Welcoming Charles Correa…
– Chairman LK Gupta

“Let me thank and welcome you for joining us on this World Heritage Day, which we celebrate by holding the Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture, in memory of her outstanding role, contribution and initiative is establishment of INTACH - the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage - leading it as our Vice Chairman and then Chairman during its first 14 formative years. INTACH was set up to re-awaken heritage awareness in the people of India so that they play a role in preserving and protecting their heritage – which is their constitutional duty as well – be it architectural, natural, material or intangible. Pupulji is the recipient of the Padma Bhushan and Watumull Awards as early as 1967 for her contribution and passion for culture, development of handlooms and crafts of India. Arguably India’s best known cultural personality, Pupulji rose to the position of Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on cultural resources.”

After thus warmly greeting Charles Correa, INTACH Chairman LK Gupta said cities are the pride of every nation representing power in various manifestations. He cited examples like the oldest living city Varanasi known for religion; others like Madurai for textiles; political capital Pataliputra; Kusan capital Mathura; renowned university city Nalanda; royal temple city Gangai-Konda Cholapuram; and UNESCO World Heritage 18th century Hampi. All these cities were connected with the then prevailing political powers, and known for art and trade. Chairman said the theme Cities and Political Power is uppermost in the mind of every Indian today as there are many urgent questions clamouring for an answer about our cities. He hoped Charles Correa, a recipient of several international awards - a planner, activist, theoretician and one of the few contemporary architects who have been of decisive importance to urban planning in post Independent India - will address the crucial issues arising from rapid urbanization, including affordable housing and the proliferation of squatters.

Architect-cum-planner Padma Bhushan Charles Correa delivered a thought-provoking Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture, instituted by INTACH four years ago on World Heritage Day, at India International Centre in Delhi. With borrowed spectacles (since he forgot to bring his own), he shared his stellar contributions in the field of spatial planning in India over the past five decades, both as a thinker and a practitioner. He also profiled what needed to be done about our cities. Examples of some of his innovative projects like the Belapur housing scheme and others were shown, and convincingly argued that without providing commensurate amenities, merely increasing the densities of cities would be a tragic error - with irreversible problems in the future.

Charles Correa stated every Indian city is a “Tale of Two Cities”, with squatters becoming a sea of poverty weaving through its affluent high rise buildings. One cannot believe there is such a discontinuity in the same society, same city. On the positive side, if one can at all describe it as such, he showed slides of people living in pipes sharing cups of tea, near a railway line or by the roadside, living there just so they could have an easy access to jobs. He said “It takes centuries to produce a civilization like that; and if abused, we would go the way of Johannesburg and Nairobi and San Paolo and many others where wonderful societies have become violent”.

India had a population of 350 million at the time of Independence, 60 years later we are 1.2 billion. Mumbai for instance had
a population of 2 million in 1947 that is now 18 million.

During the last decade there has been a steady migration of people from smaller cities to metropolis everywhere in India, akin to Europe in the 18th-19th centuries when land could not support its population. In 1955 squatters were 10% of the population, today it is 60% by Government count. Charles Correa likened this population explosion resulting into a frog like situation. “If you put a frog in hot water it’ll jump out. But if you put it in tepid water and very slowly raise the temperature, the frog actually swims around quite happily. In fact, it adjusts to the increasingly dangerous conditions and, just before it cooks to death, it goes into a state of euphoria..........And it seems to me that’s happening to us........we’re on the edge of something which we are not able to deal with”. Correct planning for the future of our living space is therefore most relevant in today’s context when cities are choking with pollution, spilling rubbish bins, broken water pipes, overhanging electric wires and flowing sewage, adding to deplorable living conditions with serious consequences to the health and mind of future generations. In short, “We are confronted with a very serious situation that is heading towards disaster”. He might well have said ‘we are actually in very hot water’ to the audience listening with rapt attention.

Charles Correa recalled Rajiv Gandhi as the first Prime Minister to understand the problem of burgeoning urban growth. He was of the view that unlike European and African countries where the capital dominates the country, Indian cities are wonderfully diverse and

OLD CITIES, NEW FUTURES

In recent times cities have been under the gaze of policy makers the world over as major contributors to climate change. They hog a disproportionate share of energy, generate enormous pollution and cause directly and indirectly, increased of carbon emission. They have been viewed as merely functional machines that sub- serve the production-consumption conundrum. In growing economies like India, the aspirations of cities have not been too different and this has lead to some serious rethinking on the post-industrial suburban models of urban sprawl and the highly zoned, mechanistic view of cities.

Happily, the situation has now begun to take some new directions in many informed quarters among policy makers, the academia and even developers. The ‘green’ movement has already taken root in India and this movement has also spurred a whole new range of products and sustainability-rating methods for the building industry. Yet we know that when individual buildings agglomerate to form settlements, the problems, at the urban design level are far greater than the sum of the parts. Cutting transportation costs and fuel, providing socially accessible amenities, creating opportunities for livelihood, achieving a cogent social fabric etc. are now seen as key to good quality of life. In other words, a compact city form with a high degree of functional mix to cut down commuting time and energy, a viable social mix that is inclusive and accessible, building practices that are energy-efficient and elegant with little embodied energy in the fabric, public places and open spaces that are accessible for all are the values that contemporary urban designers deploy to create liveable cities.

Yet, our old cities which have been abused and neglected by modern planning and development for the past five decades suddenly seem to have most of the answers to the problems of contemporary cities.

Their real value has been obscured by excessive commercialisation, uncontrolled encroachment and dumping of nuisance functions like wholesale, storage, parking and non-formal production of goods. Shackled by archaic tenancy laws and object municipal neglect and corruption, these old cities are overcrowded with high densities, over-stretched infrastructure and a decrepit physical fabric.

However, many of the principles that are emerging in new city design can be seen embedded in the pre-industrial cities. The lessons that India’s old cities hold for the crisis in modern cities are not a romanticised notion of historic formalism. They are sound principles towards which the new cities have to inevitably move:


The issue is not aesthetic, not of imitating a quaint architectural vocabulary based on the old fabric, not even the recreation of the old urban structure. On the contrary, it is now clear that the values embodied in the preindustrial city morphology are the only choices that we have for a climate sensitive, socially and ecologically sustainable urban future. New technologies can be deployed within the physical structure of the old cities to deal with the pressures of contemporary aspirations and economy, while preserving the invaluable historic fabric.

K.T. Ravindran
Chairman, INTACH Heritage Advisory Committee
poly-centred with many of our market towns growing faster than the national average. They need better road connections, water and energy supplies, more amenities. Everywhere one sees a lot of energetic movement, even foreign businessmen stepping over open sewers to place orders! So with good development projects, migrations can be deflected. Even in our existing big cities new centres could be opened up with mass transport. San Francisco for example has a city population of 850,000 with the later developed Bay Area accommodating 4-5 million people – thus San Francisco continues to remain beautiful.

Charles Correa suggested another remedial measure for all our cities, i.e. to recycle land as in the case of mill lands in Mumbai. When he was Chairman of one BMRD Committee, the formula evolved was one-third for affordable housing including genuine cooperatives, one-third given to the city for amenities, and one-third kept by owners at an FAR of 1.33 that was generous. It had a total land potential of 2152 acres offering huge developmental opportunities. Alas, like many other deals in India and unknown to the public, one of the mill owners or perhaps a group of them made a deal with one of the biggest politicians in Mumbai and the whole scene changed! Even a PIL did not succeed in reversing a bad decision.

Cities are not just about housing with no regard for facilities like transport, education, green spaces, trees, cafés, playgrounds, etc. Charles Correa showed pictures of a number of places in Italy, Barcelona, Paris with beautiful sidewalks and social places where one might sit over cups of tea or coffee and browse through newspapers. In contrast there were pictures of tall multiplexes nudging each other with no spaces provided for people to linger, or for sport and recreation, or for children to play. It was lack of such amenities in Manhattan that left only the rich whites or the very poor blacks living in the city, while the well to do middle class moved to the suburbs. He showed the density maps of various cities, with Mumbai being the densest, denser than New York, Hong Kong and San Paolo! Alarm bells should have rung long ago in that ‘maximum city’!

Sixty years after Independence, it is surely time for India to make an important transition. City planning involves having buildings punctuated by open air and green areas. Correa analyzed Delhi City Plan as an example, and was of the view that no permission should be given to build unless amenities are directly proportional to the number of persons living there. He felt the Planning Commission proposal to raise FSI and use the extra money to put in infrastructure might work for water supply, sewage, etc. but will never work for other things which are not about money but about space and about areas required for amenities directly proportional to the number of inhabitants. Correa has worked out the ideal ratio as being 1 hectare of land to accommodate no more than 225 families. If you build the kind of concrete buildings that are coming up in parts of Mumbai, future generations will be condemned to living in totally underprivileged cell-like neighborhoods. It is therefore necessary to recycle available land; and ideally educationists, doctors and sports administrators must be involved in planning as much as architects, engineers and urban development experts. In short, land use allocation is what housing is
about. It was in fact practiced once upon a time in the planning of old Indian cities like Banaras and Jaisalmer. He showed a famous plan for Banaras made by Nolli in 18th century, which has open spaces and streets, and with easy entries to all public buildings. He said if someone just cleaned up the Varanasi of today, “it would be a wonderful human-scaled place with lots of yin-yang”!

Mumbai “is still the best city in India for an average person and for the young student and for the poor person” because of its train system originally built by the British to move people and troops from Bombay to distant places of those days like Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Khyber Pass. Then people started living along these stations, and now along railway lines. Today more than a million people use the Mumbai station every morning making it “the lifeblood of the city”. A picture of Curitiba, Brazil showed bus roads as efficient as the metro, with buses running every 20-30 seconds, and with properties along bus routes getting higher FSI. The conclusion to be drawn is that demand follows supply in such places. Whereas now in India instead of using transport as the lead sector, Indian people must follow it to make life easier for themselves.

With a number of other such different and interesting analogies, Charles Correa concluded by saying cities are social places, “cities are about density of experiences”. Much like the idea of a very famous French biologist who asked “why does a single cell become a double cell, become four cells, etc……I mean once you experience the higher level, the cell doesn’t go back, it goes forward”. Very similar to moving from village to town to city, etc. because cities gives one that complexity which once experienced is difficult to let go. On the other hand one can also destroy a city when it begins to implode as is happening in Mumbai making it a “great city, terrible place”; while Delhi can still be described as a “great place, but not such a great city”. In conclusion Correa said “the cities of India, I think, like the wheat fields of the Punjab and the coal fields of Bihar are an essential part of our national wealth…….They generate urban skills needed for development…….There are very few developing countries, including China, which produce the skills of Indian cities…..they are engines of economic growth…..they are places of hope. Perhaps the only gateway to a better future”.

Charles Correa suggested INTACH should have a seminar which involves people who could define amenities, to be mandated by the Government for social engineering, so that our cities can develop through well thought out plans and a future vision. It elicited a positive response from Chairman LK Gupta, and will be taken up by INTACH.
“As I run alongside the Hudson river in Jersey City, the skyscrapers of New York’s Manhattan on the other bank shimmer in the golden light. Stacked with grimy warehouses until as recently as the 1990s, Jersey City is a counter-magnet to congested, downtown New York (the only US city where drivers honk, accelerate madly and cut lanes in a Mumbai-like scramble for every metre of road).........In the course of my 35-minute run, I hear Gujarati, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Marathi. I also hear Mandarin, Spanish, French, Italian, some African tongues I cannot identify and Portuguese. Oh, and a bit of English.

The local mall advertises Akshay Kumar’s latest......at the foot of the mall, a light railway, sometimes running on the road, connects homes and offices and links up with larger suburban train lines that burrow under the Hudson and merge with New York’s 1,428 km long subway system. You can also catch the ferry to New York from one of two terminals along the river bank.

Across the Hudson, Manhattan has become the preserve of Arab and Russian millionaires.......Its is clear why Jersey City – the equivalent of Navi Mumbai to Mumbai, Noida or Gurgaon to Delhi – thrives. Young professionals ......can rent two-bedroom promenade-hugging apartments (with furnished kitchen, washer-dryer, parking, swimming pools and gym) for about a quarter of their salary. Public transport is plentiful and there’s a sprawling seaside park.

Over the last 15 years, I notice how cities everywhere either recreate themselves or at least try to get the basics right. In Lima, Peru’s capital, I walked for hours on revamped footpaths and found footpaths and drains in poor remote villages in the high Andes, where Bajaj autorickshaws were the preferred mode of transport.......In Sophia, the capital of depressed Bulgaria where donkey carts still roam narrow highways, I used refurbished trams - and excellent footpaths. In Soweto, South Africa’s shanty town and crucible of anti-apartheid resistance, I saw revitalization of a new stadium, new footpaths, bus terminals and museums.

A common theme of urban renewal is the public space that cities carve out of urban wastelands. Cities are engines of enterprise, but they are also repositories of stress. Rich and poor must have common space to recharge and relax. Nowhere is this more evident than Medellin, Colombia........ until 20 years ago the South American city was synonymous with drug cartels.....today, for its 3.5 million people Medellin has a new spotless metro, public squares, cable-car systems that serves and soars over slums, whose inhabitants can use new libraries.......a $7 million escalator that ascends through steep alleyways. The New York Times reported: If you asked architects and urban planners for proof of the power of public architecture and public spaces to remake the fortunes of the city, they’d point here”.

I mulled how the great Cubbon Park at the centre of my hometown, Bangalore, has gone the other way, ceding its trees to roads, parking and mindless constructions, trash strewn across its one-pristine groves and paths. None of the cities I describe is in the First World (except Jersey City), parts of which – with trash-strewn roadsides and potholed roads – would not be out of place in Nalaopara or Najafgarh. Yet, they recreate themselves in a way that Gurgaons, Noidas, Navi Mumbais and other new cities built for emerging India do not.

India is at the cusp. More Indians now live in cities than villages. The main problem : Indian cities are nominally democratic. Power vests not with metropolitan governments but with the state or Centre. All the cities I spoke of have directly elected mayors and deeply involved local agencies..... In Brazil’s Rio De Janeiro (host to the 2014 football World Cup and 2016 Olympics), as part of the city’s renewal, a request from mayor prompted IBM to create its largest ever metropolitan command centre, which handles the data from 30 agencies.......the project overseen by an IBM executive from Bangalore, Guru Banayur!

Indian cities cannot change unless their power structures change.....Unless the Centre and states begin the process of empowering the Indian city, you will find more Indians strolling the Hudson than by the Yamuna”.

**Excerpt : Fear Over Cities, Samar Halarnkar, Ack: Hindustan Times**
Anirudh Bhargava Award

Member Secretary CT Misra announced the INTACH Anirudh Bhargava Environmental Award on 18th April, World Heritage Day. Awarded annually in memory of Anirudh, son of Dr. Ranjit Bhargava, it bestows recognition for outstanding environmental work by an individual or group that is carried out at the local community level with tangible benefits. The areas of activity covered are heritage awareness, water management, greening an area, watchdog activities like prevention of environmental degradation; and related matters so that a broad spectrum of environment-friendly or heritage-conserving activities are adjudged by the Award Committee.

For the year 2010-2011, this Award was conferred on the Federation of Societies for Environmental Protection (FOSEP), Darjeeling. The Society has made a significant contribution of exceptional nature for the protection and conservation of the environment, particularly in the area of water management and greening initiatives.

Remembering Charles Correa

Though Charles Correa may not remember this, but he is responsible for me being amongst you, as he was the one who conferred my degree as a conservation architect at SPA. While studying architecture he was amongst the most discussed and an inspiration to us. While I was a student of architecture I read an article about urban conservation where his simple suggestion was to paint the façade of the building to maintain streetscape. At that time I thought it to be too simplistic but 20 years later this is exactly what we are eventually doing in many cases in conservation of our cityscapes.

Being the first Chairman of the National Commission on Urbanisation and Chairman of Delhi Urban Arts Commission, he highlighted the plight of our cities and recommended for planning in context, the concept of addressing our needs with local solutions inspired by our traditional knowledge and promoting conservation.

Divya Gupta, Principal Director, INTACH Architectural Heritage Division

NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

One Point, Many Viewpoints

Are Property Markets Strangling Urban Development?

Mumbai, fast being reduced to a “Minimum City” is facing a multi-predicament: regulations, financing and graft. Other cities confined by the sea from New York to Hong Kong have soared upwards. Mumbai has 31 buildings over 100 meters high versus 200 in Shanghai and over 500 in Hong Kong and New York. Edward Glaeser of Harvard University reckons that Mumbai has “some of the most extreme land-use restrictions in the developing world”, designed to deter new migrants but which have backfired - as can be plainly seen from the juggie-jopdi sprawls across the city. Urban Planner P.K. Das says the building industry is “feudal, has subverted the land and may need to be nationalized”. According to the Economist, “Great cities are not built by prudes – New York had its share of crooked and fat cats. But Mumbai already has four times the population than New York in 1900, and is in a hurry…..If Mumbai is to become a global hub and offer more people a decent life, its politicians, officials and builders must prove the conspiracy theory wrong”, held by man on the street and captains of industry that arcane rules survive because a small elite finds the status quo lucrative while city development is strangled.

The lowest common denominators are urban planning and political power, the keynotes of the INTACH Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture!

Ack : The Economist Newspaper Limited
conservation of natural environment and biodiversity of the Darjeeling region. It has contributed to the welfare of society, to eradication of social evils, and to alleviation of poverty. Apart from drinking water, plantation and awareness programmes, the challenging work of HIV/AIDS T.I. Project merits special mention. It was undertaken by FOSEP on a massive scale in collaboration with Gram Panchayats.

Shri Charles Correa gave away the citation, the memento and the Rs. 50,000 cheque to Chairman FOSEP Harendra B. Allay and to Secretary FOSEP Bharat Prakash Rai who is also INTACH Convenor of the Darjeeling Chapter.

ICCTCB Calendar Released

Another landmark event at Central Office was the formal release of the Course Calendar of INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building (ICCTCB), set up at Central Office, Delhi. The Calendar for the year 2012-13 was released by Chairman INTACH L. K. Gupta at the function held on World Heritage Day.

The ICCTCB is envisioned as a centre of excellence for training and capacity building in conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage of the country. It is the first of its kind in India, with programmes for training and capacity building in all aspects of heritage conservation and management. The Centre complements the initiatives and activities undertaken by other INTACH Divisions and INTACH Chapters in different parts of the country. The Centre will also focus on training needs and capacity-building potentials of conservation specialists; academic institutions; authorities, departments and organizations (Government and Non-Government); crafts people, the general public and communities. The inter-disciplinary nature of courses and programmes offered will encourage a wide range of participants from within the sub-continent, and also overseas in due course of time.

To encapsulate the main objectives:

- Encourage capacity building by developing skills through training programmes,
- Develop guidelines for conservation training at various levels,
- Promote and undertake research and documentation of traditional knowledge systems and building craft skills,
- Offer special courses on conservation and management of cultural heritage places,
- Connect the training and capacity building needs and potentials across the Divisions and Chapters of INTACH.
- Strengthen implementation of INTACH’s mission and objectives across the country, and in due course offer training courses to other countries of the region.

Conservation Architect Navin Piplani, currently Director of Studies and Hamlyn-Feilden Fellow at the Centre for Conservation Studies, Department of Archaeology, University of York, is appointed the Director ICCTCB. He is responsible for designing the courses and running the activities of the Centre commencing later this year when dates are finalised.

Meeting with INTACH (UK) Trust

Chairman LK Gupta attended the 25th Meeting of the INTACH UK Trust on 15th-16th June at London.

The regular items of the agenda like financial accounts and projection for the coming year, and disbursement of funds/scholarships featured in the discussions. A special item on the agenda was Vision for INTACH-UK: Refinement of Draft Vision which is a continually evolving process for both INTACH and the INTACH UK Trusts.
To Note:

All Convenors are kindly requested to take note that Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 1st April 2011-31st MARCH 2012, duly signed by Convenor and Co-Convenor are required to be sent to Central Office urgently. Also timely Annual Report of the Chapter (along with a soft copy), highlighting the achievements may please be sent as they are required to be reflected in the Annual Report of INTACH Central Office. (Reference Chapter Guidelines – pg.23 and pg 91). (Only applicable to Convenors who have not sent the Accounts/Reports to date)

You are also requested to realize membership dues from Institutional, Ordinary, Associate and Student Members in time.

Please note email and direct telephone of the Chapters Division : chaptersdivision@gmail.com / tel : 24626256.

Chapters not having email ID at present are requested to do so and intimate the same to Central Office for facilitating better communications.

Andhra Pradesh

The Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted two task force committees, one at State level and the other at various District levels, for protection and prevention of encroachment at heritage sites. To cite one example, in Srikakulam District there has been demolition of heritage remains of Burralakota or Purrelakota near Duppalavalasa of Etcherla Mandal by unidentified people. Collectors will now ensure that district administration officials will identify specific heritage sites and take necessary steps, apart from the listing exercise that is on-going.

East Godavari

The State Bank of India, Kakinada has a long history dating back to 1864, as the first branch to be opened in South India. A Heritage Gallery was opened in 2009 in the erstwhile residence of the Bank Manager. Convenor L. Seshha Kumari reports that the premises still retain the exotic wooden furniture in good condition, and even display shelves with old ledgers, accounts book, bank instructions, old currency notes, accounts of celebrities, etc. Of special interest is the ledger account of Viswakavi Ravindranath Tagore which the students participating in the recent Tagore Festival were thrilled to see.

Collector & District Magistrate East Godavari District Neetu Prasad, the Chief Guest at the function gave a valuable message before distributing the prizes and certificates to 60 awardees of the Grow Trees.com with which the Chapter was registered. Madanapalle, where Gurudev translated the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana into English, was the venue for planting trees in the name of the prize winning students. Mementoes were presented to the Chief Guest and the Chief Manager of the SBI Heritage Museum.
Hyderabad

The XVII INTACH Heritage Awards function was held on 18th April at the auditorium Mir Ali Khan, Salar Jung Museum, as is the annual practice of the Chapter on World Heritage Day. Convenor P. Anuradha Reddy welcomed the large gathering.

This year the following monuments were presented with Heritage Awards, another annual practice of the Chapter, by Prof. Ramakrishna Ramaswamy, the Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad:

- Dargah Moosa Quadri, Puran Pul
- Saif Gulshan, Asif Nagar
- Ashur Khana Hussaini Alam
- Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolaram
- Osman Saga, Gandipeet
- Chiran Mosque, Jublee Hills

He also released the well documented INTACH Heritage Annual-2012 edited by the Convenor. The theme of this year’s publication is *Jewelry, Ornaments, Costumes, Head-Dresses, and Deccan Couture*. It covers the entire range from terracotta heads adorned with jewels to the adornments seen on sculptures, miniature paintings, jewelry of the Asif Jahi period and those worn by a succession of Nawabs and rulers. Convenor INTACH Heritage Awards Committee Sajjad Shahid gave the Vote of Thanks.

100 Years of Civil Aviation

Hyderabad Convenor Anuradha Reddy is remarkable for her outreach of interests. She is closely associated with the production of the book *100 years of Civil Aviation 1911-2011*, a monumental journey that commenced with a French pilot Henri Pequet flying a Humber Bi-plane from Allahabad to Naini. This pictorial book captures the evolution of civil aviation in all details, with fascinating “Early Birds” stories of aviators in olden days, the expansion of the “Wings to the Nation”, growth of “Aero Clubs” in India, and establishment of “Safe Flights…Seamless Skies” of our times. Major landmarks in the growth of aviation were marked by postal stamps and first day covers that could be a philatelist’s treasure. The book also has pictures galore including that of the first Indian woman pilot U.K. Parekh and the first lady pilot of Hyderabad Aban Pisoni Chenoy in 1938.

Convenor Anuradha Reddy’s role was appreciated by Lt. Gen. KM Seth, PVSM AVSM (Retd) who wrote “I take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution made by you in compiling and editing the Book specially flying from Hyderabad to Delhi several times at short notice. Your commitment and dedication in completing the Coffee Table Book on time is a rare example in the current socio-environment for which I am personally obliged and indebted to you. The amount of hard work and effort put in by you is commendable.”

Warm words, enough to make the heart soar at a job well done!

Costumes and Jewelry in Paintings

What do you sell O ye merchants?
Richly your wares are displayed.

Turbans of crimson and silver,
Tunics of purple brocade,
Mirrors with panels of amber,
Daggers with handles of jade………..

What do you make, O ye goldsmiths?

Wristlets and anklet and ring,
Bells for the feet of blue pigeons
Frail as a dragon-fly’s wing,
Girdles of gold for dancers,
Scabbards of gold for the king…………..

*Excerpts : In the Bazaars of Hyderabad, Sarojini Naidu*
The Hyderabad Chapter organized a Heritage Walk in the old city from Darul Shifa to Daira Mir Momin. En route the group of 80 odd people encountered several dargahs, small mosques, Hindu structures and old houses before terminating the walk at the necropolis of Daira Mir Momin - to pay respects and perhaps “apologise” to Mir Momin Astarabadi for the destruction of this old structure that must now give way to the monorail. Ironically the Qutab Shahi Prime Minister Momin had played a major role in planning the city once upon a time. The entire area will soon change starting with a monorail. It needed to be documented for posterity while it exists by the group of photography enthusiasts who joined the walk. Shri Kalyani Kamaluddin, a descendant of the Nawabs of Kalyani, also participated with some of the group visiting the remnants of his ancestral tombs at Moghalpura. Many such ‘nostalgia walks’ are likely to be conducted by the Chapter in the coming months before the cityscape changes beyond recognition.

Twin Cities
Hyderabad and Secunderabad were once two distinct separate cities, writes Convenor P. Anuradha Reddy. Secunderabad came into existence after a subsidiary alliance in 1798 as a permanent residency of the British East India Company’s forces within the Nizam’s Hyderabad State. Soon after the treaty was signed 5,000 troops and civilian natives moved into the 6 square miles area. After 1836, the military barracks shifted to Trimulgherry, Bowenpalli and Bolarum. While the native settlement of General Bazaar fast expanded because of economic concessions that provided duty free commodities to the cantonment and to Hyderabad rich citizens. Cantonments were generally set 5-6 miles from the subjected city, and the gap deliberately maintained. Winston Churchill, who was there in the 1880s, reported that at least 12,000 men were based at Secunderabad, the symbol of Resident’s power in the State, to keep guard of the city. Secunderabad culture also evolved distinct from that of Hyderabad because of the usage of English, Urdu, Tamil and Kannada. The presence of different religions led to construction of churches and temples. Soon the Parsees and Komti communities also made their home here. The Englishman, Hyderabad Bulletin and the Daily later Deccan Chronicle were some of the English newspapers of the time.

After 1912 when the Nizam moved to King Kothi, the nobility and well-to-do from the walled city also moved to areas like the Banjara Hills, Begumpet, etc. and another link between Secunderabad and Hyderabad was established. The advent of Railways had a major influence in uniting the two cities, accelerating the northward expansion of Hyderabad with a flourishing economy and establishment of embassies, educational institutions and civil hospital. The rest is history, and a fascinating one compiled by the Hyderabad Convenor as a brief resume on how Hyderabad and Secunderabad became closely knit twin cities of today.

Kurnool

On the eve of World Heritage Day Collector cum INTACH Patron Ramsankar Naik. and AP State Convenor M.Veda Kumar inaugurated the INTACH Heritage Library at INTACH Office in the Collectorate.

A Heritage Awareness and Study Tour was also organized covering major sites of Kurnool like Konda Reddy Fort, Tungabhadra River, Moulamishkin Sahib Dargah, Kurnool Nawab Tombs, Nagamaiah Katta, Gopal Darwaza, Ancient Clock Tower, Golgumbaz, etc. INTACH Members as well as Heritage Club students participated followed by a Lunch hosted by the Chapter.

On 18th April the World Heritage Day was formally inaugurated addressed by Dr. Maddiah Garu, Krishna Chaitanya, BN Chetty Garu, Mazharul Haq Garu on different facets of heritage awareness. INTACH Appreciation Awards were bestowed on INTACH Life Members Vijaya Bhaskar, Swetha Reddy, Mahabbloob Basha and Co-Convenor Osman Haroon for their special contributions, as well as to Police Sub Inspector M. Tulasi Ram and Khawali and Gazals artiste Nayamatullah.

On 29th April, Convenor B. Venkateswarlu and Co-Convenor Osman Haroon accompanied by some Life Members visited villagers of Sri Veeranna Gattu Veldurthi one of the oldest sites regarded as a symbol of national integration that was recently re-opened after restoration. It has the Veer Swamy Temple, the Syed Noorullah Saheb
Dargah and Church on a land spreading over 700 acres. They also visited Ramallakota Village which has 101 forts, 101 temples and 101 wells of heritage value! They were impressed by the street lighting system they saw in Gundala Village with its Sri Chennakkeshava Swamy Temple dating to the Vijayanagara period.

**Srikakulam**

Srikakulam was the headquarters of the Dutch settlement 300 years ago. There is an ancient colonial construction built on an elevated platform with strong walls and many arches revealing European architecture that has weathered climatic changes on the banks of the Nagavali River, which local people refer to as the Dutch building. Only the roof is dilapidated for which the Chapter initiated a restoration proposal. Convenor Dharma Rao Dusi succeeded in obtaining a grant of Rs.18 lakhs for this work, thanks to the sanction accorded by the Collector cum INTACH Patron G. Venkataram Reddy. Through this joint effort, the long cherished dream of Srikakulam connoisseurs to have a museum in their District will fructify when the on-going restoration is completed for re-usage of the Dutch building.

A two day Seminar on History and Culture of Kalinga,-Andhra was held on 17th-18th June jointly with the Gurajada Educational Society at Srikakulam. An array of themes were chosen for deliberations as diverse as history, geography, literature, religion, folk culture, etc. inviting scholars and researchers to make presentations on the subject of their choice like tribal history, Jain vistages, Danthapuri antiquity, contribution of Telugu literature, etc. There have been few attempts to record the history of the region, and this was a preliminary effort to bridge that gap, with also a photo exhibition on the premises. The Seminar concluded with a Ballet depicting the cultural and historical background of the region.

The Collector also extended his support to the History Congress of Srikakulam District initiated by Prof. of Anthropology at the AU Visakhapatnam, Thimma R Reddy. A preparatory meeting was hosted at his residence where it was decided to invite 30 professors from various universities to research papers on assigned subjects with focus on interpretation and reconstruction. A full fledged office with professors of various disciplines has been set up at the Gayathri Degrees College under charge of its Principal Dr. P. Sreenivasarao.

Shri Venkataram Reddy invited four artistes to the Steering Committee meeting on Srikakulam wall paintings held on 12th May at the Collectors’ camp office. It was decided that the Commissioner of Srikakulam Municipality would be inducted into the Committee. Spaces in the town suitable for public paintings like the walls of R&B office at Collectorate, Cosmopolitan Club, PSNMH School, etc. would be identified by the Committee, including wall sites of any private owners who voluntarily come forward, for displaying paintings of artistes selected through a screening test. Identified sites are to be allocated to the painters for competition, and cash prizes will be awarded to winning entries submitted within the stipulated time of 15 days this summer.

All Chapters may like to take note that this is a good initiative for spreading public heritage awareness, and in the process might also identify good artistes who could be trained in conservation of wall paintings.

**Visakhapatnam**

It appears from the periodic inflow of communications from INTACH Members that there is enough agitation about the runaway ‘progress’ of the city! Life Member Sohan Hatangadi writes: *Every time someone says “we
want to develop Vizag”, I shudder. We are up to our neck with industry. We are breathing foul air and have to buy bottled water. Our city is bursting at the seams. Roads are jam packed. We want the city for ourselves not for hordes of resource hungry industrialists and tourists. We have to improve the city for tax paying residents – not for Mr. Moneybag Industrialists... Every news item talks of beautiful Araku... guys I have news... Vizag is over populated, over polluted, over industrialized and under infrastructured... Are we idiots?...

Many INTACH Members have been writing in the same vein as reported earlier. It is precisely what the Pupul Jaykar Lecture was about this year. Convenor Rani Sarma and INTACH Members have a pressing cause to serve - that could lend itself to be a passion project for the Chapter.

**Warangal**

Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao is of the view that the *Madaram Jatra*, a bi-annual tribal folk festival, that has been celebrated for the last 800 years merits to be enlisted under UNESCO’s living heritage category. It is a spectacular event held in the deep jungles of Etturnagaram Abayaranyam which attracts tribal folks of many States like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkarkhand, and Odisha numbering sometimes a crore of devotees.

Prof. Pandu Ranhga Rao held a Seminar earlier this year on the *Madaram Jatra*, and proposes to publish the day long proceedings in which hundreds of citizens, devotees and scholars participated apart from special invitees from the Government.

**Assam**

A National Seminar *Heritage at Risk : Clarion Call to Stakeholders* organized by IQAC Sonapur College and Assam Chapter on 28th May was attended by INTACH Chairman LK Gupta. It was coordinated by Principal Dr. D. Khanikor and Organising Secretary Dr. Nizara Hazarika; with participation of university teachers, researchers, scholars and academicians. Also invited were concerned members of the Government and non-Government organizations. The main objective of the seminar was to explore meaningful ways to inculcate a sense of responsibility in the general public, to comprehend the significance of heritage conservation, and initiate necessary measures to protect it. Students in particular, on whose shoulders the future of the country rests, got an exposure to various aspects related to heritage conservation and hopefully will spread the message in general and to their communities in particular.

Addressing the gathering Chairman LK Gupta stated that exploration of societies and culture through material traces is not only learning about the influence of past on the present, but also using that knowledge to shape the future. The involvement of too many agencies for manning protected monuments and non-notification of unprotected heritage are major lacunae. There is widespread ignorance of heritage value, a disconnect with local communities, smuggling of art objects or arrested ones lying in police stations; and lack of research, museums or private sector support. The significant gap in listing and documentation, the primary step for heritage protection, he said could be easily filled up by student volunteers.

**Chhattisgarh**

**Sarguja**

Sarguja Chapter was inaugurated on 9th June with Governor Shekhar Dutt as the Chief Guest. He suggested that INTACH’s efforts to safeguard the rich heritage of the region should include traditional music forms that are an important facet of our heritage. It would be a great loss if they are obliterated by technology-based music instruments which are widely prevalent today. Present on the occasion were Agriculture Minister Chandra Shekar Sahu, Chairman LK Gupta, and State Convenor Lalit Surjan among other invited dignitaries. Chairman stated...
that with the opening of this new Chapter will add a new momentum to conservation activities in the heritage-rich state of Chhattisgarh.

A brochure *Sarguja Sandharb* was released portraying famous heritage sites of the area and their history.

Shri OP Agarwal is appointed Convenor of Sarguja Chapter, with Dr. Sachin Mandilwar as its Co-Convenor.

**Delhi**

*Museum of Replicas*

The Replica Museum near Siri Fort Auditorium, Delhi houses some gems of Indian and Asian sculptures, like the Yogapatta Narasimha statue from Hampi, the fasting Buddha from Lahore Central Museum, etc. The statues of Mughal emperors Ashoka, Akbar and Shah Jehan were added in 2011. Senior Supt. ASI Muhammed ‘KK’ is the man behind this project who inspired students from Patna Arts College to hone their artistic creativity - students of other colleges have joined in replicating masterpieces of art - earning pocket money of Rs.500 for a day’s work.

**Condolences**

Dr. Ishwar Dass passed away on 30th June, the news by a Press announcement took INTACH by surprise and sorrow. Only recently he had transferred his membership to Delhi.

A former Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, his various assignments both in the State and the Centre brought him into close interaction with academicians, scientists and other professionals. It equipped him to further his interests as trainer in management sciences, after retirement in 1991. He took on various assignments like Chairman WWF-India’s MP Committee; Chairman Advisory Committee for Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal; Member, Board of Governors of Wildlife Institute of India; etc. Dr. Ishwar Dass was actively associated with INTACH activities both in Madhya Pradesh as State Convenor (1992-2012), and as Chairman of the Chapters Advisory Committee at Delhi. The INTACH Chapter Guidelines was drafted by him and is the main reference for effective functioning for all Convenors.

In memoriam his family members described him as a “Modest, inspiring and very thoughtful person who taught us about the importance of *Kritagyata*. Our love and gratitude for all that he blessed us with in life” - echoing the sentiments of many INTACH Members who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. We send our heartfelt condolences to Smt. Meera Das and her family, and share their grief. We wish them strength and equanimity to bear this loss, and remember him for all that he gave of himself for their future well being. He died peacefully in sleep.

**Goa**

INTACH commenced work on the Reis Magos Fort in 2008 in a tripartite agreement signed between the Goa Government, the Helen Hamlyn Trust and INTACH. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar threw open this finest example of restored historical fort to the public on World Environment Day, 5th June. Reis Magos, located on the banks of the Mandovi River was once the outpost of the Adil Shah of Bijapur in 1493, and later after its conquest by the Portuguese the Fort was consolidated with a church. After 1900 it lost its defense role to become a jail and finally abandoned to crumble bit by bit after 1993. The Fort will now be converted into a Cultural Centre, and serve as a monumental example of re-usage and conservation of historical assets.

Former Convenor Padma Bhushan Mario Miranda, who gave the first push to this project, was well remembered on the occasion with an exhibition of his illustrious cartoons.

**Gujarat**

Convenor Manvita Baradi shares a fund of *Heritage News from Gujarat* compiled jointly by INTACH and the Urban Management Centre.

There is a palpable anxiety over the proposed sale of the historic 108 years old *Junu Sherbajaar* building at Manekchawk by the Ahmedabad Stock Exchange due to compulsions imposed of a mandatory annual turnover recommended by the Jalan Committee recently.

A basement was unearthed during excavation in Vadli near Patan. Earlier some 60 years ago idols had been found at this site, but the intermittent search for a statue of a Jain lord with fangs is still on. Another discovery by oceanographers is an Indo-Arabian type of stone anchor 53 meters deep near the Gulf of Kutch, mentioned in the Buddhist text *Milindapanha* believed to have been written 2000 years ago.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has commenced work on diverting the rainwater from Srinandnagar and Vejalpur to Sarkhej Raza, and hopefully from this monsoon onwards there will be fresh water flowing.

The *Dandi Pul* restoration is a major work being considered by the AMC on priority, under court orders. Presently this bridge hangs precariously on corroding steel and dilapidated wooden planks, with a large portion of the historic bridge consumed by a fire accident on World Heritage Day! It would be a good idea to revive an earlier proposal to link the bridge with the historic *Dandi March* route.
The popular Heritage Walks of Ahmedabad are being revamped, with the AMC agreeable to spending Rs.65 lakhs to refurbish the route of the walled city which entails paving with special stones, installation of street lights and signages, greening of the area and providing guide maps. A special walk providing a peek-a-boo into the city’s past was organized for children on 1st May in connection with Gujarat Foundation Day celebrations.

Haryana
Faridabad & Palwal
Convenor Anand Mehta reports that the listing work for Faridabad has been completed.

Innovative Solar Field
The 600 MW solar power park in the Patan District, Gujarat, spread over 3000 acres of wasteland bordering the Rann of Kutch was recently inaugurated. It has started generating 1 MW, of power i.e. 1.6 million units of electricity per year which is enough to meet the domestic requirement of 16,000 families. Reportedly, it can generate two-thirds of India’s total 900 MW of solar power production in due course making it the largest of its kind in the world. It is claimed that annually carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced to the tune of 8 million tonnes and save 9000 tonnes of natural gas. It is a revolutionary project implemented in collaboration with a US firm SunEdison.

Under its declared Solar Power Policy, Gujarat hopes to develop other such projects at Anand, Banaskantha, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kutch, Porbandar, Rajkot, Surat and Surendranagar for which developed land will be allocated to the project developers under signed MOUs. Gujarat hosted the India Solar Summit 2012: Investment and Technology Expo at Gandhinagar on 20th-21st April.

The Gujarat Water and Sanitation Management Organisation has taken water resource management to people’s doorstep through a participatory scheme, a United Nations award winning initiative of the State. The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) aims to restore the ecological balance by harnessing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. It earned the 2012 Prime Minister’s award for excellence in public administration.

A declaration cum heritage monuments painting contest was held at the KL Mehta Dayanand College for Women, Faridabad with the participation of 40 students. The Manav Rachna International School at Faridabad set up a Young Heritage Club with 30 students of 7th - 9th class inducted as brand ambassadors, and given passports and badges. Convenor Anand Mehta Convener hopes to enrol 4-5 more schools over the next 6 months. The present membership count stands at 12 schools and 2 women colleges in Faridabad and 2 schools in Palwal.

Defiling a Sacred Forest
Forest Department officials admit that the 500-hectares in the neck of the Aravalis near Mangar, Faridabad is a virgin forest where not a single sapling was ever planted. Not only is the forest sacred, botanists and historians regard it as one of the last surviving specimen of the ‘original’ Ridge vegetation. Once the State’s draft development plan for 23 villages in the area is finalized, more than 8000 hectares will be overrun by non-forestry activities and farm houses. Even the Forest Department was not consulted in the drafting stage and brought the matter to the attention of the Deputy Commissioner! No wonder the villagers are also up in arms, and the Gram Vikas Samiti drafted a petition seeking State Government protection for acquiring Mangar under the Wildlife Protection Act. Will they act?

Gurgaon
Convenor Atul Dev whole heartedly supports the sustained endeavour of the Chapter’s Education Committee to widen the scope of heritage awareness among students. Its Chairperson Anjali Saran recently
mailed a link to a short film on INTACH made available on YouTube to all Heritage Clubs, and advises students to regularly visit this website.

**Himachal Pradesh**

**Kangra**

Convenor LN Aggarwal addressed a gathering of INTACH Members held on 5th June to celebrate World Environment Day. Natural heritage and environment are inextricably interlinked particularly in regions like the Kangra, and as much with the life of future generations and their prosperity. The Chapter’s efforts will also focus on making children equally aware of their rich natural heritage and know that it includes water bodies, fossil fuel, rivers, lakes, birds, animals, forests, water springs and even old wells, precious and semi-precious stones. As in all States, if the Heritage Laws are not applied there will be a drastic decline in biodiversity affecting sustainable livelihood, as highlighted by Member Prem Sagar at the gathering.

**Jharkhand**

Life Member Sanjeev Kumar, currently posted as Conservator of Forests, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) has produced a film *Vision Through Images* on the tribal and folk art of the State. The conceptual stylization and audio-visualisation of the film is an amalgam of three distinct approaches – thematic, technical and aesthetic – in a meaningful interaction with one another. The film explores villages and paintings by its folk artistes in different parts of Jharkhand like Shorai and Khovar of Hazaribagh (much promoted by Convenor Bulu Imam), Pytkar of Amadubi, Jadopatia of Dumka, Patachitra of Midnapore to which the ancestors of the chitrakars from all these places belong. The film also explores the repertoire and various painting techniques, the region’s environment, the historical and mythological origins of caste, and the transformations that have taken place to accommodate modernity. The film was shot in authentic locations and exhibits numerous interviews with artistes and their artworks inspired by the bountiful nature, culture and traditions of this region of Eastern India.

Interested Readers may also visit:
www.visionthroughimages.webs.com

**Hazaribagh**

Two Indian human rights activists – Dr. Binayak Sen and INTACH Convenor Hazaribagh Bulu Imam received the Gandhi International Peace Award 2011, UK at the House of Lords on 12th June in recognition of their humanitarian work and Gandhian non-violence. The award was created in 1998 by Surur Hoda and Diana Schumacher with the support of the Foundation’s President Lord Attenborough. Patrons of the Foundation include Lord Navneet Dholakia and journalist Mark Tully. The event was chaired by Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Emeritus Professor of Political Philosophy at the Universities of Westminster and Hull.

Dr. Sen reportedly was handed back his passport by a Chhattisgarh court to enable him to travel to London to receive the award, accompanied by his wife Ilina Sen. The Gandhi Foundation describes Sen as “a Bengali paediatrician, public health specialist and activist. He is the national Vice-President of the People’s Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)… He originally started working as a paediatrician extending health care to poor people in the rural-tribal areas of the Chhattisgarh state, doubling up as a human rights activist”.

INTACH Convenor Hazaribagh has been involved in various campaigns since 1987, about him the Foundation says: Bulu Imam comes from one of India’s most distinguished families which have produced a steady stream of intellectuals over the past two centuries. His great grandfather Nawab Syed Imdad Imam was given the title Shams-ul-Ulema or Poet Laureate by the British in the late 19th century and his grandfather Syed Hasan Imam was President of the Indian National Congress in 1918.

The Gandhi Foundation exists to spread knowledge and understanding of the life and work of Mohandas K Gandhi. It states: “Our most important aim is to explain and demonstrate the continuing relevance of Gandhi’s insights and actions today”.

INTACH extends its heartiest congratulations to both these stalwarts and wishes them every success in the challenges ahead.
Karnataka

Bagalkot

Karnataka added another Chapter at Bagalkot, through the sustained efforts of Bijapur Convenor Dr. KK Kulkarni. Dr. H.F. Yogappanavar is the appointed Convenor of the Chapter. Dr. Sheelakant Pattar, an authority on the art and history of the region, is the appointed Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

The Chapter was formally inaugurated on 24th June presided by His Holiness Swami Revanasiddha Teekinamath. Present for this auspicious event were State Chapter stalwarts Shri Ashwaththanarayan and Shri Anil Gokak. This new Chapter will enlarge the range of heritage coverage given Bagalkot’s close proximity to the renowned sites of Badami Caves, Pattadakole and Ahihole.

The Chief Guest Dr Smita Surebankar from Belgaum delivered a scintillating talk on various facets of Karnataka Heritage (to be featured in the next issue of Virasat). She narrated her own experiences in the field, and the many ‘battles’ fought when confronted with an insensitive response to conservation endeavours.

Dr. KK Kulkarni in his concluding remarks hoped she would step forward to don the INTACH mantle and open a Chapter at Belgaum.

The function concluded with a Hindustani Classical Music Concert by Shri Shivalingayya P. Jalihalmath from Badami. And a sumptuously authentic North Karnataka lunch.

Sculpture Park

Bangalore city, one of the fastest growing metropolis, will get a 8 acre Sculpture Park in Banashankari. First of its kind in India, it will be quite different to the ones that have come up in Noida and Lucknow. Noted artists from many cities across India were invited to make huge sculptures reflecting contemporary aspirations at two month-long workshops using soft stone of Mysore traditionally used in Karnataka sculptures. The Park will become a centre for on-going art activities with spaces for intellectual discussions, amphitheatre, parking lot, etc. It will provide an opportunity for international and national level artists to come together and exchange ideas. Patrons can even buy sculpture works on site.

Kerala

Calicut

The Chapter has been bringing out a bi-annual newsletter Pathemari which is both impressive and informative. Co-
behalf of INTACH, a gesture that was much appreciated. Advocate K. Ayyappan Pillai presided over the august function that was graced by a number of dignitaries.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Chanderi**

The Chapter sent the first volume of Listing of Heritage Monuments of Chanderi City comprising 100 buildings. The primary survey indicated that about 200 more heritage buildings need to be surveyed and listed, according to Convenor Rajkumar Singh Sikarwar. He counts on the support of Chapter Members to assist in completion of this arduous task.

**Gwalior**

Coordinator IYCN cum Member of INTACH Governing Council Kamakshi Maheshwari informs that a 2 day Waste Management Workshop held on 30th-31st March was a great success, with very positive feedbacks received from various school managements. Nearly 100 households and 400 students participated in the two day event where the emphasis was both on waste management and climate change. Special mention is made of the contributions of Pinaki Das Gupta and Chaitnaya from IYCN in facilitation of the workshop, more of which are likely to be scheduled.

**Ajmer**

The 900th year of the founding of Ajmer was celebrated by the Chapter with a 3 day Sangoshtiya organised in various schools, in coordination with the District Administration. Ajmer was founded by Ajay Raja Chauhan, the 23rd descendant of the Chauhan dynasty in the year 1112. The official buildings of the city were lit up to mark this landmark occasion. INTACH banners and stickers were very much in evidence. The Convenor announced that this day would be celebrated regularly in future.

On 18th May, International Museum Day, Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh organized a seminar at the State Museum, Ajmer for school children. A painting competition was held in their respective schools. The Convenor presented 10 sculptures and paintings of King George, and Queen Mary to Museum representative.

**Jhansi**

Convenor Brigadier Dr. JK Bohre forwarded two volumes of the listing of heritage building of Jhansi. It bridged a major information gap as no such exercise had been undertaken to date by the local State Archaeological Department. It may be recalled that another yeoman service was the listing of heritage trees that the Chapter undertook last year. INTACH congratulates the Jhansi Chapter Members for their dedication to heritage conservation.

**Shivpuri**

Co-Convenor Neel Kamal Maheshwari was awarded by the National Human Rights Organisation for his

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**A State with the Most Forests**

According to the latest India State of Forest Report 2011, 77,700 kms (11.245) of the total 6,90,899 kms of forest land in the country is in Madhya Pradesh. Furthermore 6,640 kms of forest land in this State, is covered by very dense forests. The blessed State must take every measure to protect this bountiful gift of nature.
work on heritage protection and cultural values of the country. The function held on World Human Rights Day was organized at the Bal Bhavan with Superintendent of Police UC Shadangi doing the honours. Shri Neel Kamal’s contribution to society in Gwalior and his heritage work in promoting Indian culture especially among foreign tourists is widely recognized.

Maharashtra

Mumbai

The Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with the Dr. Bhaudaji Lad Museum organized a series of public lectures and workshops at the Museum attracting a great response and participation:

On 10th April, Professor Raman Sivakumar: *Meaning to Presence - Rabindranath Tagore’s Emergence as a Painter* as part of the public outreach programming associated with the MCIAH Diploma Course 2012 conducted at the Museum.


On 21st April, Dr. Parul Dave Mukherji, Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University: *Entangled Temporality - Contemporary Indian Artists and Their Retakes on ‘Golden Age.*

On 5th May, Ashish Rajadhyaksha: *The Baroda School - Some Retrospective Hypothesis*.

On 12th May, Suresh Jayaram: *Curating the Colombo Art Biennale 2012- Thoughts and Experiences*.

On 19th May, Vidya Shivdas: *Vision from the Centre - The Setting up of National Cultural Institutions in Independent India*.

On 26th May, Shukla Sawant: *Artists’ Collectives and the Solidarity Economies of Artists*.

During the past two and half months, the Museum hosted over 600 children from NGOs, BMC and private schools who participated in the *Ragamala* series of Miniature Paintings, Pottery, Silver Repousse, Mumbai Communities and Contemporary Art workshops based on the Museum’s permanent collection and exhibitions.

On 28th March, 25 students from the Deutsche School Bombay participated in an education workshop based on the Eberhard Havekost Special Exhibition. Subsequently INTACH conducted children’s workshops and other education and outreach programming as part of World Heritage Day celebrations for large groups of children from various schools who participated in various activities and competitions organized throughout the course of the day. Students also participated in the International Council of Museums (ICOM) *International Museum Day*, and a photography competition. The programme ended with a heritage tour of Mumbai, using the Museum’s collection as an illustrative example. Between 4th and 15th May holiday period, a special series of Summer Workshops were also conducted at the Museum. Children were immersed in learning experience through various creative activities like story telling, puppetry, origami, paper mache that enabled them to express their artistic identities.

Students from eight Mumbai Heritage Clubs participated in the *INTACH Tagore at 150* national competition, with Jemima Jacob from Lilavati Podar School winning a national award for painting; and Upmanyu Acharya and Shivang Srivastava also deserving mention as regional winners for the Western Zone.

Vice President INTACH Tasneem Mehta made presentation at a series of Conferences during this quarter: *The Columbia University Symposium: Urban India 2030* was conducted at Studio X, Mumbai. INTACH hosted lunch for the speakers and participants of various discussion panels on 17th March. The speakers comprised leading artists, architects, urban planners, social workers, cultural theorists and artistes. They subsequently visited the Museum on 18th March. On 5th April, Vice Chairman participated as dialogue partner on the issue *The Creative World: Commerce over Creativity?* at the 7th Mindmine Summit in Delhi.

On 10th April, she participated in the West Zone Workshop on *World Heritage: Tentative List of India*. This workshop will be revising the Tentative Nomination List of Sites for UNESCO World Heritage Status. On 21st April, Smt. Mehta visited Kochi for the inauguration of the exhibition
Sightseeing Trip: Eberhard Havekost in India in her capacity as trustee of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale.

On 19th May, the Museum hosted 30 museum professionals from across India and the British Museum, as part of the Ministry of Culture’s Leadership Training Programme. The Bhau Daji Lad Museum curatorial team made presentations on successful aspects of Museum growth, development, management, education programming and public outreach.

The Museum received many distinguished visitors during this quarter. Among them, Her Excellency Nancy J. Powell-U.S. Ambassador to India accompanied by Peter Haas-Consul General and other U.S embassy officials who visited the Museum on 13th May. On 17th May, the Museum hosted 40 women and 70 children from the Hamara Sapna NGO.

**Solapur**

A first meeting of the new Solapur Chapter was held on 18th April, to celebrate World Heritage Day. A formal announcement of its establishment, with Ar. Seemantini Chapahalkar as the Chapter Convenor followed on 23rd June. The Solapur Municipal Commissioner Ajay Savarikar was briefed about the objectives of INTACH, and requested to support its activities. He was also urged to form a Heritage Committee of Solapur.

The Chapter forged a partnership with the local All India Radio (AIR) to produce a weekly half-hour programme to enhance public awareness of the city’s heritage which is being broadcast since 7th May at prime time. Based on this program, the Chapter proposes to make short films, brochures and booklets as a data base. Membership drive, short visits to places of heritage value, placement of plaques at such sites, are some of the many proposals on the anvil.

**Odisha**

**Bhubaneswar**

Convenor Namrata Chadha reports on the Odisha Heritage Day celebrations held on 13th April. The following week, a Heritage Walk was organized to mark World Heritage Day with a Quiz Competition for young people.

**Sambalpur**

Convenor BB Mishra participated in the celebrations of the birth anniversary of Vima Rao Ambratkar organized by the District Culture Office and Public relations Department at the Collector’s Office, presided by ADM Madhav Chandra Beriha. Former Minister Sanatan Bisi was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Subsequently on 18th April, World Heritage Day was also celebrated in conjunction with the District Culture Office. Over 200 students of Arabinda High School participated in the heritage walk organized from Victoria Hall over the oldest road of Sambalpur town that is flanked by old buildings and temples of historic importance.

**Survival of the Fittest**

The beaches of Ganjam district of Odisha exploded with thousands of newly hatched Olive Ridley Turtles. Turtles bury their eggs securely in the earth, after 45 days they escape from their invisible rookery tumbling out of each pit in small hordes instinctively heading towards the smell of a salty sea breeze in total darkness. They need to cover a distance of 100-200 metres where hungry predators wait for dainty turtle morsels. The survivors must then face the danger of turbulent seas, or drowning and even dehydration that take another heavy toll. Scientists say only 1 in 1000 survive, and a bale of turtles can roam the seven seas for 20 years until maturity without touching land. They need measures to be taken for their protection.
Ambalpur Collector Dr. Mrinalini Darshwal was the Chief Guest at the concluding quiz and visual art competition with prizes awarded to the winners of the event. Many Members of the Chapter were closely associated with the organisation of this major event.

There was a power point presentation on the different heritage monuments of Majha at the S.L. Public School. Students from various prestigious local schools participated in cultural events, and talked about jewelry, costumes and architecture. Speaking on the occasion Punjab State Convenor Dr. Sukhdev Singh told the younger generation that as the stakeholders of the national cultural heritage, they must understand and step forward for its preservation. He said the mindless adherence to modern strategies of development has led to cultural and ecological imbalances. He pointed out that heritage sites should not be viewed as cultural commodities for sales and profits, but entities that benefit and enrich the quality of life of local communities. He appealed to the Punjab Government to be more pro-active in preserving the States’ old cities, towns and villages. Presiding over the function was Dr. Bikram Singh Ghuman, former Dean Student Welfare, GNDU who said: “The identification and preservation of cultural heritage is essential for healthy development of society, and the role of INTACH is very important” in this endeavour. Principal Bhawan’s SL Public School, Shivala Amritsar was honoured for her continuous support to the cause of cultural heritage at the function attended by teachers and Principals of other schools. Co-Convenor Sangeeta Kapoor assisted the Chief Guest in awarding the winners of the various competitions held during 2011-12.

**Punjab**

**Amritsar**

World Heritage Day, 18th April this year was celebrated with pageantry and presentations. Chief Guest KK Sharma, Advisor to Punjab Government inaugurated the event attended by senior bureaucrats, High Court Judges and a number of distinguished citizens. The colourful musical evening *Sanjji Sham* with the participation of the Sangeet Akademi was highly appreciated for the melodious folk songs of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal with all the artistes honoured with mementos.
**Patiala**

World Heritage Day was marked by the Chapter with a Heritage Walk at historical Bahadurgarh Fort (8 KM from Patiala), and an awareness camp at Punjabi University Patiala. Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk sensitized the students about the historical, religious, cultural and historic importance of sites dotting the town. The original name of this place was Saifabad as the Nawab Saif Khan (co-brother of Mughal Samrat Shah Jehan) built his home, the Rang Mahal fort and a mosque here. The mosque is intact and considered one of the first four Indian mosques built in that period. He also built a big well to provide fresh and clean drinking water, with a 30 ft. channel supplying water to every corner of the Palace. Maharaja Karam Singh of erstwhile Patiala State laid the foundation of the modern fort built on 55 acres during the years 1837-45 at the cost of Rs.10 lakh. S.Balbir Singh Mohie, retired Forest Officer narrated details of a historic meeting between the Nawab and Guru Teg Bahadur in 1675, the year of the Guru’s martyrdom. A beautiful gurudwara now stands at their meeting place.

Punjabi University, Professor (Dr) H.S. Pannu and Co-Convenor R.S. Bhinder briefed the participants about the history, structural value and importance of the famous buildings like Guru Gobind Singh Bhawan, Kala Bhawan and Bhai Kahan Singh Library. The participants also visited the University Museum. Member S. Jatinder Singh Sarao thanked the participants, their respective school heads, staff of Punjab Police Commando Training School Bahadurgarh, the teachers and staff of Punjabi University Patiala for the success of this event.

**Rajasthan**

The Rajasthan Convenors’ Conclave held 27th-28th April was presided by State Convenor Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, and conducted by State Co-Convenor Thakur Ranvir Singh, with Chairman LK Gupta invited as the Chief Guest. As many as 17 Convenors were present along with invited Government officials and Jaipur Chapter Members for this annual conference. A special welcome was extended to former Chief Secretary Salahuddin Ahmed who has joined as the Advisor and to Jaipur Convenor Smt Dharmendra Kunwar who will also function as the additional State Co-Convenor.

Chapter Convenors made detailed presentations of their current activities, issues to be resolved and future plans. INTACH Chairman lamented that there was no clear Government policy regarding conservation particularly important in the case of a heritage rich State like Rajasthan. State Convenor expressed concern about the NAZUL properties that are of great historical and archaeological importance. Shri Ahmed advised that they should be listed district-wise and efforts made to get them declared as protected monuments by the Archaeological Department. General LK Gupta assured financial and technical help in carrying out the much needed listing and documentation of such properties.

Another immediate step required to be taken was the listing of Orans (sacred woods), for which INTACH needs to promote community-centric programmes involving villagers. Sirhohi is a good example, here people were involved in digging and cleaning up a dried out water body with the good rains reclaiming the 350 year old Talab. Convenors were assured that all necessary help and guidance from Central Office would be extended for such individual passion projects. Chairman also advised that the cultural heritage of Sambhar city and salt lake area should be taken up with the State Government. There was a ready response from Shri Sanjay Pande, OSD
to the Minister for Art & Culture who said the Rajasthan Government is keen to have a working relationship with INTACH and deserving proposals would receive sufficient funds from the State Government.

**Ajmer**

The 900th year of the founding of Ajmer was celebrated by the Chapter with a 3 day Sangoshtiya organised in various schools, in coordination with the District Administration. Ajmer was founded by Ajay Raja Chauhan, the 23rd descendant of the Chauhan dynasty in the year 1112. The official buildings of the city were lit up to mark this landmark occasion. INTACH banners and stickers were very much in evidence. The Convenor announced that this day would be celebrated regularly in future.

On 18th May, International Museum Day, Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh organized a seminar at the State Museum, Ajmer for school children. A painting competition was held in their respective schools. The Convenor presented 10 sculptures and paintings of King George, and Queen Mary to Museum representative Sayyed Azam Hussain.

**Bikaner**

Convenor UC Kochar informs that a documentary film on Bikaner havelis was screened on 23rd May at Marudar Heritage Hotel with Shri Sunil Rampuria as the Chief Guest. Also present on the occasion were MLA Dr. Gopal Joshi and Brigadier Jagmal Singh. They stressed on the importance of holding such events to impress on the public the importance of heritage conservation. The programme concluded with a cultural show comprising traditional Bikana Pyaro Lage Sa folk songs of Bikaner.

**Jaipur**

On World Heritage Day almost 200 children from St. Xavier and Neeraj Modi Schools participated in a two hour painting competition organised by the Chapter at the Albert Hall Museum sketching the museum and other monuments of interest to them. Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar proposes to organize many more such gatherings to enthuse the children and instill greater awareness of the heritage they must claim. The Superintendent of the Museum Rakesh Chholak and INTACH Co-Convenor Nikhil Pandit gave certificates to the participants.

**Nagaur**

With temperatures being hotter than last summer, the Chapter has launched the campaign Birds Need You in the Summer involving many schools in the city. Students are encouraged to put tags of their classes on the pots to take daily care of the plants and water to quench the thirst of the birds.

**Other Chapter Members too might like to flock together and make a similar effort that is so endearing to young and old alike.**

**Pali**

Co-Convenor Rakesh Rawal informs that a discussion meeting was held on 13th May jointly by the Press Club and Pali Chapter. A tribute was paid to the late Subhash Rawal on his 8th death anniversary.

**Sawai Madhopur**

A five day Ranthambore Literature Festival was inaugurated on 1st June with a scintillating Kavi Sammelan at the Durga Palace of the city, and with the participation of many well known poets of Rajasthan. It was inaugurated by the head of the Sahitya Parishad Ved Vyas who greatly appreciated the event, and felt that such festivals should be promoted in all the zillas of the State. The eminent poets — Kailash Mandela
(from Shahpura), Murlidhar Gaur (Kota), Giraj Ameta (Modak), Gopinath Prem Shastri (Kota), Damodar Dadich (Kishangarh), and Chetna Sharma - regaled the audience with their poetic renderings. There was both humour and pathos in their coverage of various social issues like child infanticide, addiction to mobiles, advantages of a short wife, opposition to dowry, care of parents, the good and the bad all came under their satirical sweep of poetry. It was an evening both enjoyable and memorable for the audience.

On the following day, the Chapter organized workshops for children on puppet making followed by puppet shows. Rajasthan fire dancers added to the sum total of eye grabbing events that featured in the festival.

Convenor Padam Shastri explained the objectives of the festival as bringing the achievements of Rajasthani literary and cultural world within the purview of all Rajasthani people. The success of the event was entirely due to all Members of the Sawai Madhopur Chapter giving both time and effort for making the festival a well organized and attractive event that will linger in people’s minds.

**Udaipur**

World Heritage Day, 18th April was celebrated at Raj Bagh near Fateh Sagar with the *Future Urban Renewal of Udaipur* as its central theme and concern. Various INTACH Members made presentation of on-going projects like Arvind Mathur on the *Restoration Project of Heritage Sites*; Dr. Satish Sharma on the *Listing and Documentation of Sacred Groves*; Dr. BL Kumawat on *Progress of National Heritage Awareness* through Heritage Clubs; and by Regional Convenor SK Verma on the *Future Urban Renewal of Udaipur* with an audio-visual presentation. Members were invited to comment, make suggestions and offer proposals to encourage fuller participation in this focused endeavour of the Chapter.

The Chapter organized a Regional Workshop-cum-Seminar on *Mewar ki Jeevan Virasat : Dasha aur Disha* on 30th April, in joint collaboration with the ML Sukhadia University, Udaipur with its Vice Chancellor as the Chief Guest. There was an impressive cross section of people who participated in the deliberations with artisans from 4 districts of Mewar Region working in terra cota, marble sculpture, block printing, paintings, picholi, murals, etc. Also participating were Subject Matter Specialists; several Guest Faculty from ML Sukhadia University, West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Centre for Cultural Resources & Training Udaipur and Government Colleges; INTACH Members and other NGOs like Sadhana a self-sustained women’s group working on crafts (Sewa Mandir); senior researchers, students and faculty of History, Jainology and Fine Arts. Padamshri Mohanlal Kumhar and Shri Logarlal Kumhar of Molela among others also actively participated. The Seminar was inaugurated by Prof I.V. Trivedi, Vice Chancellor, ML. Sukhadia University and presided by noted writer Dr Mahendra Bhanawat. Prof. Meena Gaur, Head History Department of the University gave the welcome address. The Regional Convenor Udaipur presented the key note address highlighting the objectives of Seminar viz. to draw attention to the superlative artistry of the living heritage of Mewar.

Mewar has always been quintessential to the development of traditional heritage of Rajasthan, with interesting insights into the lifestyle of local inhabitants, rulers, and spiritual saints for centuries - the magical quality of which lingers to this day. The objective of the Workshop was to enhance the creatively of crafts people of Mewar and sustain traditional practices of living heritage; and to assist them in meeting commercial
challenges and infrastructural shortcomings with proper socio-economic development. The dialogue with the crafts people belonging to Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Banswara, Rajsamand and Bhilwara Districts gave them an opportunity to interact with the Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) and understand the value and worth of their crafts.

Convenor SK Verma is of the view that the next step is to identify hidden talent amongst the new generations so that a strategy is evolved to preserve traditional arts and craft forms and integrate them with modern technology that brings socio-economic development in its wake. INTACH also wishes to be instrumental in documenting the status and challenges to the traditional arts and crafts being faced by the crafts people, and how best to guide them to move forward with new trends and make them economically viable as career options.

**Tamilnadu**

**Kodaikanal**

The Chapter organised a mountain marathon titled ‘What-a-Run’ on June 3 for water conservation in the hill town. Convenor Sunayana Choudhry states there is an urgent need to create public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving water bodies. The Chapter proposes to conduct two such marathons on the first Sunday of February and June every year.

High performance runners participated in this year’s run starting at 6 am and terminating at the Bendy grounds of the Kodai International School. It took them through well known Kodai’s heritage buildings including Shelton, Kodai Club, Old Cemetery, Pambar Cottage, La Providence, Rosalyn and through natural heritage areas such as Violet Lane in Bombay Shola, past the 500-year-old tree, Old Cochin Road, Pambar stream, Coaker’s Walk, golf course, reservoirs, among other places covering a total distance of about 21 km. The runners were exposed to different types of water bodies that are the quintessential beauty of the city.

A study by Dr Ritu Singh, a INTACH hydrologist, points out that these water bodies need bio-remedies. Funds to the tune of Rs 2,00,000 are required for water testing to progress the project. TERI University, Delhi have given a proposal for completing a capacity carrying study of Kodai that is expected to generate action plans and projects. The marathons are aimed at raising sufficient funds, and 25% of the surplus generated are earmarked for promotion of sports in Palani hills and the balance to be used for remedial measures of Kodai’s water bodies.

**Nagercoil**

There are more than a 100 temple tanks in the Kanyakumari District, mostly ill managed by Hindu religious and charitable trusts or temple committees. A recent study conducted by the Chapter revealed that the tanks at temples like the Venu Gopalswamy Krishnaswamy at Parvathipuram, Krishnankovil at Theppakulam, Kasi Viswanhar at Vadassery, and many more are highly polluted with e-coli content of more than 3000 unit per 100 ml of water (while international standard permits 10 units per ml of water). At the request of Convenor RS Lal Mohan, a team of specialists headed by Dr. Ritu Singh from NH Division and Sekar from JM Environmental Technology initiated the first phase entailing introduction of harmless bacteria to consume the harmful ones, a process that takes about 20 days. The inauguration of the project by Sub-Collector Venatesh was attended by the President of Suchindrum Panchayat Union Murugesh, Engineer of Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Rajakumar; Co-Convenor Sumitra Raghuvaram, devotees and other stakeholders.

On the morning of 5th June, World Environment Day, the Chapter organized a “Human Chain” in front of the Collectorate to remind the public of the significance of the day. It was inaugurated by the District Collector in charge Shri Palaniswamy and Chief Educational Officer Shri Radhakrishnan. Nearly 300 volunteer members of various NGOs like the Thiruvarut Peravai, Conservation Nature Trust, Green Movement, Nagercoil Citizens Welfare Council, etc. and a large body of students participated in the program. The objective was to draw public attention that serious efforts have to be made by one and all to protect the environment which encompasses wetlands, temple tanks, rivers, paddy fields, hills, forests, and all built heritage structures and natural heritage sites. As part of social work, to reflect their commitment to the cause, the Human Chain cleaned the degraded sewage canal. The event was covered by all the local newspapers and TV channels covering the news to good effect.

Padmanabhapuram Municipal Commissioner recently declared Udayagiri Fort as a protected property, with new houses or digging of earth banned within 100 meters area from the fort walls. Action took place on the basis...
of a communication sent from Nagercoil Chapter to the Director, State Archaeology Department. Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan informs that the Chief Commissioner of Municipalities, Chennai was apprised of the violation of the Archaeological Act in this area, thus paving the way for the protection of Udayagiri Fort.

**Nilgiris**

Convenor Geetha Srinivasan is also a Trustee of the Lawley Institute, Ooty, a 1911 heritage building funded by the Maharajah of Bobbili in memory of Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Madras Presidency during British times. The Lawley Institute became the first private Club for Indians at a time when racism barred even elite Indians from seeking membership of British Clubs. Restored by its subsequent Trustees over the years, the Lawley Institute celebrated its centenary on 31st March in grand style on its premises, with Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. Rosaiah as the Chief Guest. He was received by Collector Archana Parmaik and Shri Gundan, the Chairman of the Centenary Celebrations. Describing the natural assets of the Nilgiris which has earned the sobriquet Queen of the Hills, the Governor said its aesthetic values should be safeguarded and preserved in their pristine form. The purpose of the celebrations is not just to celebrate 100 years of existence but a to make plans for the future to make the Institute a model for other Trusts.

Later in the evening, the dance recital by Lavanaya Shankar and troupe at Fernhill Palace was followed by fireworks and an elaborate dinner. Convenor Geetha Srinivasan gave the Vote of Thanks.

INTACH Member Dr. Tarun Chhabra, who has been taking a sustained interest in the welfare of the Toda tribe for a long time, runs the non-governmental Toda Welfare Sangam of the Edhkwelynawd Botanical Refugee Trust (EBR). The State Bank of India Managing Director presented the EBR with a cheque for Rs.1.50 lakh recently for community services as part of the Bank’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Chapter has supported his efforts in restoring their traditional dwellings and heritage. Much more remains to be done for the Todas, of course.

Convenor Geeta Srinivasan attended the 8th Summer Festival of Dance and Music organized by the Bharatiya Kendra, Nilgiris Kendra at Coonoor on 2nd-3rd June. It was inaugurated by Dr. MR Srinivasan, INTACH Life Member,
who is the Chairman of the Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Nilgiris Kendra. Earlier he delivered a talk at the Nilgiri Library on Nuclear Energy – on Solution to our Power Crisis – which is a subject of his considerable experience.

**Uttarakhand**

The famous Valley of Flowers and Nanda Devi National Park of Uttarakhand are already World Heritage Sites. Many organizations have requested the State Government to prepare a scientific report on the Ganga from Gaumukh to Haridwar which can also be declared a World Heritage Site. The Ganga and its tributaries are the lifeline sustaining 40% of India’s population, and the bedrock of India’s civilisational heritage. “The flora of this area also acts as a major carbon sink of Asia and has a unique climate diversity right from the upper Himalayas to the plains of Uttarakhand”, as reported by Jaskiran Chopra from Dehra Dun. He further writes that “the waters of the Ganga mainstream have the unique quality of remaining fresh as a result of the substances found in the bed of the sacred river, a phenomenon not found in any river of the world with a cluster of ancient religious townships and rich tradition of fairs and festivals.....among the richest fountainhead of the culture of mankind”.

Co-Convenor of Uttarakhand Chapter Lokesh Ohri says a road map is needed to be developed for sustainable economic and cultural development in this ecologically and culturally significant region. Some of the hill stations too have lost their pristine forest cover. Notorious land developers’ lobby has managed to sell off even the historic Kushavart Ghat at Haridwar built by Ahilyabai Holkar around 1780, as reported. The Chapter has a challenging task ahead, especially with reports of entire hillsides denuded by hectic building activity – and sites being sold illegally against ecological norms set by the Government.

**Uttar Pradesh**

UP Chapter Convenors and Co-Convenors met for a fruitful discussion at the heritage site of Kudia Ghat to review progress and plan programmes for the new financial year. Chairman LK Gupta and State Convenor Alok Ranjan were present on the occasion. They both emphasized that Listing should be given top priority as a primary task of INTACH. Shri Ranjan also as APC Government of Uttar Pradesh lauded ‘Darohar’ which regularly highlights the rich ‘Virasat’ of the State, with the Chapter playing an important role in mobilizing and expediting this effort. State Co-Convenor RN Bhargava reports that they emphasized on broad-basing INTACH activities with an inclusive membership that cuts across different sections of society in order to make the heritage movement more effective. It is a good idea to expand horizon by co-opting active NGOs in undertaking programmes. Involvement of students from schools and universities, management institutes, engineering and medical colleges are particularly relevant to infuse a sustained dynamism in this endeavour.

The Chapter was generally advised to enhance its current membership by 20% during the year 2012, a benchmark that could be adopted by all INTACH Chapters to the extent possible.

As part of its regular calendar of activities, the programme Our Heritage – Our Children was held at the La Martinere Boys College on 2nd April. More than 100 children participated including students of Seth MR Jaipuria School and Study Hall School. Enhancing their interest was an essay competition to rekindle the spirit of the city, a photo exhibition on Lucknow monuments with ace photographer Ravi Kapoor attending, and a discourse on Intangible Heritage by writer cum historian Ravi Bhatt. The media coverage aptly described it as “keeping Lakhnau alive in young hearts”.

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**Before the Storm**

A debut novel The World Beyond by Sangeeta Bhargava, daughter of Shri RN Bhargava was released on 4th April, with a book reading, at INTACH Central Office. She wrote a number of articles and stories before this first novel. “She now lives with her husband, two children, 10,000 books and a temperamental laptop” in London. We await her next novel After the Storm due to come out later this year.
Kanpur

The Chapter has been re-launched, with State Co-Convenor Thakur Ranvir Singh inspiring the enrolment of many new entrants into the INTACH fold. The electronic media effectively covered the event which was attended by a cross section of Kanpur citizens from different walks of life. Commencing with World Heritage Day, the Chapter has chalked out a 6 months programme including heritage walks and school competitions to spread its wings. An Executive Committee has been constituted for updating the listing of monuments and heritage sites as the first priority.

West Bengal

Kolkata

The inscription at the US National Archives Building reads: “The Heritage of the Past is the Seed that Brings Forth the Harvest of the Future”. State Convenor GM Kapur endorses the thought saying: “Yes, it certainly can if the economic value of heritage can be unleashed..... What is needed is to realize this value by finding different ways to adaptively reuse the edifices”. That is to say, not all monuments become museums but creative use must be devised for their reuse so that such sites can generate a cultural capital for both their maintenance and income through tourism that is potentially a passport to economic growth.

The Convenor cites the successful restoration of the Old Silver Mint, spread over 12.5 acres of prime land, that could lend itself to being developed as a modern cultural centre with auditorium, exhibition and hotel spaces, amphitheatre and museum for world class events. Located in the heart of Kolkata, the footfalls would then have a rippling effect on the multifarious activities of the city centre.

Convenor GM Kapur in collaboration with the Kolkata Indo-British Scholars’ Association organized a discussion meeting with the Trustee of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, George Loudon and the Director of the London Science Museum Ian Blatchford. Mr. Loudon, who was accompanied by his wife, elaborated on how large gardens and forests act as major carbon sinks in the context of the crisis looming due to global warming. They visited the National Botanical Garden at Shibpur with which the Kew Gardens have had extensive historic interactions. Mr. Blatchford mentioned how the Science Museum mentors students and encourages interaction with entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley. He said the Science Museum has resorted to a new concept of “open storage” which allows visitors to stroll through un-catalogued collections in the basement to vet their curiosity.

Convenor GM Kapur was invited to a conference “Towards a Conservation Strategy for Yangon in the 21st Century” by the Yangon Heritage Trust, a great compliment to the success of many West Bengal projects undertaken by the Chapter. The conference was organized by author and founder Dr. Thant Myint-U, with the assistance of a voluntary group in Yangon and abroad, at the Strand Hotel.
It was inaugurated by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe. Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein spoke extending support to the preservation of both tangible and intangible elements of Yangon cityscape. The Myanmar Times reported that Yangon is running out of time to save its thousands of colonial era buildings, quoting many writers and international experts. Former English Heritage Director Philip Davies described the Yangon as “one of Myanmar’s greatest assets” for attracting both investments and tourism.

The Kolkata Regional Chapter was invited to a round table interaction by the UK Trade and Investment Department of the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata on Urban Regeneration and Heritage Conservation on 24th May. Members of the Indo British Scholars Association also participated in the brain storming.

Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri is appointed the Co-Convenor of the West Bengal Chapter. She was formerly Member of the West Bengal Heritage Commission and well acquainted with INTACH activities of which she is also a long standing Member. She attended the Seminar on Recent Trends in Heritage Conservation held 28th-29th March organised by the Indian Museum. The Chapter has nearly a dozen on going projects in hand which include restoration work, preparation of conservation reports/DPR, publication and listing.

Members voiced their protest about the much publicised blue and white paint around town with particular reference to the iconic Dalhousie Square.

**Birthplace of Sri Ramakrishna**

A Travel writer Subhasish Chakraborty writes to INTACH that a Religious Tourism Circuit - Gar Mandaran-Kamarupkar-Joyrambati - the birthplace of Sri Ramakrishna, needs to be developed. His article entitled Religious Tourism in the Native Land of Sri Ramakrishna – A Sustainable Approach appeared in a prestigious World Tourism Organisation publication recently.

**Santiniketan**

Recalling a recent opportunity to meet West Bengal Governor MK Narayanan, Convenor Subir Adhikari laments that “it is difficult to get the Government machinery moving unless you get these opportunities where you can shake them a little”. It is an all too familiar sentiment shared by many Convenors when it comes to attracting attention of the authorities to heritage matters. The Governor was presented a number of INTACH publications, and expressed interest in receiving a copy of Virasat regularly.

**Tagore’s Doodles**

Last year Tagore’s paintings fetched a record sum at an auction. More recently an unknown manuscript of 12 poems and lyrics for 12 songs, amply embellished with his doodles was sold in New York. It was a 152 pages notebook which Tagore presented to a family friend in the mid-1930s. Sotheby’s Indian Director said it is not often such a manuscript containing bits of art and correction of drafts comes up for sale. Tagore once remarked that he would be best remembered for his songs, and the note book contains many such memorable pieces which later went into the publication titled Mohua in 1929. He won the Nobel Prize in 1913 to become the first Asian Nobel Laureate.

**Dear General,**

I have this evening had the pleasure reading INTACH’s Newsletter. Thank you for forwarding it to our INTO Executive. May I congratulate you and INTACH generally on a most impressive record of achievements. The scale and spread of activity is staggering.

Kind regards,

Prof. Simon R Molesworth, AM, QC Chairman, INTC
Delhi Centre
This quarter was particularly exciting for the Delhi Centre as it received various kinds of objects d’art from different collections and individuals; canvas paintings (both oil and acrylic), paper objects (miniatures, kalighat painting, drawings, maps, books, manuscripts), wooden objects (sculptures, Tanjore paintings on wood, icon), textiles (saris, pichwais, royal flag, tapestries, painted textiles, kalamkari textiles, thangkas), stone and ceramic objects. The summer months have been a hectic for the team as they worked on completing these challenging projects.

This quarter also saw a large number of interns; two restorers from the Lahore Museum Pakistan, students from Delhi from the National Museum Institute and the Institute of Heritage Research and Management, and others from the field working closely with the INTACH team on various on-going projects and gaining valuable experience.

The two restorers from Lahore Museum joined Delhi Art Conservation Centre to undergo training in oil paintings conservation for a period of three months. This is for restoration of paintings of Sadequain, the famous painter from Pakistan, that adorn the ceilings of the Lahore Museum and was the project of their conservation under INTACH.

Luckow Centre
Case Study of Wall Painting of Kamla Retreat, Kanpur
Kamla Retreat, Kanpur belongs to late Shree Padmapat Singhania, who was a renowned industrialist and founder of J.K. organization. The billiards room, tennis court side, swimming pool side and walls on both the sides of corridors of this Retreat are embellished with wall paintings executed by a European artist, using tempera technique. A wonderful use of brush, spray and stencil has been made in these wall paintings. The wall of painting has been prepared with modern materials using cement and sand mortar. The damages caused in the paintings were mainly due to fluctuations in heat, humidity and light. Majority of the deteriorations present were due to moisture in wall due to seepage, salt particles present on the painting surface, presence of dust dirt, flaking of paint layer due to dissolution of binding media, cracks present in painting and plaster, fading of colour due to moisture and light, losses of plaster and paint area, air pockets present between the plaster, wall and paint surface.

Treatment of painting comprised firstly cleaning of the dust and dirt deposits by careful dry brushing. Deposition of bird drops, mud and paint drops present at some places were cleaned with a mixture of solvents after establishing safety parameters. Mechanical cleaning of paint and mud deposits was also undertaken. Soluble salts were present on the surface of painting hiding details and also exerting pressure on the layers; these were removed by mechanical methods and using solvents. After this the repair work and filling was done with sand and cement, fine plaster and Plaster of Paris used to fill cracks. Thereafter the losses in the painting were filled using inert mediums and retouching done using water colours, finally followed by application of preservative coating.
Bengaluru Centre

An interesting work involving conservation and restoration of 4 large paintings on canvas from a private collector in Tamil Nadu was undertaken by the Bengaluru centre.

The paintings were executed by a European traveller in 1914 and were not stable in condition. The canvases were very brittle, the main problem being the paint layer coming loose and lifting as a result of loss of adhesion between the paint and the ground, presence of lots of cracks and losses in the paint layer, tears and holes, bulging and waviness, stretcher bar marks etc. There was evidences of lots of unscientific mending which had created more stress to the painted surface.

As the problems were quite complex it was decided to transport the painting to the centre from Chettinad, Tamil Nadu - after pre conservation steps were undertaken to ensure that the paintings could be transported safely without added damage.

Conservation involved chemical cleaning, removal of stains, consolidation of weakened ground and pigment layers, flattening of canvas, mending of holes and tears, lining on new support with Beva 372. Areas of loss were filled, followed by reintegration with water colours, then with acrylic colours, application of preservative coating, and finally re-stretching on a new stretcher. The treatment on the four paintings has been completed and they are ready to be transported back.

A 200 year old very important paper manuscript ‘Harikathamrithasara’ from the collection of Mantralaya Sanskrit University, used as an object of devotion and containing 184 pages, was taken up for conservation at the Bengaluru Centre. This holy manuscript was in a very bad condition, and the major problem to be tackled was undoing the earlier unscientifically done repair work. Conservation treatment involved removing the old repairs, cleaning, mending the tears with Japanese tissue paper and Japanese starch paste, preparing the sheets for guarding and binding the loose sheets in a book format.

Ms. Shruti Asoka, Conservator, presented a talk introducing ICKPAC and its activities at a symposium titled ‘Role of Museums in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage’ organized by the Dept. of Arts, Jyothi Nivas College, Bengaluru on 7th February.

Ms. Madhu Rani, Director was invited to participate in the Buddhist Art Forum organised by the Courtauld Institute, London held from 11th to 14th April. The theme dealt with Buddhist art: definition; creation and function; conservation; and its role in the contemporary world. She also had a brief internship of two weeks...
from 15\textsuperscript{th} April to 4\textsuperscript{th} May to study conservation of palm leaf manuscripts, especially monitoring environmental control at the Natural History Museum, London

**Bhubaneswar Centre**

INTACH OACC Bhubaneswar developed an area of 12000 sq ft behind the Devipadahara water body near Lingaraj Temple at old town Bhubaneswar. This park has 12 types of temples and related vegetations with a small water body having water lilies and lotus. A view place is also created to enable the visitors to see the old Shasralinga water body, the Devipadahara Kund under protection by the ASI. The park has a beautiful ambience with Lingaraj Temple at the background. Illumination of the park has also been done by INTACH OACC. The park was inaugurated by Sri Naveen Patnaik, Honourable CM Odisha on 13\textsuperscript{th} May. It has been handed over to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for future maintenance.

**IMACC Jodhpur**

An oil portrait on canvas titled “Maharaja Jaswant Singh” was received from the royal Umaid Bhavan Palace, Jodhpur for conservation at the IMACC, Jodhpur. The support of painting is of cotton canvas, but with various active deteriorations manifesting it was in an extremely bad condition - showing paint layer flaking, canvas torn or stained at many places, along with fungal infection.

The conservation treatment involved dry cleaning as the first step with soft brush to remove the dust and loose fungus. Adhering particles of dust were removed with swabs of cotton moistened in suitable solvents, followed by fumigation to kill fungus at various stages of growth. Consolidation of paint layer to arrest the paint from flaking was the next step followed by removal of varnish with a mixture of organic chemicals. Filling of lacunae was done with putty (mixture of caolin+french chalk+gelatin in water). An isolating layer with Paraloid B 72 was then provided before reintegration so that whatever retouching was done remains isolated from the original paint layer and is thus reversible. Finally reintegration of filled parts was carried out with dry pigments mixed with paraloid B-72 (2 to 8%). The painting was reattached after also repairing and treating the frame.

**Kolkata Centre**

Some interesting oil paintings like the Portrait of Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal (1877-1882) and 35 photographs of the former President of Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry were received by INTACH Art Conservation Centre, Kolkata for restoration. The painting earlier restored were suffering from aging cracks and the varnish layers had become very dark. The previously restored part of the painting was pasted with its frame. The photographs were digitized.

A protective loose lining was given from the reverse side of the painting. After dismantling it from its frame, the protective loose lining was removed from the reverse of the painting. Superficial dust and dirt were cleaned with the help of soft brush and vacuum cleaner. The dry adhesive from the reverse side was cleaned by Wishab sponges. The varnish layer was removed by suitable organic solvents using a cotton swab soaked in the solution and applied indirectly on the painting with the help of lens tissue strip. The earlier lining and restoration was highly unscientific and creating more problems in the paintings, it was therefore decided to remove the earlier works. A facing with lens tissue using CMC paste was applied to the paint layer for its protection during the exercise of removing the previously given lining using mechanical methods aided by softening the adhesives with the help of solvents and lukewarm water. Losses and torn portions were mended using the patches of chamfered muslin cloth slightly bigger than the lost area and primed new canvas. The adhesive used to paste the patches was PIDICRYL – 126. At the time of mending it was ensured that the weft and warp threads of the painting matched with those of the new patches, before relining the fragile painting with a new canvas to impart mechanical strength. After drying the filled areas
were smoothened mechanically by using a sharp scalpel and careful rubbing with sand paper for reintegration. Artist Water Colour was used to give a base colour, then the filled areas were insulated by Paraloid B-72 solution and retouched with Acrylic colour and a final coat of Dammar Varnish applied to the front side of the painting.

The Kolkata Centre has begun the documentation process of the objects of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies from 1st June. In the first phase the job of accession listing, condition assessment and cost estimation have been allotted to the Centre.

**Pat Yatra**

An exhibition of Kalighat paintings was held at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi curated from the collection of Victoria & Albert Museum, London which has the largest collection of this genre of paintings. The subject of the paintings are borrowed from mythology and the later ones depict changing environment that resulted from interaction with colonial masters. Director NGMA Rajeev Lochan states: Kalighat painters not only became the first contemporaries of Indian art, but also anticipated the popular culture of the 20th century that was to follow. What makes the exhibits striking is this amalgam of two cultures – Indian and European. In the section “Social Commentaries, Proverbs and Animals” for instance, a Bengali babu is dressed in pleated dhoti and a handkerchief in his pocket, keeps pets and sports the Prince ‘Albert hairstyle’. In the section “Scenes from the Life of Krishna and Scenes from Epics”, paintings incorporate contemporary elements like Krishna playing the violin, and Lord Ram and Sita’s throne draped with curtains akin to western theatre. Alas, Kalighat paintings are no longer distributed to visitors to the Kali Temple in Kolkata as was the practice a century ago! Also on view were works of contemporary artists like Kalam Patua and Anwar Chitrakar where the strokes were Kalighat art but the imagery changed to contemporary West Bengal with its concerns of corruption, pollution, urban themes and humour.

**Museum Malaise**

Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri, University of Delhi states three historic institutions of Kolkata – the Indian Museum, Victoria Memorial Hall and the Asiatic Society appear to have no policy for acquiring or conserving objets d’art. The antiquity of artifacts are not established, and in places a number of objects accessioned were more than the objects possessed. At the National Library in Kolkata a verification of books conducted found 40% daily requisition which the library staff declared “not found” were there in a stack in their allotted place! The malaise extends to museums and libraries in many places. Even at the National Museum in Delhi the Art Purchase Committee has been defunct for many years, the last purchase having been made in 1997. “But beyond feeling outraged, whereas earlier one assumed that institutions under state control meant that they were in relatively safe hands, now one is absolutely sure that this is a false assumption”, he says - amidst recurring clamour for performance audit and time bound road map for the rejuvenation of our organizations responsible for protecting an essential and important dimension of our cultural heritage.

**INTACH Art Conservation Centre, Mumbai**

A Tanjore painting titled Kathu from the Collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum was treated at the Centre. The painting had suffered major damages due to improper handling. Dust was deposited all over, and there were abrasion marks and finger prints all over the painting; some scratches were deep, exposing the support underneath the paint and ground layer. The gold painted areas had a network of ageing cracks. The decorative pearls from many areas were lost with only impressions visible. There were attempts of previous retouching mostly on the light blue background. Cleaning was done to remove the dust and darkened finger marks, and the previous retouching. The cracks were consolidated, losses on the abrasion areas were filled and leveled with...
inert putty and then retouched using similar colours. The lost pearls were replaced with new ones.

**Priceless Art**

The Directorate of Cultural Affairs of Maharashtra is restoring and conserving musical explorations of yesteryears, along with musical tapes in magnetic form which are now being digitalised. It has also undertaken the conservation of century old musical plays and photographs. Most of the video recordings of musical plays are those popularized by the theatre prodigy Bal Gandharva who not only synthesized folk dances of the country but also infused stage and musical forms from European traditions that became a rage from early 20th century till the 1940s. There are over 4000 photographs dating to the first decade of the last century ranging from earliest newspapers ads to bill boards to portraits and of course stage shows still in perfect condition. This treasure trove might some day be turned into compact discs of live recordings, videos of musical plays and a book of photography.

**Anvar-i-Suhayli**

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalya (CSMVS), Mumbai is restoring a faded 16th century *Anvar-i-Suhayli* redolent with fables and pictures. This illustrated manuscript dates back to the Mughal era of Emperor Akbar, and carries an A++ grading, the highest certifying it as an artwork of unique national importance. Former INTACH conservator Anupam Sah who now heads the Art Conservation and Training at CSMVS says it has been in their possession since 1970 after being auctioned by Sotheby. The restoration work undertaken jointly by A. Sah and Museum Curator Vandana Prapanna commenced only in January with funding from the Bank of America. Already 60 folios with its kings and courtiers, crows and partridges, etc. are beginning to look new and the entire manuscript might be completed by the end of 2012.

**NEWS FROM AHD**

**Balaji Ghat, Varanasi**

The Balaji Ghat Historic Building, an iconic landmark on the banks of the river Ganga, was built by the great Maratha king Balaji Peshwa-I in the year 1735 AD. This project of adaptive reuse in the region whereby a *Ghat* will be used for cultural purposes brings together artists, craftsmen, musicians, children, and the local community. The project aspires to be a first of its kind to fill a lacuna, as none of the 84 *Ghats* which are visited by millions of visitors showcase the history and culture of the region. This will promote local talent and create awareness among the children, youth, and other sections of the society about the heritage value of the region. It will provide a platform for upcoming talent to perform and exhibit their creativity.

The Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) has applied for Nomination Form with proposal for Restoration of Balaji Ghat, Varanasi to World Monument Watch 2012 enlisting it as one of the endangered heritage sites among 100 sites of the world. It was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch by the World Monument Fund. WMF approved $1,75,000 for the restoration of the top three floors of *Balaji Ghat* as part of its adaptive reuse as a Cultural Centre. The project will support AHD current plans to transform the site into a cultural center for tourists and pilgrims, showcasing the history and heritage of the region. In the first phase of conservation the first three floors of the building will be restored to provide new visitor amenities, along with exhibition installations and a performance space.
RBI Building, Kanpur
The RBI complex in Kanpur houses a number of buildings of which two are of historic importance. The building constructed during the British time has undergone drastic changes. INTACH was commissioned to make a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the conservation and restoration of the building for which AHD team has been visiting the site and the final DPR was readied for submission in June.

Conservation in Jharkhand
INTACH was appointed for preparing the DPR for conservation projects of archaeological and historical sites in Jharkand. The funds for its execution are provided by 13th Finance Commission, GOI, to the Dept. of Art, Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand. Of 27 sites, AHD has prepared the DPR for the following sites on date:

Audrey House
Audrey House, Ranchi, a part of the Raj Bhawan, is more than 150 years old and is a perfect example of traditional construction technique. It was built by Capt. Hannygton, a British officer during 1855-56. This heritage structure is made of wood, sun burnt bricks and mud plaster covered with sloping roof with tiles.

Old Birsa Munda Jail
Old Central Jail at Ranchi was built in the mid nineteenth century by the British. Lord Birsa Munda, a great freedom fighter, was kept under captivity in this jail where he died under mysterious circumstances. It was evacuated in November 2006 when the inmates were shifted to the new jail. Since then parts of it were occupied by the CRPF, the remaining areas lying neglected. The architecture is very simple with barracks made of brick masonry and lime surkhi mortar. The overall estimated cost of conservation and adaptive reuse in 6.05 crores.

Pithoria Mosque
Pithoria Mosque situated 20 km away from Ranchi on Ranchi-Pataratu Road is more than 450 years old. It is said Sher Shah Suri commissioned the construction of this mosque presumably between 1540 to 1545, but there is no authentic proof to this claim. Two thirds of the structure, constructed in brick masonry with lime and surkhi mortar, has collapsed, its reconstruction needs to be done according to archaeological and archival records, at an overall estimated conservation cost of Rs. 66 lakhs.
Golden Threshold, Hyderabad

The heritage site ‘Golden Threshold’ was residence of Sarojini Naidu, an eminent poet of the country, donated to the Central University of Hyderabad. The University has now shifted to a new campus in Gachibowli, at the GT campus and lying neglected in disuse. The Hyderabad Central University approached INTACH to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the upgradation and adaptive reuse of this historic site for which AHD is preparing the project proposal.

Raja Mahal and Rani Mahal, Rajasthan

The Raja Mahal and Rani Mahal located in the heart of the Jaisalmer Fort houses a museum frequented by visitors to the city. It exhibits artifacts ranging from arms and ammunition used during the reign of the Maharawal to daily use vessels used by them.

AHD team documented the spaces used as a museum, as well as explored spaces which had potential for display of more exhibits. A comprehensive report for the upgradation of the museum was prepared and has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture for a grant.

Other AHD ongoing projects are Basia Kothi, Ludhiana; Old Secretariat Building, Faridkot; Shahi Samadh, Kapurthala; and the Ganga Mahal, Varanasi. AHD is also in the process of compiling Bye Laws for 13 Typologies of centrally protected monuments.
The workshop is multidisciplinary joining natural environment to enable sustainable development. Since the creation of the workshop in 2001, the thematic outline is "Urban Waters: Resource or Risk", emphasizing the necessity of the integration of human activity in the natural environment to enable sustainable development of urban space. The workshop is multidisciplinary joining natural (urban hydrology, chemistry, ecology, health sciences) and social sciences (architecture, management, decision making) to improve trans-disciplinary discussions and social commitment of the scientific research in the field of integrated water management.

Dr. Singh presented a paper on “Urban Lakes and Wetlands: Opportunities and Challenges in Indian Cities - Case Study of Delhi”, that was well received and will be published later online. Concerns for urban lakes is shared by developing and developed countries alike. Increasing urbanization and planning insensitive towards water bodies and hydrology has resulted in loss of wetlands and lakes in urban and peri-urban areas across the globe. WWW YES provided a platform for discussion among young scientists and academics on urban lakes in various countries including India and France.

Fifteen papers were presented during the workshop, with extensive discussion around the central theme. The workshop also provided an opportunity to interact with academics, social scientists and senior scientists that has helped in furthering knowledge and understanding of participants in the broader field of urban water issues. It included work groups on various themes- Urban Lakes, Grey Water Recycling and Urban Water Sustainability.
A half-day technical visit on urban water issues was organised at several sites of Bièvre valley, close to Arcueil. The SIAVB explained the Bièvre River management upstream, the highly urbanised part of the river where it becomes a domestic underground sewer. A visit to one of the hydraulic regulation lakes followed. Participants discovered parts of the Bièvre River where it has been re-opened, in the middle of a newly designed park (Parc des Prés) and where it shall be re-opened (Cachan). Senior Scientist accompanied the visitors to ensure transfer of knowledge and discussions with the representative of the local water authority Deputy Mayor of Arcueil-Cachan.

On the evening of 22nd May, all WWW-YES participants were invited to take part in a public discussion session with institutions, associations and citizens of the Bièvre valley on the topic "Drinking water management: results of an international survey conducted by young environmental scientists". This public discussion took place at Jean Vilar Hall after a short fictional film on water "Histoire d’Eau" produced in 1958 by Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut, champions of the French "Nouvelle Vague" (new wave). Questions regarding drinking water situation in various countries and parallels in France were raised by members of the public attending and appropriately answered.

Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division (NHD), in collaboration with Baroda Chapter and Baroda Municipal Corporation, carried out a field survey of urban lakes in the city. While these lakes are under some level of threat with encroachment on edges and disposal of garbage and sewage enriching them with nutrients which feeds a cover of weeds, the lakes can potentially be rejuvenated and converted into biodiversity rich habitats. Such transformation requires preparation of a lake management and conservation plan based upon extensive investigations. Once conserved the lakes would moderate the local climate, provide the urban dweller a communion with nature and further nourish the aquifers.

After a strenuous effort of over 4 year, NHD has been able to initiate the bio-remediation treatment of the Palam Drain in Delhi. Like several towns in the country the natural storm water system has become a carrier of untreated sewage ultimately flowing into the river. The work involves introduction of natural eco-friendly bacteria consortium into the flowing stream which sequentially passes through a flotilla of water hyacinth plants, a section where daphnia zooplankton is introduced and finally through a fish zone. The processes reduce the pollution by 80%, eliminates foul odour without requiring any civil works, machinery or electricity in a short span of time. If pollution can be removed from flowing drains we can have healthier cities, clean groundwater, clean rivers. The work in Delhi is now operational.

**Killing of Rivers**

To ignore sand and gravel mining is the surest way to destroy rivers. Water experts are warning that even the big rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada, Krishna, Godavari and Chambal can dry up due to illegal activities of the mining mafia. A recent news report spotlighted what indiscriminate sand mining does by citing the glaring example of Kerala’s second longest Bharathapuzha River. The water tables dropped along the entire length of the river and resulted in the State’s rice bowl Pallakad facing one of the worst droughts of 2011. Another horrifying news from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh is 300 truck loads of sand worth Rs.1 crore per annum daily arrive in Hyderabad from Guntur District. Till two years ago the Godavari brimmmed with water, but with its sand considered superior and more profitable than that of the Krishna, residents are now forced to buy water from tankers. In Madhya Pradesh one encounters the worst scenario with 24,000 court cases registered against illegal mining across the State. Do we wait and watch helplessly till another ‘Bengal famine’ hits the country because we blindly allow a few people to make money?

**Chapter representatives can visit and see the results for themselves for propagation in their respective areas.**

Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar visited Sursagar and other water bodies to examine their condition and suggest remedial measures, to give expert advice on cleaning up of the city pond at the request of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC). Water samples were collected from the Sursagar at various levels and sent for a series of tests. Several meetings were held where work done at other water bodies in the country and what can be done were presented. While work was being conducted on the

**Bonding in Nature**

A Delhi based bird-watcher makes a keen eyed observation: "We widely read about the five big trees bursting with blossoms of red but the qualitative and quantitative aspect of all five species vary. From Allepy to Amalapuram, from Ahmedabad, Aurangabad to Allahabad and on to Aizwal in the north eat blood red flowers bloom in accordance to their intuitions"; while birds wait in anticipation of bombax buds peeling into large flowers. It appears that birds and trees have a symbiotic relationship. It is the same between birds and bees with flowers. “The tall and handsome Silk-Cotton tree, the glorious Gulmohar, the compact Indian Coral tree, the lush Scarlet Fountain Tree and the slap dash Palash or flame-of-the forest look amazingly amorous in the season. The one and common entity of all these trees is the red and rowdy petals that festoon their branches" The seasons of love varies from terrain to terrain during the summer months ending June. How much nectar each offers is evidenced by the many species scurrying in their midst.
surface of Sursagar, he pointed out it was necessary to address even its deeper levels for which water samples were collected during his inspection. The two day visit yielded some positive response, according to State Co-Convenor Sanjeev Joshi. A detailed report (DPR) on the Sursagar and a couple of other selected ponds is being drawn up to give expert advice on cleaning up of the city pond.

NHD has done commendable work on some well known lakes like the Hauz Khas in Delhi, revival of the temple tank at Nagercoil, and a pond in Gwalior. Currently NHD is working on two ponds at Raipur and will be taking up another three at Jharkhand. Shri Manu Bhatnagar states all ponds need to be revived as they are critical resources. “They are important for ground water recharging”, and must also remain clean for which a series of measures need to be taken up. “Bio-remediation is a good option. Enzymes and bacteria can be used in ponds to clean them”.

To Remind

Do not forget to place water pots in gardens or terraces for birds to quench their thirst during the hot summer months.

Burden of Technology

Chetan Chauhan from a leading daily reports that about 1.46 lakh tonnes of e-waste was generated in 2005, and this year the figure for 2012 will exceed 8 lakh tonnes of toxic waste with 70% of it generated by just 10 States. Added to this is the high ‘absolescence’ rate that makes e-waste the fastest growing waste stream which is mostly recycled in a hazardous manner. Many State Pollution Boards have not yet notified the recycling agents to whom companies are required to sell. Some like Seelampur in East Delhi or Dharavi slums in Mumaii are totally unregulated. Mostly no one knows where e-waste has to be disposed as there is no mechanism for advertised collection from homes. So it mostly lands up in Municipal bins endangering the future health of the nation!

Lessons in Soil Conservation

It was community participation that improved availability of ground water and plant diversity, increased food crops in several villages of Madhugiri taluk, Tumkur district, Karnataka. During implementation of a watershed development project called Jaljeevani in selected villages, sponsored by the KK Malhotra and Vaishno Mal Malhotra Trust, and after prolonged discussions farmers agreed to stop felling of trees. Focus was on conservation of soil and water. Trenches and bunding across the slope were built to harvest excess run off, to recharge the water table. Bunds were further strengthened by plantation of forestry species along them and sowing stylo hemata grass seeds on top. As many as 609 ponds excavated for ground water recharge revealed significant improvement in crop yield as shown by an impact study in the project villages. Farmers have also noticed higher water levels in existing bore wells.

Tagore At 150

“Tagore at 150 – Power of the Pen” was an enriching programme for schools held in celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore to enhance their understanding of his contribution to Indian culture. INTACH received around 6000 entries from students of middle and senior schools from 60 Chapters, including in regional languages Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu and Kannada.

A trip for national winners to Santiniketan was organized from 6-8th May by the Santiniketan Chapter. On the first day the students were taken to Patha Bhavana a school run on the educational vision of Tagore. They interacted with the students there and observed their unique “away from the classroom” education. The evening was spent making unique leather handicrafts and batik textiles at Amra Kutir.

The morning of 8th May marked the end of the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Rabindranath Tagore according to the Hindu calendar called pochishe boisakh. Everyone gathered at Tagore’s glass temple at the Visva Bharati

NEWS FROM HECS

Bird Drinking Water from Pump

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campus for a special *upasana* (prayer) led by the Vice Chancellor Prof Sushanta Dattagupta. The winners were interviewed by different T.V. channels. A special award distribution ceremony was organized at the auditorium “Lipika” presided by the Vice Chancellor. Santiniketan Convenor Subibir Adhikari followed by Director HECS Ms Purnima Datt gave details of the programme. There was a music and dance performance by the students of *Patha Bhavana* which ended with the *Ashram* song.

In the evening there was a dance drama “*Chandalika*” written by Tagore, enacted by the senior students of Visva Bharati. The day ended with a delicious Bengali homely dinner at the *Patha Bhavana* mess.

The Srikakulam Chapter conducted a program on April 22nd at the Non Gazatted Officers Association conference hall with participants from twelve schools. District Collector G. Venkatrami Reddy and Educational Officer Aruna Kumari, invited as chief guests, spoke on the works and life of Tagore. Shri A.V. Reddy Sastry, a retired Reader who specialized in the study of Rabindranath Tagore gave a lecture to the students.

**East Godavari Chapter**

The East Godavari Chapter conducted an Essay Writing Competition on the Life of Viswakavi Rabindranath Tagore for students of 7th-9th classes in about 40 schools in and around Kakinada. Deputy Superintendent of Police Smt. Sai Sri flagged off the Heritage Walk from the Brahmo Samaj Mandir to the State Bank of India Heritage Museum undertaken by prize winners and teachers. The Chief Patron, Collector & District Magistrate Neetu Prasad as Chief Guest gave a valuable heritage message before distributing the Prizes.
Teacher Training Workshop

A teacher training workshop was organized on 11th June at the Jasola Vihar Head Office of the Global Indian International School, Indore. Director HECS Purnima Datt welcomed the teachers and asked them to briefly introduce themselves and share their favourite monumental site of the city. Ten of their teachers interacted through video conferencing. The highlight of the workshop was the presentation on Heritage Education and the importance of setting up a Heritage Club in their school.

HECS with the support of Delhi Chapter organized a workshop Delhi: A Heritage City for schools on 11th April to assist Delhi Chapter’s project for its inscription on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Cities. As a part of this process, HECS is reaching out to the young citizens of Delhi, in schools across the city through awareness campaigns. A presentation on the subject was made by Co-Convenor Delhi Chapter Dr. Swapna Liddle. The second half of the workshop was a follow up on Adopt a Monument. Dr. K.K. Mohammad, Regional Director North Zone ASI, inspired the teachers to care for heritage. He also highlighted the excellent exhibits in the Children’s Republic, a museum in Siri Fort area. Sr. Project Manager of Delhi Chapter Ajay Kumar and Ms. Liddle Co-Convenor gave presentations on Adopting a Monument and role of State Archaeological Department. INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building; Director Naveen Piplani explained details about adoption of a monument and how best to care for it. Schools gave presentations on the work done by them in arousing the curiosity of students for Delhi’s heritage. Through heritage walks, clean up drives at monuments and taking the support of the local community, new dimensions had been added to the learning of heritage in the curriculum and extra curricular activities of schools across Delhi.

A Heritage City campaign

As part of school awareness campaign, representatives from Delhi Chapter and HECS visited 35 prestigious private and public schools in Delhi and Gurgaon in the months of April-May for spreading awareness of the significance of World Heritage City status. On the 27th April, this programme was launched at Bluebells School International, Kailash Colony by MD Delhi Tourism Transportation Development Corporation G. G. Saxena, Arshiya Sethi and Prof A G K Menon. Students were urged to spread the news, and participate in various competitions like painting, essay writing, poster making, photography and film making. The topic for painting was ‘My Cultural Sunday, a day out with my family’. Students were also asked to write essays on the topic ‘Delhi: Past and Present: what it means to me’, make posters on ‘Protecting Delhi’s Heritage, take photographs ‘People and their Monuments through my Photos’ and make short films on ‘Living amongst Heritage- Yeh Dilli Hai Meri Jaan’. HECS urged every school to participate in the “signature campaign”, wherein every school principal and two student leaders signed a pledge card containing the name of their school.

Heritage Club at Ladakh

HECS welcomes the establishment of a Heritage Club at Ladakh enrolling students from different government and private schools in Leh. They have been holding monthly meetings for heritage activities since December 2011. In their second meet, a film on Ladakh was screened, shot in 1974 when Ladakh was formally opened for tourist showing how Leh used to be. In the third meet they had a story telling session. Ladakh has a very interesting tradition of storytelling in every house. When there were no TV or modern technologies, storytelling was the most important source of entertainment. Parents,
usually grandparents of the family, used to tell stories to the children every night around a fire – a tradition that is fading away. To revive this dying tradition, a story teller was called by the Chapter. In the fourth meet, the students were taken to a monastic festival called “Matho Nagrang” celebrated in Matho Gompa in the first month of the Tibetan Calendar considered a Buddhist holy month in the Himalayan region. It is one of the famous monastic festivals in Ladakh, famous for the two oracles called Rong-tsan kar Mar, who originally came from Tibet, and for mask dances. In the fifth meet, they invited the scholar Abdul Ghani Sheikh, who talked about Leh as a centre of Central Asian Trade. After the talk students were taken to the Central Asian Museum which was inaugurated last year.

Heritage Passports

HECS Issued Heritage Passports to some of the best participants in Heritage Clubs: Pema Wangyal Bhutia, Sir Tashi Namgayal Sr. Sec. School, Gangtok; Karan Gupta, Model Academy, Jammu; Pragya Kumari, Sachidanand Gyan Bhartiya School, Ranchi.

NEWS FROM ICHD

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) concluded the Illustration Workshop held in Nagaland in the last week of March. Participants were taught illustration techniques by artists and animation experts. The artwork created by young local artists is now being used for illustrating Naga folklore and tales that have been collected by ICHD, and it is proposed to bring out a publication of this interesting material.

The translation of ancient Lepcha manuscripts into English is underway in collaboration with the Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association. The manuscripts include Nyolik Nyoosaong, Chhyotyen Munlaom, and Kumyo Kumseyee.

Also underway is a coffee table book on Manipur for which photographs are being finalized in consultation with the Alkazi Foundation; and articles received are being examined by two scholars on the subject.

Another pilot project to fructify is the documentation of oral narratives of the marginalized Paharia tribe of Nuapada, Odisha which was undertaken in coordination with the Folklore Foundation, Bhubaneswar.

Colours of the Northeast Looms

Garments like the phanek (Meitei), mekhela (Assamese), dakhana (Bodo), galle (Adi), jikhatari (Apatani), rsha (Tripuri), wedding skirts (Mizo) are replete with contrasting colours, unique artistry and intricate weaving into the warp and weft of the people’s life. They are an integral part of the Northeast culture and customs with each tribal group having its own distinctive style. Textiles often serve as identity markers, indicative of regional affiliations and status, with unwritten codes about who and when they are to be worn. With changing times, many communities have stopped weaving and textile traditions are becoming extinct. Synthetic yarn and commercialised designs on fly shuttle looms are increasingly in local demand.

The garments of the Northeast have been documented and preserved by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. It has also launched a project in collaboration with the IGNCA, Delhi to get original textiles before they are lost under the impact of modernisation.

Astashastrikaprajnaparamita

To translate, the Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines is the oldest dated (1015 AD) illustrated manuscript known widely. It is based on an oral text thought to have been composed between 100 BC-100 AD in South India. There are about 200 treatises on religion, grammar, philosophy, law, poetry, etc. in this Sanskrit collection The Cambridge University, London recently launched its open access digital library by uploading Sir Isaac Newton’s works, including the original anointed copy of his Philosophiae Naturalis Principa Mathematica which set out the laws of motion and theory of gravity. It will soon embark on the digitalization of the Astashastrikaprajnaparamita.
The Heritage Tourism Division (HTD) organized a 5-Day Heritage Interpreters Training Programme for Regional Guides on 30th April-4th May at Central Office. This was the second batch after the earlier one held in December, now making a total of 100 trained personnel. This training was a re-fresh course for working Guides under the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme initiated by the Ministry of Tourism.

The course content is tailor made to impart knowledge and interpretation skills on all aspects of tangible and intangible heritage, medieval Indian history, natural heritage, Sufi tradition, etc. The Programme commenced with the Quiz: History and Heritage of Delhi to assess the level of trainees acquaintance with their work details. Subsequently, lectures on various themes were delivered by professors from prestigious institutions like the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indira Gandhi National Open University, and Delhi University. A diverse array of subjects were covered like aesthetic buildings in Shajahanabad, Sultanate architecture, Mughal cuisine, ecology and settlements of Delhi, threatened natural heritage of Delhi, work done on its nomination to UNESCO’s tentative list of heritage sites, etc. to mention a few.

Site visits to the three World Heritage Sites of Delhi (Qutub Minar, Humayun Tomb, Red Fort) were followed by discussions making the lectures more interactive and communicative. The Dastan-Goi performance; and films Portraits of Belonging by Samir Jain were part of this very interesting programme. There is also a INTACH Training Manual for Heritage Interpreters designed by HT Division. INTACH Member Secretary CT Misra gave the Valedictory Speech, with concluding remarks by the Coordinator of the Programme Dr. Ranjeeta Dutta.
**Eyeless in India**

Mahatma Gandhi’s iconic steel rimmed glasses were sold for £ 39,780 pounds sterling, and his *charkha* for another £ 30,420 by auctioneer Mullock’s in Ludlow, Shropshire. They belonged to his time as a student in London in the 1890s. The glasses in their original metal case now corroded with age bore the name of his Algate optician; and the wooden *charkha*, with its inner mechanism in tact, was used by him during his London visit for the 1931 Second Round Table Conference. The auction house did not disclose the buyer’s identity, saying the bid was received on telephone. The same person also bought the bit of soil from the site of assassination, his prayer book in Gujarati and a Columbia disc with a spiritual message written and signed by him. Could it be an Indian? Hope floats! It is reported that these items will be exhibited as property of India, by way of global travelling exhibitions, starting with the *Osianama* at Delhi commemorating India’s 65th year of Independence.

**Secular in Spain**

Right across Spain one encounters Moorish architecture alongside Roman and Baroque styles, monuments reflecting Christian and Islamic influences, equally maintained with much love and shown with great pride to visitors. Cordoba in particular is a region replete with history. Once a bulwark of Roman occupied Spain, in the 8th century its Muslims conquerors established hold over Muslim-Spain or al-Andalusia. It was a golden era when mosques, universities, churches and public baths all flourished side by side. The Mezquita Cathedral for example is a stunning architectural oddity as it was once a pagan temple, then a Visigoth Christian church, then the Umayyad Moors built a grand mosque – and today one can see the re-grafting of Christianity onto a Muslim Spain.

**Smiling in Thimmakka**

Forty-five years ago villagers dreaded the road as they trudged between Kudur and Hulikal in Karnataka. Today there are 400 towering Banyan trees lining the 4 km stretch of road. It was the vision of a simple landless labourer Thimmakka accompanied by his wife Chikkamma who would daily carry 40-50 pots of water for miles over a period of 10 years to take care of what they considered their “children”. “Your children are who will remember you lived” so goes an abiding myth, and perhaps it was this thought that Thimmakkas challenged. “Is what grows and breeds from our wombs the only living thing?” they asked.....Let me dig pits, plant saplings and water them.....and treat them like my children.....My children (trees) will not only look after me but also the whole village”, he felt. Today those children have grown up and the banyan shade they provide are the village pride due to one man’s sweat. Even the screech of birds drunk on juicy fruits or the gumminess of fallen figs does not dampen the joy of walking and cycling in the shade. Recognition came after Thimakka’s death, Chikamma continues to live on a meager pension. Instead of the house promised by the authorities that never materialized, she asks that a hospital be built in the village. It shows what ordinary people do achieve – even in the face of extraordinary neglect of promises made.

**Hell on Earth**

A 230 feet cavern in Derwaze village, Turkmenistan has earned the infamous sobriquet *Door to Hell*, as it continuously spits a fire fearsome to the eye. It was a freak accident in 1971 when Soviet scientists tapped into a natural gas reservoir, when the crater caught fire. Initially it was presumed that the gas would burn itself out soon enough. However 40 years later it is still burning. The question arises are we losing precious gas? There is also a saying: the road to hell is often paved with good intentions!

**Drunk on Poppies**

March-April is the time when cuts are put on plants blossoming with poppies for opium extraction. It is also the time to keep a look out on the avian population, particularly parrots which arrive in flocks to suck an overdose of milk from opium poppies. When too drunk to find enough water which they must have after opium, they return to their nests and fall into a deep sleep, and often die! They do not get their daily dose of addiction after April, so parrots often look lethargic according to Lokpal Sethi, a Jaipur bird watcher.

**Whiff of Scents**

The unique *Sungandhi Festival* exuded the whole magic of perfumes, and exploded some of the myths too. Traditionally scents were used on the body as well as burnt to embalm the air of *mahals*. Scented incense wafted in harems in old silver censors of beautiful shapes and sizes. Traditionally *araq* and *its* were extracted from sweet smelling flowers. The industry grew because the Mughals were irked by sun and sweat, and perfumery became both a fine art and a flourishing industry - with
the sweet smelling chameli, mogra, champa, molshri, juhi, nargis, gulab, heena, malti, kamal, kamalini, etc. etc. Their lingering fragrance can still be found in the old markets of Delhi, Lucknow or Hyderabad.

The rooh gulab itr was a discovery of Nur Jehan’s mother when she was making rose water and a scum formed, collected little by little it became a perfume of such strength that Jehagir noted in his diary “There is no scent of equal excellence. It restores hearts that have gone (broken), and brings back withered souls. In reward for that invention, I presented a string of pearls to the inventress”. His son Akbar the Great established a whole department of perfumery that kept him and his successors well scented through the hot months of the summer.

**Spectacles in 2012**

2012 is the year when the Supermoon graced the skies over India and many countries, a unique phenomenon when the full moon came within nearest distance to earth on 6th May, which was also Buddha Purnima in India. Known as the Perigree Phenomenon, it lit up the sky 30% brighter and 14% bigger – captured by photographers the world over. We must wait 823 years, to see this spectacle again!

Venus too presented a celestial wonder to stargazers. Transiting through space she left a small black dot on the face of the Sun, and was seen across seven continents over a period of nearly 7 hours. Only five such transits have taken place before 2012 in 1639, 1760, 1769, 1882 and 2004 – and for the next such transit we must wait till 2117!