasure to witness the high enthusiasm exhibited by so many students.

Maharashtra

Wai – Panchgani, 18th January:
116 Students/7 Schools
National Painting Competition under the theme of ‘GANDHI AT 150’ was successfully held in Umamaheshwar Ghat, Gangapuri, Wai. Wai-Panchgani Chapter Co-Convenor Prof. Dr. Nitin Kadam was the Chief Guest at the programme.

Solapur, 8th January
270 students/19 schools
INTACH Solapur Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150- Essay-Writing and Painting Competition* at Dr. Kotnis Memorial. Retd. Teacher Ramesh Fulari was invited as the Chief Guest. He addressed the students about the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi. He explained that Mahatma Gandhi during his years in England and South Africa formed his principles of *Ahimsa, Satyagraha*, always speaking of truth, punctuality, self- sufficiency, vegetarianism, and steered India to Independence from the British.

Mumbai, 30th January
86 students/10 schools
INTACH Greater Mumbai Chapter conducted *Gandhi at 150 National Essay and Painting Competition* at Geeta Mandir Hall, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Gamdevi. Yogesh Kamdar, Trustee of Mani Bhavan and Director of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan addressed the students and talked on Mahatma Gandhi’s contribution to Indian Independence Movement.

Nagpur, 2nd February
753 students/90 schools
INTACH Nagpur Chapter in association with Women’s Education Society and Smt. Manoramabai Mundle College of Architecture, conducted the Mahatma Gandhi Drawing and Essay Competition at the SMMCA college premises. The event was graced by the presence of Sameer Meghe, MLA Hingna, Nagpur; Ashok Singh Thakur,
Vidya Mandir, Bagalkot. Chief Guest of the function Prof. SN Barki talked about the social contribution of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Gulbarga, 25th January**
**316 students**
The Gulbarga Chapter conducted the national competition, *Gandhi at 150* at Rotary Club School, Kalaburgi. 159 students wrote essays while 157 made paintings. AK Rameshwar, a noted children’s writer, inaugurated the event.

**Chandrapur, 15th February**
**77 students**
*GANDHI at 150*, a national level Paint or Draw Competition, was organized at Hindi City Higher Secondary School, Chandrapur under the aegis of INTACH Chandrapur Chapter on February 15, 2020. AN Pullavar of Chanda Shikshan Prasarak Mandal was invited as the Chief Guest.

**Vijaypur, 28th January**
**54 students**
INTACH Vijaypur Chapter conducted essay and painting competition for 7-9 students in association with BLDEA’s Dr. PG Halakatti Research Centre. Retired Prof. and Gandhian MI Kumatgi spoke on the occasion. He said that Mahatma Gandhi’s life is a model for all ages and particularly for students.

**Karnataka**

**Bagalkot, 18th January**
**105 students**
INTACH Bagalkot organized the *Gandhi at 150* competition at Hindustan Sevadal’s Smt. Rukmini Chabbi

**Belagavi, 14th February**
**47 students/7 schools**
INTACH Belagavi Chapter conducted *Gandhiji at 150* essay and painting competition at Bharatesh Education Trust. Speaking at the inauguration, Belagavi Chapter Co-Convenor Vinod Doddanavar enlightened the students about the rich natural heritage of Belagavi, the
historical significance of several of its monuments including the fort, temples as also the intangible heritage of Belagavi with its varied cuisine, culture and art forms. He urged the students to appreciate, preserve and conserve this heritage, lest it is lost forever.

**Mangaluru, 20th February**

**50 students/8 schools**

INTACH Mangaluru Chapter hosted the competition *Gandhi at 150* at Ganapathy High School, a more than hundred years old building, as the heritage venue. A brief programme with an invocation by school children and lighting of lamps by dignitaries present on stage was followed by the guest speaker’s speech. Nandavara Chandrakala, an academician and eminent author, shared her advice by giving examples from Gandhi’s autobiography “My Experiments with Truth”.

**Mizoram**

**Aizawl, 14th January**

**85 students/10 schools**

*Gandhi at 150* was held at the DIET auditorium at Chaltlang, Aizawl. The inaugural function was chaired by Convenor Rohminthanga, Mizoram Minister for Art and Culture Pu Lalzirliana graced the occasion. He advised the students to prepare themselves for the increasingly tougher competitions in their future, to learn from the many lessons and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Assam**

**Guwahati, 28th January**

**102 students/5 schools**

The National Essay and Painting Competition *Gandhi at 150* was organised by the Assam State Chapter at the premises of the Royal Global School, Betkuchi, Guwahati. Former Administrator Swapnanil Barua spoke at length about the various aspects of Gandhi’s relevance in our society and made special mention of his *Swachh Bharat Mission* as well as his strong faith in non violence.

**Jammu, 6th February**

**126 students/10 schools**

*Icon of Change, Gandhi at 150* National Level Competition was organized by Jammu Chapter at Shri Ranbir Higher Secondary School, Jammu. J&K Co-Convenor Dr. CM Seth, IFS, was the Chief Guest while Vijay Kumar, Principal of the Host School and Kuldeep Wahi, Co-Convenor, Jammu Chapter were the Guests of Honor. Dr. Seth briefed the students about Gandhi’s contributions towards society on the whole and especially to India.
Haryana

Gurgaon, 3rd December 2019
16 schools
DPS Gurgaon, in association with INTACH, organized the inter-school painting and essay writing competition Gandhi at 150: Icon of Change. The guest speaker for the event was Ratna Pandey who works as a freelance consultant, mentor, coach, writer and storyteller. Major Atul Dev, in his address, appreciated the students for their knowledge and awareness of their heritage and culture. Ratna Pandey stressed on the importance of having a deep connection with our values.

Himachal Pradesh

Kangra, 19th February
34 students/4 schools
Kangra Chapter organized the Gandhi at 150 competition at Dayanand Model Sr. Sec. School, Dharamshala. Former Election Commissioner KC Sharma was invited as the Chief Guest. He spoke on Mahatma Gandhi and advised them to follow the teachings of Gandhi and excel in their careers. The event was covered by the local media.

Hisar, 24th February
70 students/3 schools
The Hisar INTACH Chapter organised the essay and painting competition at St. Anthony’s School. Prof. Ranbir Singh Jaglan, former Registrar of Guru Jambeshwar University, Hisar, graced the occasion. Prof. Jaglan motivated the students to follow the principles of Gandhi in their life and the path of righteousness. He emphasised on the importance of cleanliness and tree plantation.

DISCOVER YOUR LIVING HERITAGE – ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

HECS, in collaboration with INTACH Chapters, conducts various innovative heritage awareness programmes. During the current year, HECS will reinforce and assist Chapters in these efforts. HECS is collaborating with around 25 - 30 Chapters across the country to conduct awareness workshops for school students on endangered art, folk and traditional arts/crafts of their region. The Chapters’ responses have been encouraging, and the process of coordination was completed. Some workshops on art/craft have already been conducted by participating Chapters.

Vadodara 20th November
During Heritage Week Celebrations, the Chapter organized the Banyan Heritage Fest in collaboration with the Vadodara Smart City Development Limited. A range of events and competitions for schools, colleges and citizens were held to bring into focus the rich heritage of the city. A workshop organized
on endangered craft traditions of Gujarat and Rajasthan at the Bright Day School, CBSE, Vasna Unit, invited experts from the region to guide the students. Experts on Ajrakh Block printing, Nasir Khatri from Bhuj-Kutch, and on Miniature Pottery, Eshwar Singh from Alwar, were two resource persons. 80 students and 20 teachers from 6 schools of the city participated in the workshop that was covered by the local media.

_Hazaribagh 30th November_

The Chapter conducted a one day workshop on traditional Khovar and Sohrai painting traditions. 150 students from DAV School, Hazaribagh participated and the resource persons were traditional women practitioners of the art-Malo Devi, Rudhan Devi, Sita Devi, Anita Devi, and Phulaso Devi. An introductory talk on the significance of Khovar and Sohrai mural wall paintings gave students an understanding of this art form dating to the prehistoric times (10,000 BC) found in Hazaribagh District. The student learnt how to create comb-cut paintings using broken pieces of combs and how to scrape the wet white earth color to reveal the dark black base in the paintings. The workshop was coordinated by Chapter members Justin Imam, Philomina Imam and Alka Imam and was well covered by the local media.

_Gwalior 18th January_

The Chapter conducted a workshop on local traditional Chitera painting done on auspicious occasions and festivals, using traditional organic colours. Conducted at Ram Krishna Vidya School, with 52 students participating, an expert in this folk painting, Kanhaiya Lal, was invited as the resource person. He acquainted the students with its designs and motifs, types of colours and the occasions when such paintings are done. He shared the methods of making traditional colours. INTACH Convenor Dr. Neel Kamal Maheshwar briefed them about the importance of this painting tradition. The event was well covered by the local media.

_Jammu & Kashmir_

The Chapter conducted a workshop on the endangered living heritage Straw Crafts practice of the region. It was conducted in collaboration with the SEM CS at the New Era Public Higher Secondary School, Raipur, Satwari
and attended by 60 students from various local schools with their teachers. A demonstration on the craft and the fabrication of straw into mats, binnas and baskets was given by crafts persons Lekh Raj and Kiran Devi. Convenor SM Sahni and Life Member Kripal Singh as Guest of Honour briefed the students about the importance of the intangible heritage of Jammu that has suffered due to the advent of plastic products. The speakers said traditional and eco-friendly methods of creating products for everyday use need to be revived as they would help rejuvenate traditional economies.

Kolkata FilmIt Festival, 31st January 2020

It was held at Lakshmipat Singhania Academy with 16 city schools attending the festival. The welcome song and dance performance by students of Lakshmipat Singhania Academy was followed by Principal Meena Kak’s Welcome Address. The honoured guests were producer and executive producer Mallika Jalan who has worked in Bengali, Hindi and Telugu film industries, and film critic and documentary filmmaker Sanjay Gosh who is also the organizer of the Kolkata Film Festival. Chapter Member Siddharth Sarkar was another special guest. The award ceremony included certificates and prizes distributed by Sanjay Gosh and Ms. Kak, concluding with a vote of thanks by Abhishek Das from HECS.

Goa FilmIt Festival, 3rd February 2020

The Goa FilmIt Festival was held at the Sharada Mandir School and attended by 10 schools. A welcome address introducing the guests by Goa Convenor Fatima Da Silva Gracias was followed by an introduction to INTACH by PD HECS Purnima Datt.

The Chief Guests were renowned artist Harshada Kerkar who is a recipient of awards such as AIFACS Award in 2001, a young filmmaker Yash Sawant whose debut film A Cold Summer Night premiered at the Busan International

FILMIT INDIA

Helen Hamlyn Trust – FilmIt India

The FilmIt India multicultural film making project, conducted in collaboration with Helen Hamlyn Trust, is currently operational in 14 cities. Palakkad, Port Blair and Vadodara joined the project in 2019-20. The FilmIt Festival held annually in each project city screens the best films, awards the schools and recognises students for their contributions.
Film Festival, and music composer and social entrepreneur Vinod Sreedhar who mentored students during the technical workshops. The programme concluded with distribution of certificates and books to the Schools.

**Varanasi FilmIt Festival, 4th February 2020**

Varanasi FilmIt Festival was held at the W.H. Smith Memorial School, and attended by 112 students and 19 teachers from 12 schools of the city. HECS representative Shivaa Rawat welcomed them. Varanasi Chapter Convenor Ashok Kapoor appreciated and congratulated the students for their efforts. Chief Guest Assistant Director, All India Radio Rajesh Kumar Gautam appreciated the students’ enthusiasm and INTACH’s role. Additional Co-Convenor and HECS Cell incharge Nirmal Joshi and other senior INTACH Life Members were among the dignitaries present.

**Mumbai FilmIt Festival, 11th February 2020**

Mumbai FilmIt Festival is held annually at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum. It was attended by 36 students and 6 teachers from 6 schools. The inaugural session was conducted by Greater Mumbai Chapter Members Gargi Mashruwala and Amruta Shinde. PD HECS Purnima Datt welcomed the participants and stressed on engaging students in activities that enhance their heritage perspective. Chief Guest Meghana Erande Joshi is a voice actress who dubs for animation characters and films. Former Principal of RSB Arya Vidya Mandir, Juhu, Alka Aggrawal was the guest of honour.

**Delhi FilmIt Festival, 6th February 2020**

Delhi FilmIt Festival was held at the India International Centre (IIC), and attended by about 204 students and teachers from 35 schools. PD HECS Purnima Datt welcomed them and also shared how Gandhiji and his 150th birth anniversary was celebrated through films as well. The Chief Guests included renowned journalist and Times of India Senior Editor, filmmaker, writer, naturalist and entrepreneur Rupin Dang, film producer and director of Gen Next Actors’ Studio Faisal Simon, Director, India International Centre KN Srivastava, an independent filmmaker and mentor for FilmIt Technical workshops Pulkita Parsai, founder Helen Hamlyn Trust Lady Helen Hamlyn, renowned art historian and HECS founder Dr. Shobhita Punja and INTACH Chairman INTACH Lt. Gen. LK Gupta who attended the event.
Ahmedabad FilmIt Festival, 11th February 2020

The Ahmedabad FilmIt Festival was held at the Shreyas Foundation with 52 students and teachers from 6 schools. Ahmedabad Co-Convenor Pavan Bakeri appreciated the students’ efforts. Chief Guest Chintan Pandya is Founder Director of Fanatika, a Theatre Club in Ahmedabad. As actor, writer, director and teacher, he congratulated the students for their filmmaking and their thoughts about heritage. The festival concluded with felicitation and certificates were distributed to all the participating schools.

Chennai FilmIt Festival, 17th February 2020

The Chennai FilmIt festival was held at the Maharishi Vidya Mandir and attended by students from 10 schools of Chennai and one from Coimbatore. State Convenor Dr. Suresh welcomed them and described how the FilmIt project started in Chennai. Chief Guest Dr. Vijay Srira, a surgeon and photographer, addressed the students. The best films from Chennai were screened. The schools were awarded certificates and books with a vote of thanks from Dr. Suresh to the host school in making the festival a success.

Vadodara FilmIt Festival, 12th February 2020

The Vadodara FilmIt Festival was held at the Navrachana International School and attended by 65 students from 8 schools. Vadodara Convenor Sanjeev Joshi thanked the school for their cooperation and organisation of the programme on such a large scale. Chief Guest Prakash Gowda as copywriter, author and filmmaker, appreciated the students’ films. The festival concluded with felicitation and distribution of certificates to all participants.

Hyderabad FilmIt Festival, 18th February 2020

The Hyderabad FilmIt Festival was held at the Jubilee Hills Public School with 13 schools participating and 11 schools attending the event. Convenor Anuradha Reddy addressed the gathering and welcomed the two new schools. She introduced the new Additional Co-Convenor Srikanth.
The Chief Guest, Pushan Vij, was quite amazed to see the quality of films made by students. Being a photographer, he said taking good photographs and including them in their films would be beneficial. The schools were awarded certificates and books. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Anuradha Reddy.

**Kochi FilmIt Festival, 24th February 2020**

The Kochi FilmIt Festival was held at the Children’s Park Theatre, Marine Drive, Ernakulam. It was attended by 12 schools of the city. Kochi Co-Convenor Miley Menon welcomed the schools and gave a brief introduction to the FilmIt project. He introduced the Chief Guest Kochi Mayor Soumili Jain, State Convenor KJ Sohan and Convenor C Babu Rajeev. The students were encouraged when she appreciated their films and told them that they would be included in the Corporation’s heritage awareness campaigns.

**Palakkad FilmIt Festival, 25th February 2020**

The FilmIt Festival in Palakkad was held at Sultan of Flavours, an old cafe featuring paintings of heritage sites of Palakkad. It was attended by students and teachers of 7 schools. The Chief Guests were Director Jithin Raj and Editor Rohith. The best films from Palakkad and overall Best Films were screened. A short film ‘Pallotti’ made by the Guests was also screened. All participating schools received trophies made of metal scraps named ‘only u’. The newspaper ‘Film News’ featured all the winners. The event concluded with a cutting of cake.

FilmIt Festivals are being planned at Jaipur and Chandigarh

**TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS**

**National workshop for Delhi Public Schools, 19th June 2020/205 Teachers, 205 schools**

*A Webinar on Arts and Culture in Education* was organised by HECS in collaboration with the Delhi Public School Society Human Resources Development Centre for Teachers representing the Delhi Public Schools across the country. The webinar aimed at promoting understanding of heritage and training teachers to examine ways in which heritage education could be integrated into classroom learning. It was attended by over 200 enthusiastic social studies teachers.
of DPS from across the country.

An introduction to the webinar and the training objectives was given by Nita Kumar from HRDC, DPS Society. It was followed by an inaugural welcome address by Executive Director, HRD DPSS Vanita Sehgal. HECS Principal Director, Purnima Datt and National Coordinator Shivaa Rawat were introduced.

An overview of heritage and its dimensions was shared by PD Purnima Datt ranging from natural, material, built and living heritage assets that were discussed in detail. The session concluded with a discussion on the fundamental duties and their emphasis on preserving heritage. In the next segment, Heritage Education in Classrooms was presented by Purnima Datt, describing the dissemination process adopted by HECS. An emphasis was laid on interdisciplinary approach through innovative lesson planning, practical exercises using flash cards, roleplay and object identification. HECS educational resources, including the range of publications and online resources, were mentioned by Shivaa Rawat and Purnima Datt. The participants were encouraged to use the HECS webpage, Facebook and Instagram in designing their classroom activities. An interesting and exhaustive question and answer exchange was undertaken by Purnima Datt. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by the school teacher coordinator, Sudeshna Mandala.

*Army Public School Delhi, 11 June 2020*

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School Webinar on India’s Diverse Natural Landscape and the Role of Citizens was held for Army Public School, commemorating Environmental Day milestones in the week of June that marked the World Environment Day (5th June) and the World Oceans Day (8th June). INTACH HECS organized the webinar for middle school students and teachers of the Army Public School, Shankar Vihar on 11th June 2020 through zoom video conferencing platform. The webinar aimed at creating an understanding of the diverse natural heritage landscapes of the country and highlighting the role of citizens in preserving it. It was attended by over 55 participants who were enthusiastic to be a part of HECS webinars and its ongoing educational initiatives.

An introduction to INTACH and the school’s involvement in HECS educational initiatives was shared by teacher coordinator, Namrata. It was followed by an introduction to the resource person by PD HECS who made a powerpoint presentation accompanied with an informative talk. She gave a detailed overview of natural heritage and kept participants engaged with several lesser known fascinating facts about each heritage asset. The final segment examined the role of citizens in safeguarding their natural heritage, painting out fundamental duties enshrined in the constitution emphasizing heritage preservation. Its survival is dependent
on our collective and constructive engagement as responsible citizens. The session concluded with an interesting question and answer exchange by Purnima Datt and an interactive quiz with enthusiastic participation by students. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by the teacher coordinator Namrata and a commitment to carry out more educational activities in their heritage clubs.

COLLEGE HERITAGE PROGRAMME

Kamla Nehru College, Delhi University, 11th – 12th June 2020

140 Participants from Colleges

Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with HECS, hosted a webinar on the syncretic culture of Delhi City on 11th–12th June. During the Covid-19 landscape and prevailing social distancing norms, the educational webinar focuses on the themes of Delhi's lingua franca, poetry, settlement patterns and tumultuous times such as 1857, to showcase the city’s roots embedded in rich and resilient multicultural traditions. It was enthusiastically attended by over 140 participants comprising senior faculty members, college students and professionals from Delhi, Asoka, Sharda and Kolkata universities.

The panel of eminent and distinguished speakers included Dr. Swapna Liddle discussing the Durbar to Capital: Symbolism in the making of New Delhi. Dr. Saif Mahmood described Mir-o-Ghalib Ki Dilli: Mughal Delhi and the romance of Urdu poetry. Dr. Yousuf Saeed highlighted the poets and saints of Delhi’s Nizamuddin Basti: a History in Continuum. Dr. Rana Safvi talked about 1857 Eye Witness Accounts, and Vinod Dua spoke about Ujde hue logon se abaad shehr dilli. This enriching and hugely insightful webinar was appreciated by all participants.

HERITAGE AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

Gwalior, 12th June 2020

50 Participants from schools, INTACH Chapters and experts

INTACH Gwalior Chapter in collaboration with HECS organized a Webinar on the Built Heritage and the Role of Citizens on 12th June. This informative session was attended by over 50 participants comprising school teachers, heads of departments, heritage experts, Convenors, Co-Convenors and senior INTACH Chapter members from Gwalior and Madhya Pradesh.

The inaugural address was given by Gwalior Chapter Convenor Vikas Singh followed by an introduction to HECS by PD Purnima Datt and resource person for the webinar. The INTACH film screened in the next segment offered participants an overview of INTACH and its heritage
activities across the country. A detailed presentation on Built Heritage and the Role of Citizens was given by PD Purnima Datt with an outline of the incredible built heritage of India, which was much appreciated by participants. It was followed by a discussion on the role of citizens and their collective responsibility to safeguard heritage. An outline of various activities for responsible citizens and ways to establish a heritage citizenship club was shared by Shivaa Rawat from HECS. There was also a discussion on HECS online educational resources, such as the Young INTACH webpage, Facebook, Instagram and various publications. In the final segment the thoughts, ideas and reflections on the theme of heritage and good citizenship were exchanged. Enthusiastic participants expressed ways to engage with heritage and carry out activities in future. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Convenor Gwalior Chapter.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Young INTACH Newsletter – *A Drop of Life* (Jan. - Mar.’20) was printed and distributed in English and Hindi. It highlights the significant role of water for civilizations. It comprises student write ups, stories, activities, art works, interesting ‘did you know facts’ and valuable snippets on fresh water sources in the region: impact of water on life forms, water scarcity, traditional methods of water harvesting, etc.

**HECS Desk Calendar – Paani Ki Kahani Water Heritage**

The 2020 Calendar draws inspiration from student essays, paintings, posters, art works and photographs taken during the HECS *Paani ki Kahani* - My Water Heritage, a nationality held competition during 2018-19 for school students. It has the student entries drawn from a resource pool of over 14,000 entries received from 108 INTACH Chapters, highlighting the unique dimension of India’s diverse water heritage and encouraging people to save our precious water heritage.

Hindi Translation and reprint of *Adopt a Tree; Adopt a Craft and Adopt a Monument* - a part of HECS outreach efforts, was undertaken in Hindi translation of the Series.

Chapters are encouraged to translate the *Young INTACH* issues of 3 years in local languages to all parts of the country. To date, a 52 page compilation of selected pages of the newsletter from 2016 – 18 has been completed in Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi and copies are being circulated.
AN DHRA PRADeSH

East Godavari

Shri T Nataraja is appointed Co-Convenor of INTACH Kurnool Chapter. He has been associated with INTACH for long and will undoubtedly have much to contribute to Chapter activities. We thank him for taking on added responsibilities, and send him our good wishes in enhancing work of the Chapter and meeting new challenges ahead.

The Chapter extended assistance to 400 families of shadow puppetry artistes of Jamnagar village near Kakinada by distributing 5 kg rice to each family during the COVID-19 lockdown, on 6th April. Convenor Andhra Pradesh & Telangana M Gopalakrishna, along with Chapter Members and friends, raised Rs. 80,000 for donation in just four days. Sri Lalitha Enterprises Industries Pvt. Ltd. Peddapuram supplied *sona masuri* rice for only Rs. 40 per kg. The distribution was carried out by senior artistes Yedukondalu and T Balakrishna. The Chapter supported the villagers in producing a Telegu pamphlet which was inserted into the rice bags being distributed. The event was telecast by local television channels.

Guntur

The Chapter celebrated *Sankranthi Sambaralu*, a harvest festival on 11th January, with school students and staff dressed in traditional attires and smiles. SBI Bank Assistant General Manager Pavan Kumar, was the Chief Guest.

Kurnool

The Chapter held a meeting at its INTACH office at the Collectorate Complex, Kurnool. The occasion on 27th January, marked the Chapter’s Foundation Day. Presiding the event, Convenor B Venkateswarlu, paid handsome tributes to late Dr. Kadapa Nagabhushan, a Life Member who is fondly remembered for the various conservation initiatives taken by him.

Several issues like installation of the National Flag at Konda Reddy Buruju in the city, the proposed visit to heritage sites, and connecting Members on a Whatsapp group etc. were discussed. The preparation of an information cum route map for the forthcoming *Tungabhadra Pushkaram* in Andhra Pradesh was also discussed. Co-Convenor T Nataraj gave the concluding vote of thanks.

Machilipatnam

Convenor Dr. Udattu Srinivasa Rao and Municipal Chairman Motamarri Baba Prasad attended the presentation of bedsheets to the deserving at Brahma Samaj Prayer Hall by Chapter Members.
The Chapter also conducted an awareness session on Covid-19 and distributed *kalamkari* handkerchiefs to students of Zilla Parishad High School Guduru. Dr. Udattu Srinivasa Rao, Convenor Udayagiri Anjaneyulu, School Principal Pushpa Latha, Krupa Rao and teachers participated.

**Srikakulam**

The Chapter conducted several noteworthy events. In late December, the *World Aids Day* was flagged off from the DHM & HO Office by Andhra Pradesh R&B Minister D Krishna Das. It was led by INTACH Member Dr. MV Swamy and supported by Youth Leaders K Seezu, M Ravi and medical practitioners.

*Brave Women & Save Women Programme* was held at the Women’s Government Degree College on 2nd December to create awareness about self defense and protection amongst women. The Chief Guest at this special event was District Superintendent of Police RN Ammireddy. It was also attended by Principal Dr. K Sriramulu, Deputy Superintendent of Police DV S N Murthy and Geetha Srikant from the Department of Child Protection.

In coordination with the *Gandhi Peace Foundation*, the Chapter had earlier conducted a programme on *Gandhi @150*, presided by Chief Guest District Collector J Nivas. 30 statues of Gandhiji were distributed for installation at various schools.

The Chapter and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) conducted a *Youth Training Workshop* for college students in Narasannapeta on 7th January. It was attended by Siva Prasad Reddy of NYK, BV Prasada Rao CEO Setsri, District Tourism Officer N Narayana Rao, and local NGOs. On 12th January, Members celebrated *Swami Vivekananda Jayanti* by garlanding his statue. On 13th January, the major festival of Andhra, *Sankranti Sambaralu* was celebrated at the NTR Corporation Ground jointly with the District Administration. Minister D Krishna Das
and District Collector J Nivas were present. INTACH Members participated in local village folk arts of Gangi Reddu Aata, Kolatam and Tappila Gelu, among other entertainments.

Students of Government Degree College carried out a rally from their college to Suryamahal Junction to mark International Balika Day. It was flagged off by Minister D Krishna Das and District Collector J Nivas. On 25th January, another rally was conducted from Government College to Bapuji Kala Mandir to mark National Voters’ Day.

Hands on Heritage was organized at Government Degree College Narasannapeta on 27th January to mark INTACH Foundation Day. Chief Guest Principal MR Jyothi Fedric conducted various competitions and awarded prizes. Co-Convenor S Mohana Rao, Addl Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao and staff of the College participated in the event.

A heritage conservation team from Netherlands, led by Sociologist Dr. Carel R Tenhaeff and Prof. Santosh of Ravenshaw University Cuttack, visited Srikakulam on 26th February. They paid a courtesy call on District Collector and Chief Patron of the Chapter J Nivas who briefed them on the heritage and culture of the District and the conservation activities of the Srikakulam Chapter. They visited the heritage Dutch buildings with Convenor Radha Prasad. District Tourism Development Board Member S Joginaidu and AIR Press reporter from the group explained some of the local heritage. The visitors pledged their support for the renovation work of the Dutch buildings. Chapter Convenor presented the book titled ‘Srikakulam - A Story on Stone’ on the District’s history, to the team.

Srikakulam District Collector J Nivas IAS and INTACH Members celebrated the Amarajevi Potti Sri Ramulu Jayanthi by garlanding the statue on 2nd March. He fought for Andhra Pradesh in 1948 and died while in diksha.

The Chapter Members also celebrated the Babu Jagajeevan Ram Jayanti on 5th April.

Chapter Members actively participated in creating awareness on prevention from Covid-19 on 10th April.
They contributed vegetables and groceries for distribution to poor people. Convenor KVJ Radhaprasad, Additional Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao, EC Member M Prasada Rao and Treasurer N Mohan, Ex Municipal Chairman A V Narshimhan, MLA D Rammohan and Youth Leader K Seezu participated in the programme.

Additional Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao received the International Unicef Council Award in recognition of outstanding excellent services given to tribes in Srikakulam’s tribal district in March 2020.

ASSAM

The State Chapter started a Documentation and Conservation project at Mayong in Assam with financial support from Gerda Henkel Stiftung, supervised by State Convenor Prof. Shiela Bora and Co-Convenor Swapnanil Barua, and supported by Kamrup Chapter Convenor Dr. Manjil Hazarika, research scholars, students and locals of the area. The research team also conducted four major projects at the Museum and Research Centre in Mayong and its vicinity. This included documentation and digitations of Museum objects, mapping of Archaeological sites in Mayong and its vicinity, documentation of cultural material during explorations and collection of manuscripts for conservation and preservation.

The team initiated the documentation process of objects and artefacts housed in the Museum and Research Centre at Mayong. Nearly 400 objects have been documented to date which comprise ceramic objects, unique potsherds, terracotta sculptures, decorated bricks, stone objects like Neolithic ground and polished tools, cannon balls, lamps and metal objects like swords, jewellery boxes and ritualistic items from ancient to late medieval period. Information regarding provenance of the objects was collected in detail for further archaeological explorations in those areas.

One of the major objectives of this project is to identify and accurately map the archaeological sites of Mayong and its vicinity with the help of GPS which has proven to be a powerful tool. Sites visited include Kajali Chowki, Kesai Khati, Rock inscriptions of Burha Mayong, Hatimura Ganesh Temple, Jhargaon Shiva Temple, Doipora Santipur Ashram, Doipora Misamari Satra, Berhampur Damodariya Satra, Krishna Tola, Boha, Chanaka and Goru Bandha.
Evidence of architectural material like *Kaolin* ware (Ambari pottery) has been observed on the road cuttings near Kajali Chowki, mainly concentrated in southern Guwahati region. A stratified deposit of pottery has been observed on the Kalang river section in Goru Bandha village. Handmade as well as wheel made ancient pottery samples have been collected from a *Pukhuri* (tank) from the same village. The major sites with sculptural remains are Kechai Khati, Chanaka, and Burha Mayang. Individual sculptures have been documented from Doipora Misamari Satra and Krishna Tola. There is evidence of early medieval temple ruins. Architectural members which were once a part of the early medieval temple can be seen scattered in different parts of the visited areas.

The Mayong region also has a rich tradition of manuscripts, some of them in a dilapidated condition and stored haphazardly in households and *Satras*. A boxful of manuscripts damaged by rodents were found at the Berhampur Damodariya Satra. The team has collected several of these manuscripts, along with the wooden boxes in which they are stored. Manuscripts and ritualistic objects have also been acquired from private sources for conservation.

The conservation of 240 manuscripts has been completed. The manuscripts are mostly written on *Sanchi pat* (bark of the aloeswood), *Tula pat* (cotton), and handmade paper, and deal with subjects like *Tantra*, religious epics, ancient methods of ayurvedic treatments and *Mantraputhi* or magic for which Mayong area is famous.

**Kamrup**

Dr. Jonali Devi is appointed Co-Convenor INTACH Kamrup Chapter. She will no doubt ably assist Convenor Dr. Manjil Hazarika. INTACH extends many good wishes for success in her conservation efforts and contributions to the work in this important region of North East India.

**BIHAR**

**Purnia**

Shri Rajesh Chandra Mishra is appointed the Convenor of the recently launched INTACH Kurnool Chapter. He will be assisted by Shri Amit Jha as the Co-Convenor. We welcome them to the INTACH family and extend our best wishes for the heritage conservation work in Purnia District with every success.

Purnia Chapter was inaugurated at *Vidya Vihar Institute of Technology* (VVIT), Maranga on 15th March, with INTACH Chairman LK Gupta cutting the ribbon. In the subsequent meeting presided by Prof. (Dr.)
Ratneshwar Mishra, Chairman expressed his happiness and congratulated the Purnia team on the launch of the new Chapter. He said that no Government can patronize or preserve cultural heritage on their own unless the local population is involved and made aware of it too. He also stressed on the importance of involving the younger generations as well. He assured all support to the Chapter from the national team of INTACH.

Prof. Dr. Ratneshwar Mishra, Patron of INTACH (Purnia Chapter) requested all Members to work together to save the cultural heritage of Purnia. Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Chief Curator of Museums at Darbhanga, Madhubani and Bettiah said that in order to save the cultural heritage of Purnia, there is firstly a need to enlist and document heritage sites. He informed that several sites in the district have been identified by the Government. In the absence of general public awareness, they are slowly being destroyed. Dr. Mishra also mentioned work done under the aegis of Bihar State Chapter and Darbhanga Chapter for the conservation of intangible heritage by holding several seminars and workshops at Patna and Darbhanga for the revival of two vanishing scripts of Bihar - Kaithi and Mithilakshar. Girijanand Singh said that many old Bhavans of Purnia needed protection, but he cautioned that in any restoration work, ancient architecture should be preserved. Dr. Mishra assured that Purnia Chapter will carry out the preservation of historic buildings and their architecture accordingly.

Prominent Social Workers and Members of Purnia Chapter present at the meeting included Co-Convenor Amit Jha, Vijay Srivastava, Dr. CK Mishra, Dr. Ravi Shankar Mishra, Chapter Member Sushant Bhaskar, Dr. BK Mandal, Sharad Chandra Pandey, Om Prakash Singh, Pallavi Mishra and Anushri Jha. Major General (Retd.) Gupta was accompanied by his wife Smt. Sarla Gupta.

Prior to the Programme, Members along with dignitaries had inspected the historic 300 years old ruined Jalalgarh Fort located 20 kms north of Purnia. The fort was built by Saif Khan, the then Faujdar of Purnia, in 1722.

A delegation of members with Chairman INTACH met the District Magistrate Rahul Kumar to apprise him about INTACH and its activities. He assured all possible help would be extended to the Chapter by the District administration.

**Vaishali**

The Chapter organised its first general meeting on 31st January to create awareness on heritage conservation activities, especially amongst the youth at the *Buddha Fun & Food* in Vaishali.

The inaugural function was held in Sharda Sadan Pustakalay at Lalganj. Bihar State Chapter Convenor Prem Sharan spoke on the importance of heritage conservation explaining the methodology by which such projects can be implemented in close collaboration with INTACH. Chief Guest Rev. Dr. PC Chandrasiri, Chief Monk of Wat Thai Buddhist Temple Shanti Stupa Vaishali, stated all efforts should be made to preserve and conserve the vanishing heritage in and around Vaishali. He emphasized that the teachings of Buddha are more relevant today and worth emulating by the younger generation. Guest of Honour MLA Raj Kishore Singh spoke about the distinction of Vaishali, being the first republic in the world, patronized by Lichhwis several centuries before the birth of Christ. The political system then was much ahead of its time. Vaishali has the unique distinction of a revered mention in Jainism and Buddhism. Bhagwan Mahavir was born in Vaishali, whereas Buddha made his preferred sojourns here as he had a special liking for one of this most beautiful cities of the time. Singh also announced that a sum of Rs.8 crore will be spent on the beautification of Pushkarini Lake in Vaishali. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Shashi Bhushan Kumar, President of Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Dr. Mahendra Priyadarshi Yoga Guru, Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Chief Curator of Museums Darbhanga, Madhubani; Co-Convenor Deepak Kumar
Shrivastava, Secretary Sharda Sadan Pustakalay Sanjay Kumar Mandal, and Dr. Basant Kumar. The students presented topical cultural programmes. The meeting was conducted by Vaishali Convenor Dr. Ram Naresh Rai.

**CHHATTISGARH**

**Raipur**

The Chapter, in association with the School of Studies (SOS Anthropology) from Ravishankar Shukla University, organized a lecture on *Eco-Cosmology of Indigenous Worldview* on 13th January. Dr. Hab Lidia Guzy, National University of Ireland, School of Asian Studies, was the Keynote Speaker introduced by Dr. Arun Kumar. The Chief Guest Dr. Dinesh Kumar Marothia is a renowned agricultural scientist and INTACH Life Member. Head SOS Anthropology Ashok Pradhan conducted the programme. Life Member Dr. Jitendra Kumar Premi proposed the vote of thanks.

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH was saddened by the sudden passing away of MK Pandey on 12th January 2020. He was a Chemical Engineer who retired as the Additional Director of Industries, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. In his youth he had been a brilliant student and a passionate cricket player. He will be remembered for his in depth planning at the micro level and innovative methods for development of industries and employment. His association with INTACH will also be long remembered. INTACH family sends heartfelt condolences to his family with many good wishes for their future well being.

**DELIHI**

The third out station educational trip was organized from 7th-9th February at a historical property in Hansi. The educational journey through Rakhiigarhi, Hisar and Hansi was in collaboration with Privy by Yatra and the Hisar Chapter. Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle led the heritage walk in the Lodhi Gardens.
walk around these sites in Haryana

**Heritage Walks**

The Chapter has been conducting heritage walks every weekend with customary fervor during the most walkable season in Delhi, the pleasant months of January-March, when the Chapter laid out an exciting line up of ‘not oft trodden paths’. Walks were scheduled to Tughlaqabad Fort by Aradhna Sinha on 12th January, Sultan Ghari led by Dr. Swapna Liddle on 2nd February, and Humayun’s Tomb by walk leader Drona Vatsyayan on 29th February.

The Chapter takes pride in announcing the felicitation of Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle and Director Projects Ajay Kumar by the President Ram Nath Kovil at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th February. Dr. Liddle had conducted a heritage walk at Rashtrapati Bhavan for the officers of the President’s Secretariat. Ajay Kumar had also conducted an awareness workshop for the CPWD staff earlier. INTACH congratulates both of them on this prestigious national accolade. We wish them all the very best for their future heritage endeavours.

The Chapter was active in installing designed historic signage and completed it by March, initiated at the suggestion of Secretary Tourism to mark 52 key historic sites of Delhi associated with significant historical events/structures/important landmarks. To date, 32 have been finalized for final execution. The objective is to share the story of localities whose history may have been long...
forgotten and bring them to the attention of present generation.

The conservation of the Main Entrance and Schwaiger Tomb at Nicholson Cemetery was completed. One of the oldest Christian cemeteries in Delhi, it is overseen by the Delhi Cemeteries Committee. Earlier known as the Old Delhi Military Cemetery or Kashmere Gate Cemetery till the early 1900s, it was named after Brigadier General John Nicholson who played a pivotal role and died during the revolt of 1857. He was buried here along with many others.

Nicholson Cemetery has considerable historical and cultural relevance, having graves of many significant personalities dating back to the mid 19th century here. At present, the site is threatened with deterioration due to inadequate maintenance. Nor has there been any systematic documentation. Considering the historical importance and emotional value of the site, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) approached the Delhi Chapter in 2018 to prepare a detailed project report for the conservation of the cemetery.

Due to the onset of the pandemic from April onwards, the Chapter has discontinued all local heritage walks and talks. In continuation of its longstanding efforts promoting cultural outreach, its walk leaders have been taking the initiative to broadcast informative and entertaining talks and illustrated presentations on history and heritage of Delhi, from their homes. Initially showcased on Facebook, they have now been added to the newly launched YouTube channel as per link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR61Xspuswt13eD_unvzw/

The Chapter took to social media platform, Facebook, to conduct live sessions to sustain its engagement with heritage enthusiasts and hold discussions on various topics related to historical figures, monuments, architecture, and many other topics. Courtesy walk leaders Dr. Swapna Liddle, Chandrasekhar Tampi, Jaya Basera, Aradhana Sinha and Dushyant Singh, the Chapter has successfully organized 23 such sessions and virtual heritage walks.

Special mention must be made of the series of live Facebook lectures by eminent guest speakers, Architect Smita Makhija, architect, urban developer and educator Tapan Chakravarty.
Chakravarty, and noted photographer Ram Rahim, that were organised from 24th–26th April.

A prominent Instagram account, heritage_beyond_tourism requested Delhi Chapter to conjure this creative competition called Imagine a monument at home. The idea behind this competition was to use materials available at home and replicate an existing monument or create a new one altogether along with a description. It encouraged engagement and creative ways to let individuals experience heritage from within the confines of their homes.

GUJARAT

INTACH was represented at the 13th Conference of Parties (COP 2020), a Convention of Migratory Species, by Gujarat State Chapter Co-Convenor Jaydev Nansey and Chapter Members who attended the inaugural programme. To commemorate the event, Gujarat Chapter commissioned a brochure on migratory bird species – Great Knot (Calidris Tenuirostris), which migrates from the Arctic region of Russia to India. The brochure was released at the India Pavilion in Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar by Dr. Mark Marissink, Chairman, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF). Also in attendance were Global Coordinator Courtney Price, Arctic Bird Migratory Initiative and Global Coordinator BNHS Director Dr. Deepak Apte and various scientists and conservationists.

The brochure describes the journey of Great Knot 6Z banded in Kamchatka Peninsula, and sighted in Saurashtra Peninsula in India. It narrates the migratory route of this species, the importance of its conservation and reiterates how these species interlink the globe. Inputs were received from Yashodhan Bhatia of Nirmal Foundation and Dr. Dmitry Dorofeev of All Russian Research Institute for Environmental Protection, Russia.

Gujarat has more than 120 migratory species visiting the State every year. Gujarat Chapter has proposed that non-government organizations should work closely with the Forest Department and the Government to jointly preserve biodiversity and natural heritage conservation of this area in particular.

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is a United Nations Convention on Migratory Species held at Bonn, Germany. Also known as the “Bonn Convention”, it came into force on 1st November 1983. In view of threats to the migratory species and their trans-boundary movement, it was considered important to have an international understanding between nations to take measures for conservation and protection of migratory species. Currently about 130 nations are involved under this Convention with about 173 migratory species from across the globe, recognized and protected under the Convention.
Under this Convention, a Conference of Parties (COP) is held every three years. The 13th Conference of Parties (COP 2020) was held at Gandhinagar in India from 15th to 22nd February 2020 and attended by representatives from over 100 countries. During this CoP, India took over the Presidency of CMS for the next three years. Theme of CoP 2020 was ‘Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home’.

At the CoP, the Great Indian Bustard along with the Bengal Florican have been included in the Schedule I of the Appendix. It was also proposed that the international migratory birds’ flyway, the Central Asia Flyway, which passes through India, be considered as an independent flyway and a secretariat be established for the same.

HARYANA

Ambala

The 71st Republic Day of India was celebrated on 26th January at Indira Chowk with patriotic fervor that is always associated with this cantonment town. Convenor Colonel RD Singh, as expected, was in the forefront, leading the awareness rally with 40 children and teachers from various schools as well as the NCC cadets from Army Public School. They displayed banners and cheerfully waved tricolor flags, paying befitting tributes to the country's martyrs and soldiers with cheerful salutations. Patriotic songs like Bharat Mata ki Jai, Vande Matram, Salute to our Soldiers, Hum Sab Ek Hain were sung. A photographic display on diverse subjects on women achievers, and culture and heritage of India was much appreciated by the Public. Senior teachers from Army School, Lord Mahavir School, and Principal Sheetal from GMN School participated in the festivities.

A Republic Day march was also carried out at the heritage Rai Market amidst continuous renditions of patriotic anthems, with passersby and the shopkeepers joining the parade. Madhu Singh highlighted India's freedom struggle and the Indian Constitution, reinforcing Republic Day as an event that should unite the entire nation.

Ambala Convenor Col. RD Singh visited the Heritage Club of the Cantt Board School and the local Top Khanna Bazar. He was pleased with the positivity and enthusiasm of teachers and students, especially that of Principal Inderjit. Arts & Crafts teacher Reena displayed students' creations made of paper pulp like pots, artifacts and paintings.

The Chapter has been actively contributing towards fighting the Coronavirus from 22nd March onwards, motivating people to observe lockdown strictly and helping the underprivileged.

The corona health care workers and front line staff were applauded with great fervor in Ambala. The nationwide clapping and banging of thalis from the balconies and gates on 22nd March created a sense of unity, and expressed gratitude to health workers, doctors, safai karamcharis, police, service providers like garbage collectors and to soldiers guarding our borders. The gesture was repeated on 9th April by lighting of diyas and candles late evening.
Children of various heritage clubs made meaningful paintings on the theme of observing lockdown, washing hands, wearing masks, and taking health precautions etc. The selected entries were also published in local newspapers.

Making of masks at home was undertaken by ladies not only for their own use, but also for donating to service providers as they are usually in short supply.

Several Members contributed in cash and kind towards feeding the migrant labour and daily wagers, with the Convenor also contributing from his pension. Members also fed the poor in their localities.

World Heritage Day was celebrated on 18th April despite the lockdown, through social media. Children made colourful paintings to commemorate the day and wrote about their experiences of visiting monuments. Member Secretary CT Misra shared an engrossing link to a short film on Kagzipura in Aurangabad district as INTACH’s celebration of the World Heritage Day.

Faridabad

Convenor Anand Mehta informed that 6 colleges participated in the Inter College (Women’s) Heritage Competition organised by INTACH Club of KL Mehta Dayanand College for Women, Faridabad. On the spot painting competition, declamation contest on preservation and poem recitals on heritage featured in the programme.

Gurugram

Gurgaon Convenor Maj. Atul Dev informed that the Chapter was very keen to support and pursue work on the Tomb Restoration Project of a French major with the support of the Institute of France in India. He stressed that this tomb provides a valuable connect between the French and Indians, and an interesting historical perspective of the role of France in India.

CONDOLENCES

INTACH was saddened by the news of the passing away of Life Member Ms. Nishta Chahal Puri on 19th October 2019. An alumnus of TVB School of Habitat Studies, she was an awardee of a Gold Medal while pursuing Masters in Urban and Rural Planning at Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Murthal Sonepat, Haryana. She taught at Sushant School of Art & Architecture, GD Goenka University, Savera School of Architecture. She was a Trustee of Har Nand Rai and Chhotu Ram Rathee Friendship Memorial Trust. INTACH sends its deepest condolences to her family members belatedly, and wishes them forbearance to bear their grievous loss. We send our good wishes for their future wellbeing.

Hisar

The Chapter has successfully revived crochet in and around Hisar. Four women who had recently participated in the INTACH Delhi Utsav, were invited by the Assistant Dean Creative Studies to Pearl Academy, Noida. It was a great exposure and an occasion for students to interact with crafts people, with an introduction to this specialised craft in a design environment. It also boosted the self worth of...
the visiting women and of their craft, which earlier they may have been thought of being of marginal value.

A week into the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, the Chapter supported ‘Rakshak Ki Raksha’, a campaign envisioned by Shivang Tayal to contribute towards the safety of frontline health workers putting themselves at risk. With encouragement and advice from INTACH Chairman General Gupta, the good health and safety of communities around Hisar paralleled the safety and preservation of heritage. The Chapter and Indian Medical Association as knowledge partner ensured that raksha kits in brown paper bags containing masks, sanitizer, gloves, soaps, shampoo and face shields, were sent to sanitation workers, Anganwadi, Asha and Multipurpose Health Workers. Tireless fundraising efforts were made to distribute 10,000 such kits to healthcare workers in over 900 towns and villages in six districts in Haryana and Delhi.

The Chapter has taken forward the initiative to revive crochet and knitting by the rural women during Lockdowns, with the support of the Craft and Heritage Division, while also building an inventory of merchandise. Woollen afghans, Haryanavi dolls, table cloths, doilies and bags were made.

The Sarpanch in Rakhigarhi organised funds for removing existing lime plaster of the Badi Chaupal and plastering to be done anew in cement. After several meetings with the villagers and Sarpanch, Chapter representatives were able to convince them to get the funds reallocated for lime plaster. As luck would have it, the assigned lime plaster masons were found to be living in the Chaupal with materials in stock during the lockdown, so work could be resumed and lime plastering is now complete. The lime Aaraish remains to be done at a later date.

Bada Chaupal Hisar

Mobindergarb

The Chapter organized the seminar Sanatanis of Narnaul, at Yadav Dharamshala. It honoured descendants of Sanatanis from various States of India at their heritage city. There was a nostalgic procession held between the main routes of the city and the market. During the felicitation programme, Convenor Rattan Lal said Narnaul was a historic city of Mohindergarh District, and once the stronghold of Sanatanis. They played a very significant role in India’s freedom movement. Far back in 1672, Narnaul’s Sanatanis fought fiercely against Emperor Aurangzeb’s army to protest against the atrocities carried out on Hindus. Several thousands of Sanatani martyrs had died valiantly in these battles, thus intimidating Emperor Aurangzeb by their continuous uprisings. The Chief Guest, Chairman Bhartiya Saini of the Municipal City Council, lauded nearly 150 Sanatanis present with Letters of Honour. He said Sanatanis of Narnaul were a symbol of truth, courage and valour and believed in karma. They must share these
ancestral stories with Sanatani youth. President All India Sanatani Samaj Dr. Jagjivan Khare, Chairman of Haryana Agro Govind Bhardwaj, former Principal Dr. Ravindra Rao, Satyavrat Shastri and Santosh Bharti were other speakers who spoke in praise of the Santanis.

Many Santanis have migrated to various States of the country like Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

Yamunanagar

The Chapter created a whatsapp group of 40 members, consisting of heritage education related teachers of various schools and Chapter Members. PD HECS Purnima Datt is overseeing the platform. This group was particularly active during the Lockdown, with teachers guiding their respective students and monitoring activities like poster making, essay writings and discussing topics in e-newsletter Young India.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Chapter is making every effort in areas that help humanity in any form required.

It is aiding the administration, the police and doctors as well.

While tea is sent with biscuit packets every day to the check posts since 22nd March, it has already done two rounds of rations supply to widows and needy people and a consignment of dry rations with 100 packets of soaps and biscuits to the Quarantine Centre at Choti Nagano Kandwal. On hearing this Sub Divisional Magistrate made time from his over busy schedule and came personally to collect it.

Convenor Maalvika Pathania is constantly in touch with Members and hopes to keep up their activities as long as possible. Together with other NGOs the Chapter has contributed Rs. 1 lakh the Chief Minister Covid Fund.

Dharamshala

Hearing about encroachment and damage at the Petroglyph sites from the locals, Chapter Members visited the site on 5th January. The two ASI maintained heritage sites dated 2000 years old, Sheela Lekhs at Dharamshala and Pathiar in Kangra valley, have Petroglyph inscriptions in Brahmi and Kharosthi languages. It was observed that house construction close to the sites was being carried on and was brought to the attention of ASI Kangra officials, media and local administration. The Himachal Pradesh Government has taken suitable action and given an assurance to protect these heritage sites.
wetlands sites in India (UNESCO Ramsar Convention 1990) and a typical natural and cultural Himalayan heritage that offers a transitory resting reserve for around 102 migratory birds coming from Europe and North Central Asia during winters. This January recorded an incredible migratory bird count of around 1,10,000! This site is renowned for Kangra paintings, ancient temples of the Goddesses, manifestations of Lord Shiva and stone castles of feudal times. Chapter Convenor Dr. Ashwani Kaul and Chapter Members Som Jaikaria, Rajan Chadha and Vijay Jaikaria were present. The Chapter intends to publish a book on this unique site.

An awareness campaign, Save Water Springs, was organised in January to conserve and restore the ancient natural water springs (baolis) in imminent danger of damage or destruction, arising out of private/public policy or otherwise. These baolis represent the iconic and historical Himalayan traditions, culture and natural heritage. Chapter Members identified 15 such structures in Dharamshala smart city area, some of which have been either encroached upon, dried up, damaged or not maintained. Few are in use and their water is still fit for drinking. These structures require immediate conservation and restoration to be carried out under the supervision of conservation engineers. Commissioner of Smart City project Pradeep Thakur has assured funds for their restoration.

The Chief Conservator (Forests), Himachal Pradesh organised the Bird Festival at the famous wildlife sanctuary Pong Lake, an International Ramsar Wetland Site, Kangra situated at the foothills of Shivalik Himalayas on 1st-2nd February. Pong Lake is one of the 25 international Perennial Water Springs. Members participated in the Bird festival

On 8th February, a cleanliness drive was conducted by Chapter Members at the 2000 years old Petroglyph rock inscription site at Dari. It was followed by a walk to the famous Buddhist Monastery, Tibetan Government Library and Parliament in exile at Dharamshala with MP Dawa.

An exhibition of fine art photographs by a renowned wildlife conservation activist, photographer Dr. Ashwani Kaul and Convenor INTACH, was organized by

Members participated in the Bird festival
were honoured with INTACH badges and enrolment letters. Member Sunil Rajput was honoured by the Convenor with a memento for first position in Maths in the National Teaching Professional Olympiad held by Reliance Foundation Centre for Teachers’ Accreditation.

Despite the Lockdown, the Chapter celebrated World Environment Day at Khaniara Water Springs followed by a cleanliness drive in the area.

**Kangra**

The Chapter’s Annual Meeting was held on 9th February at Dhauladhar Hotel. The Kangra Chapter has undertaken identification of Geoheritage Sites and documentation of a GeoPark is under preparation. Two new Student Members, Shatakshi Seth and Tejas Rawat,

Republic Day was celebrated jointly with Himalaya Pariwar, a National NGO in the Tuberculosis (TB) section of the Rajendra Prasad Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala. Doctors and staff of the TB section were apprised of INTACH activities and learnt about the importance of heritage conservation.

**Mandi**

The 76 metres long Victoria Kesari Bridge, over the Beas river, built in 1877 at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh by the Mandi State Raja Bijai Sen, has been in uninterrupted service for the past 142 years. It was a copy of the Victoria Bridge in Bath in England, standing on just two towers and 12 steel ropes. It was an engineering marvel of the times, built by engineers from London and Calcutta, on a terrain that
had no regular roads to facilitate Raja's luxurious car, but
connected his new capital Mandi with the old town. He
was awarded at the Delhi Darbar not for the bridge but for
winning a horse riding race!

On 3rd January this year, the historic bridge was closed
to vehicular traffic, and carpeted and dressed up with
flowers for a unique occasion. Mandi Dy. Commissioner
Rugved Thakur performed a puja to salute the services
given by this historic Victoria Kesari Bridge. Convenor
Naresh Malhotra requested the District Administration
to declare the bridge as heritage property to be promoted
on tourist circuits. He thanked the Administration for
facilitating local people for taking interest in the heritage
properties of Mandi.

World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June with
an online painting cum slogan competition based on the
theme of Biodiversity. 140 students from 20 schools painted
and wrote about one or more aspects of the environment
and its protection. Seven Chapter Members, who are
associated with school teaching and running online classes
for the students, coordinated with participating students
groupwise and involved them in paintings/slogans. All
entries of the participants were evaluated, following which
three students in each group were declared winners. Prizes
and Certificates of participation were sent to them through
the administrative offices of the concerned schools.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

The Chapter organised an interactive meet on Ethnic
Foods of Jammu as Intangible Heritage at the
Department of Home Science, Government College,
Jammu. It featured traditional recipes across provinces as
an important component of the local culture.

The Chief Guest, former Principal GDC (Women)
Parade, Hemla Aggarwal and GDC Faculty Members
of Home Science and Food Technology participated.
Convenor SM Sahni, Co-Convenor Kuldeep Wahi and
Advisor Languages & Crafts, Prof. Sudhir Singh spoke
on 250 shortlisted ethnic and traditional foods of Jammu,
such as different kinds of umbles, saags, aloo sabjis, varieties
of cottage cheese, black mushroom, dbingri, dishes made
of rajma, and various types of meat dishes, nargisi kofta,
sikar varieties, kabargah, pulaus, traditional snacks and
pickles, chutneys and desserts. A field survey of Jammu was
carried out before finalizing these traditional food items.

Dr. Nidhi Kotwal, Prof. Seema Kotwal of GDC (Women),
Pooja Langer, Education Department; Gurudas Rana, RS
Jamwal, former senior officers of ITDC, and expert in
traditional foods Kanwar Singh exhibited their culinary expertise.

It is proposed to conduct research on standardization, cooking methodology, documentation, and compile a booklet to be made available to all Chapters. This would also be of great interest to the hospitality sector, academic institutions, food lovers, research scholars, and to many INTACH Members on request.

Convenor SM Sahni thanked the participants for taking a keen interest in preserving this delectable intangible heritage of Jammu.

World Museum Day was marked by the Chapter on 18th May by spotlighting the lesser known museum of Jammu by SM Sahni and Satwant Singh Rissam.

Wadia Museum of Geology in Jammu, known for its many temples, is also famous for Geology, a fact little known to citizens of Jammu & Kashmir. Established in 1912 Geology Department in GGM Science College (erstwhile Prince of Wales College), the Museum still retains its original setting, except for a few changes in the layout. The Museum was named after Dr. DN Wadia, commonly known as Father of Indian Geology, one of the most famous geologists in the early 20th Century. It has one of the finest and most extensive collections of fossils, minerals, geological maps of the early period, topographical maps, equipment, models, photographic materials, meteorites, zoological specimens and various kinds of implements and tools. The Wadia Archives also has a large collection of books and journals of the early twentieth century.

Interestingly, the historically and scientifically important fossil specimens are from overseas, the Shivaliks and parts of India, like the 11ft. long tusk (elephas ganesa - a close relation of ancestors of present day elephants) which is prominently exhibited.

The Wadia Museum has some of the finest ancestral collections of present day elephants, hippopotamus, horses, turtles, antlers, cattle, pigs, crocodiles, fish, etc from the Shivalik formations of Jammu, known for vertebrate fossils that lived 182 million years ago, when the area had many rivers and lakes with a highly diverse ecosystem. The Museum also has imported collections of fossil plants, insects, brachiopods, lamelli branches, gastropods, nautiloids, echinoderms, extinct trilobites and ammonoids from different parts of the world. There is a complete section devoted to fossilized shark teeth from Cambridge, England that is well preserved to date. The Collection of Specimen numbers over 100,000 in addition to rich fossils and minerals.

This Museum is a valuable resource for students and research scholars and supports teaching and research in Earth Sciences worldwide. It is crucial to conserve and restore this museum to its pristine glory, to place it prominently on the tourism map of Jammu and promote it internationally as well, aided by brochures and a website with a directory of its noteworthy alumni. It would also be worthwhile to invite other geologists to mark a Geology Day under the umbrella of the Wadia Museum of Geology that might make it internationally known. Of immediate concern is restoring the heritage building of the Department of Geology, Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu.

Kashmir

An exhibition of photographs, Sacred Architecture of Kashmir – Continuity of the Spiritual Traditions of the Past, was held at the International Centre Art Gallery during January-February 2020. It portrayed the temples, stupas, mosques and khanqahs that reflect the continuity of traditions and the multicultural facets of Jammu and Kashmir’s past culture and architecture – contrasting with the present times.

The Chapter, in association with India International Centre, held a panel discussion at IIC Annexe on...
28th January to initiate a dialogue with civil society and opinion makers within and outside Kashmir. The discussion centered around the urgent need to build on traditions and practices to enable society to preserve its cultural past. The speakers included Ratish Nanda from Aga Khan Trust for Culture, former Prof. of History Narayani Gupta, former HOD Department of Architecture Jamia Millia Dr. SM Akhtar. Dr. Samir Hamdani from Kashmir Chapter and INTACH Chairman LK Gupta were also present.

**JHARKHAND**

The ‘Jharkhand festival’ showcased the State’s cultural assets, organised by INTACH, Kalamandir, in Jamshedpur and Virasat Trust in Hazaribagh. It was also showcased in Ahmedabad, Gujarat for the first time with the tagline **Chalo Fariye Jharkhand Amdavadma** from 31st January to 2nd February at the Natarani Amphitheatre of Darpana Dance Academy.

About 60 artistes, social activists and experts from Jharkhand were a part of this festival. Displays included Chhau masks used in performances of Seraikella and Manbhum Chhau, carpets and rugs with traditional Sobrai and Kohvar art designs, artworks adapted from village murals on canvas, handmade paper, embroidered quilts, khuntimunda, handloom textiles, dokra, terracotta and wooden crafts, grass mats, lac bangles, apparels and ornaments.

There was a special display of Paitkar paintings (scroll paintings) which originate from the eastern parts of Jharkhand. The tribal artistes of the region have fostered the ancient art in storytelling performances and socio-religious customs.

Jharkhand Cuisine was also well received as it is very organic and natural. Their food comprises many fruits, herbs and flowers from forests which empowers green existence. Jil peetha and dhuska were among the delicacies served. It was fascinating to see Ahmedabad residents so receptive to Jharkhand culture when exposed to it for the first time. The artistes were equally happy to have performed and participated.
KARNATAKA

Bengaluru

The Chapter, in collaboration with legal services NGO Daksh, organised a heritage walk to commemorate the Republic@70. The focus was on the freedom struggle in Bengaluru, highlighting protests and other events that had taken place in the city. A 100-year-old house was visited, where meetings of some Freedom Fighters had taken place in the early 1900s. The house has been recently documented by the Chapter.

Convenor Meera informed that the Chapter has been conducting several online events ever since 8th April, led by architect Sahesra Muguntan, which have been well received and attracted large audiences even from Kolkata and London! The #SketchWithINTACH #HeritageAtHome event on Instagram also received a good response. Chapter Instagram or Facebook page invited people to participate in such events.

On 8th April a virtual walk through Sampangiramanagara was held by ecologist Hita Unnikrishnan. Re-Reading the Spatialisation of Bangalore City through an Epidemic, a talk by researcher Sonali Dhanpal, took place on 9th April. On 10th April, a workshop by photographer Pee Vee was held on Documenting Bengaluru’s Heritage: A photographer’s journey. On 11th April, a visual presentation, Unwept, Unhonoured & Unsung: The “Lost” Life & Times of Sir Albion Rajkumar Banerji, CSI, CIE, ICS (Retd.), was organised by Siddharth Raja. A talk, The Temple as a Performance Space, by art historian Gayathri Iyer, was held on 12th April. On 13th April, Virtual Open House at a Conservation Site: the Octroi Post at Mysore Road by Chetana Hamsagar, Ramya Rajan & Pankaj Modi was held. A Heritage Quiz on Bangalore was held on 14th April by Thejaswi Udupa. A conversation between Architect Bijoy Ramachandran and Artist Suresh Jayaram on Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibilities was held on World Heritage Day, 18th April.

Sketch with INTACH Bengaluru, Heritage at Home was also organised on the theme of Odisha Traditional Pattachitra art. It illustrated how paintings are translated on cloth or cotton, using natural pigments, showcasing stories from Krishna Leela and Mahabharata.

In June, the Chapter collaborated with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) to organise a lecture series Back and Forth in Time: Lectures on the South Indian Past. This series, running from June 10th - 25th, focussed on the archaeology, history and heritage of South India, with particular focus on Karnataka. Every evening it featured lectures by eminent archaeologists and historians from Delhi, Bangalore, Calcutta, Pune, Thanjavur, France and the US, speaking about their research. The series was well attended both from India and overseas, and very well received by scholars, students and the general public with an interest in history, heritage and archaeology. On popular demand, some of these lectures will be posted on YouTube.

Dharwad

Brig. SG Bhagwat is appointed as the Convenor of INTACH Dharwad Chapter. He has been long associated with the Chapter as its Co-Convenor, and was the right hand man for late Convenor Bhat who is much remembered for his boundless energy. INTACH extends many good wishes to Brigadier Bhagwat for his new assignment, and one can always count on a good soldier to successfully sustain the work of the Chapter.

INTACH also warmly welcomes another soldier Col. Mohanmath as the new Co-Convenor of the Chapter. We hope he finds his new assignment both challenging and fulfilling. We wish the new team every success.
The Chapter and Shri Kumaon Foundation, Dharwad felicitated environmentalist Padmashri Tulsi Gowda on 24th February at Chaitanya Bharathi Jayabharathi Vidyapitha High School, Murkawad. More than 500 children participated in planting saplings alongside 80 year old Tulsi Gowda. They were awestruck when they learnt about her untiring endeavour - planting more than one lakh trees single handedly!

Present on the occasion were Gurunath Inamdar Executive Officer of the Trust, Lt. Gen. Sardeshpande, representative of Kumaon Foundation, former Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Udaykumar Kottur, and Senior Citizen Forum Haliyal JD Gangadhar who were warmly greeted by Convenor Brig. SG Bhagwat and the Co-Convenor Col. Mohanmath.

Shri Tulsi Gowda of Honnali, Uttara Kannada was honoured with a Padmashri on 26th January for his tireless tree planting in the western Ghats during the past four decades. The Chapter organised a function in her honour at Murkwad village jointly with the Chaitanya School. She spoke to the children about the joys of planting and tending to trees like her own children, and together with the nursery and primary students planted some more trees at the school premises.

The Chapter organised a Siddi folk song and dance event by a Siddi centenarian Husainbi Mujawar and her troupe from their Sambrani village, Uttara Kannada. She has been awarded by the Karnataka Janapada Academy for excellence in Siddi art, and the Chapter presented her with a cash award.

A donor presented the Chapter with a bust of Shri Bhat on 15th June by a young artiste from Dharwad’s Art Gallery where Shri Bhat had hosted so many events. According to the donor his latest piece is in line with the large collection of stone and wood sculpture in the gallery.

Chapter Members Lt.Gen. SC Sardeshpande (Retd.) and Rekha Shettar listed the Aragad Bhanvi IWell) near Mandi village in north Karnataka. The well is a 17th century construction of 17th century Adilshahi times built on the Dandina Dari (army route) from Bijapur-Dharwar-Tungabhadra-Goa route and figures in the Revenue Records. reminiscent of the time when a small desgati (princedom) of Belavadi defied Shivaji.

A ten feet sculpture of Shivaji on horseback was discovered in the small desgati of Brlavadi probably given to the ruler Mallamma in recognition of bravery which made Shivaji return her desgati. The villagers have not agreed to part with this rare treasure and have reinstated it in the niche of the renovated Hanuman Temple.

Mangaluru

The Chapter offered opportunities for visual storytellers, photographers and photojournalists on the theme Monsoon in Tulunadu, and invited photo essays (12 images and 900 words) from young photography enthusiasts and students currently enrolled in a college or university, with a passion for writing. The photographs must be accompanied by a story on different themes, such as people, places, history and the culture of Tulu speaking districts of erstwhile South Canara comprising Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod. There is a lot of interest in particular communities and their rituals and traditions,
and built spaces that highlight the vibrant and diverse linguistic, religious and cultural spirit of the region during the months of monsoon.

The submission deadline is 20th August, and the winners will be announced on 5th September. An Exhibition will be held on 19th-25th September, with the 3 winning entries exhibited at the INTACH Gallery and published Online. Please email submissions to intachmangaluru@gmail.com

KERALA

Calicut

The Chapter organized a Heritage Education Tour for 21 students of 7th-9th Standards from various schools in Calicut on 25th January in collaboration with students from a mentoring organization Koottukar. They were part of a group who are regularly taught by Koottukar. The mentors are Chairman Koottukar Cmde. Percy Macaden, Convenor Jaiprakash Raghavia, teachers from different schools and former Convenor K Mohan. They also act as tour guides.

The visit included a stop at the 1875 tile factory established by a German Missionary organization Basel Mission, which is still operating under new management. Students were introduced to various processes of making ceramic tiles and by products. They visited the Pazhassi Raja and VK Krishna Menon Museums, both built in the 1800s in adjacent bungalows that were once the residence and office of the first British Collector. Government Guides explained the historical past of the Malabar region. Students visited the Mother of God Cathedral built by the Portuguese in 1588 in typical Renaissance architectural style. They also visited the Miskal Mosque built by a Yemen trader during the 13th century. The ship building yard in Beypore is a standing testimony that historically, ship building at the Beypore estuary has continued for the last thousand years. Using local crafts and traditional skills which have been passed down generations, today ships upto around 1000 dwt continue to be built by master carpenters and craftsmen. Curious students engaged the boat builders in their queries for a long time.

Kasargod

Gribasthali, a seven day long workshop on the conservation of traditional wood houses, was organized by the Chapter at Thalichalam, Trikaripur. Convenor Dr. V Jayarajan welcomed the delegates. One of the old houses was a 400 year old abandoned and dilapidated wooden structure, originally located in Kottayam, that had been brought to Kasargod district. The workshop was inaugurated by eminent Architect Prof. Eugene Pandala. Architect Praveen Chandra, Dr. Binumol Tom, Kerala State Chapter Convenor KJ Sohan, Prem Manasi, Michael Strecker, carpenters and masons, all conducted classes on various aspects of conservation. There were 250 participants at the Workshop including delegates from CET, Payyanur and NIFT, Kannur. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Co-Convenor PV Harish.
Palakkad

On 11th January the Chapter held a meeting at Cruzo Café, CM Center, Calicut. The Chapter’s priorities for the year, plans for conducting a bird call workshop, a citizens’ workshop and the upcoming tours, were discussed.

On 26th January, a sequel to the food tour that had been organised earlier with great success, Great Palakkad Taste Trial 2, was held by the Chapter. This time some villages in the western part of the District also participated for the first time. The Taste Trial is a guaranteed success in any place and should perhaps be popularised by other Chapters in their own regions.

On 8th February Chapter Members met again at Cruzo Café CM Center, Calicut to discuss a proposal for a Puppet Craft Workshop. It also plans to conduct an event on the Kollengode Palace book, FilmIt programme, ideation on initiating monthly cleanups in public spaces, and an event in support of VIBA Art in the Park.

On 9th May, the Chapter was invited to take part in the ongoing series of webinars by the Union Ministry of Tourism, that cover various travel destinations around the country. Chapter Members and Convenor shared their experiences in organizing heritage awareness tours and their impact on conservation.

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh State Chapter conducted a national Webinar on the topic “Coinage of Gwalior” on International Museum Day 2020. Dr. HB Maheshwari Jaisal, who had been awarded the senior fellowship by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was present as the Speaker. More than 45 people attended this online webinar. E certificates were provided to all the participants.
**Chanderi**

The Chapter published and released a brochure ‘Kala aur Virasaton ka Nagar Chanderi’ on the rich heritage of Chanderi. It outlines most of the heritage and tourist sites under the title ‘Chanderi – The City of Art and Heritage’, depicting interesting pictorial details with their historical background. The brochure was released in the historic city of Jhansi by INTACH Chairman Major General (Retd.) LK Gupta. Present on the occasion were UP Minister of State for Uttar Pradesh Government Dr. Hargovind Kushwaha, social activist Shalig Ram Rai, Director Chapters Division Gp.Capt.(Retd.) Arvind Shukla, Jhansi Chapters Convenor Rajiv Sharma, Gwalior Convenor Neel Kamal Maheshwari, Lalitpur Convenor Santosh Sharma, Chanderi Chapter Convenor Neeraj Jain Vardhaman, Dr. Avinash Jain Saraf and Aminuddin Ansari. Chairman LK Gupta Gupta appreciated the efforts of the Chanderi Chapter and emphasized on the importance of conserving tangible, intangible, natural and cultural heritage.

**Datia**

Convenor Vinod Mishra was awarded for his contributions to heritage conservation by former MLA Rajendra Bharti on 2nd January. INTACH extends heartiest congratulations to him and hopes he will continue his good work much appreciated by INTACH.

The Chapter organised a three day heritage awareness programme by Bundeli Sabityakar Kavi and the Shikshavid Sansthan at Bhandar in memory of Dr. Shankarlal Shukla. It was coordinated by Ravindra Satyarthi.

**Jaane Apni Virasat** was organized for the students of Sharda High School Datia. Renowned writer from Chennai, Dr. Ishwar Karan as Chief Guest, spoke on the heritage of Southern India. Appreciating the conservation efforts of the Datia Chapter, he urged students, teachers and Chapter Members to visit other heritage sites of South India. Speakers ML Sharma from Human Rights Association, Sports Coordinator Sanjay Rawat and School Director Sunil Kushwaha shared some of their views on Datia archaeology. The programme was chaired by Dr. Raj Goswami, and coordinated by Convenor Vinod Mishra, concluding with a vote of thanks by Co-Convenor Vinod Tiwari.

The Chapter celebrated World Earth Day with Convenor Vinod Mishra and Member Kalpana Mishra decorating the area outside their homes with flowers and leaves. It featured the *Stay at home* message to spread awareness of the importance of staying indoors during the Lockdown imposed by the Government.
Other Members also held events at their home, praying to the earth and soil and displaying arts on their grounds.

To commemorate World Heritage Day on 18th April, the Chapter organised a Stay at Home: Paint at Home Contest in keeping with the Corona lockdown restrictions.

Students were encouraged to draw and paint on heritage themes at home, the topics ranging widely from palaces, temples, doors, mountain fortress or even costumes, etc. There was no requirement to submit the paintings anywhere. Students will be honored at a Madhukar function on 23rd August, organized by the Chapter.

The Chapter also organised an online musical programme Madhukar Sur Ninad during the Lockdown, in memory of Madhukar Mishra on his birthday on 15th June. He was a multi talented personality, proficient in art, culture, archaeology and literature. New Zealand litterateur Preeti Vyas and the Chairman of the Madhukar Sur Ninad spoke very highly of Madhukar Mishra's talent in an online programme. The Chief Guest was renowned film director Guru Charan Singh Chani from Chandigarh, with actor Ravi Yadav from Mumbai as Special Guest. After online inaugural formalities, Uttarakhand singer Deepti Joshi rendered Saraswati Vandana. Famous violinist Durga Sharma of Jabalpur gave a mesmerizing performance followed by young Kathak dancer Lalita Kundu from New Delhi presenting many styles of Kathak. Smita Bajpai of Indore enchanted the audience by playing the sitar and Dr. Dimple Sharma from Agra sang and entertained the audience with classical music. Sandhya Pramod Bapat from Gwalior played the sitar followed by a beautiful Ganesh Vandana by renowned Odissi dancer Dr. Chandrana from Delhi. In a second sequel, Kathak was presented by B. Anuradha Singh of Bhopal. Asmita Mishra from New Delhi presented Dadra in the Khamaj raga, bringing back memories of the days of Sawan Bhado, and also presented Jhoom-Jhoom Badal. The Sufiana Gayak recital was presented by Seema Mathew of Haryana. The programme concluded with a young dancer Nikita Singh from New Delhi giving a unique Kathak composition with rhythm and ghungru.

About 300 online viewers from several States expressed their appreciation of the event conducted by Anoop Goswami. He was profusely thanked by Convenor Vinod Mishra. Chief Guest Director Chani said that Madhukar Mishra had done a great job in preserving Bundeli culture. Special Guest Ravi Yadav said that he expected to visit Datia soon as it is such a rich repository of art and culture. It was interesting to hear so many people sharing information related to Madhukar’s life in the chat section.
Dhar

World Wetland Day was celebrated at the Devi Sagar Pond area in continuation of the Global Event Series of the Chapter. In collaboration with Excellence Heritage Club of Uttrkisht Vidyalaya and Tarun Bhaskar Heritage Club of Bhaskar Vidya Peeth, the event was mentored by a group comprising Convenor Dr. Dependra Sharma, Principal Uttrkisht Vidyalaya, Vijaykumar Malaviya and Director Bhaskar Vidya Peeth Harihar Dutt Shukla. Bird watching, a cleaning drive stressing on polythene free activities and public awareness programmes were conducted under the guidance of Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO) Bhopal and National Green Core.

Principal Reena Rathore and Bhavna Deshmukh urged children to participate in cleaning the substantial mess at pond and temple areas. They urged shopkeepers not to litter the area by avoiding use of polythene. After a vote of thanks, refreshments were served to all present.

Chitera Folk Art

Chitera Folk Painting originated in the Chitera-auli, an area in Gwalior, inhabited by the well known Chitera clan. This endangered art form is still seen on the walls of the older homes in Gwalior. Chitera paintings were created on front walls and gateways of houses on auspicious occasions. Natural organic clay and mineral colors prepared by

Gwalior

Convenor Neelkamal Maheshwari with Co- Convener Vikas Singh and other Members provided food and rations, morning and evening, to daily wage workers including labourers, coolies, sweepers and the needy. This admirable exercise was undertaken from 22nd March onwards during Lockdown. They also provided feed for cows and other cattle. INTACH is very proud of this initiative.
the artistes themselves were used with free hand brush techniques, without any prior outline or sketch. The style is figurative and illustrative in compositions, drawing inspiration from religious narratives, flora and fauna. When this art form is practiced on paper, it is known as Pana.

The Chapter launched a series of webinars to educate, interact and disseminate heritage related information to all viewers. The first one was conducted on “Changing Educational Scenario–IMPACT of COVID-19”. Keynote talk was by Principal Delhi Public School and CBSE Trainer Neha Sharma, on 24th May with more than 85 participants attending. The second Webinar, with a participation of 65 individuals, was conducted on “Coping Mechanism and Change Management”. Keynote speaker on 29th May was Principal Gems Public School, Deepa S Ahuja. E Certificates were given to all. More webinars have been planned in the coming months along with other public awareness activities, in keeping with the restrictions.

**Mandla**

**CONDOLENCES**

Shri Ramesh Chand Pathak, Convenor Mandla Chapter, passed away on 2nd June. A Hindi scholar with a keen interest in archaeology and history, he was an affectionate, cooperative, soft-spoken and sociable human being. INTACH has lost an academician and senior mentor. The Chapter will always remember the venerable Pathakji for his remarkable contribution and exemplary devotion to heritage.

INTACH sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and wishes them strength and forbearance at this time of sorrow. We wish them fortitude and the very best for the future.

**Shivpuri**

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH Life Member Diwan Surinder Lal Shivpuri passed away recently at the venerable age of 98 years. He was a committed philanthropist and closely involved with many charitable organizations. He had an abiding interest in the upkeep and restoration of the heritage sites in Shivpuri, including the Scindia Chhatris of which he was the Managing Trustee for nearly 50 years. It was a life well lived.

INTACH sends heartfelt condolences to Members of his family and wishes them all the best for the future. He will be deeply missed by all Members for his extraordinary range of interest and activities.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**Aurangabad**

An ancient temple was found in River Khairi, Donja village, Paranda taluka (tehsil), in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra by local farmers who were digging for soil with a JCB Machine in the river bed on 3rd March. It is fascinating to know that a huge Nandi sculpture of the 12th century and components of a temple complex were part of the discovery.

Ajaykumar Mali, Jr. Administrative Officer, Education Office Zilla Parishad Osmanabad and INTACH Life Member, who is working on a thesis on the Historical Paranda Fort project and a tourism guide of the District for the Maharashtra Tourism Department with assistance from Rajya Sabha Member Chhatrapati, Sambhaji Maharaj, happened to be in the locality and convinced the locals to stop digging. He wrote to the State Archeology Department, Mumbai to visit Donja and take action for restoring the temple complex. Department representative Dr. Kamaji Duck visited the site. Cricket icon Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar had adopted this village in 2017 under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAFY).

Paranda has a magnificent ancient history in comparison
with the fort, and finds mention in an inscription found at Honnatti village located in Haveri District, North Karnataka. It is dated to the Chalukya Vikrama era corresponding to 1124 CE, mentioning Simhanadeva as governed by Seguna Desa, and the Agrahara (residence place of Brahmins) of Honnavatti, probably as a feudatory of the Chalukyas of Kalyani. Paliyanda was the capital for nearly 4,000 villages. The large fort is over 1,030 years old and is surrounded by a trench. Near this site (25 kilometers) is the Mallikarjuna temple in Mankeshwar. This magnificent temple was built in 1124 CE, Uttar Chalukyan Period, with funds provided by Chalukya King Raja Vikramaditya, 6th son of Mallikarjuna.

Mumbai

The Chapter hosted a public talk on Pyaavs Water Heritage of Mumbai by Rahul Chemburkar at the Education Centre, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum on 14th December. Principal Architect and Partner of Vastu Vidhan Projects, Rahul Chemburkar was instrumental in restoring numerous pyaavs of Mumbai. He spoke on the lesser known heritage aspect of Bombay - ‘Pyaavs’ - a typical urban feature, which is not just a public drinking water fountain but a repository of its architectural history and socio-cultural life. Its architectural finesse represents the philanthropic culture of 18th-19th century Bombay. He spoke on the challenges faced during conservation of the pyaavs, and the way forward. It was followed by a walk to the Pyaavs in Jijamata Udyan (Rani Bagh).

Greater Mumbai Chapter Convenor Rajan Jayakar gave a talk on the Original inhabitants of Bombay, the Pathare Prabhus, at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum on 18th January. The Pathare Prabhus were the earliest immigrants to Bombay at the end of the 13th Century. They were Kshatriyas, which is reflected in their war or victory oriented surnames. They brought with them culture and art unknown to Bombay. They were a respected community during Hindu, Mohammedan and Portuguese periods, and helped build Bombay during East India Company and British Rule. The Talk was very well appreciated and ended with an interesting Q&A session with the audience.

On 25th January, Journalist Simona Terron gave an interesting talk on Originals Inhabitants of Bombay - The East Indian Community at Education Centre, BDL Museum. She mentioned that 16th century local communities from farming, fishing and salt-making converted to Roman Catholicism. She spoke about her journey of being an East Indian today, and the community’s efforts to preserve their culture seen in their customs, cuisine, attire, architecture,
literature and music. Indians being referred to as native Christians of Mumbai are the original residents of the Bombay, Thana and Salsette islands, with a history dating back to the 15th century.

**Heritage Walks**

History and heritage enthusiast Anita Yewale, along with an enthusiastic crowd, explored this first elite suburb of Bombay-Mazgaon organized by the Chapter on 28th December. The Walk from Mazgaon Hill covered the Joseph Baptista Garden overlooking the Mazgaon Docks, which saw Mazgaon transformed into a cosmopolitan quarter of Bombay in the early 18th century, welcoming people from all over the world. It enabled participants to understand how their settlement resulted in creating a multicultural hub at Mazgaon that one sees today. Despite being a bustling area, the remnants of cosmopolitan culture continues till Matharpacady village even today.

Renee Vyas, an expert botanist and a tree lover conducted a tree appreciation walk around Rani Baug, Byculla on 11th January. Spread over 53 acres, Jijamata Udyan, formerly called Rani Baug, is situated in the heart of Byculla next to Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum. Earlier named Victoria Gardens, it has over 3,000 trees, around 853 plant species belonging to 149 families and around 276 tree species. The walkers were introduced to several native and exotic trees like the huge Baobab trees found in Africa, Cajeput trees of Australia and indigenous Ashoka, amla, banyan and mango trees, explaining many fascinating aspects like their flowering seasons, etc.

Archaeologist Sneha Nagarkar guided the Mahakali Cave walk on 18th January. These caves are a medley of 19 rock cut monuments, dating to 1st century BCE-6th century CE, in Andheri East. The Caves are a good example of early Buddhist architecture indicating the wide spread of Buddhism around Mumbai in the 1st–2nd centuries CE. Starting from Viharas Cave 9 displaying a chaityagrha of Buddhist mythology figures, walk leader Sneha shared stories and anecdotes of Gautama Buddha and Buddhism, and traced the history of cave architecture in and around Mumbai.

The walk to the historic Vasai Fort, a monument of national importance and protected by ASI, was conducted by local expert Pascal Lopez on 8th February. Within the expansive fort walls is a whole township and home to
3000 residents, soldiers and artisans. Participants explored churches, temples, learning institutions, administrative and community places within the Fort City gazing at some interesting Roman architecture styles. Pascal explained various marks and inscriptions with interesting stories about international travelers and strategies of the Portuguese Maratha War. Members thoroughly enjoyed this informative and interesting history walk of Vasai Fort.

Another Heritage Walk around Worli Village and Fort was led by local expert Anita Yewale on 29th February through the narrow lanes of the village, to witness its rich local life and culture. Surrounded by sea on three sides, the participants experienced the harmonious coexistence between many different communities like Kolis, East Indians and migrants who inhabit this village, each retaining their traditions and culture. Anita explained the characteristic link between the village, fort and sea by sharing the history and interesting folk legends around the temples in the village. Interaction with the local population giving glimpses of their amazing stories added to the experience of this visit which concluded at Worli Fort against the backdrop of sunset, breathtaking view of the Arabian Sea and the skyline of Mumbai.

Life Member R Venkatesh conducted a walk through Bombay’s Maritime history on 1st March, covering the acquisition of the Island by the British for a port, and the phenomenal growth of the city over three hundred years with relation to its seafront. The walk covered the area from Lion Gate to Ballard Estate, the core of Bombay Fort Horniman Circle, St. Thomas Cathedral, Old Customs House, Admiralty, Port House, monumental relics of famous Indian and international shipping houses, accompanied by tales of the Mumbai Port Trust, the Port Trust Railways and the Ballard Bunder Gate, the true gateway of India for over two decades, and ended at Ballard pier.

**Nagpur**

The Chapter organized a study tour for students of Shrimati M. M. College of Architecture, lifetime member of Nagpur Chapter, in collaboration with Udaipur
Chapter in last December. Two faculty members and architects Seema Burele and Harpreet Saggu conducted a heritage walk of 60 students, guided by Udaipur Chapter Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi. The students explored architectural spaces and its characteristics in the City Palace Museum. Bhupinder Singh Auwa explained its history and its old water supply systems which are still functional. Rahul Shukla demonstrated how restoration is still done using ancient techniques. He further explained the three layered plastering techniques used in the palace.

Iti Kachhava explained the architecture and vastu of Jagdish Temple. Students explored Jagmandir, Bagaur ki Haveli and Gangaur Ghat. They enjoyed the local folk dance and walking through the old city area.

Ms. Nitika Shyam Ramani is appointed the Addl. Co-Convenor of Nagpur Chapter. INTACH warmly welcomes her with many good wishes for success. We hope she will find the assignment both challenging and fulfilling. Our best wishes are with her always.

The Chapter, in association with Architectural Sankul, organized a heritage visit for 50 students and teachers of Srinivasa Public School and Tulsiram Gaikwad Patil College of Architecture. It was guided by Convenor Kishor Divekar, Co-Convenor and Co-Founder of Architectural Sankul and Nagpur Chapter Dr. Madhura Rathod, along with Co-Convenor Nitika S Ramani, also a Co-Founder of Architectural Sankul, who explained the history and architecture of the GPO. Its representative Sanjay Sath explained the working of the post office. Students learned about history and illustration of stamps at the Philately Section from Sathaye and Khedhar. School and college authorities appreciated the efforts of INTACH and the Architectural Sankul team.

On the occasion of the 264th death anniversary of Raje Raghunath Bhonsle on 14th February, the Chapter in association with Architectural Sankul organized a heritage walk at Rajghat, the Kashibai Temple complex, for 50 students from Dinanath High school with their teacher Sunny Nichols to pay tributes to this mighty ruler. Shrimant Jaisingh Raje Bhonsle graced the occasion.
The walk began with a brief introduction followed by tributes at the \textit{chhatris} of Raje Raghujir Bhonsle I and observing 2 minutes silence. After prayers Yuvraj Jaisingh Raje interacted with the students. They were guided at all the major \textit{chhatris} and samadhis, with narratives of their history, architecture and tales. Students enjoyed the heritage visit and went back with many stories they had learnt, to share with family and friends. School authorities appreciated the efforts of the INTACH and Architectural Sankul team.

\textbf{Pune}

The Chapter continued its ongoing study ‘\textit{Heads of Ganga}’, led by Prof. Vijay Paranjpye, with field work in Nepal and Uttarakhand. It covers issues related to conservation of physical and cultural entities of this region, tracing the direct inter-dependency between the upper regimes of the Ganga River and the lower mainstream of the river basin.

New monthly heritage walk series was launched, open to all, the first of which was to \textit{Parvati Hill} held in January, conducted by INTACH Pune Executive Committee Member architect Sourabh Marathe. The second walk was to \textit{Pataleshwar Caves}, conducted by Executive Committee Member Dr. Chetan Sahasrabudhe. Both walks received very good responses.

The Chapter’s \textit{Warsaa} crafts shop participated in the \textit{Dastkari Haat} Crafts Bazaar at \textit{Dilli Haat}, Delhi from the 1\textsuperscript{st}-6\textsuperscript{th} of January. \textit{Warsaa} also participated in the \textit{Kala Ghoda Arts Festival} 2020, at Mumbai on 1\textsuperscript{st}-5\textsuperscript{th} of February 2020.

The Chapter conducted customized heritage walks between January and March for a number of Corporates and institutions including Forbes Marshall delegates, students of SPA Bhopal, FLAME Sociology students, BKPS College of Architecture students, Danish students visiting Vidya Valley School, Pune, among others. The walks were conducted by Co-Convenor Juhi Tawade, Co-Convenor Supriya Goturkar and Executive Committee Members Shubhada Kamalapurkar, Sourabh Marathe, Mahesh Bangad, and Life Member Shruti Joshi.

At \textit{Art Mandai} 2020, held every 26\textsuperscript{th} January, Pune based artists shared a platform with vegetable and fruit vendors, in the iconic \textit{Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Mandai} in Pune, to interact and evolve public art. Pune Chapter participated this year with the theme ‘\textit{Harvest}’ for the fifth consecutive time. An interactive session on ‘\textit{Barahanaj - our own seeds for securing our future}’ was organised, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices based on Barahanaj philosophy. Resource person Kapil Sahasrabudhe is working with tribal communities on livelihood and biodiversity conservation.

The much loved concept \textit{Discover Pune} is a city wide treasure hunt race during which participants scan the city using a few guidelines, maps and off the course maps, clues etc. provided by the organizers. This year’s theme was ‘\textit{Kurukshetra}’, based on Mahabharata. All teams were equally divided into 2 clans: \textit{Kauravas} and \textit{Pandavas}. 10 locations were assigned to a kingdom of that era. The task for the teams was to search for the kingdoms and attack them, using the army they had collected by completing various tasks along the way. 52 teams of 3-4 participants each participated in the event. Dr. Avinash Sowani, renowned Pune architect and historian, was the Chief Guest for the closing event. Prizes worth Rs. 25,000/- cash award and trophies were given to winning teams. Maharashtra’s famous ‘\textit{Chitale Bandhu}’ was the food partner for the event.

The closing ceremony of the 16\textsuperscript{th} edition of \textit{Discover Pune} marked the launch of a board game - the first ever heritage family board game ‘\textit{Discover Pune}’. It is based on hunting for numerous historically valuable locations in Pune as well as creating awareness and providing authentic information about the city’s heritage among its people.

Due to the Lockdowns, several heritage initiatives moved online. On 18\textsuperscript{th} April, \textit{World Heritage Day}, an online photo cum essay competition was floated, encouraging people to share heirlooms in their possession. Participants were
asked to send photographs and write about the heritage they cherish. The ongoing competition is receiving a very good response and select entries will be shared on INTACH Pune’s social media.

The online competitions scheduled for May 2020 were based on Maharashtra heritage. In support of the handicrafts cause and expressing solidarity with crafts people, heritage awareness brochures were shared by the Chapter on social media.

**Solapur**

Solapur Municipal Commissioner Deepak Tawde attended the event *Gandhi @150* presented by HECS Division. Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar and Life Member Dr. Prof. Narendra Katikar spoke about the objectives and activities of INTACH. Co-Convenor Architect Shveta S Kothavale gave the vote of thanks. Dignitaries were felicitated with saplings and aesthetic files whose cover fabric were made from a Solapur Saree.

Development of Kotnis Memorial for a better visitor experience and a request to teachers for a visit with their students, was later discussed with INTACH Members.

Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar conducted a Fort Walk for members of Durgveer Pratishthan on the eve of Shivaji Jayanti on 19th February. Prof. Ganesh Lengare, Convenor of Durgveer Pratishthan Solapur District, welcomed the gathering. Convenor Chaphalkar introduced the history of Solapur Fort with information about the various locations. She impressed upon the gathering the need to conserve the Fort and heritage. Prof. Somnath Raut gave the vote of thanks.

A Fort Walk for the students of Roshan Prashala was also conducted by INTACH Convenor on 4th March. The students were excited to learn about the history of Solapur Fort and the many places within it.

**ODISHA**

Odisha State Chapter Convenors and State Advisory Committee Members met on 14th February. The State Convenor briefed the participants on the highlights of INTACH activities in the State. The listing and documentation of River Mahanadi and tribal life in the undivided Koraput district, celebrations of 150 years of Gandhi at Puri & Bhadrak and seminar at Bhubaneswar on 2nd October, resolution submitted to Government expressing concern at the demolition of heritage buildings at Puri including Raghunandan Library, urging the Government to retain the heritage character of Puri, conservation of old books and documents of the Raghunandan Library, successfully raising public opinion against the demolition of Tagore House at Puri, and persistent advocacy of conservation of Sun Temple at Konark were discussed. Odisha Chapter won the National Championship-19 in India Heritage Quiz competition.

Convenor also shared a summary of the discussion held during the State Convenors’ Conference in Delhi held in
early February. Listing projects completed in Koraput and Mahanadi were reviewed. Sanjib Hota, who is guiding the project in Koraput, stated that under some heads like language, social customs, economy and religion for each tribe are yet to be completed in all respects.

Chapter Member Santakar updated the progress of documentation of Tribal Life in Koraput.

Ganjam Convenor Dr. S Pati informed that awareness programmes had been taken up among school and college students. Attempts are being made to get the Bay of Bengal renamed as Kalinga Sagar, and also to save the old port Potagarh. Dr. Pati was urged to complete the listing project funded by the Central Office. The conservation of Potagarh port is being taken up on piecemeal basis as there is no integrated plan. The Chapter needs to play a crucial role in preparing an integrated DPR for procurement of funds from the Government.

Bhadrak Convenor informed that 7 books on listing have been published, and one more on listing Islamic heritage sites is proposed. He also drew attention to the serious menace of idol thefts.

Balasore Chapter mentioned the upcoming Teachers Training programme to make the children aware about the rich heritage. He said efforts will be made to initiate action to preserve the Lal Girija of Balasore.

Chapter Members in Balangir have been visiting schools and other institutions to raise heritage awareness. They also have a Tribal Institution Project in mind. The State Convenor requested that a DPR be prepared for conservation of the Jubilee Building. Publications on Freedom Fighters and prominent women of the area are proposed to be undertaken.

Sonepur Chapter Convenor is conducting awareness programmes in Schools and Colleges. It will prepare the Bhima Bhoi Project at the earliest. The State Convenor requested the Convenor to complete the listing of ancient monuments for which funds have been sanctioned. The issue of idol thefts was highlighted by Anil Dhir, and needs to be brought to the notice of DG Police and the Government.

Rani Mahal project should be completed as early as possible. The Chapter is keen to restore the statue of Veer Surendra Sai at AsirGarh Fort for which a DPR will be made. The progress of Bezbarua residence was also discussed. Deepak Panda was requested to provide inputs for the building in consultation with concerned persons in Assam.

The Jajpur Chapter has been regularly participating in the Book Fair that is being held and various quiz programmes have been conducted. They have listed 535 sites to date and it is still ongoing. The State Convenor suggested that a publication of selected important monuments be brought out.

In Cuttack, significant project proposals like Mission School and Freedom Fighters Museum in the old Jail compound are pending. The Gora Kabar project is awaiting funds. The State Convenor informed that the Jail project may come through, in view of strong public sentiment. Cuttack has many other colonial structures, and a broad based project for conservation needs to be initiated by the Chapter.

Bhubaneswar Chapter held school quiz programmes and ten heritage awareness programmes. Prachi Valley Project
has been completed. Eleven new Members were inducted and 14 Associated Life Members converted to Life Member Category. A project to name the streets and squares of the old city of Bhubaneswar will be taken up. Nayagarh Project requires upgradation and will be taken up while working on the Mahanadi Project. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Convenor Baikuntha Panigrahi.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KONARK

The ASI held a National Conference on Conservation of Jagmohan of the Konark Temple on 28th-29th February at Konark, attended by the DG ASI and other senior officials. Experts from Central Building Research Institute Roorkee invited the speakers, including Divay Gupta, who spoke on World Heritage Sites. State Officials and the invitees included State Convenor and INTACH Members Padmashree Gopal Mitra and Bojay Rath, Anil De, NC Pal and Sanjay Acharya, Prof. of History in Utkal University.

The second day was devoted to the conservation of Jagmohan, which is a sensitive issue for people of Odisha. Two issues in particular are the evacuation of sand, which had filled up in 1904-05, from inside the Jagmohan, and replacing the carved stones with plain stones as a result of which large portions of the exterior are now fitted with flat stones. The State Chapter has been carrying on a spirited and relentless campaign for proper conservation of the Jagmohan.

In 2010, at the International Conference attended by eminent foreign experts like Giorgio Croci from Italy, who had earlier visited the temple in the early nineties, a view emerged that the sand, already sunk 16 ft. from the top of Jagmohan in a century, should be removed to make a proper assessment of the damage to the temple. This task was given to CBRI which after 9 years gave a report in 2019 certifying the strength of the Jagmohan and yet recommending filling up the 16 feet gap by sand which participants perceived as playing safe. Participants wondered as to why no foreign experts had been invited to this conference as there has been considerable technological advance since the last meeting.

The second sensitive issue was the replacement of sculptured stones with plain stones. While the ASI is quoting UNESCO and national conservation guidelines to justify the practice, examples of deviations were cited, the most recent being the restoration of Humayun Tomb at Delhi, a World Heritage site under the care of ASI. On this issue the ASI yielded ground and declared that carved stones will be used instead of flat ones.

Union Minister for Culture Prahlad Singh Patel was present through the discussions and took a keen interest in the proceedings. It was suggested that the ASI, with the help of UNESCO, should invite a group of eminent experts and further discuss the CBRI report, to reach a consensus. The Minister approved this suggestion.

The teams of four INTACH Chapters have been working on the ongoing project of Documentation of the Monuments and Heritage of the Mahanadi Valley since the last 20 months. Nearly 1000 kms of both banks of the rivers have been surveyed and tangible and intangible heritage documented.

Many submerged temples were found, of which 45 in the reservoir area of the Hirakud Dam were documented. A team from Bhubaneswar, in search of a submerged temple in the Mahanadi, discovered the temple after several attempts.

The 500 year old temple, built in the classical Kalingan style, was submerged in a catastrophic flood 160 years ago. Up till a few decades ago, it would partially emerge in the summer, but after a barrage was made downstream, it was not seen in living memory. It was rediscovered by Project Assistant Deepak Kumar Nayak near Baideswar in Nayagarh District. The spire of the temple, complete with a notched stone disc or Amalka emerged from the waters. Most of the structure lies buried in the river sediment, with the top visible.

The temple was originally in the midst of seven villages, collectively called Satapatana. With the river changing course and bank erosion, the villages were abandoned and shifted, but the temple was left intact, only the idol was removed and kept in another temple which still exists. The original temple was engulfed by the river and ended up midstream during the subsequent years.
Supposedly of the 60 feet, 50 feet is buried in a sand bank. Nearly all the rivers in Odisha have submerged temples, but many of them are in ruins. Temples built in the bends of rivers are flood prone, so bank erosion destroyed or submerged them.

The temple has attracted interest of the locals and people are flocking to the place. Project Coordinator, Anil Dhir, is compiling the data of all the stretches which will be completed by the end of this year and presented in a multi-volume report with details of 800 monuments besides the intangible heritage. An archaeologist’s sketch shows that only a tiny portion of the temple is visible on the surface, with most of the 60-foot structure hidden in sand below which might mean that most of the structure will be in pristine condition.

**Balangir**

A visit to the Heritage Club of Ainlachuan UG High School in Balangir District was organized by the Chapter. Prof. Madhusudan Pati, Life Members Dharmendra Nanda, Dr. Mahesh Patnaik and Prabhas Panigrahi were part of the visiting group who had an enjoyable experience.

Chapter organised a visit to the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya of Mahimunda, Balangir. Heritage Club students interacted with the Chapter Convenor Dr. Siba Prasad Nanda, Adviser Prof. Madhusudan Pati and Addl. Co-Convenor Shashi Bhushan Purohit along with Life Member Dharmendra Nanda. The meeting was arranged by Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Principal Ashok Khatua and teachers of the School.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Chapter Convenor along with Life Members Dharmendra Nanda and Suresh Yadav, handed over a cheque of Rs. 48,000 to the Collector Balangir on 3rd April as contribution for the daily wage workers.
CONDOLENCES

INTACH received the sad news of Life Member Rabi Narayan Das passing away on 3rd December 2019. A retired civil servant of the 1971 batch of the Indian Administrative Service, Gujarat cadre, he had also served post retirement as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Gujarat. He was appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the Odisha Planning Board and Advisor State Planning Board Odisha.

INTACH will always remember him as a distinguished and active Member of the Balasore Chapter who regularly attended most programmes. The Chapter has lost a valued advisor and well wisher in him. INTACH extends heartfelt condolences to his children, and hopes they will find solace remembering his life well lived and much admired. Our good wishes are with them for their future.

Pitha Making cum Exhibition

The Chapter organized the third season of Pitha Exhibition cum Competition at Town Hall on 23rd February, presided by Convenor Himanshu Das. Such programmes like Pitha Making by women help to sustain old traditions. Co-Convenor Uday Ranjan Das explained the rules of the competition and its importance. More than 50 participants exhibited over 20 types of Pitha and displayed their recipes. There were 35 entries in the competition, with cash prizes and certificates awarded to the top three contestants, while ten contestants received consolation prizes. Collector and District Magistrate K Sudarshan Chakravarty was the Chief Guest, with General Manager District Industries Centre Harihar Jena as the Guest of Honour. They encouraged the participants to share their knowledge of pitha making widely, and praised the Chapter’s efforts for its other heritage activities. The programme was widely appreciated by the attending Public, and was well covered by the media.

Bhadrad

The Chapter celebrated its 10th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm on 9th February. Talks and various competitions were well attended by its Members, guests, students, teachers, parents, senior citizens and women of self help groups. The event was inaugurated by State Advisor Srijukta Ananta Mohapatra, and presided by Prof. Sanatan Mohanty. Prof. Mohanty and Prof. MA Nabi addressed the gathering. Bhubaneshwar Chapter Convenor BN Panigrahi, Pandit Birendra Panda and Asit Mohanti welcomed them. Convenor Digambar Mohanti highlighted the activities of the Chapter, and expressed his grave concerns on the malaise of rising idol thefts in Bhadrad District. He pointed out that prevailing laws intended to prevent thefts from heritage sites are inherently ineffective, and a holistic national heritage protection policy with a system should be put in place. Addl. Co-Convenor Pravakar Mallik conducted the prize...
distribution. Prof. MA Nabi was felicitated for his lifetime contributions to the society. Co-Convenor Bhubaneswar Chapter SM Farooque gave the vote of thanks that was followed by a Bhajan programme and lunch thereafter.

Koraput

The Chapter organised the Silver Jubilee of Dongar Samabesh festival in collaboration with Tribal Museum and Sri Jagannath Temple on 12th January in the open pandal of the Tribal Museum. It was first introduced in 1995 as a National Festival by the Council of Analytical Tribal Studies (COATS) and the Tribal Museum in collaboration with INTACH, and supported by the Central and State Governments.

‘Koraput in my Dreams’ was conducted in all the city schools at the junior and senior levels with the competition finale held at the Tribal Museum. The Chief Guest was Dr. SK Palita, Prof. and Head of the Department of Biodiversity Department, University of Koraput. Guests of Honour included distinguished leader of Sarvodaya Andolon of Semiliguda-Krishna Singh, former Director of a Research Institute of Umerkote Dr. Subash Chandra Mishra, Prof. Jagabandhu Samal, Prof. of Tribal Studies, COATS, social worker of Kashipur Sumani Jhodia and Odia Lecturer Dr. Pretidhara Samal from the Government Women’s College. The meeting was presided by Director, Tribal Museum Gadadhara Parida, Secretary Sri Jagannath Temple, and Convenor Dr. PC Mohapatra.

Dongar Shree was awarded to Chandrama Balia of the Bhumia tribe. She was introduced by Jeypore Life Member Paresh Rath. She is an Asu Kabi who can sing continuously for hours at a stretch even at the age of 70.

Prof. SK Pallita in his talk on “Koraput in my dreams” spoke on nuances of the historical development of Koraput during the rule of Nalas, Marathas and the British. He said it is the pollution free natural resources of the area that provide a peaceful existence for inhabitants. He made a comparative analysis of educational achievements of General, SC and ST individuals, and spoke of their displacement due to establishment of the aero-engine factory at Sunabeda and aluminium factory at Damanjodi, and hydro power generation. He lamented they have not been adequately rehabilitated, nor has employment statistics been compiled or benefits reached the backward classes.

Subash Chandra Mishra emphasised that the cultural heritage of the tribals need to be nurtured, while Krishna Singh and Prof. Jagabandhu Samal pointed out that indigenous tribal culture was difficult to preserve due to the very process of development. Prof. Samal emphasised on the significance of human values seen and experienced in tribal culture, and narrated accounts of their spirit of cooperation, mutual help and absence of dowry system that must be respected. Sumani Jhodia expressed pleasure at the Dongar Shree award to Chandrama Balia, and wants this practice to continue in future. Dr. PC Mohapatro spoke about the history of Dongar Samabesh. Gadadhara Parida, Director, Tribal Museum and Secretary was very appreciative that the Silver Jubilee of Dongar Samabesh was held, and requested them to contribute articles for publication of a book to commemorate the occasion. Bijaya Kumar Patnaik gave the vote of thanks.

Mayurbhanj

Convenor Major Dr. Rabindra Nath Parida and Co-Convenors along with twenty two Members, visited the historical Brahmana Kunda at Simlipal National
Park, located 74 km from Baripada. The metalled road runs parallel along the picturesque Budhabalanga river, known for its natural beauty and lush green vegetation as a popular picnic spot. There is a large Ganda (reservoir) filled with fish which are well fed by its many visitors. The local inhabitants belong to the Adivasi community known for their simplicity. INTACH Members plied them with several enquiries regarding their lifestyle and culture. Brahmana Kunda needs to be well publicised to attract more visitors. Some Members were inspired to recite self composed poetry and prose on the spot!

The Chapter produced a film clip on Dashain, the traditional Santali Dance of the Adivasis of Mayurbhanj District, especially performed during Durga Puja. It narrates a story from Mughal times when Adivasis lived in a remote corner of a hilly area and earned their livelihood from forests. One day two young girls on their daily visit to the river for morning rituals, were noticed by Moghuls passing by and were attracted by their beauty. With the connivance of a village traitor they kidnapped the girls. Their distraught parents spread the news, and along with villagers they not only prayed to their Deity but also requested assistance from their Guru. In their quest to search for the girls, they visited one village after another in the guise of women dancers carrying their weapons alongside musical instruments Bhuyang, Ghanta, Kendra and Flute. To this date the Santalis maintain this traditional dance called Dashain.

The Chapter organized a meeting at the Retired Government Employees’ Association on 1st March to revive an intangible heritage called Poda Pitha. In his welcome address, Convenor Major Dr. RN Parida spoke on INTACH objectives. Twenty two women participated in preparing Poda Pithas (Soft Cakes), and then placed them on display. It is a traditional preparation made of biri (black gram) arua chaula (raw rice), nadia(coconut) and spices, specially during the Raja Festival. Judges Dr. Jagannath Prasad Nath, Aniruddha Prusty and Bina Panda selected the winners of the competition. It concluded with a vote of thanks by the Convenor.

**CONDOLENCES**

Life Member Chakradhar Mohapatra passed away on 15th April at the age of 68 years. He retired as the Additional Police Commissioner. Once a student of philosophy, his honesty, sincerity, perseverance and ability to involve himself in philanthropic work was notable. He founded the District Police Officers’ Association, Mayurbhanj and was its Secretary. He will be fondly remembered for his cheerful disposition. His smiling face will be missed by all Chapter Members. INTACH sends heartfelt deepest condolences to his grieving family and his wife, two sons and a daughter. May his immortal soul rest in peace.
Sonepur

The Chapter has organised a Writing and Painting Competition for 24 students of 7th-9th Class of several schools of Sonepur town. A meeting was organised prior to the competition. Retired Head Master Jogendra Prasad Panda was the Chief Guest and spoke about the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to the nation. Pradhan Acharya of Saraswati Shisbu Vidya Mandir Dayanidhi Karan, Sonepur was the Guest of Honour and complimented the activities conducted by the Chapter. Convenor Sarat Ku gave the welcome speech outlining the objectives of INTACH. Life Member Banamali Panda coordinated the meeting. Life Member Sourav Ranjan Khamari gave the vote of thanks in conclusion of the event. Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra, Co-Convenor and Narasingha Taria organized the competition.

Puducherry

Shri AK Das is appointed as the new Convenor of Puducherry Chapter. INTACH family welcomes you into its fold and wishes you every success in preserving the cross cultural heritage of the city. You will no doubt sustain INTACH participation in the festivals and exhibitions that are regularly held in the city.

All our good wishes to you for success in all your future endeavours.

The sixth edition of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival was held with much fervor and enthusiasm from 25th January-2nd February. The spotlight this year was on the city’s natural heritage – its wetlands and water bodies. Organized by People for Pondicherry’s Heritage and INTACH, it is also supported by the Department of Tourism, French Institute of Pondicherry and the Alliance Francaise. In addition to drawing attention to the city’s architectural legacy, it showcased facets of environment, idyllic seaside, spiritual and intellectual history, with interplay between indigenous and imported cultural practices. Activities planned around World Wetland Day on 1st-2nd Feb. included a photography exhibition, dedication of the Joan of Arc Garden restored by the people for Pondicherry’s heritage and cycle rides around the city, Conversations on Ahmedabad’s UNESCO application for World Heritage stature conducted by Saswat Bandyopadhyaya and Rabindra Vasavada, and a heritage conservation experience by a consultant for PWD Chennai Arun Menon, Warli art workshop, Odissi dance recital by Rekha Tandon, a bio-play in Tamil by SB Creations, and cooking classes of seafood recipes were some of the highlights.

PUNJAB

The Punjab State Chapter has done extensive research on Craftsmen in the region. The Members shared knowledge and stories with them during long sessions in between work. The Chapter acknowledges Parminder Singh, Director, Indian Craft & Cultural Association, and Roopan for their support in documenting this craft, and Dr. Vijay Dhir, Dr. Charanjit Singh and JS Bal for their assistance in facilitating interviews with craftsmen.
or Hindi) can be traced to Florentine or picture art called pietra-dura or pietre-dure on wooden cabinets and furniture. The Mughal tradition also used inlay craft extensively on architectural elements like pillars and doors, as fillings into the hollowed spaces on the base with themes of flora and fauna.

Amritsar

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH is deeply saddened by the untimely demise of Amritsar Chapter Member and Associate Prof. of Architecture Paramjit Singh Mahoora on 15th May. He was a sincere teacher and a respected professional. He actively participated in social and professional events. Religious by nature, he prayed and worked for the wellbeing of humanity. He will be remembered by all the Chapter Members with a sense of regard, respect and loss.

INTACH sends heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and wishes them all the very best for the future.

Jalandhar

Arvind R Rajput is appointed the new Addl. Co-Convenor of Jalandhar Chapter. INTACH welcomes him with many good wishes for every success in promoting the heritage of Jalandhar which has its own unique culture, and is a popular destination for many people.

The second volume of the quarterly newsletter of Jalandhar Chapter reported not only local activities conducted by the Chapter, but also gave heritage perspectives on Guru Nanak’s 550th birth Anniversary and on Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Phillaur. It has also been uploaded on INTACH website.
The Chapter has been very involved in assisting the administration during Covid-19. More than 5.8 lacs tons of wheat were procured from farmers in the Jalandhar region and they did not have to sleep over in the Mandis, as is the usual practice. Sufficient rations were provided to migrant labourers and due to strict measures there were no Covid casualties.

Monitoring the Sabji mandis was another issue of concern. With the help of the administration, only limited entries were permitted from 4 am onwards. This tightly regulated system ensured that not a single case of Covid was recorded.

RAJASTHAN

Alwar

The Chapter organized a Career Management Workshop for the students of Classes 10th–12th with the Career Counseling Expert and Psychiatrist Amita Kulshrestha, on 13th January at Rajkiya High Secondary School, Khanpur Jatt. Dr. Vishwajit Mittal emphasized on job opportunities, resolving personal problems and importance of heritage conservation.

The Chapter and Rang Sanskar Theatre jointly organized a Matsya Theatre Festival 2020 and Youth Theatre Festival – a Mahakumbha of Theatre on 19th–28th February at Rang Sanskar Theatre, Alwar. It introduced the students to the backdrop of drama, theater and art of acting, which was a novel experience for them.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chapter started an awareness campaign Our Effort – Healthy India. It organized a poster making programme with 17 children of two different joint families of the village, while maintaining safety and social distancing for children and families. The Chapter’s Corona Warrior Kapil Sharma made them aware of all the precautions to be taken and the COVID-19 guidelines.
Barmer

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH received the sad news that Life Member Sangh Singhji Rathore passed away recently. He had been a regular participant in Chapter activities, readily involving himself in almost any work at hand. The Chapter will greatly miss his presence and remember his many contributions to its activities.

INTACH sends heartfelt condolences to all his family members. We wish them strength and forbearance at this difficult time, with many good wishes for the future.

Bhilwara

In celebration of *World Earth Day*, Bhilwara Chapter organized a poster making competition for two groups on 22^nd^ April at the SDA Senior Higher Secondary School. Its Managing Director AH Herbert delivered the welcome speech motivating students to protect the environment. The programme was coordinated by Rekha Heda, while the Poster Competition was organized by Prabha Mehra. Prizes were awarded to the top three entries in both categories.

Natural disasters like droughts, floods and earthquakes. He emphasized on spreading awareness for environmental protection. Convenor Babu Lal Jaju also spoke drawing attention to slogans like “Dust, Smoke and Noise Pollution - *Earth Is Moving towards Its Destruction*”. He spoke about tree plantations and said saplings will be provided to the students. Special Guest, Assistant Conservator of the garden Bhimaram Jat, said that *Earth Day* is celebrated by 192 countries. He reiterated the importance of tree plantation, and said everyday should be treated as *Earth Day*. Co-Convenor Shyamsundar Joshi and Vanpal Bhanwarlal Barhath also expressed similar views.

Poster competition organizer Prabha Mehra announced the winners. In the first group, Alona (Class 8^th^) got the first prize, Laveena Soni (Class 10^th^) the second prize, Sarleen Chauhan (Class 8^th^) the third prize and Vanshika Somani (Class 8^th^) consolation prize.

In the second group the order of merit was Bhavya Jain (Class 7^th^), Harsh Jangid (Class 10^th^) and Maxil Gupta (Class 8^th^). Nikhil and Sachin Shukla of Class 10^th^ and Chhavi Yadav of Class 8^th^ got consolation prize.

As Chief Guest, District Forest Officer Gyanchand spoke on Global Warming, rising temperatures and causes of natural disasters like droughts, floods and earthquakes. He

Convenor, along with Sanvi Somani, Aaradhya Jaju, Sahil Maheshwari and Abir Jaju, shared messages on preserving the Earth by using posters by children.
After planting *Tecoma* flowering plants, industrialist and philanthropist Tilokchand Chhabra and Sangam Industries Group Director VK Sodani said all serious issues of pollution can be resolved through trees plantation. Chapter planted 100 *Tecoma* plants and pledged to grow at least five trees out of these plants.

Chapter Members marked the centenary year of the ancient Bijaulia Palace murals located in Bijoulia tehsil. Jaipur Chapter Members Lakshmi Saini and Neha Ajmera also visited the palace and the ancient fort at Jalindri.

Co-Convenor Shyamsundar Joshi said that to preserve the ancient heritage, a survey is being done of the entire State by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on the suggestions sent by INTACH for the preservation and restoration of archaeological heritage. A proposal has also been sent to the Tourism Department regarding the renovation of the ancient 7 storey stepwell of Bhinay.

INTACH team surveyed 28 Districts of the State including Bhilwara, Shahpura, Banerda, Mandalgarh, Pur and Jambheshwar Temple in Meja district. The survey has been going on for the last 4 years. A zone wise Directory of Mewar, Marwar, Dhundhar, Shekhawati and Hadoti region will be published, and will contain information on heritage of archaeological importance in the region.

On *World Environment Day*, Chapter Members organised a discussion on environmental protection chaired by the Convenor on 4th June at Kumud Vihar. Co-Convenor Shyamsundar Joshi and Chapter Members expressed their resolve to not use polythene but only cloth bags. Convenor Babulal Jaju said that in order to combat scorching heat, previously, mud water pots were kept for the birds. Now special designer pots have been made from tin, which were provided to the many Members present who pledged to use them to serve food and water to the birds.

**Jalore**

Shri Gajendra Pal Singh is appointed INTACH Convenor of the newly established Jalore Chapter. He will be assisted by Vikram Singh as the Co-Convenor and Manvendra Rajpurohit as the Addl. Co-Convenor. Jalore is richly endowed with heritage that is yet to be widely known. We send them our good wishes in the challenging task of breaking new ground and sincerely hope they will succeed in putting Jalore on the cultural map of Rajasthan.

**Jhalawar**

A heritage tour of Ramgarh in Baran district was organized by the Chapter on 5th March. Convenor Rajyapal Sharma, Co-Convenor Madhusudan Acharya, Life Members Ram Gopal Varma and Dilip Srivastava, along with Kota resident Vijay Kumar Maheshwari, left Jhalawar early in the morning by car for Ramgarh Crater. They were warmly welcomed by local residents and the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch. The citizens were apprised of the efforts being made by the Central Office to bring Ramgarh Crater on the tourist map. The local citizens and Panchayat officers assured that they will fully support this initiative and publicise the area. Concerns were expressed over the plight of *Bhanddevra Shivayala*, also known as Mini Khajuraho.

After visiting the entire region, the team reached Baran at night. Baran Convenor Jitendra Kumar Sharma welcomed them and discussed the work being done by the Chapter.
Kota

Kota Chapter published its first E Newsletter with a comprehensive report on all its activities during the course of the last year.

World Wildlife Day was celebrated with the international theme *Sustaining All Life On Earth* by the Chapter in association with the Forest Department on 3rd March. They marked the day by cleaning the *Abheda Talab* of 3.5 tons of plastic, polythene and glass bottles. Chapter Convenor Nikhilesh Sethi along with Chapter Members Dr. Krishnendra Nama, Kiran Choudhary, Abhinandan Sethi, AH Zaidi, Banwari Yadhuwanshi, Forest Officer Anurag Bhatnagar and 20 young volunteers participated in this drive.

The Chapter began a campaign ‘Humans of Hadoti Heritage’ to appreciate and recognize the efforts of individuals from online social media platform in maintaining, preserving and enhancing the tangible and intangible heritage of the region. These participating persons will be recognized quarterly through online platform of Facebook, and awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts.

Convenor Nikhilesh Sethi and Co-Convenor BS Hada initiated several such activities during the Covid-19 lockdown

On *World Heritage Day*, Chapter organized an online campaign on Hadoti Heritage—*Dharbar Hamari Jimmedari Hamari* on 18th April. About 150 citizens shared photos of heritage sites/ objects/paintings/artworks of Hadoti region with a brief introduction to them. These are being regularly uploaded on Kota Chapter Facebook page in order to increase awareness and bring people closer to their own heritage.

A tree plantation drive was organized with organic manure and *Parinda* distribution to the Forest Department, to save birds from thirst. Life Member and MLA Bharat Singh, Convenor Nikhilesh Sethi, Members BS Hada, Brijesh Vijaywargiya, Anil Sharma, Prahlad Dubey and Young INTACH Member Aditya Sethi, along with 15 participants from NGOs, participated. All precautionary measures of masks, sanitization and social distancing were observed. Life Member Dr. Ektaa Jain Sethi was invited as a panelist on the Kota City Blog to discuss environmental concerns during the COVID close down, highlighting
An online art competition was held during Lockdown time for students of Mittal Public School, Vidyashram School and Borkheda Government Sr. Girls’ School, conducted by the Chapter on 25th May - 2nd June. The theme ‘Covid-19 Mein Hasta va Mebakta Bharat’ was displayed through mask paintings, drawings, and thank you cards for the Corona Warriors. 400 entries were received. 40 from each school were selected and cash prizes were awarded to the top three entries with 3 consolation prizes in each school. This project coordinated by Life Members Dr. Mukti Parashar and Dr. Ektaa Jain Sethi, was much appreciated by parents and local guardians as a Stay Home Stay Safe event.

Chapter Convenor Nikhilesh Sethi carried out several personal initiatives during Lockdown, like distribution of 6 tractor trolleys of fodder for the street animals (Gau Dhan) in a span of 10 days in Kota city, and donating a quintal of jowardana for the birds. Sanitization - the need of the hour - was taken up seriously by providing a personal tractor and a spray machine to the local authorities for spraying the sanitization chemical on roads and in public places. INTACH congratulates the Chapter for this extraordinary initiative.

**Sawai Madhopur**

Additional Co-Convenor Dr. Aarti Singh Bhadauria, Associate Prof. of Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, was awarded the Asia Continent Harmony Award in Kathmandu by Nepal’s former Prime Minister Ram Chandra Paudel. First Vice President Justice Parmanand Jha, Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav, former Supreme Court Justice Girish Chandra Pal, and Advocate Kuldeep Prasad Sharma, Secretary East-West Law Firm of Nepal Supreme Court, attended the function organized by the International Harmony Forum.

She was honoured in recognition of her active contributions in social service and literary activities. She also rendered a poetic song on the occasion to the delight of the audience.

**Udaipur**

The Chapter announced the publication of the Quarterly Newsletter and creation of a Website for reaching out to a larger audience was completed as scheduled.

The Chapter thanks senior most Life Member Dr. ML Nagda for having given the most befitting name to the newsletter **NIDHI DARPAN**.

The Chapter also thanks Swapnil Bhatnagar from Bengaluru for having created the Website: intachudaipur.org at the minimum cost.

The first issue of *Nidhi Darpan* was inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami with Chairman...
Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 1st February to discuss and approve three major activities—Gandhi @150, Essay & Painting competition and Seminar on Food Heritage of Rajasthan (15th Feb.), and Citizenship and Teachers’ Training Workshop (27th–28th Feb.). Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar thanked Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi and Swati Puri for their inputs.

The Department of History, MLSU, Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation and the Udaipur Chapter jointly organized a Seminar on Traditional Food Recipes of Rajasthan on 15th February at the Conference Hall of the University Guest House.

A total of 85 participants from a mix of different sectors, including hotels and housewives, presented over 40 papers and discussed recipes, ingredients, cooking methodology, utensils used, nutritional requirements and seasonal suitability of the food. Eminent Historian Dr. Krishna Jugnoo, in his keynote address, described the entire historical background of Rajasthan’s food heritage, recipes prepared on different occasions, ingredients used and their impact on health.

Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Prof. NS Rathore, inaugurated the Seminar and laid emphasis on the importance of the traditional recipes even to this day.

Organizing Secretary Dr. Peeyush Bhadvia thanked the guests and participants, and expressed a desire to organize a Seminar cum Workshop on food heritage in near future.

The Newsletter was also released at Udaipur by Vice Chancellor Prof. NS Rathore, MPUAT with all senior Chapter Members present.

The Chapter thanks Chapter Director Group Captain (Retd.) Arvind Shukla, for his support.

CONDOLENCES

Life Member Thakur Ghanshyam Singh Krishnawa left for his heavenly abode on 27th March. He will always be remembered as a promising, active and cheerful participant in Chapter activities. He will be greatly missed.

INTACH extends its deepest condolences to the family and prays that he may rest in peace.

Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi spoke about the International Museum Day on his youtube channel on the occasion of International Museum Day on 18th May.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9yNqF81Sy U&t=9s
On the request of the State Convenor, Udaipur Chapter Convenor BP Bhatnagar contributed Rs. 5000 to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund through Bhatnagar Sabha, Rupees 4000 on food packets through the Maharaja Pratap Senior Citizens Society and Rs. 2000 through Bharat Vikas Parishad from his personal funds.

Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi shared a brief video on the environment which he produced to commemorate World Environment Day. The video may be viewed on link [https://youtu.be/XtyPrISnUIM](https://youtu.be/XtyPrISnUIM)

On 18th April World Heritage Day an online painting competition was organized with the participation of 45 students from Central Public School, Rockwood School and Central Academy (Sardarpura). Six prizes were awarded. Videos may be viewed on the Chapter Website.

Udaipur Sthapana Diwas was held on 26th. April. The Foundation Day coincided with Akshaya Tritiya. A meeting was held (virtual) where videos prepared by historians Prof. Lalit Pandey and Prof. Girish Nath Mathur, VC JRNRAU, Prof. S Sarangdevot, Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi and Dr. BP Bhatnagar were shared. These videos were also shared on the Chapter’s whatsapp Group and website– [www.intachudaipur.org](http://www.intachudaipur.org)

On 16th May, the Executive Committee Meeting was held when Members joined the meeting on WebEx from 5:30-6:30 pm and discussed various aspects of Chapter related activities. Dr. BP Bhatnagar, Gaurav Singhvi, Prof. Lalit Pandey SK Shrimali, Prof. Meena Gaur and Munish Goyal joined special invitees Manalong Ita and Sudhir. Swapnil and Vatsala conducted the meeting from Bengaluru.

International Museum Day was marked on 18th May. Heritage Club of Maharana Mewar Public School, Udaipur organized a webinar through Google Meet with a talk by Prof. Lalit Pandey on Museums and their role in society to develop a feeling of inclusiveness and equality. Attended by 26 students, Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar and Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi were present. The coordinating team of Pratima Paliwal, Kamla Choudhury, Manveer Singh Shaktawat and Saba Shaukat Sheikh conducted it very efficiently.

Six video talks were also presented on different aspects of museums in another successful online programme arranged with the technical support from Swapnil, Vatsala and Manita from Bengaluru and Udaipur.

Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar discussed the importance of International Museums Day. Prof. History and Archaeology Prof. Lalit Pandey shared his views on the origin, historical sketch and importance of the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, with a virtual visit to the City Palace Museum.

Dr. Liaque Hussain spoke about Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal Museum assisted by Curator Dr. Rohit Manaria. Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi spoke about types of museums and their importance, and Vilas Janve concluded with thoughts on the need of public support for maintenance of museums.

The Department of History & Civilisation, Gautam Buddha University, Noida, organized a five-day lecture series on Google Meet. On 31st May, they invited Convenor Dr. Bhatnagar to give a talk on Virasat. He touched on various aspects of the subject, it’s meaning,
types, role of citizens, INTACH’s role and importance, constitutional provisions, role of UNESCO and World Heritage Sites in India, INTACH heritage, courses, employment opportunities as well as expectations of the young generation. It was attended by a large number of students, faculty and others from all over India. He invited all to join INTACH to protect and conserve the rich heritage of India and thanked the organizers, especially Dr. Dikshita Ajwani.

World Environment Day was commemorated on 5th June with an online poster making and painting competition for the students of associated schools. 272 students participated even during such a difficult time of the pandemic and were awarded certificates and prizes (Gandhiji’s book Hind Swaraj).

TAMIL NADU

Dr. Suresh has a personal library housed in the upper floor of his office-cum-residence that also serves as the State Chapter Office. The library comprises over 22,000 books, palm-leaf and paper manuscripts, some dating back to the early 19th century. This huge personal collection owes its origin to Suresh’s great grandfather who was an educationist, and substantially enlarged it and established a not-for-profit Library called the ‘Modern Home Library’ at Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu. Later, most of the books travelled with Suresh’s father to Mumbai and Delhi, and finally to their present home in Chennai. The collection includes the complete works of Kalidasa, Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, John Keats, Robert Browning, Milton, Virginia Woolf, Nirad Chaudhuri, Sarojini Naidu and RK Narayan, besides 11 versions of the Ramayana, 7 versions of the Mahabharata, 4 editions of the Bible, 1 edition of the Koran, Archaeological Survey of India Monument Guidebooks of the 1940s, several rare books on various subjects. A few of the older books have gold rimmed pages with hand painted pictures.

The library, also has a unique collection of over 100 bookmarks made of multifarious materials such as paper, cardboard, leather, bamboo, sandalwood, stained glass, wool and metal. Local students and scholars regularly use this library. During the recent nationwide lockdown, Dr. Suresh and his assistants, dusted and rearranged all these books and manuscripts – a back-breaking labour intensive task spanning 46 days. The library now welcomes visitors for a special three hours Hands-On conducted tour curated by Dr. Suresh.

On request of S Ananthakrishnan, a Rotarian and a heritage-minded citizen of Mettupalayam in Tamil Nadu, the State Chapter coordinated with the Coimbatore Chapter to prevent the demolition of a mid-19th century road bridge at Kallar on the ghat road leading from Mettupalayam at the foothills up to the hill station of Ooty in Nilgiris District. The bridge is an engineering marvel and has been included in the Architectural Listing-cum-Documentation of heritage buildings of the region, undertaken on behalf of INTACH in 1992-93 by Dr. S Suresh, then a college student. After the construction of a new wider bridge in the vicinity, this old bridge is not in use and the locals rightly fear that it may be demolished by the Highways Department. The local citizens and INTACH have jointly appealed to the Highways Department to preserve this bridge as a Tourist Watchtower or Photography Spot, a favourable reply from the Government is awaited.

To help the artistes and artisans whose livelihood has been
affected by the pandemic-induced Lockdown, the State Chapter helped stone carvers and their families in and around Mahabalipuram. Mahabalipuram and monument sites are now closed for visitors indefinitely. The stone carvers and other artisans are facing severe economic crunch because they are entirely dependent on tourism for survival. Dr. Suresh has visited Mahabalipuram numerous times as an Archaeology Researcher, tour guide, and knows many of the artisans in and around this heritage town. The children of these artistes and artisans were gifted interesting educational-cum-learning materials they could use during the prolonged lockdown holidays, and child-level historical novels and heritage-related books in English and Tamil, including some authored by Dr. Suresh. The children and their parents received packets of puffed rice, sweets, mangoes, jackfruits and guavas—the fruits sourced from Dr. Suresh’s garden.

Chennai

The Chapter in cooperation with the Madras Institute of Development Studies presented a talk on *Culture of the Indian Nomads – The story of an INTACH project* held on 6th March at Adiseshaiah Auditorium, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. The talk by scholar and cultural activist Padmashri Dr. GN Devy centered around the gaps in understanding the social complexities in India by the Colonial Government. A tragic result of their cognitive failure was the creation of a category of communities wrongly described as criminal tribes. The talk was the outcome of the project with illustrations of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNT). Dr. Devy is also the founder of the Adivasi Academy at Tejgarh Gujarat and the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes Action Group.

On 29th February, the Chapter in association with the National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, organized a talk on *Government Arts College Kumbakonam – INTACH’s Architectural Restoration Report* by Conservation Architect Sakshi Murugan at Vishweshwarya Hall Civil Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Technology, Adyar Chennai.

On 19th February, *Neeli Raag True Blue*, an 85 minutes documentary film by Swati Dandekar was screened at Goethe Institute Chennai. The film shared the story of the colour (Indigo) and the stubborn dreamers who kept it alive through a century of oblivion.

To commemorate *World Heritage Day* the Chapter and the National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures (NCSHS) organized The Eight Annual Lecture on *Safety and Conservation of Heritage Structures on Breathing life into existing buildings: Demolition isn’t always the best solution* by Zoom on 29th May presided by Mumbai based Steve Fernandez, Conservation Accredited Engineer and Associated Director at Arup. Steve Fernandez draws on his years of experience and
expertise to bring to the fore. The essentials of conservation philosophy using case studies that he has worked on as an engineer.

**Kodaikanal**

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT?**

Life Member Dr. Mala Chatterji, a sociologist based in Kodaikanal, shares this mystical incident from personal experience, while grieving for her departed father. It is believed that in the temple at Melmaruvathur near Chennai such mystical powers still exist, as also in other obsolete temples in Tamil Nadu has to experience it to believe it! One extract is reproduced below to corroborate what she said.

*The temple priest was at entrance, clad in a red dhoti and a red towel round his bare body. He asked us to sit down and quietly observe the entire proceedings. All of us close family members, were seated around me on a mat. A stainless steel tumbler was placed inverted on the mat. As we sat motionless, our eyes focussed on the tumbler; all of a sudden within a fraction of a second, the tumbler started moving around in circles on that plate. We heard the voice of my departed father, in exactly his own voice, with the same familiar colloquial Tamil words. He said that he passed away suddenly, leaving his entire family in a kind of shock, and not knowing what to do in the future. He blessed us and said that he would always guide us in our future ventures.*

*Then all of a sudden everything was silent and the tumbler stopped moving. One could feel the continuous sense of estrangement, locking any correspondence with the surrounding environment. It was an absence that creates a void for you. My yearning to be attached with my father’s soul for a few seconds more seemed foolish.*

**Nagercoil**

Ms. Anita Natarajan (Sabine) is appointed Additional Co-Convenor of Nagercoil Chapter. INTACH wishes her every success in her future heritage conservation assignment. We hope it will be a long and cherished association for both her and for INTACH. All our good wishes are with her.

**TELANGANA**

**Hyderabad**

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH mourns the loss of longstanding Life Member and Member INTACH Hyderabad Executive Committee, Sri Umapathy, KHCS Samasthan Domakonda. He passed away on 27th May at the age of 92. He was a scion of the princely estate in Kamareddy, District of Telangana State and also the first Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam. He was a great believer in the religion of kindness and diversity. An Urdu poet known for his *Shayari*, and varied interests in heritage and philanthropy, he was a great support to INTACH and worked tirelessly for the protection and restoration of Domakonda Fort, Kamareddy District, Telangana.

INTACH sends our heartfelt condolences to his wife Srimati Pushpa Umapathy and son Anil Kumar. We wish them infinite strength and forbearance to cope with this tremendous loss. His was a life lived well and long, and may he now rest in everlasting peace.

On 25th December, the *Sikh Heritage Foundation* organised a lecture at Salarjung Museum, where two documentary films featuring the Sikh legacy remnants in Pakistan, ‘Peering Soul’ and ‘Peering Warrior’, were screened. Author Amardeep Singh gave a talk on the journey in the making of his book ‘Allegory, A Tapestry of Guru Nanak’s Travels’.
The book *Citizen Activism in India* authored, by Dr. N Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, Centre for Media Studies New Delhi, was released at Hyderabad Book Fair 2019 in Hyderabad on 31st December. The Hyderabad Literary Festival (HLF) provided a platform for all forms of literature, visual arts, culture and heritage through Literary Sessions, on January 24th to 26th.

The Second Edition of *3 Day Plan India National Children's Literary Festival*, was held at Catholic Health Association in India (CHAI) Training Centre at Medchal, on 31 January. A photo documentation showcasing the precious living cultural heritage of Telangana was shown at the Tribal Festival “Sammakka Saralamma Jatara” or “Medaram Jatara” on 5th–8th February 2020.

**Warangal**

A certificate course on Pilgrimage Tourism in Warangal District was organised by the Department of History, Kakatiya Government Degree College, Hanamkonda on 27th February in association with the Chapter. Convenor Prof. M Pandu Ranga Rao delivered lectures to participants on Kakatiya heritage, restoration, preservation and reconstruction of Kakatiya Monuments. He highlighted the objectives of INTACH and its role in preservation of heritage, culture and monuments in India. He spoke about the Chapter’s efforts in preserving monuments of the Kakatiya period.

**TRIPURA**

The Chapter has been deeply involved in distributing dry food rations and relief material since the Lockdown was imposed both in Agartala and rural inaccessible hilly areas.

**JATARA**

The *Jatara* is a cultural festival of the Tribals held in February to honour the goddesses celebrated in Telangana. Medaram is a remote place in the Etturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the Deccan. The festival showcased several tribal instruments, traditional artifacts and different dance forms like Dhimsa and Gussadi. A display of organic tribal food, wild fruit and flowers as promotion and preservation of fauna and flora, are important facets of tribal lifestyles. *Jatara* created an opportunity for anthropologists, researchers and students to understand the lifestyles and culture of tribes.
areas of Tripura carried out in collaboration with social organisations like Ashabori Society and Tipra, and some entrepreneurs from Agartala. Around 350 Kgs. of rice, pulses, oil, soya chunks, dry fish, salt, soap, and masks were donated. The social workers disseminated information on the hazards of Corona Virus and measures to prevent it. Around four camps were held through efforts of the Convenor, MK Pragya Deb Burman for the benefit of slum dwellers in particular.

UTTAR PRADESH

Allahabad

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, Allahabad Chapter Convenor, alongwith Chapter Members, organized a Facebook Live session on 18th April.

The session was conducted by Life Member Vaibhav Maini outlining the archeological significance and historical importance of two iconic structures- Government House and the Darbhanga Castle at Allahabad. Both structures were of significant importance during the British period as Allahabad was both an important centre and the capital of then United Provinces.

Another live video session, Understanding the History of the Ram Dal procession, its essence and evolution in Prayagraj – Dussehra Ramlal Processions of Allahabad by Dr. Pallavi Chandel, was held on 24th May.

Gorakhpur

The Chapter organized a Summit on Clean Water: From Past to Present on 27th February in collaboration with Mahanagar Paryavaran Manch and Earth Day Network at Hotel Vivek, Gorakhpur. Its objective was to examine the revival of water harvesting and conservation, both a dying heritage as per the recent judgment of National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Reverse Osmosis. Additional Co-Convenor Achintya Kumar Lahiri welcomed the guests. Convenor MP Kandoi said rain is a primary source of water and explained how historically this form of pure water was always valued and nurtured, and how extinction of heritage water bodies has increased dependence on groundwater and energy. Dr. VK Srivastava explained how modern water purification devices are giving us safe but not necessarily healthy water. Government representatives present described the activities conducted by the Department for Water. There was general consensus that traditional heritage water bodies must be revived, and public awareness created on not using RO. A water testing center also needs to be established at Gorakhpur.

The Municipal Commissioner of Gorakhpur, Manager of Gorakhpur Water Supply, Head of Department of SPM Board Medical College Dr. VK Srivastava, ADM Finance Gorakhpur Faculty of Environment Engineering University of Technology, representative of Chamber of Industry and several INTACH Members attended this important meeting.

Jhansi

Shri Rajeev Sharma is appointed the Convenor of Jhansi Chapter. He will be assisted by the newly appointed Co-Convenor Shri Arvind Kumar Ojha. INTACH extends them both a hearty welcome to the INTACH family, and our good wishes in executing the new responsibilities you have taken up. We hope you will enjoy working with INTACH – and wish you success all the way forward.
The Jhansi Chapter was revived after a long interval on 29th February. A heritage awareness programme was organized at Maharani Laxmi Bai Inter College, inaugurated by the INTACH Chairman LK Gupta, who was accompanied by Director Chapters Group Capt. A Shukla (Retd.). The Chairman was welcomed with an impressive salute and band performance by NCC Cadets.

Bundeli folk recital was presented by Anshul Saxena and her team, and Bundeli Rai dance by the Bundelkhand college students. Malkhamb Art performance was displayed by the students of Laxmi Bai Inter College.

State Minister Hargovind Kushwaha appraised the gathering on significance of Jhansi and shared a brief account of Bundelkhandi Culture. Chief Guest Maj. Gen. LK Gupta spoke on INTACH’s mission and briefed the audience on the work being done by 210 Chapters across the country. Chairman outlined a brief history of the Jhansi Chapter and expressed happiness at its revival. He was happy that the Chapter is now in the capable hands of the newly appointed Convenor Rajeev Sharma and Co-Convenor Arvind Kumar Ojha, and urged them to induct more Members and widely promote Jhansi’s heritage and culture.

Convenor Rajeev Sharma said a book on the ancient architecture of Jhansi is being planned, featuring key historical locations, folk arts and Bundeli Culture of Jhansi Region.

Co-Convenor Arvind Kumar Ojha coordinated the programmes.

Kanpur

The Kanpur Chapter organized the book launch titled “Manchester of The East–The Rise And Fall Of Industry In Kanpur” by SP Mehra on 22nd March at Kanpur.

Lalitpur

Lalitpur Chapter and Manav jointly organised an awareness programme, Hamara Ghar – Hamari Bagwani, to celebrate the World Environment Day with tree plantation on 5th June. Social distancing guidelines imposed during the Corona-19 pandemic were strictly observed. Many dignitaries and Chapter Members participated in the event and shared their garden’s pictures. Convenor Santosh Kumar Sharma said that we need to protect our environment to the greatest extent possible. Renowned Doctor and Philanthropist Dr. Rajkumar Jain said that tree plantation must be a regular activity and not just on any one particular day. Artist OP Birthare emphasized on gardening at home and keeping the country environmentally healthy. Senior Journalist Manoj Purohit said that environmental protection is not the duty of the Government and NGOs alone, but the responsibility of every citizen. Environmentalist Pushpendra Singh Chauhan said if anyone is not able to attend such tree plantation programmes, they should at least try to keep their surroundings green. He coined the slogan - Ped  

Tree plantation conducted by Lalitpur Chapter and Manav Organisation
**Poudhon mein Rahte Bhagwan – Paryavaran Raksha mein Karo Yogdan.** The event was attended by several Members and many people.

The Chapter announced the winners of the event. Dr. Rajkumar Jain stood first, Dr. Rajiv Kumar Niranjan was second and Naseeb Ali came third.

**Lucknow**

On 8th February, *Nadi Mein Naad Swar* was flagged off by Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia. It was a joyous ride on a whispering Gomti, carrying 125 people on a boat ride accompanied by the sound of music. The passengers observed the flow of the river as it sailed by architectural sites like the Asifi Imambara, Sheesh Mahal, Dilkusha Palace and La Martiniere – encapsulating the cultural spirit of Lucknow city. No wonder the Europeans built their houses besides what were once upon a time clean and broad rapid streams. The present scene is in sharp contrast as the river had till recently been choked with garbage, water hyacinth and dead animals. The Nagar Nigam and State Irrigation Department launched a river cleanup programme. However, housing plans are still dictated by the fear of floods in 1962, the shrinking of river bed and discharge of plastics, garbage and even dead bodies into the Gomti waters.

The programme ended with felicitation of Padmashree Yogesh Praveen, followed by a Lucknawi brunch. Thanks to the support extended by the Commissioner of Lucknow, the event was a great success for the Chapter.

Convenor Vipul Varshney also conducted a Facebook live session on the Story of Begum Hazrat Mahal and Lucknow in the war of 1857 on 7th May.

**Varanasi**

Life Member Shashank Singh organized a classical music programme on 11th January by vocalist Samarth Nagarkar at Ganges View Hotel. He is a young talented vocalist living in the USA and teaches Indian classical music. Life Member Padmashree S Supakar welcomed the artiste and guests. Samarth Nagarkar presented *Raag Shuddha Kalya*, *Raag Hameer* and a traditional *bandish* in *Dadra* style.

Large number of students, including those from overseas, and several INTACH Members attended the programme.

Varanasi Convenor Ashok Kapoor, also President *Kala Prakash*, organized *Swar Yatra* under the *Parampara* series.
initiated to promote young talent in Indian classical music. Held at the Peshwa Haveli, Raja Ghat, it was co-sponsored by the Clarks Varanasi. It was a mesmerising performance by vocalist Mohsin Ali Khan, KG Westman on the *Sitar*, Azeem Ali Khan on *Sarangi*, Suranjana Ghosh on *Tabla* accompanied by Amanda Welch and Katarina Dahlbeck on the *Tanpura*.

The Chapter organised another musical evening to celebrate **INTACH Foundation Day** in collaboration with a leading cultural organization *Kala Prakash* at Diamond Hotel. Young talented vocalist from Mumbai *Nirali Kartik* rendered a soulful performance accompanied by Amit Mishra of Mumbai on *tabla* and Pandit Ashok Jha on the harmonium.

**Daastan-e-Hathkargha**, a heritage walk to the Handloom Cluster in Ramnagar area, was conducted on 19th January. It created awareness about protecting handlooms against the onslaught of power looms, and protecting genuine products that ensure local employment. Life Member Padmashree S Supakar, an expert on Banaras Textile, gave a brief talk on the history and techniques of Banaras weaving with samples of rare textiles and ancient graphs. Life Member Prof. Pradosh Mishra spoke on how Banaras became a textile hub. Members visited the handloom cluster with its 200 looms and saw the process of handloom weaving. The head of this cluster is also a manufacturer, Amresh Kushwaha, who showed them how 70/80 years old designs are transferred on to fabrics to revive these old designs.

Varanasi Chapter Managing Committee Members submitted a concept note to Commissioner Deepak Agrawal, requesting permission to address heritage issues. The restoration of the iconic historical landmark, the City’s Clock Tower, was the main agenda, as well as holding workshops in government run schools, and procuring space for a public library. The Chapter would also like to conduct a workshop on **Smart Heritage in Smart City** by the INTACH Heritage Academy. A pre 2016 map of Banaras, originally made by AH Division on the basis of inputs from Varanasi Chapter, was presented to him and to the Vice Chairman, Varanasi Development Authority.

**Basant Panchami**, also known as *Rituraj* in Eastern UP, is an important occasion for all educational institutions. INTACH Institutional Member Sant Atulanand Residential Academy was invited to inaugurate the festival. It was attended by several INTACH Members including Director of the Academy and INTACH Life Member.
Dr. Divya Singh, Coordinator ICH Cell Anjila Agrawal, Head, Spiritual Heritage Cell Anil Kesari, owner Pilgrim Books and INTACH Life Member Ramanand Tiwari. The school management appreciated the participation and support of the Chapter.

Meeting with French Ambassador Emmanuel Ninain and the team

French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Ninain, accompanied by his Deputy Cultural Counsellor, met a delegation of eminent cultural personalities active in heritage conservation in Varanasi. Organized by Convenor Ashok Kapoor, this lunch meeting was hosted at Ganges View Hotel, owned by Life Member Shashank Narain Singh. The Ambassador and his team were apprised of INTACH’s involvement in several projects in Varanasi. He announced that Alliance Francaise Lucknow office will henceforth work closely with the Chapter. Mudita Agrawal, Prof. Prodosh Mishra, Shshank Narain Singh, Prof. Bettina Baumer, and S Supakar were among the eight senior members of the Chapter who raised several issues and made suggestions. A couple of young members from Kala Prakash were also present.

A Heritage Walk was organised by the Chapter on 23rd February. Life Member Anil Kesari and Head Spiritual Heritage Cell of the Chapter briefed the participants. A group of temples dated more than 1000 years old, in a Muslim dominated area near Koyla Bazar were visited— Omkareshwar Temple, followed by Mankameshwar Temple and Akareswar Temples. It is creditable that one family of priests presides and looks after all these well preserved temples. A mosque Arhai Kangoora, situated 1 km away from these temples, dates back to Qutubuddin Aibak’s period and is in good condition, with wall paintings and its old floor well preserved. Daily Namaz is offered by residents of the area.

A memorable lecture Kashi Mein Aayurveda ki Parampara was held on 26th January at Pilgrim Books, Durgakund in collaboration with UP Archaeological Dept. Varanasi Unit and Pilgrim Publishers. Dr. KK Tripathi, former Prof. and Head of Ayurveda Faculty, Banaras Hindu University, spoke about the history and origin of traditional ayurvedic treatments by renowned vaidyas of Kashi (Benaras) which is a great centre for Ayurveda teachings and practice. In Banaras Hindu University (BHU) there are two Ayurvedic Colleges and one Faculty of Ayurvedic Science awarding an MD degree in Ayurveda.

The lecture was attended by a large number of students, scholars and INTACH Members.
On 18th April, the Varanasi Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day with Chapter Members, digitally on Whatsapp, due to the pandemic. Convenor Ashok Kapoor shared the video of a key archaeological site of Varanasi which has been restored by Uttar Pradesh Government Archaeological Dept. under the able guidance of Dr. Subhash Yadav, Regional Archaeological Officer. He said a couple of years ago, the Chapter had organized a walk/visit to this site followed by a delicious Bengali lunch. This walk will be revived once again after the current pandemic, for those who missed it.

The Convenor also shared more videos of the sites visited, like Lal Khan Ka Rouza and Rajghat excavation combined with Adikeshav and Varuna Ganga Sangam, with some explanations on Maqbara and excavations. Also a commentary on Traditional Banaras Paintings on the verge of extinction, by Life Member Shashank Narain Singh, and an expert on the arts, culture and music of Varanasi. He said the Chapter is trying to preserve this art by promoting the only remaining artist, Dayashanker, who was involved in preparing the murals at the Man Mahal Virtual Museum and his work can be found in many other prestigious collections. He shared photographs of artworks created 25 years ago by veteran local traditional artist Ramchander, who is a master in using earth and mineral colors in his works. His paintings are on display at the Ganges View Hotel, Assi Ghat and Gyan Pravah.

A digital heritage walk and a presentation on Man Mahal Virtual Museum was also organized by the Convenor. He began with displays at the entrance wall of Man Mahal Virtual Museum where artistes Dayashanker and Jayendra Mishra are working. He suggested viewing the murals by Punnu Lal painter in Thatari gali, the two Hanumans near Sher Wali Kothia, one Garuda at the door of Pitambraji and paintings by Ustad Mulla Ram and his sons.

He said INTACH is a Knowledge Partner in the project which the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has executed at the National Science Museum. The murals made by Dayashanker are under supervision of INTACH Varanasi with the concept, design and advice given by Life Member Shashank Narain Singh.

A short film on the ancestral house of former Prime Minister, late Shri Lal Bahadur Shashtri, was also shared via video link of Lal Bahadur Smriti Sangralaya.-https://youtu.be/4IDhdS6CqGo

He also shared glimpses of a previous visit to a local traditional wooden toy making unit a couple of months back and a video by Life Member Rawal - Link of Wooden Toy of Banaras : https://youtu.be/w9oHmMMwVUE

Exclusive ancient coins from collections of Chandrapur were deployed by Chapter Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur. One coin has Lord Ram written on it and an image of Hanuman on the reverse. Some of the collections include Maratha coins in the name of Shah Alam II, Ahmedabad Mint AH-1174-1221AD-1759-1806, Ratlam State Ruler Ranjit Singh VS - 1921-1950 AD - 1864-1893 one Paisa VS-1947, Magadh Mahajanapada Karshapana, 6th century BC amongst others.

The Convenor exhibited an exclusive and extremely informative video prepared especially for INTACH by Prof Prodosh Mishra, Head, Dept. of History of Art, BHU and INTACH Life Member. It is based on Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra and the making of Patta Chitra by traditional artistes. Convenor also shared photographs of priceless antique Patta Chitra paintings from the private collection of one of the Orissa Chapter Life Members.
UTTARAKHAND

Dehradun

The Chapter conducted heritage walks in Landour as a part of the three-day Winterline Festival on 27th – 29th December. The walks explored the history of Landour, its rich avian life and its significance in the heritage of Mussoorie. Held on all three days of the festival more than 130 people participated.

A group of 105 people were taken to Lakshman Jhoola in Rishikesh on a heritage tour on 5th January. They visited the Lakshman Jhoola, Satya Sai Ghat and Rani Tikari Temple. The participants were familiarized with the mythological beliefs and historical significance of the region and the topography of the Ganga river. They were curious about its current state and interacted with the walk leaders.

A group of 80 participants were taken to Mohand to a Van Gujar settlement on 23rd February. The Van Gujars are a nomadic community of herders who migrate to the upper reaches of the State with their herd during summer and descend to the plains during winter season. The Van Gujars interacted with participants of the walk and explained their lifestyle to them. They also cooked a traditional meal and served them in traditional utensils.

French Ambassador HE Emmanuel Lenain, his associate Monsieur Romain Otal and a team of seven members were led by Dehradun Chapter on a heritage walk at Haridwar on 28th February. At Har-ki-Pauri they performed a religious ceremony for the well being of Lenain’s ancestors and his family. The team discussed the importance of natural heritage and architecture of the region and the holy river Ganga. The Ambassador and his team also tasted some local cuisine. He was fascinated by the diversity, culture and spirituality that Haridwar holds. He captured memories on his camera and clicked some impeccable frames during his visit.

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The Chapter team accompanied the participants to a Workshop on *Study, Use and Conservation of Timber* organized at Dehradun Institute of Technology (DIT) University on 4th–6th March. DIT Students and INTACH Heritage Academy actively participated in the 3 hour workshop session. The walk through Central Bazaar of the city began at the Clock Tower and ended at Guru Ram Rai Darbar, unveiling some of the history and architecture of the city.

**WEST BENGAL**

The Hooghly Chapter launch and inaugural event has been deferred due to the pandemic. Members of Hooghly District have been holding online meetings to discuss cultural and heritage issues, and planning a course of action once normalcy is restored.

The supercyclone *Amphan* during the third week of May inflicted major damages in West Bengal. The Hooghly District was severely affected and only now limping back to normal life. On behalf of INTACH Hooghly Chapter, Members had made a telephonic survey of the damages caused by the supercyclone to different historical monuments in different areas of the district. On the basis of that survey, a news report was published in *The Hindu*. The report quotes Dr. Antara Mukherjee, Assistant Prof. and proposed Assistant Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

**Kolkata**

The Chapter organized a talk on 22nd February at Park Mansions by eminent photo-journalist Chirodeep Chaudhuri on his celebrated collection of Gandhi figurines. He shared his fascination for the *Father of the Nation* and how and why he amassed this eclectic collection. Park Mansions is one of Calcutta’s iconic turn of the century mansion blocks and is the private residence of Dr. DP Chattopadhyaya, eminent scholar and former Union Minister. INTACH Member Ayan Ghosh coordinated this event.

Chirodeep Chaudhri has had a two decade career in visual communications. His latest, a critically feted book *A Village in Bengal - Photographs and an Essay*, is the result of a 13 year long engagement with his ancestral village in West Bengal and his family’s two century old tradition of Durga Puja. As a *Chronicler of Bombay* he also has various acclaimed documents on Mumbai to his credit. His works are part of the prestigious collections in India and overseas in the Museum of Photographic Arts (Houston USA), Peabody Essex Museum (Massachusetts USA) and Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts (Japan).

Convenor GM Kapur and Chapter Members commemorated *International Nurses’ Day* held on 12th May by organizing a Zoom session on *Lighting the Lamp*, joining hands to thank those Nurses who are risking with some losing their lives in this pandemic. The significance of thousands of Florence Nightingales is pertinent now more than ever probably. This day came into being as a mark of respect, remembering the founder of modern nursing, the *Lady of the Lamp* Florence Nightingale, on her 200th Birthday. The International Council of Nurses has set the theme for International Nurses’ Day 2020 as *Nursing the World to Health*, with focus on the *true value of nurses to the people of the world*.

On 17th May, Prof. Samita Sen, Vere Harmsworth Prof. in Imperial and Naval History, Cambridge University spoke on *Nursing in India from Colonial Times*. She received her PhD from Cambridge University and was a JRF at Trinity College. She taught at Calcutta and Jadavpur University. She also served as First Vice Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women’s University. Her monograph, *Women and Labour in Late Colonial India* (Cambridge University Press) won the *Trevor Reese Prize* in Commonwealth History. She has been active in the women’s movement in India and internationally.
Her recent books include *Domestic Days* and Passage to Bondage.

Even while Coronavirus is wreaking havoc across the world and forcing humanity to quickly adapt to a new normal, passion for music remains unabated. The Chapter, in association with Pankaj Mullick Music and Art Foundation, commemorated the 115th birth anniversary of legendary singer-composer-actor Pankaj Mullick on 10th May, in a meeting on a virtual platform. The audience was taken on a trip down memory lane where nostalgia held sway and melody reigned supreme. Pankaj Mullick's maternal grandson Rajib Gupta regaled the audience with anecdotes and historical references that brought alive the remarkable life and times of one of India's greatest artistes. Jhinuk Gupta, granddaughter-in-law of the music maestro, resurrected Mullick's timeless melodies and immortal compositions through her singing.

During a walk-through of the music room of Pankaj Mullick, the audience got to see his many awards and citations as well as rare photographs of his glorious career. State Convenor GM Kapur coordinated the entire live telecast in a remarkable manner and received overwhelming praise and appreciation from the audience.

**Darjeeling**

A meeting was organized on 13th March to revive the Chapter. Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) LK Gupta chaired the meeting that was co-chaired by State Convenor GM Kapur.

State Co-Convenor Nayantara Palchoudhuri was also present. Twenty local participants attended the meeting. MPK Dong, State Convenor Sikkim was a special invitee.

Convenor Darjeeling Chapter Bharat Prakash Rai welcomed the dignitaries with garlands and Gorkhali caps. At the request of Chairman, Members introduced themselves and the Convenor read the memorandum on Chapter activities and proposals comprising comprehensive listing of heritage sites, conservation of water bodies, restoration of dilapidated Sidrapong Hydel Power plant among others. Chairman assured the Chapter of all possible help in this regard.

GM Kapur suggested that the Chapter Members prepare a project proposal and submit it to the INTACH Head Office, New Delhi with a copy to the State Convenor. Chairman elaborated INTACH’s objectives, mission and current activities. Member Prem Sotang informed that the two heritage sites, Rabindranath Tagore’s residence at Mongpu and Quinine Factory are in a dilapidated condition and need to be protected, and urged a heritage status for the Gorkha War Museum. Hemant Pradhan owns rare World War I and II soldiers’ belongings, medals and uniforms which are presently at his own residence.

GM Kapur Convenor inquired about the status of Bengal Natural History Museum. The Museum building has been emptied by shifting all the valuable assets to the new building at the Zoo. On Chairman’s request, Convenor Rai gave a detailed account of activities of the Darjeeling Chapter. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chairman.

**Santiniketan**

*Vriksharopan*, a Tree Planting Ceremony, is one the oldest traditional local rituals of Santiniketan, Bolpur area. Initiated by Rabindranath Tagore on 17th July 1928, it is now an annual event at Santiniketan. The festival is celebrated on the death anniversary of Tagore, 22nd day of Shravana. Celebrated with much fanfare as a seasonal festival in picturesque surroundings, with artistic inputs like a well decorated *alpana*, there is music, dancing and Vedic chanting. Nature’s fertility is invoked, symbolizing its ever recurring youth. The sapling is carried in a procession on a *palki* or *choudola* by traditionally dressed students.
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- Sea shells? Undelivered star menu!
- When nonplussed......like you and me
- Offer...Double Indian coconuts at temples?
- Sculpture: Carrying the burden of the World
- Super Blood Moon at Mammallapuram
- 4000 year old marriage contract
- Driving away summer blues
- Joyous parents with new born
- Coronavirus free Darter, Delhi
- Sheep practicing Yoga?
- Desperate Tiger escapes to a bed
- Safe Place: Liuzhou Forest City, China
Climate & Environmental Degradation – a threat to National Health