VIRASAT

Vasant Ritu | January-March 2018       A Newsletter of the INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

CRAFTS OF INDIA
traditional wisdom
Indian crafts can be likened to a Navagunjara, a most interesting and evocative mythic animal in the tradition. One often sees it painted in patachitras of Odisha and is also carved on one of its monuments. It is an amalgamation of different parts of animals that developed around a common impetus to make an object of use, to search for perfection and make beautiful. Likewise an amalgamation of crafts skills is visible in all heritage restoration work today.
INTACH Foundation Day, 2018 was celebrated with a difference this year. It was marked as a homage to our traditional skills. The front courtyard was not adorned as usual with competing *rangoli* designs by INTACH staff, but a display of handicrafts and organic food stalls manned by craftspeople displayed across INTACH compound. It had products to taste, wear and buy. The Central Office personnel, dressed in fineries as usual, took the INTACH Oath. The prevailing bonhomie was boosted by Chairman and Member Secretary expressing their appreciation of the work and commitment of INTACH personnel – staff and officers.

Hand crafted objects have been a vibrant facet of Indian homes and culture through the centuries, and continue to be an integral component of daily life in villages, small towns and religious places since centuries past to this day. In the beginning it must have originated from simple needs like reeds turned into carry baskets and grass used for clothing, or rough-hewn stones to invoke the blessings of Gods. Or to net fish and hone instruments to kill for food by folks living in the lap of wilderness and nature. From these humble origins evolved the great craft traditions of India. To go back to those early eras, gradually the social boundaries became rigid and traditional arts and skills got associated with certain communities, with each developing its own particular aesthetics. Earthenware vessels got painted, palm leaf brooms acquired decorative handles, trousseau baskets acquired strips of painted bamboos, walls got decorated, and crafts became a feature of social celebrations and residential aesthetics. To this day the *Kumbhar* who makes shapely pots out of clay continues to fulfil the needs of village folks and temples. It is a common sight in States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and others, to see women with *matkas* (water pots) piled up like a tapering tower, or with *kalash* (round metal pots) balanced on their heads, carrying water over long distances as they gracefully sway their way back to their tap-less homes. A number of rituals are associated with a pot of water. In Maharashtra, *Gokul Ashtami* is celebrated on the eve of Lord Krishna's birth *Janamashtmi* by hanging a mud pot filled with his favourite curds and puffed rice, tied to a tall tree. A human pyramid of young boys then reach out to the overhanging pot to crack it and gather the community jackpot. In South India there are charming rituals associated with earthenware like a new bride gently tipping a rice-filled pot across the threshold with her foot when she first steps into her new home. It signifies that she will bring everlasting prosperity to her groom’s home. There are many such customs associated with a pot in different parts of the country. A mud pot full of water is also smashed at the end of the last prayers offered to a departed soul.
Handicrafts gradually evolved into refined works of aesthetics over the centuries. Today the country is blessed by a multi-layered, culturally diverse, rich heritage of craft traditions imbibed through the ebb and flow of time and history. Much of this evolved gradually out of social practices and religious beliefs, and later refined by the changing demands of society. Crafts people now use their skills to produce objects of interior decor or haute couture.

INTACH Founder Pupul Jayakar wrote extensively on arts and crafts traditions. In one of her books titled “Earthen Drums” she points out that “the disciplines of social anthropology, art history, a study of oral traditions and of vernacular literary and visual forms will have to coalesce to give future research content and meaning. Negating the linear movement of history, the tradition develops like a spiral that uncoils and recoils ….there is transformation…..but never complete destruction……..Rural India is in a state of flux. Everywhere we turn, we see the whisper of the new technological culture… bullock carts with rubber tyres, transistors in village squares, mass produced Krishna sculptures in painted plaster sold at village fairs”

It was another great patron of crafts, Jaya Jaitly, who initiated Haats. They display the broad groupings of crafts practitioners like potters, weavers, metal smiths, wood carvers, cane and bamboo weavers, stone carvers, ivory workers, cloth weavers, perfumers, glass makers, etc. No doubt a myriad other such crafts evolved into social strata and turned into caste systems, but they also provided a livelihood to the humble folk people. In her book “Visvakarma’s Children”, Jaya Jaitly observes: The crafts and craftspeople of India are a deeply integrated part of folk and classical traditions and historic assimilations which together span many millennia. As articles made purely by hand for the daily use of both the common man in an agrarian economy and the urban elite, crafts reflected the cultural ethos of India. While crafts people have been cradled by the caste system, their skills were fostered by cultural and religious needs and the impetus provided by local,
national and traditional trade. Agricultural artisans and pastoral communities were most dependent on traditional craft skills as a secondary source of income in times of floods, droughts and lean harvest. Rooted in rural earth, the stable and settled handicraft culture later travelled to towns and small cities mushrooming in their ambience and soon found buyers in bigger cities. And they can now can be glimpsed even in boutiques abroad.

_Haats_ are now a component of the ‘Smart City’ concept in India. Delhi already has a number of _Dilli Haats_ set up in several localities of the capital. Several Crafts Bazaars are also being held through the year in many cities. The 32nd Annual Suraj Kund Mela held from 1st-14th February has been institutionalised. The splash of colours, the rhythm of drum beats, the flavours of India at food outlets, and a certain _joie de vivre_ infects and draws thousands of people flocking to the grounds. Even the Diplomatic Corps and visiting tourists cover the easy distance to Faridabad, Haryana during a fortnight of heavy sales, elaborate stalls, sale of varied handicrafts and entertainment galore. It gives prominence to the crafts of one Indian State of India by annual rotation, with stalls displaying hand crafted objet d’arts and woven cloth from many other Indian States as well. Its popularity attracts participation from several neighbouring countries who display their own handicrafts.

Some of India’s handcrafted products are associated with particular States like metal craft _Bidriware_ originating from the township of Bidar. Pembarthi metal craft of Telengana flourished since the time of the Kakatiya empire; _Dhokra_, a non-ferrous metal casting used for 4000 years is famously associated with Jharkhand and one of the
earliest discovered pieces is of a dancing girl of Mohenjadaro. Also well known are Cane and Bamboo products of the North East, Muga Silk from Assam, Bandhani from Gujarat, Tie-and-dye of Rajasthan, Phulkari embroidery of Punjab, Block Printing of Gujarat, Wood and Stone carvings of South India, etc. Not to forget the humble hand crafted articles encountered daily on streets. In fact it is amazing to see the ingenuity of cheap toys and gadgets refashioned from bottles, buttons, rags, cardboards, old clothes, etc. imaginatively recycling such waste into eye-catching objects and sold at throw away prices at street crossings. Many urchins and needy persons earn an income through such goods today.

The Role of Handicrafts in economic development is now a subject of scholarly papers. A research scholar Razia Bano, for example, made a case study of the Carpet Industry of India for the IRA – International Journal of Management & Social Sciences. Indian handmade carpets are recognised world-wide for their elegant design and vibrant colours. It is perhaps the only sector in rural India that is almost 100% export oriented and provides direct employment to over a million rural weavers and artisans, generating opportunities as per the IRA report. Handicrafts, once considered a cottage industry, have the potential to occupy a pivotal role in the country’s economy and make a significant contribution in terms of export earnings despite an increasingly mechanised world. Well known contemporary designers are embedding traditional Indian craft skills into their designs and showcasing them. There is, for instance, a great demand for Zari work, embroidery and rich brocades, etc. from India that lend themselves to fashion brands and haute couture.

The Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur teaches how to amalgamate crafts with design. The statistics of All India Handicrafts Board shows that craft export has risen from 23 crore to over 9000 crore during the last 50 years. India however needs to protect itself with an embargo on cheap imitations like Ganeshas and Diwali crackers flooding our markets during festival times from overseas markets!

INTACH’s Heritage Craft & Community Division proposes to publish an exhaustive series of Directories on Traditional Crafts of India. The first volume of Building Crafts of India covers Saurashtra. It carries not only photographs
of artisans but a complete listing of their addresses. It details lime plaster, wood carving, roofing techniques and flooring with the underlying facets of social changes occurring in society. These are issues currently being addressed in restoration work undertaken by INTACH. Many other series specific to the regional crafts traditions of other States will be published by the Crafts Heritage Division in due course. They will add up to a veritable Compendium of Handicrafts in due course when the series are complete.

**RELEASE OF POSTAL STAMPS, INTACH FOUNDATION DAY**

INTACH extends heartfelt congratulations and its appreciations to the Chandrapur Chapter for the release of the above commemorative stamps on 27th January at Nagpur, Maharashtra to mark INTACH Foundation Day this year. Please note that the INTACH Man on the cover was a wooden figure attached to the top left of the envelope. They are collector’s items.

**KOTAH KALAM**

One of the highlights of the Annual General Meeting this year on 17th March was an exclusive exhibition of Kotah Kalam mounted at INTACH Hall specially for the occasion, due to the initiative and organisation by Thakur Ranvir Singh. The paintings picturesquely captured the beauty of people and places enhanced by touches of nature and wildlife - in miniature. It is a remarkable piece of art! Kotah artists have captured scenes of exceptional beauty and alluring people. They have captured the romance of seasons and the poetry of nature in minute lines. They are easily a treasured collectors’ art if purchased, as some were.

Kotah art is an offshoot from Bundi, an old kingdom, where miniatures flourished, but with time Bundi artists evolved their own distinct style capturing fine drawings with delicate brush strokes in vibrant colours. Kotah Kalam first came into its own during the reigns of Rao Jagat Singh (1658-1670) and Rao Ram Singh (1686-1708).

The merger of Princely States after Independence deprived them of royal patronage but the artist’s spirit survives and is now in need of patrons. Art lovers want to see them preserved, and artistes hope they can survive their economic struggle to continue this unique talent and their work.

The Exhibition had been well advertised long before the Annual General Meeting, so it received a stream of visitors and garnered considerable sales from the Public. The artistes went home happily, thanking INTACH for this opportunity.
A skill, a technique, a process, a tradition, a body of knowledge, an involvement with work and various other technical, cultural and historic connotations have defined the word “craft”. For many years, the major debate within the craft world has been about the status of the word itself. Experts and scholars have taken possession of the word and latched on to it a number of previous and partial definitions. Some have also tried to develop an individualized philosophy, aesthetic, technique and etymology of the term.

Two different kinds of discourses can be seen within crafts; the one that is most widely talked about and discussed is concerned largely with the documentation and understanding of the heritage of crafts, the traditional methods of making things, the product range, etc. In the area of interior architecture, documenting vernacular structures, traditional buildings, pre-industrial building types becomes a priority. The Heritage Craft and Community Division is pioneering the programme by documenting and publishing the Directory of Traditional Building Crafts of India. While a second discourse on the subject is concerned more with the analysis of the ways in which design, use and the meaning of these traditions change within the context of modernity. In some ways it tries to debate the craft traditions as a dynamic process, which is evolving and transforming over time.

Crafts have been an expression of human beings in material forms and have always given a sense of delight to mankind. It emerged out of the basic needs of people which later became a part of their lifestyle. The growth of crafts in society signaled the cultivation of being sensitive and emphasized the maturing of humanism. It added value to an otherwise harsh and empty human life. It is also believed that it was crafts that elevated man from animal existence by craving for something beyond the satisfaction of necessities and found natural expressions in crafts. It started with the embellishment of their items of daily use. People began to ornament their weapons, articles of daily use, walls and also their surrounding areas. Therefore, craftsmanship as Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay describes, was a creation by ordinary people which aimed to meet their direct needs. The making of any object or element required full dedication and involvement of mind and body to produce a functional object.

The true nature of India’s own aesthetic and creative soul is finally capturing the attention of people beyond the usual lovers of its traditional heritage of arts and crafts. Back in Vedic times, and millennia before machines took over the world, artistic handwork was an elevated category of art and science through the Shilpa Shastras, a vehicle to transmit pure and scientific processes and knowledge. These were an indication of the sophistication and perfection required in any aspect of creative and intellectual life. Education, livelihood, meditation and creativity were all embodied in a plethora of crafts professions. Their practitioners had specific roles and due recognition as the barber, the boatman, the potter, the mason, the wood carver or the priest. There were no differences in class, caste, gender or any other form of discrimination in the status of a crafts person/practitioner of the arts listed and defined under the Shilpa Shastras.

Crafts have a unique identity of their own. In recent years, Indian crafts have transitioned from highly traditional to varied contemporary forms. Traditional aspects of crafts were not only densely embedded in religious, social and cultural practices but also in day to day life. Slowly following the footsteps of getting contemporized, crafts lost the touch of versatility and utility, which was in turn directly connected to livelihood. The real essence of practicing a craft using certain skills is incomplete without serving a community. With time, our selection and practicing the art of product-making have narrowed down mostly to the extent of “What is fashionable?”. The process of
identifying a craft, followed by social and economical development of its practitioners, is the overall idea that brings confidence and respect among the community members. But the scenario has been eclipsed by the terminologies of market development and of changing trends, thus failing the true meaning of craft development. Aspirations of the ordinary crafts person and perception by the society have strongly affected their 'being'.

This is due to the fact that this industry remains largely in the grey zone between the organized and unorganized sectors of the economy, in a space where protecting and rewarding innovation is difficult due to the presence of middlemen and industry sharks who prey on artisans, that mostly work in shockingly difficult conditions. The consequence, sadly, is the lack of investment in research, training and innovation, and a situation where many instruments bought off the shelf can barely be kept in tune, let alone be used for meaningful music-making. Still, there remain a handful of highly skilled artisans that brave the tempestuous climate and carry on crafting instruments that look as beautiful as they sound.

INTACH has recently instituted a Shoulder to Shoulder award honouring the memory of Pupul Jayakar. This brings the crafts person and the institute, organization, NGO or individual working with them on an equal platform.

Craft and traditional art are a historical link to a country's heritage and culture. As contemporary society consumes at a frenetic pace natural resources in the garb of modernization, it must create avenues to take with it the ancient skills that underpin its very foundation. The range and diversity of craft in India is unmatched in the world. The assortment of material and technique is large and the skills and continuity of tradition fairly uniform.

Our crafts persons are proficient in the use of stone, wood, metal, clay and fibers. They also have special skills like laying flooring, creating textures on walls and placing tiles and stones in extraordinary patterns. The diversity of the country is well reflected in the craft emerging from its different regions and cultures.

What seems to be missing is the use of craft in ordinary elements of public space. These can be crafted pieces of curb stones, pavements and pathways, street furniture such as seats and benches, bollards, railings, pedestals for streetlights, signage and such. The possibilities are numerous. We have used this space effectively by using craft skills as exhibits at Delhi Metro Stations and painting of walls and public spaces all over the country.

Craft is a source of livelihood for a very large number of families across our sub-continent. It needs to be integrated into contemporary society and more avenues should be created for accommodating the skills and improving the earnings of the practitioners. Crafts persons have largely remained under-celebrated despite the joy and delight their work brings in our lives. Although there has been much discussion and research done on craft at an object/artifact scale, very little has been discussed about the manifestation of craft in our built environment.

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votive offerings, the built environment, and much else.

The cycle of making and usage was perfected over several hundred years in a number of different ways. The gathering together of artisans in markets in villages was perhaps one of the earlier systems. It was usually held in specified locations and provided a pre-determined point of exchange. The sale was made directly from maker to consumer using the barter system of trading in its early days. Interestingly, this system continues to this day both in rural and urban areas, and the volume of business transacted in some of these markets can be quite substantial.

In contrast, during the Moghul period a large section of handcrafted production was organized in workshops which produced highly embellished and decorative articles as well as textiles, mainly for the use of the royalty and the aristocracy. Paintings, woodwork, jewellery, jade work, bronze and weapon making, inlays both in wood and stone, and the superb textiles made during this period reflect the direct involvement of the patron. Such objects and textiles were also enriched by designs and techniques which show influences from other civilizations.

The need today is to sensitize young people, institutions and Government agencies to the beauty, utility and relevance of craft in our lives since they alone today can be patrons and keep the crafts of India alive.

**Ack: VARTA Biannual Publication 2018**

**REMEMBERING BAPU**

This quarter, 30th January is the day India lost its Father of the Nation. He will be forever associated closely with the Charakha for spinning handmade cotton cloth and Khadi that would be cheaply available to the common man. The unique properties of hand spun Khadi with rain fed organic natural white/brown cotton makes it the most absorbent summer wear. It’s density also provides warmth in winter. Designers have revived spinning and weaving Khadi, and turn out finer products like the high priced Jamdani and Ecru bordered expensive cotton wear. As Pupul Jaykar commented, here is another “whisper of the new technological culture”.

![Gadhiii’s Charakha](image)

**NEW DIMENSIONS OF CRAFTS**

An exhibition, Masks are Off, was recently held at Nature Morte Gallery, Delhi. Papier mache artists collaborated with photographer Gauri Gill to say “our faces are masks”, bridging the gap between the utilitarian artisan and the papier mache artist. She explained : All the performers were commissioned as actors, and we improvised different scenarios inspired by real life in and around the village..... animals very naturally became part of this world, and later special objects entered too, those we can’t do without like books and phones”. The actors moved around village spaces enacting situations like a mosquito gazing at a sleeping man or a cat amidst waiting people at a bus stand. A man standing in polluted pond with a mineral water bottle on his head was a comment on socio-economic profiteering from man-made environmental crisis. This was a novel idea with artists and artisans coming together as is the case in many performing art presentations in India.
33RD INTACH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2018 Annual General Meeting was held as usual in the open air courtyard packed to capacity with Members from Delhi and outstation. Chairman extended a warm welcome to them and to Vice Chairman Dr. Sarayu Doshi thanking her for her sustained and valuable contributions to INTACH. He specially complimented her on her appointment as Advisor to the President of India on selection of paintings for the Rastrapati Bhavan. He also announced that 90 years old BV Doshi, (who had built INTACH office building) was recently awarded the Pritzkar Architecture Prize (the Nobel equivalent in Architecture). INTACH is indeed proud and heartily congratulated him. Chairman introduced Advisor Randhawa who is currently functioning as Acting Member Secretary during a short absence of Dr. CT Misra.

Chairman drew attention to the many new initiatives launched recently by INTACH to good effect. The current 92nd batch of 36 IAS/IFS/IPS Probationers under training at LBSNAA Missourie were shown the INTACH FILM sharing heritage concerns and importance of conservation in the dialogue with them. INTACH has succeeded in sensitising them to heritage concerns, as these young officers are the future decision takers and policy maker during their careers ahead as senior Civil Servants.

INTACH has launched many initiatives of critical importance during this quarter. Attention of various State Governments and private bodies was drawn to Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) adopted by the National Monuments Authority to undertake HIA of buildings within the regulated areas of ASI Monuments. This is a welcome development as it was a long standing demand for conservation of heritage buildings in the light of the recent amendment of AMASAR Act vis-à-vis relaxation to public projects.

Director Jagdish Chander announced the results of the recent INTACH Election in the various categories given herewith:

**Founder Member:** Dr. Sarayu V Doshi and Gaj Singh  
**Life Members:** Sentila T Yang; Dr. HB Maheshwari Jaisal; Gour Mohan Kapur; Maj.Gen. Balwinder Singh  
**Donor Members:** Rakesh Surie; Anita Singh; Hemant S Katoh  
**Corporate Members:** Chhattisgarh Tourism Board; Tourism Corp. of Gujarat  
**Institutional Member:** Mehrangarh Museum Trust

Chairman referred to the Conference on Himalayan Heritage held at Dehradun with participants from Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal hilly regions and Arunachal Pradesh. It was attended by scholars, researchers, cultural specialists who deliberated on issues like livelihood generation, development of communities, conservation of sacred intangible heritage, identifying loss of traditional heritage, knowledge and performing arts. For the first time INTACH Conference was live streamed to enhance the reach of some important facets of heritage to a wider public audience.

Chairman announced the institution of an INTACH Scholarship for traditional craftsmanship, to undertake high end research relating to building material, textiles, handicrafts, handlooms, glass work, inlay work and such traditional crafts of India, to be given annually - worth Rs.3 Lakhs. It is instituted in the memory and name of INTACH Founder Member Martand Singh, who was internationally known for his many contributions to craftsmanship, textiles and the fashion circuit.

Initiatives taken by INTACH Chapters also merited special mention by Chairman. He informed the audience that Barmer Chapter obtained favourable orders from the National Green Tribunal for conserving water sources of two major lakes in villages Korna and Gangawas, supported by Natural Heritage Division. The two villages were awarded the Aniruddh Bhargava Environment Award given annually by INTACH. The Gorakhpur Chapter
discovered unearthed stone idols at Chhau Village that lay scattered around, and installed them in a temple built by villagers. The Thrissur Chapter, Kerala prepared a documentation for conserving the ancient 7th century Madhom, where children continue to chant Vedas in Sanskrit. The Kerala Government granted one and a half crore rupees to conserve this institute. The Wai Panchgani, Chapter, regarded as the cultural capital of Maharashtra, brought out a publication of heritage places and set up tourist signages across major intersections. The J&K State Chapter undertook an intellectual exercise to compile the Master Plan for Srinagar through public consultation. Odisha State Chapter released a book on the completion of a mammoth documentation of the ancient Jagannath Sadak that ran through several States. Other Chapters like Dharwad that inaugurated a Museum, Chanderi Chapter taking a lead in assisting Handicraft Trade, and opening of new Chapters like Palghat, famous as ‘puppeteer capital’ of Kerala, were specifically mentioned by Chairman.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

INTACH Executive Committee met on 9th March presided by Chairman LK Gupta. There was a slender attendance due to preoccupation or prior commitments of other Members who were unable to visit Delhi. Shri Lalit Surjan, Ms. Anita Singh, Dr. HB Maheshwari Jaisal and special invitee Shri OP Jain attended. Member Secretary was unable to be present due to health issues. INTACH Advisor Knowledge Centre T.S.Randhawa officiated in her absence.

Chairman briefed the Committee on his extensive visits to the various Chapters since the last Meeting of the Executive Committee. He mentioned some of the exceptional work undertaken by them. He referred to the discussions he had on common issues with Charles Wallace Trust and York University Members during his private visit to UK.

The Committee discussed Budget Estimates 2018-19. It extended congratulations to Architect Balkrishna Doshi on being awarded the Pritzker Architectural Prize on 18th March – the first Indian to receive this award. The citation mentioned “Doshi’s commitment to contribute to his country and its people”. It stated “The life and work of Shri Doshi truly underscores the prize demonstrating the art of architecture and an invaluable service to humanity”.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN’S VISITS TO CHAPTERS

During this quarter, Chairman LK Gupta undertook a series of visits to INTACH Chapters to review the work and projects undertaken by them. He was in Bhubaneswar (Jan 14th-16th January), and in Nagpur via Mumbai (24th-26th January). On a more extended tour from 16th-23rd February, he visited several Chapters in South India – Coimbatore, Palakkad, Thrissur, Calicut, Kasargod and Mangaluru. The following month he interacted with Morena Chapter Members on 4th-5th March. Details of these visits may be gleaned under the respective Chapters in this Virasat sent out to all INTACH Members.

During interactions with Convenors and Members during his tours, Chairman mentioned three main concerns for all Chapters - INTACH Members should mobilize more resource persons, have closer networking with local stake holders, and they must expand their connect with stake holders beyond Chapter membership. Chairman mentioned IHA Programmes and adaptive re-use workshops now being held regularly for PWD and Municipal Engineers that Chapters should avail. He said the best advice he can give to all Convenors is to build up their individual Chapter profiles for espousing localized heritage causes with the motto “self help is the best”. And to set up at least one passion project that immediately attracts public attention and becomes a bridge to connect with the local authorities. A recently launched INTACH programme provides technical assistance to Chapters on Saving Heritage at Risk. Another key challenge is to sensitise professionals and the general public to the present problems and future potential of heritage. This would aid in bridging gaps in functioning of multiple authorities and effect better coordination. In the final analysis, Chairman said it was the Chapters’ countrywide work in the field that projects INTACH profile nationally.
Indira Gandhi International Airport was adjudged the world's best airport in 2014. It continues to strike a chord with global and domestic travellers. Many tourists are often seen clicking their cameras even on arrival. Exhibits are an amalgam of east, west, north and south India. At the entrance are depicted monuments, musical instruments and classical dance postures. The colours of Indian spices are visible to the discerning eye like red (chilly for Bhangra), green (cardamom for Dandiya), yellow (turmeric for Manipuri dance) and orange (saffron for Bharatnatyam). The Surya sculpture by Satish Gupta captivates the eye as does the magnificent elephant sculpture by Universe. The Airport has many other attractions if one cares to linger, like the canyon wall conceptualised by Landor, nine different dance mudras and Surya Namaskar sculpture by AKFD featuring 12 postures. It is indeed a great deal of public art and quintessentially an amalgam of the vast heritage of our country. Perhaps it is too much to take in on arrival, but departing travellers linger and also partake of several food and shopping options.

Its Airport Service Quality even has a fan base running into thousands on Facebook and Twitter. Tourism has the potential to become one of the biggest foreign exchange earner and economy booster if Tour Packages and especially our tourist locations are managed professionally.

Acknowledgement: Naina Arora

PUBLICATIONS

INTACH Calendar 2018 carries images of vernacular architecture, hand painted dyes on textile, cultural maps of regions that were documented, restored ‘Mysore School’ painting and natural heritage sites by INTACH. Members of Governing Council and Executive Council received a copy of the Calendar.

Some of the books produced this Quarter have contents provided by the Architectural Heritage and the Heritage Education and Communication Service Division:

Banaras Ki Anuprateek Dharohar – (Cultural Heritage of Banaras) 2017. (Hindi)

Dilli-ki-Shaan: Discover Delhi (Handbook on Heritage of Delhi ) 2018 (English)

The guide book Along the Ganga, under print in collaboration with Eicher Goodearth, is in the final stages. The Guide focuses on some of the major cities located on the banks of the Ganga, with their history and evolution as time progressed, the section where the river meets the sea etc. The pollution issues plaguing this significantly holy river are identified, and the measures being taken to revive it from the onslaught of modern civilization are highlighted.

A brochure on Brahmawam Madham – An Untold Story is a conservation report of Brahmawam Madhomand Padinjare Chira, Trissur, Kerala. The publication by the Thrissur Chapter was supported by the Heritage Tourism Division. It held a special function for its release by the Chairman at a function organised by Convenor Thrissur MP, Surendran, during his visit to the Chapter. This report covers the significance of the architecture and Vedic practices, urban vocabulary, the importance of conservation of heritage buildings and the intangible
heritage linked with them. The brochure includes scholarly articles regarding the importance of Vedic learning and draws attention of the relevant authorities to the interesting aspects of Madham. It will enable architects to conserve the buildings and the water body of the area.

FAIRY QUEEN HAS A TWIN

The Fairy Queen EIR 22 (East India Railway) was ‘coronated’ as the world’s oldest running steam locomotive 20 years ago. Now she must share her Guinness crown with her lesser known and technically older twin, Express (EIR 21). In 1855 both were ‘born’ at Kitson, Thompson and Hewitson and sent to India. Chairman, Railway Board tried to find the company that manufactured them but neither the company nor the records exist – that is needed to verify which is older. Rail enthusiasts maintain that Express came first as per their numbered tags. Meanwhile the Railway Board will be approaching Guinness regarding the heritage tag – it would be an added tourist attraction for Rail Tourism.

A book on Baolis is being printed in digital print. The contents of the book were provided by the Natural Heritage Division.

NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION

Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar attended the World Bank Group Country Engagement Dialogue 2017-18 on 29th January. The country engagement dialogue centred on Water Efficiency Factor with which available resources have to give way to demand management. Focus on irrigation efficiency will bring maximal results with suitable cropping pattern matching resource endowment. Transformation will involve complex issues including urban areas recycling as a key factor. Agricultural practices, both traditional and modern, must eliminate inorganic chemical inputs from the food chain. Much can be achieved by working with NGOs. Irrigation efficiency is the sector where focus will bring in maximum results with a suitable cropping pattern to match resources with precision agriculture. PD Manu Bhatnagar suggested that the World Bank should commission comprehensive basin studies on the lines of INTACH’s major study on Hind Basin that suggested water recycling and gradual alteration of land use pattern.

NATURAL DYES – A FADING HERITAGE

- Meenakshi Singh

Our interaction with nature and its expression has been ancient. Nature has continually invoked different feelings in humans, and over the ages Man has tried to find ways to express these feelings through poetry, paintings, building monuments, or making pottery and toys in the form of animals and birds. In materialization of these things, colours have played a crucial role in establishing the connection with nature as well as for expressing that connection. Colour theory suggests that different hues
inculcate different feelings in people; white for instance relates to purity, black with power, red with energy and love, and yellow with happiness. Red, which is also the colour of blood, has long been associated with life. For example, in burial sites the colour red was used extensively to paint the walls of the burial chamber and the body of the deceased. Many people divulge that it is considered humanity's way of not bowing down to death. Colours thus have long been a medium of expression.

Rationale dictates that humanity has had a strong fascination towards colours since man's creation. The indication of humankind's association with colours can be traced back to around 25000 BC in the case of cave paintings and 3000 years BC when considering textile dyeing. Evidences have been found of textile dyeing using extracts from plants, barks and insects dating back to 5000 years in China. Indigo, another natural pigment, has been grown and used in fabric dyeing in India extensively since 2000 BC to an extent that it was exported to various parts of the world like the regions around the Mediterranean Sea.

Between 14th– early 19th century, India monopolised textile trading and developed various arts like Ikat, Bandhni, Patola, etc. in the context of textile dyeing. Other than indigo, plants popularly utilized for dyes included madder, safflower, turmeric, palash, among many others. The patterns imprinted on fabrics depicted animals, flowers, trees and humans, and were occasionally connected with joyous celebrations such as births and weddings.

Bagru, situated about 30 km south-west of Jaipur on Jaipur-Ajmer highway, is one of the many centres in India where textile dyeing using natural dyes is practised even today. It is said the Chhipa (printers) community arrived nearly 450 years ago in Bagru from Sawai Madhopur, a city approximately 180 kilometres away from Bagru. Today the Bagru Print is famous world over and enjoys the status of GII (Geographical Indication of India). The families involved in its printing have been engaged with it for generations and possess the traditional knowledge of colour making, equipments used for dye-making as well as hand blocks used for printing. This is considered as their ancestral heritage and passed down through generations. Bagru is acclaimed for two kinds of prints – the Bagru Print and the Bagru Dabu Print. The characteristic printing of Bagru Prints include hand block printing on fabrics. Dabu Prints on the other hand is a resist dyeing technique. The motifs chiselled on the block have Persian influences and usually represent birds, animals and floral forms, along with geometrical patterns. The famous Bagru patterns include jaal, chakri, chhoti and badibooti, patti, etc. Another important pattern is indigo dyeing where different patterns and designs are created by the application of indigo in multiple steps of dyeing. The common resources used for the formulation of these natural dyes are harad or myrobylan, indigo, dbaya or dhataki flowers, manjishtha or Indian madder, imli and jaggery, in addition to iron, alum, and gum (from babul or corn).

In another direction from Jaipur, about 15 km south-east of it, is situated another dyeing centre, Sanganer. Sanganeri Prints have their own niche and demand in the world market. The story goes that tired of the frequent battles between Mughals and Marathas, printers from Gujarat migrated to Sanganer. The designs of Sanganer thus bear a resemblance to the Gujarati prints. The designs are highly intricate and include impressions of flowers, petals, birds, and geometric designs. The 500 years old art of hand block printing in Sanganer gained significance as it received the support of the local nobility and later by the East India Company which exported it extensively. Compared to Bagru, Sanganeri prints were modernised in keeping with the changing times. Many of the printing workshops in Sanganer have machines for printing, for catering to the increasing demands for block prints.

One of the points of differences in Sanganeri and Bagru prints is the base colour of the cloth on which the printing is done. In Bagru, the background is typically off white or ivory coloured and in Sanganer, the background of cloth is white. The prints belonging to these places also differ in the sense that Bagru block prints are bigger in size and have thick lines, whereas Sanganeri motifs are smaller with comparatively thin lines. Although with passage of time these differences have fused and both places now print many kinds of motifs that are not necessarily
distinctive to them. Time has also lead to another point of difference between these two places. While Bagru still continues to predominantly use natural dyes, Sanganer has turned to synthetic dyes which have gained importance due to their vibrancy, variety, reproducibility and easy availability. Sanganeri printers claim that the demand for hand printed cloth cannot be matched by just natural dyes which take time to prepare and depend on limited resources for their making. Additionally, they cannot be used in machine printing, and inevitably require hand printing which is time-consuming.

Synthetic dyes, however are not without blemishes. Over 50% of synthetic dyes produced are used in textile dyeing. During the dyeing process, much of the dye that does not bind to the fabric, stays assimilated with the dye water and is flushed out as refuse. Thus, effluent from the textile dyeing industry contains huge amount of dye and other additives, such as mordants that are used during colouration. The contaminated wastewater leads to toxication of both surface water and ground water. Workers that come into direct contact with synthetic dyes are prone to dermatitis, allergic conjunctivitis, rhinitis, occupational asthma or other allergic reactions. Chronic exposure to certain dyes, for example dyes that contain benzidine group, is reported to be carcinogenic. These adverse effects of synthetic dyes on nature and humans, cumulatively lead to an initiation among people to return to natural dyes more sincerely.

Many sceptics however feel that not everyone can afford natural dye. The environment also would not be able to provide a sustainable source of raw materials for the production of dyes. It is in this context that INTACH Natural Heritage Division commenced research on natural dyes to understand the economic and environmental sustainability of natural dyes. The research encompasses the art and history of natural dyeing in the specific context of textile dyeing, identifying major centres in India where natural dyes are still used for textile dyeing, the plant resources used in dye making and their geographical distribution. The ultimate objective is to increase not only the number of grove banks of natural dyes but also the plants. These plants will both enhance the local biodiversity and increase the availability of natural dyes. It will thus effectively match the consumer’s growing interest in non-chemical natural materials.

**CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX**

— Bharti Sarin

City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is an innovative self-assessment tool to measure biodiversity in cities and monitor conservation efforts over time. For an expansive urban sprawl of Delhi, the calculation of CBI would highlight the noteworthiness of biodiversity component in various regulating and supporting ecosystem services provided by urban biodiversity such as regulating local climate and air quality, and providing aesthetic and recreational spaces.

**EVOLUTION OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into effect on 29 December 1999 to identify conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity. Additional objective was fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are critical instruments for effectuating the Convention at the national level.

India ratified the Convention in 1994. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the governing body of CBD. At the ninth meeting of the COP for the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-9), Germany (2008), then Minister for National Development of Singapore Mah Bow Tan commended the development of CBD-led City Biodiversity Index. Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) and National Parks Board of Singapore (NParks) conducted the First Technical Expert Panel Workshop in 2009. In the subsequent year, Members of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity with SCBD, worked towards test bedding the City Biodiversity Index on various cities. In the Second Technical Workshop in March 2010, the development of CBI as an evaluation tool was deliberated and indicators were refined to gauge and estimate biodiversity in urban pockets. The presentation for CBI to be approved was made at CBD COP-10,
Nagoya (Japan). Concomitantly, the parties to the CBD adopted strategic plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 at COP-10, including twenty practical and enterprising targets under five strategic goals known as Aichi Biodiversity Targets (October, 2010). The CBI was also named the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, or Singapore Index (SI). The United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session declared the period 2011-20 to be the “United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020”.

Greater Hyderabad City acted as a host for the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11) held October, 2012. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation also released the “Greater Hyderabad Biodiversity Index” at this international event.

The two parts of the City Biodiversity Index consists of: Profile of the city and twenty three indicators measuring native biodiversity, ecosystem services provided by biodiversity and governance and management of biodiversity.

LIST OF TWENTY THREE INDICATORS OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX

Native Biodiversity
• Proportion of Natural Areas in the City • Connectivity measures • Native Biodiversity in built up areas (Bird Species) • Change in number of Vascular Plant Species • Change in number of Bird Species • Change in number of Butterfly Species • Change in number of Species of Group 1 (any other taxonomic group selected by the City) • Change in number of Species of Group 2 (any other taxonomic group selected by the City) • Proportion of Protected Natural Areas • Proportion of Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem Services Provided by Biodiversity
• Regulation of quantity of water • Climate Regulation: Carbon Storage and Cooling Effect of Vegetation • Recreation and Education: Area of Parks and Natural Areas • Recreation and Education: Number of Formal Education visits per child below 16 years to Parks with Natural Areas per year.

Governance and Management of Biodiversity
• Budget allocated to Biodiversity • Number of Biodiversity Projects implemented by the City annually • Existence of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan • Institutional Capacity: Number of Biodiversity related functions • Institutional Capacity: Number of City or Local Government Agencies involved in Inter-agency Co-operation pertaining to biodiversity matters • Participation and Partnership: Existence of Formal or Informal Public Consultation Process • Participation and Partnership: Number of Agencies/ Private Companies/ NGOs/ Academic Institutions/ International Organisations with which the city is partnering in Biodiversity Activities, Projects and Programmes • Education and Awareness: Is Biodiversity or Nature Awareness included in the school curriculum • Number of Outreach or Public Awareness events held in the city annually

In 2017 INTACH initiated CBI calculation for Delhi. The score of the first indicator will be determined by quantifying the proportion of natural areas in the city. The data for the area of the natural ecosystems in Delhi is being compiled using reports published by INTACH, various Government agencies (Delhi Parks and Gardens Society and Delhi Government Forest Department), and satellite imagery (Google Earth Pro). Along with natural terrestrial ecosystems, the area of the water bodies will be taken into consideration. Delhi is reported to have 700 water bodies (both urban and rural). Though various Government agencies are responsible for the management of these natural reservoirs, they are either polluted or have shrunk in comparison to their previous size, as has been observed using satellite imagery. Undeniably some of these have dried up completely or been usurped owing to residential and commercial demands of a burgeoning population.

The calculation of CBI provides a ready check on the size and quality of biodiversity of the city at the local level. By the end of 2012 more than 70 cities of the world were in different stages of applying the index in conformity with their unique natural conditions. The indicators can also act as a policy-making tool. CBI is not a mechanism
to compare two cities, as different metropolitan areas are located in varied climatic zones with a history of their development stipulating human intercession in cities’ biodiversity and ecosystem; nor is it a single time assessment. The policy priorities which could be framed based on the initial baseline measurement of the biodiversity can help to identify gaps in biodiversity management and monitor progress in reducing the loss of urban biodiversity. Indicators can be used for master planning of new districts, act as guidelines to design strategies and local action plans for conservation, enrich the biodiversity in cities, and check the loss of biodiversity as mapped out in the Aichi targets. It also helps identify gaps in data generation. The data collected for calculating indicators can act as the biodiversity database. Areas of weakness identified as scores are calculated for each specific indicator. Cities’ data will be extended towards global assessment of urban biodiversity trends in future editions of the City Biodiversity Outlook. Though the Singapore Index was initially devised as a monitoring tool at city level, it is however not restricted to cities and can be employed at different scales also for sub-city level, regional or state level. The idea of applying CBI can lead to a networking of NGOs, government agencies, academia exchanges and sharing details on measuring biodiversity. It could also serve as medium of awareness for better communication between the citizenry and administration to conserve locally important species and ecosystems.

SITE VISIT TO RANI BANDRALI POND

—Shitali, Jammu

An assembled team of INTACH Architecture and Natural Heritage Divisions under the guidance of Jammu Convenor SM Sahni visited Shitali Village in Jammu on 11th January for identifying and documenting architectural and natural heritage components requiring management and conservation. Three heritage components were identified – Rani Bandrali Pond, Chaupal and Sarai.

The early 1800 Rani Bandrali Pond is situated at the entrance of Shitali Village covering an area of 0.125 hectares. Conversation with locals revealed that the Pond has a depth of 22 steps with a kho (well) and spring at the bottom. The water quality in the pond itself suffers from siltation and is weed infested. The pond’s water outlets and inlets have been blocked due to dumping of soil and waste leading to stagnation and algae growth on the walls. The pond has adequate open space and vegetation in the surroundings; however it lacks proper landscaping and boundary demarcation. Lack of proper drainage in the village led to waste water flowing through a dug up channel that skirts the edge of the stairs and threatens contamination of the pond’s water reserve.

BIG BIRD DAY, FEBRUARY 2018

One of the largest bird counting event was held in February this year to count the number of species in Delhi and National Capital Region on 18th February. Last year also, six international teams including those from Singapore and Dubai participated. This year’s record indicates that bird count has gone down from 268 in 2017 to 237. While there is no study to find out the exact reason, birders feel that the unusually warm winter (when temperature shot up to 32 degrees one day) could be one of the reasons for the early departure of many migratory birds, said Founder of the Birding Group “Delhibird”, Nikhil Devasar. Vanishing wetlands and other habitats are also taking a toll on many species. The count however doubled in the
bio-diversity areas like Tughlakqabad Biodiversity Park and the recently opened Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park compared to last year, said scientist in charge Faiyaz Khudsar. Birders also recorded the highest number of species at Dighal in Haryana which is considered a paradise for bird lovers, followed by Najatgarh Jeel, Chandu Budhera and the Sultanpur National Park.

**PLASTIC SOLUTIONS**

There is an alarming spread of air borne plastics that we inhale and even eat, warned a UK Chief Medical Officer and said at present the health consequences were unquantified. The microplastics can even travel to a mother’s womb, though at present the risk to health is largely limited to eating fish from polluted oceans. This shocking investigation shows that we are facing a present and even bigger future danger.

Incredible as it may sound, if we know how to recycle it, plastics can be useful materials with a multitude of applications because of diverse properties. Marine plastic debris is estimated to reach 250 million tonnes by 2025, and Governments have begun to ponder how to overcome this major problem. Majority of plastics are made using oil-based materials and have no oxygen content which makes it difficult for common bacteria to break them down when they enter our environment. In recent times, the concept of using bio-based material is gaining ground that can be broken down to smaller chemical building blocks called platform molecules that can be used to make other chemicals including plastics for common use. The University of York, Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence is working with the plastic industry to create a new generation of polyesters. They are already used for making fibres for clothing, films and containers for liquids and foods. In addition to sustainability, there is a huge benefit to be derived in using biomass as the oxygen content is high and plastics can be safely broken down to benign starting materials. Measures must be enforced to ensure that such plastic waste stays in the recycling loop and not end up in dumping mounds.

Maharashtra Government announced a total ban on all kinds of plastic bags including items made of thermocol and all kinds of cutlery items including their manufacturing, distribution or storing with effect from 18th March 2018. The ban applies to all Government Offices and Hotels and a heavy fine imposed on offenders. This is an example for other States to follow.

**GREEN SPACES = URBAN SACRED GROVES**

The destruction of green spaces has long term ecological effects, apart from depriving citizens of some clean and green secured community space for a stress reducing outing. Most people in India cannot afford salubrious vacations to highly promoted tourist destinations. Even in environment-sensitive city like Pune, the Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary is dying a slow death and lies abandoned by both birds and birders. City activists allege that the recently modified development plan allowed building construction inside the sanctuary and destroyed the green zone forever. In contrast congested Paris is planning to build a forest five times the size of New York’s Central Park, as reported in Business Insider. When the Smart City programme was drawn up in India, it was emphasised that “trees and forest cover are critical for ensuring ground water recharge, providing shade and conserving local biodiversity, improving quality of life for city dwellers by providing recreational avenues besides other things”. But Citizen Kusum Gupta asks “Why only Smart Cities………These days many people love to talk about India’s past……I wonder why we don’t treat green havens as urban sacred groves”? Why indeed and think a little about the future!
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (AHD)

BERRY WHITE MEDICAL SCHOOL

On the request of Dibrugarh District Magistrate, Architectural Heritage Division submitted the DPR for Restoration and Adaptive Reuse of Berry White Medical School building in Dibrugarh. Proposal included restoration of the heritage building and using it as a museum portraying Berry White’s contribution to not only setting up of this hospital but also various other social contributions he made during his life time. Sir John Berry was a British philanthropist and Civil Surgeon for Lakhimpur District who contributed a lifetime of savings to establish the 1900 John Berry Medical College. The restoration project is being executed by INTACH and funded by Oil India Limited.

At the request of High Commission of India at Dhaka, PD AH Divay Gupta and Senior Conservation Architect Ruknuddin Mirza visited Bangladesh end December to make an initial assessment for conservation of heritage resources within the precinct of Dinajpur Rajbari in Dinajpur and Kantajew Temple in Kantanagar.

The Rajbari is a palace complex consisting of residential quarters, gardens, water bodies, Durga Bari and a Temple developed under different kings and zamindars. Currently the Rajbari is under the control of the Government while the temple is maintained by a Trust. Most of the structures in the complex except Kalijew Temple and a part of the Durga Bari are in a dilapidated condition, while some buildings are totally lost with others in a bad state due lack of maintenance. The complex is covered with dense vegetation.

KANTAJEW TEMPLE

The terracotta Kantajew Temple, completed in 1752 at Kantanagar, is one of the most magnificent religious
buildings. It is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Rukmini and is similar to those of Bishnupur. The temple site also has some archaeological remains that need to be examined. The Initial Assessment Reports have been submitted to the High Commission for their perusal.

CITY VISION PLAN, KATRA, J&K (PRASAD SCHEME, MINISTRY OF TOURISM GOI)

Katra is a town in Reasi district, 45 km north of Jammu city in J&K. It is the base town for pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, which is on the Trikuta Mountains of the Shivalik Range.

The Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir approached INTACH to prepare a City Vision Plan for Katra to be funded under PRASAD Scheme, Ministry of Tourism, GOI.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES THROUGH HERITAGE REVIVAL (SEHER INTACH)

This innovative INTACH program focuses on filling the above mentioned important gap and generates urban sustainability through heritage revival. AHD decided to bring the matter to international attention and organised a networking event Achieving Sustainability through Inclusive Heritage Based Development in Asian Cities at the World Urban Forum 9, on 12th February this year.

The World Urban Forum is a global scale high level bi-annual event convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since 2002. With a wide variety of stakeholders, it is recognized as the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental organizations and expert practitioners in the field of sustainable urban development and human settlements. It was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 7th- to 13th February 2018. The World Urban Forum 9 welcomed over 22,000 participants from 165 countries, with over 100 Ministers and Deputy Ministers attending. The focus of WUF 9 was on implementing the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador.

SEHER INTACH was at the forefront of the discussions drawing international attention to the critical role heritage plays when implementing the NUA. The event pursued two major objectives: Demonstrate the potential of heritage to address current urban development challenges in Asia, and secondly formation of an international Community of Practice that would gather a wide range of urban practitioners and decision-makers who focus on making heritage cities inclusive, sustainable and resilient, while harnessing their unique cultural assets. The event affects poverty reduction, sustainability, resilience, social cohesion, inclusiveness and even economic opportunities. Precisely for this reason, culture and heritage have been brought to the core of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and of New Urban Agenda. Yet, little has been done at the international level to foster sustainable and resilient urban development through these critical enablers.
generated wide interest and resulted in an initial launch of Community of Practice garnering nearly 50 international professionals.

SEHER INTACH is currently working on defining the line of action with the group. The event was co-organised with ICSC in partnership with the Cities Alliance, the

Cultural Association Building Beauty, UN Habitat and UNICITI. SEHER INTACH initiative is led by Olga Chepelianskaia, an International Sustainable Urban Development Consultant for Architectural Heritage Division. For more information on SEHER INTACH, see Facebook page: www.facebook.com/seherintach

Clipses

SEHER INTACH at the World Urban Forum 9, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Vernacular Built Heritage of Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India

INTACH is presently working on a serial nomination: ‘Vernacular Built Heritage of Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India’, which is on UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. This initiative draws attention to the vernacular homes of handloom saree weavers, integral to weaving. A pilot initiative for the benefit of weavers was undertaken last year by AHD along with INTACH Chanderi Chapter in a vernacular weaver cluster in Andar Shahar, Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh.

Conservation and repair of vernacular homes with toilet facility was carried out using traditional materials. The objective was to help weavers repair their homes using traditional materials and techniques, and demonstrate benefits of their continued usage instead of repair with cement and other incompatible materials that not only changes the character of the house but also results in many discomforts. The repair work was effected through participation of the community (the owners and local masons) and inaugurated on 21st February this year in an interactive community event.

INTACH’s Chanderi work was exhibited at site and informative pamphlets on traditional architecture and materials were distributed in local language, Hindi. They provided an insight to the process and benefits of traditional material usage. Since INTACH’s work is a pilot initiative for traditional material repair, upgradation and conservation, it established a useful sample for future works of departments and agencies for proposals under various other schemes.
An exhibition on the series of vernacular clusters has been prepared, which will be held at INTACH Central Office in April this year.

THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF GURUDHAM ROAD (PILOT PROJECT – HRIDAY, MoUD)

The lanes and by-lanes of Varanasi run between havelis, palaces, temples, gateways, kunds, idols, traditional craft clusters, with each leading to landmark sites. Under the HRIDAY scheme of MoUD, 10 roads have been taken up for comprehensive thematic development. INTACH was requested to demonstrate the work by taking up Gurudham Road as a pilot project with other roads to follow after completion of this road development. Work started on site in December last year and is now nearing completion. The Thematic Development comprises: Installation of uniform shop signage, development of parking, demarcation of vehicular and pedestrian movement, uniform façade development with a boundary wall in identical colour and motif, façade repair and improvement of Ram Mandir, planters around the existing trees, art works on the shop shutter and boundary wall, etc. The work is being highly appreciated by both the residents and Government officials.

On 11th March this year, INTACH in collaboration with the Varanasi Chapter organized a campaign at Gurudham Road flagged by Varanasi Commissioner Dr. Nitin Bansal. He addressed the gathering and said it is the prime duty of the residents to maintain the work and keep the surroundings clean to make HRIDAY scheme successful. Approximately 400 people including students from Little Flower School and Ram Mandir (Batuks) participated in the Rally, holding plaques with slogans and picture banners. It drew public attention to the thematic development work. The programme was a huge success under the guidance of INTACH Director Technical, Dharmendra Mishra and Varanasi Convenor Ashok Kapoor.
LISTING CELL

The listing of heritage properties in the country is an ongoing exercise under the direction of Director AHD & Listing Cell A.Vijaya who is in charge of coordinating this massive all-India exercise.

Listing during this Quarterly Period:

Built heritage listing of Mysore, Karnataka was undertaken by Mysore School of Architecture, with approximately 250 sites listed.

Listing has been undertaken by Varanasi Chapter, with at least 500 buildings proposed to be listed.

The listing of the tangible and intangible heritage on the banks of Mahanadi River in Odisha is being undertaken by Odisha State Chapter. Since the river meanders through various districts, the Sambalpur, Sonepur and Cuttack Chapters are also involved in the listing.

Final report for the listing of Pathankot District by Punjab State Chapter comprising 88 heritage sites, alongwith listing of Sirmaur, Kangra and Hamirpur Districts comprising 100 heritage sites, have been received by Listng Cell.

The listing of Puruliya District by West Bengal State Chapter comprising 256 heritage sites has also been received.

The following are proposed to be listed:

• Listing of tangible and intangible heritage on the banks of Chamba River by Madhya Pradesh State Chapter
• Rewa District in MP by Shivpuri Chapter
• Listing of Orchha by Orchha Chapter
• Listing of Megaliths in Dima Hasao district of Assam, by Assam State Chapter.
• Listing of antiquities in Dakhinpat Satra, a Monastery on Majuli Island in the Brahmaputra River, by Assam State Chapter
• Listing of archaeological sites in Nilachal Hill by Assam State Chapter
• Proposal to create a Heritage Trail in Upper Assam, by Dibrugarh Chapter

WORKSHOP

The Listing Cell, in collaboration with Jalandhar Chapter, conducted a Listing Workshop at Lovely Professional University on 8th January.
**ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDIA’S CITY-SYSTEMS**

The Annual Survey of India’s City-Systems (ASICS) 2017 is based on four components of governance: urban planning and design, capacities and resources, empowered political representation, and transparency with accountability and participation. Cities have been classified on the basis of population – Mega (5+Mn) that are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai. Large Cities (1-5Mn) are Bhopal, Chennai, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata. Medium cities (upto 1 Mn): Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Guwahati, Raipur, Ranchi.

Bengaluru based advocacy group recently made a 23 City Survey based on four key components of Governance: *urban planning and design, urban capacity and resources, empowered political representation, transparency and accountability*. It also compared Indian cities with benchmark cities like London, New York, etc. and recently added Johannesburg. Pune was ranked the top highest followed by Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, Surat, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Ranchi.

**NEEDED : MORE CUSTODIANS OF HERITAGE**

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the custodian of 3500 centrally protected monuments under its charge – a no mean task for an organisation that has 2800 jobs unfilled as reported. It has led to over burdening and in some cases inadequate quality of work. India has thousands of unemployed youth who can be trained. The post of decision takers like Directors lie vacant at many critical organisations like the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad Secretariat Library, Central Secretariat Library in Delhi, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library in Patna, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalya; Maulana Abdul Kalam Institute of Asian Studies in Kolkata, and the Allahabad Museum. The post of Vice Chairman Nava Nalanda Mahavihara in Bhopal and Director Generals at National Council of Science Museum and National Library in Kolkata are also vacant in addition to several top posts in Zonal Cultural Centres. ASI is now perusing recruitment rules, UPSC procedures, training, etc.

**PRITZKER ARCHITECTURE PRIZE**

90 year old Balkkrishna Vithaldas Doshi is the first Indian to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize, considered equivalent of the Nobel Prize and the highest honour in this field. His work has always been of high quality with authentic architecture, as seen in many projects he undertook for public administration and utilities, educational and cultural institutions, as well as residences of private individuals. He had worked with Le Corbusier in Paris in 1950s before returning to India. He set up his Studio Vastu-Shilpa in 1955 and worked with Louis Kahn and Anant Raje in designing the IIM Ahmedabad. He is Co-Founder of other prestigious institutions set up in Ahmedabad like the Kanora Centre for Arts. Doshi comes from a family of furniture makers, and in one of his interviews he credited his early architectural inspiration to his grandfather’s house where new levels were continuously added to accommodate a large joint family!

BV Doshi says “My works are an extension of my life, philosophy and dreams trying to create a treasury of the architectural spirit. I owe this prestigious prize to my guru, Le Corbusier” whose techniques compelled him to discover new regionally adapted contemporary expression for sustainable holistic habitat.

*Ack : Chidanand Rajghatta, Times of India*
DIRECTORY OF TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFTS – SAURASHTRA

Heritage Craft & Community Division (HCCD) released the first volume of the proposed Series of Directories on 30th January. This Directory of Traditional Building Craft-Saurashtra documents the traditional and vernacular skills of craftsmen, masons and artisans who have created and continue to sustain the architectural traditions of Saurashtra.

The coastal living heritage of Saurashtra integrates several influences of various faiths amalgamating them into living building traditions of the inland. A huge repertoire of amazing architectural traditions have been created, unique to this region. It approaches architectural details spontaneously, imbibing the best of traditions and influences from across the globe, as well as localizing the art of building, and giving its own shape and form to local architectural vocabulary. It celebrates diversity of human endeavour. It enriches local life with beauty, aesthetics and cultural identity.

CRAFTS UTSAV

The Craft festival organised by ICCHD, on 30th January, for INTACH Foundation Day celebrations paid tribute to the rich craft traditions of the country, and brought several crafts people together enabling them to showcase their wares. The INTACH front courtyards wore a colourful and festive look. The Utsav, held over four days, drew in large interested crowds. The exhibition highlighted the creative spirit of participating crafts people. On display were exquisite fabrics with delicate prints, ready to wear hand embroidered outfits, hand block printed and tie and dye fabrics and accessories, Kashmiri shawls, hand painted stoneware, innovative pottery transforming simple clay into objects of beauty, exotic dry flowers and ferns, and the air of festivity attracted an enthusiastic response from visitors. It was an ideal way to project awareness of INTACH’s work being done to promote crafts and gave a platform for many crafts people to exhibit their products. They went back a happy lot as they effected considerable sales.

CRAFTS FEATURED AT THE UTSAV

- **Block Printing in Vegetale Dye**: Sajid Faakruddin Chipa, Ahmedabad
- **Readymade Ethnic Wear**: Kashida, New Delhi
- **Shibori Tie & Dye**: Kusum Tiwari, New Delhi
- **Hand Embroidery**: Khawaja Naseer Ahmad, Srinagar
- **Blue Art Pottery**: Iqbal Ahmad, Khurja
- **Terracotta Pottery**: Karamchand Prajapati, Panipat
- **Ajrak Block Printing**: Habiba Hashmi, New Delhi
- **Dry Flowers**: Boliho Aeomi, Nagaland
- **Painting**: Jai Sharma, Delhi
- **Maheshwari Handloom**: Manish Patel, Indore
- **Paper and Canvas Bags, Bed Items**: Vishwas, Gurgaon
- **Patchwork and Jewellery**: Karm Marg, Faridabad
- **Organic Food**: Millets for Health, New Delhi
- **Organic Food**: Courtyard Memories, New Delhi

The Heritage Crafts Cell also displayed some of its pioneering products created through ICCH Division’s craft initiatives and design interventions.

**New Product Development Workshop**

A Workshop was held in February at Ramgarh, Shekhawati in Rajasthan for **Skill Enhancement & Product Material**.
KATHPUTHLI COLONY

It is disquieting to hear about old localities like the Kathputhli Colony being bulldozed for setting up new tenements. It was always inhabited by jugglers and creative artistes living on the outskirts of Delhi. Their beautified and sensitively developed environment could have become a major tourist attraction of Delhi like another kind of distinct Dilli Haat. Its inhabitants are being shifted to characterless urban matchbox blocks in an alien setting. Will their art and intangible heritage survive? Or the joie de vivre of their youngsters as displayed at street sides recreated? Should not ‘Smart’ planners and architects also design smarter settings for our creative people and crafts persons? And add another dimension to a metro rigged city overflowing with people, cars, buses, towering building and traffic jams?

CULTURAL AFFAIRS CELL

Foundation Day Celebrations, 30th January 2018

INTACH Foundation Day was celebrated this year three days later on 30th January, the 27th being a Sunday. INTACH Quiz and a Craft Utsav were the two highlights of the day.

There were five teams competing in the Quiz Competition, each team named after various historic dynasties. The Quiz had fifty percent questions on INTACH and the rest on Indian Heritage. The event received enthusiastic response from junior staff, with the audience cheering their favourite teams with gusto. When the participants failed to find the answer, it was time for audience participation which added to the event making it more interesting for both.

Conveners’ Dinner – 1st February

As part of ‘Dilli Dawaat’, Part II was organized by Chief Coordinator Cultural Affairs Manisha Singh at the India International Centre for all participants of the INTACH State Conveners ‘Workshop. It commenced with an illustrated talk by Prof. Pushpesh Pant which was a fascinating introduction to Delhi and its food heritage, followed by a curated dinner that offered the famous Dilli Khana (cuisine). Alongwith food map of the capital that evolved after 1911, and still keeps evolving from street fare to sophisticated demands met by a plethora of restaurants that have sprouted up across Delhi.

Lecture - The Vanishing Stepwells of India - 5th February

This Talk was about the ancient - and largely unknown - subterranean stepwells of India many of which have disappeared or are on the verge of disappearing. The resource person Victoria Lautman, is an American journalist who has travelled extensively across India for several decades, documenting and exploring the country’s ancient water-harvesting systems. Victoria spent several months each year finding and photographing the
Chairman LKGupta welcomed Victoria Lautman

An illustrated talk to a packed hall

dilapidated structures throughout the country. She also showed brilliant examples of ancient Indian engineering, now largely forgotten. Her body of work eventually led to the publication of *The Vanishing Stepwells of India* in March 2017. The lecture was well received and drew a housefull attendance.

**Hindustani Light Classical Music - 15th March**

Hindustani light classical music bridges the gap between pure classical and mainstream music. Weaving variations of a word or phrase into a song displays the singer’s range of imagination. This elaboration of a word or phrase is the idiom that defines this genre of music. The resource person Rekha Surya presented medieval mystical poetry of North India from the 13th-18th century. The ancient literary traditions she drew from had both South Asian Muslim and Hindu cultural references. Her explanation before each song demystified *Hindustani Light Classical Music* for the uninitiated in the audience.

A practitioner of the Lucknow Gharana of North Indian Music, Rekha Surya has preserved the legacy of her legendary guru - Begum Akhtar. She also learnt under the tutelage of another legend, Girija Devi of the Benaras Gharana. She integrates both styles of singing into her own individualistic style.

Chairman and Rekha Surya

**Audience at the performance**

Chairman, GC Member Anita Singh, Rekha Surya, Manisha Singh with the Artistes
ICI Delhi

St. Aloysius Chapel, Mangalore, Karnataka

The 1880 St. Aloysius Chapel, Mangalore built by Jesuit Missionaries with interiors (that had oil paintings on walls) by an Italian Painter Antonio Moscheni (1899) is under conservation by ICI Delhi, to be completed by June 2020. The team commenced conservation treatment of wall and canvas paintings above the main entrance that were severely affected due to damages in the roof, and water seepage streaking mud on the surface of paintings. There were cement drips also caused during repair work effected earlier, and two major cracks on the side walls. The canvas paintings were torn and the paint layer badly damaged.

The major challenge ahead will be to undertake conservation work at the height of 47 ft in extremely warm and humid temperatures looming ahead during summer months. One of the canvas paintings measuring 13 x 7 ft (approx) in size and about 70 kg in weight was brought down from this height for conservation treatment. The painting was treated meticulously after setting up the conservation lab at site and later put back in its original place. The other paintings are also being treated in-situ.

The cleaning and consolidation of other wall paintings is in progress, with cracks being filled with lime plaster and losses reintegrated.
Indo-Swiss Workshop on Wall painting Conservation, Vadodara, Gujarat

The second Indo-Swiss Workshop on wall painting conservation was organized in Vadodara from 29th January-2nd February as part of the active collaboration with Bern University of Arts (BUA), Switzerland, the Embassy of Switzerland and INTACH, marking 70 years of ‘Swiss-Indian Friendship’. The first workshop had been organised in Delhi in 2014 when three experts from Bern University visited INTACH and conducted introductory workshops on Oil, Paper and Wall paintings. Subsequently three member INTACH delegation went to Switzerland in 2015 to interact with different experts and understand the facilities in various institutions. Discussions led to a tie up for exchange programmes in capacity building and undertaking joint projects leading to training and scientific examination.

INTACH in partnership with IGNCA organized this Workshop as part of the short-term training programme in conservation of wall paintings at Kirti Mandir in Vadodara (Gujarat) that houses wall paintings by Nandalal Bose, jointly with the Devasthan Trust, Vadodara (property owner) and the Swiss Embassy, New Delhi. The Embassy sponsored experts from the Bern University of Arts for a
5-day workshop on technical analysis and the Devasthan Trust provided accommodation for the participants.

The inaugural session was presided by Samarjitsinh Gaekwad, with dignitaries from Swiss Embassy, Indraneel Ghose, Dr. Barbara Beckett and Dr. Phillippe von Niederhäusern from University of Arts (Bern), Ajaysingh Gaekwad of the Devasthan Trust, Principal Director Nilabh Sinha, and INTACH State Convenor Sanjeev Joshi attending. The participants comprised students from IGNCA (Delhi), University of Bern, M.S. University Baroda and the Curator and Archivist from Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum in Vadodara. It provided a platform for exploring future collaborations between Indian and Swiss conservators in the area of conservation of art and research.

Conservation of Wall Painting at Kirti Mandir

The wall paintings in Kirti Mandir, Vadodara were conserved by INTACH ICI team during February- March, supported by IGNCA and the Devasthan Trust.

The Kirti Mandir or ‘The temple of fame’ was constructed by Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 1936, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in memory of his beloved ancestors. The marble treated interiors of the temple are decorated with intricately carved murals. The characteristic ‘Sikhara’ of this monument represents the sun, the moon and the earth in bronze with an undivided map of India atop.
The walls of its central hall are adorned with many impressive murals such as the Gangavatarana, Mirabai, Battle of Kurukshetra and Natir Puja by the renowned Bengali artist Nandalal Bose who was commissioned by the Maharaja of Baroda in 1939. He worked on this assignment during four different periods between 1939 and 1946, painting the four walls with different themes: Gangavatarana - showing the emergence of River Ganga and its 3 forms on Heaven, Earth and Hell; Mirabai - showing the life of Mirabai, the legendary devotee of Lord Krishna; Natir Puja - showing a Buddhist story related to King Bimbisara and the revenge against dancer 'Nati by his queen; Battle of Kurukshetra from the epic Mahabharata. The paintings were mostly large sized (25ft x 5ft= 125sq. ft.) but in a state of deterioration with flaking in some areas, water stained due to seepage, resulting in salt efflorescence, fungal stains and spores, loss of the paint layer, etc.

The conservation methodology adopted by INTACH team entailed documentation in form of an analytical and critical report, illustrated with mapping of the paintings followed by consolidation of paint layers in order to protect/prevent further flaking. The major task entailed salt and foreign material removal from the paintings, consolidation done for protecting paint layers from further damage and reintegration according to ethics of conservation.

Wall Painting Directory

During the last quarter A&MHD teams have been actively working in different States. To date, 585 sites have been documented in 9 States adding to a total of 5,43,320 sq. ft. area that has been documented.
ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation of rare books of Meherjirana Library, Navsari, Gujarat

A team of Conservators completed the assignment at the laboratory they established at Meherjirana Library, Navsari by 24th January. From the last quarter, 27 rare books having 3968 folios and one legal document with 73 folios, were restored to date along with their original binding covers. They were provided with new full cloth binding wherever required.

Book having water stain and badly affected by insect activity

Conservation of Files at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad

The files having paper folios of different material with sensitive inks had been joined with cello tapes to make single folios. It made conservation treatment complicated and difficult. Apart from this the papers had become acidic, yellow and weak due to ageing that made handling very difficult.

Document having fold marks, creases

Cleaning, removal of old repairs and providing tissue support

Conservation of Japanese flag of 8 Kumaon Regiment, Lucknow

A leopard skin, a stuffed tiger head, a tiger skin and one Japanese flag were received at the Centre for conservation.

Back of Japanese flag badly stuck with synthetic tape

ICI BANGALORE

Conservation of Tanjore Painting titled Goddess Bhudevi

This unique 62.5 x 52 cms Tanjore painting had multiple problems ranging from the wooden support being highly deteriorated due to biological attack by insects and moisture dislodging the paint, fabric layer, and severe cracks in the entire structure. Previous interventions to clean the painting had caused discolouration and blanching of painted surface, and the gold leaf used for embellishments discoloured to a great extent. The painting was subjected to detailed microscopic analysis undertaken in-house to understand the materials and prepare a conservation strategy in collaboration

Presence of various stains and holes

Close up view of flag

After conservation

Microscopic examination
with the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (IPC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The samples analysis revealed not only the presence of known inorganic pigments but also of anic dyes. These, however, could not be identified due to lack of database of organic dyes used in paintings of South India.

**Lord Ganesb and Lord Kartikeya, Medium: Textile Work: Applique on Fabric**

The textile measuring 101.5x 59 cms depicts Lord Ganesb and Lord Kartikeyin in an art form called ‘Kavadi’ meaning ‘physical burden’. It is a part of festival called *Thaipusam* celebrated mostly by the devotees of Lord Kartikeya or *Murugan*. The main problems of conservation were fading, loss of fabric particles, soiling, accumulation of dust and dirt, tears and major losses of components, loosened stitches, damages edges and lost corners.
ICI BHUBANESWAR

*Jamia Milia University Library – New Delhi*

ICI Bhubaneswar is involved in Paper Conservation work at the Library.

> Old fragile rare volumes of JMI University Library, New Delhi

ICI KOLKATA

A 36”x40” oil painted portrait depicting Rabindranath Tagore by Sahabuddin in 2009 had ageing cracks, loss of paint layer, abrasion, warping and stains. After arresting the flaking paint layer with suitable adhesive cleaning, structural strength was imparted. After reintegration of colours in lost areas, a final preservative coating was applied.

ICI MUMBAI

*Conservation of Copper Medal*

The Medal dating to late 19th–early 20th century from Bhau Daji Lad Museum collection was tarnished and had a carbonate layer obliterating the details. It was carefully cleaned and preserved with a burnished look at the Centre.
**Conservation of Soapstone, late 19th-early 20th century**

This beautiful carved heptagonal soapstone plate was decorated with floral elements to create a pattern design. Talc-Schist, softer grade, is easy for carving due to presence of high content of talc. The main conservation issue was the presence of uneven hard brown layer on the surface. Work was undertaken by softening the layer with the help of solvents and thinning it down to improve the condition of the plate.

**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**LIFE IN A FISTFUL OF RICE**

*A documentary on Rice Cultures of Northeast*

-by INTACH ICHD

The ICH Division produced a 46 minutes documentary called ‘Life in a Fistful of Rice’ on the intangible heritage connected with rice cultivation at different locations across the Northeastern States. The film explores cultivation of rice in diverse topography in States of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, covering plains, terrace and *Jhum* methods of rice growing. It looks at the deep significance that rice holds in the lives of local communities and its manifestation as an important element in various festivals, rituals and in daily life. Traditional methods of conservation and local knowledge of agrarian practices are highlighted in this documentary.

This documentation is the first INTACH Film to receive a CBFC ‘U’ Certification that will enable its screening and participation in official fora in India. The Film has also been accepted as an official entry to the Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival in California and the *Docs without Borders Film Festival* in Nassau.

**CULTURAL MAPPING OF THE DENOTIFIED AND NOMADIC TRIBES/COMMUNITIES**

*Towards a Comprehensive Cultural Conservation Plan*

This ongoing project of INTACH Dharwad Chapter is coordinated by Prof. G.N. Devy with the support of the ICH Division. An in-depth study of the living conditions of denotified communities has been undertaken for preparing a long term Conservation Plan. The outcome of the project will include descriptive listing of artefacts, performances, musical instruments with photographs, and
notes on the artists along with the compilation of their linguistic heritage. Nearly 30 ethnographic monographs, containing socio-cultural mapping of one or several DNTs and a book compilation of viability assessment of over sixty languages of the tribes/communities is expected to be published in the near future. Workshops on ethnography and language viability assessment were conducted simultaneously with the documentation process.

Four (draft) publications are already an outcome of the project:

• **Performing Freedom: Glimpses of the past and the present, Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities of India**

The book discusses the laws and criminal acts in relation to these communities, the judgements and cases, along with the reports and concerns regarding human rights and social justice denied to the nomadic, denotified and semi nomadic tribal people.

• **2 Volumes of Community Ethnography:**

These two books focus on the ethnography of communities like Nayak, Madari, Bhoi, Miyana, Bavari, Turi-Barot, Bhartari, Bharwad, Siddi and Chamtha.

• **Languages and Codes of Denotified and Nomadic Communities of India:**

The book explores the codes and linguistic characteristics of the languages of the nomads. Various languages are covered in volumes like Bahurupi, Banjara, Dombari, Gaddi, Madari, Chamthi, Nayaki, Sandhi, Vadi, Yerukala and others.

**‘LIFE ALONG THE RIVER IN THE NORTHEAST’ - A SERIES OF SHORT FILMS ON THE NORTH EAST**

Eminent film maker Bappa Ray has made a series of short films for the ICH Division on Life along the Brahmaputra River in the Northeast. The focus is on women as custodians of Intangible Heritage of the Northeast. Various tribes and communities have been documented. The short films are described below.

**Memba Community**

The Buddhist Memba community at the last Indian border village of Gelling village is mainly agriculturalist in nature. They lead a simple life along the river. Exquisite shawls and carpets are woven by them.

**Adi Community**

The agrarian Adi community along the Siang river in the Upper Siang Valley are known to have shifted from *Jhum* cultivation to terrace farming using indigenous methods of water channelling. They display an inherent respect for nature and the environment in their lifestyle. The river serves as a bountiful resource for fishing. Weaving is intrinsic to their lifestyle and intricate
weaving patterns go back many generations and reveal exemplary craftsmanship. Rice is their staple food. They also have traditional methods and expertise in creating suspension bridges out of cane and wires over the river. The traditional Ponung dance, usually performed by the women of the community expresses mythological tales and celebrates festivals.

Mising Community

The Mising inhabit almost all the districts of Assam and are closely related to the Adi community of Arunachal Pradesh. They have mastered the art of coexisting with nature, unperturbed by the annual floods.

Bodo Community

The Bodos are said to be the first inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley that settled in the plains between Dhubri and Sadiya. The Bodo community has contributed immensely to the composite culture of Assam.

Majuli Village

The short feature on Majuli explores a rich resource of Assamese culture and diversity. Vaishnavite culture is at the core of Majuli and there are numerous Satras here. The location of the satras is mainly river centric and the reason behind this is to observe the ritual of religious ablation. The concept of satra living and its relation to education is explained, following the principles expounded by Srimanta Shankaradeva as seen in the theatre, dance, music and literature of the Majuli village.

Dances of the Northeast: The various dances of the Northeast

- Maruni dance of the Nepali community of Sikkim
- Badoi dance of the Bodo community of Assam
- Bihu dance of the Deori community of Assam
- Kapung dance of the Khempti community of Arunachal Pradesh
- Shad Pilang dance of the Jaintiya community of Meghalaya
- Parlam (flower) dance of the Mizo community of Mizoram
- Sekrenyi dance of the Angami community of Nagaland
- Zon Loukhw Lam dance of the Zomi community of Manipur

have published a book on the Sinhastha Kumbh Mela (2015) of Nashik and Trimbakeshwar. The narrative explores a different perspective of looking at this mega event and adds another dimension of the festival beyond its religious credentials. It essentially highlights overall setting, moods, expressions and experience through the lens of the celebrations.

Kota Miniature Exhibition at INTACH, Delbi

A 3 day exhibition and live demonstration on the revival of Kota Miniature Paintings was organized by Thakur Ranvir Singh with the support of ICH Division at the Multi-purpose Hall at INTACH headquarters. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chairman LK Gupta on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of INTACH. Famous for its miniature paintings during 17th–19th centuries, Kota school of miniature painting showcased diverse subjects ranging from court scenes to hunting scenes. All the artists present at the Exhibition are rated among the best, and belong to the 4th or 5th
generation. Their forefathers in fact were the pioneers of Kotab Kalam who worked in palaces, havelis, temples and maths and recreated the Rajasthani aura and environment of the times. The realistic hunting scenes are considered to be Kota’s specialty. (More details also covered under Central News, Foundation Day)

**Directory on Peoples Museums -North East India - Sikkim**

The ICH Division has initiated the project of a Directory on the Peoples Museums and Cultural Spaces of the Northeast. They are intensively involved in safeguarding the living intangible cultural traditions and reviving the traditional arts and crafts of varied ethnic communities residing in remote areas of North Eastern part of India. An ICH team visited Sikkim. It is a land of three different ethnic groups – Lepchas, Bhutiyas and Nepalese. The team visited several museums and cultural organizations like the Directorate of Handlooms & Handicraft (DHH), Lepcha Community Museum in Dzongu, Ram Gauri Sangrahalya at Rhenock, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and Nepali Museum at Lower Aho.

ICHD team visited Dzongu to cover the Lepcha Museum that has a wide range of bamboo objects and other objects of significance to the community.

Display at the Lepcha Museum

The Nepali Museum located in Lower Aho displays costumes and various utility items. This museum serves as a centre for the Nepali community for their festivals and cultural events.

Sakunda, sacred to Nepalese Newari Community

The Ram Gauri Sangrahalya is another important museum created by an individual to collect Nepali cultural objects.
and valuable antique pieces. The collection has religious ceremonial pieces like the *Sakunda* – a sacred lamp which is of importance to the *Nepalese Newari Community*.

The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology is another important Museum which was covered intensively. A number of Thangka Buddhist paintings are showcased here. The collection also has a section of important tantric deities of Buddhism.

*Namgyal Institute of Tibetology*

**INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY**

**INTACH CITIES FOR CULTURE, PILOT EVENT, BHOPAL**

An all stakeholders meeting was held at the *Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA)*, at Bhopal on 15th Jan. It was decided that AIGGPA Bhopal will be the nodal agency to carry out the first phase of the *Cities for Culture* initiative involving collection, collation and assessment of the data under nine commitments of the programme. The cost of this work will be borne by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC)/Urban Administration Department.

Bhopal was selected as one of the pilot cities where *INTACH Cities for Culture* was launched. Recently a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between INTACH and Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited, spearheading the development of both heritage and cultural activity in Bhopal city.

**SMART HERITAGE IN SMART CITY, BHOPAL, 15 – 17 JANUARY**

After the remarkable triumph of the ‘Smart Heritage’ workshop held in Pune, it was only a matter of time for IHA to organize another such workshop in one of the ‘Smart Cities’ of India. The aim of this workshop was to broadly develop the concept of ‘Smart Heritage’, analyze components within a “Smart City” and prepare a methodology for its application for the management of the ‘Smart City’ of Bhopal.

It was decided to make Bhopal a pilot city where INTACH Heritage Academy introduces the *INTACH Cities for Culture* – an initiative along the lines of the Agenda 21 for Culture. The workshop was attended by over 80 participants comprising architectural students,
conducted in collaboration with Tata Dhan Academy and supported by the Madurai Chapter. The workshop helped to understand symbolism and living practices behind sacred architecture, paintings, sculptures and historic interiors in Madurai, and to devise appropriate strategies for their conservation and management.

The workshop was attended by 14 participants including architects, Government officials, history students, professors, and interested individuals from various parts of India - Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Delhi and Kerala.
INTACH SCHOLARSHIPS 2018-19

INTACH offers scholarships to support advanced research in the field of heritage conservation in India for citizens of UK and India. These scholarships are offered to individuals who wish to undertake advanced and interdisciplinary research that demonstrates potential impact on conservation philosophy, practice or policy, or advance knowledge and understanding of heritage conservation and also contribute to a critical and creative thinking in this field.

In the current cycle, 60 applications were received. An eminent Jury of two members was constituted: Prof. R J Vasavada (Former Director of Centre for Conservation, CEPT University, Ahmedabad) and Dr. Sanghamitra Basu (Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur). The Jury was held on 19th February 2018. Out of 60 applications, 12 applications were selected by the Jury Members.

LIVING HERITAGE: INTACH, NEW DELHI, 22 - 24 JANUARY

INTACH Heritage Academy conducted a 3-day course to explore the concept of ‘Living Heritage’ through interactive sessions on intangible heritage and traditional crafts. The course shared an understanding on various activities that crafts people have been carrying out since a long time – what motivates them, how tradition is passed on and how it is documented. In addition to this it delved into aspects like types of ‘living’ heritage, conserving ‘living’ architectural heritage, methods of documenting ‘living’ heritage, etc.

The Workshop aim was to create an understanding about the concept of ‘Living Heritage’, assess values associated with it and explore its application for conservation of cultural heritage. The workshop was attended by participants who were architects, professors in architecture colleges, history students and interested individuals from various parts of India like Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Delhi.

DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHITECTURAL SITES, CHENNAI, 26TH FEBRUARY-2ND MARCH

During the Jury process for the selection of recipients of the Heritage Awards for excellence in documentation of unprotected heritage held last year on 11th December at INTACH, it was suggested by the Jury members that specialized documentation workshops be conducted in the three zones (North, South and Central), tentatively at Chennai, Pune and Bhubaneswar. To take this forward the Documentation of Architectural Sites Workshop for faculty of architectural college was held at Chennai from 26 February- 02 March this year, in collaboration with the Chennai Chapter. The training program discussed various methods for identification and documentation of heritage buildings/sites with faculty of architectural colleges, and related issues.

The lectures / discussions and onsite studies illustrated some of the key methods for identification, demarcation and documentation of heritage buildings/sites. The participants were exposed to approaches and skills for documentation and recording heritage buildings / sites. All- day site visits were organized for hands-on
practical training under the guidance of architectural documentation experts. The workshop was attended by 27 participants comprising faculty members from various architectural colleges in and around Chennai.

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR VALIDATION OF QP, 9TH FEBRUARY**

IHA collaborated with the NDDC for the common objective of training and capacity building of traditional crafts people working in the heritage sector. The main objective of the joint initiative is to introduce Qualification Pack (QP) specific to Heritage Building Works as a subset of the Sector Skill Council – Construction Skill Development Council of India (CSDCI). IHA prepared two complete Qualification Packs for Mason (Stone) and Mason (Lime).

At this stage, as per the procedures and requirements by NSDC, a stakeholder meeting with organizations and professionals involved in heritage conservation works was conducted for the validation of the QPs on 9 Feb at INTACH. The meeting was attended by 15 delegates that included CSCD team members, conservation architects, contractors and INTACH staff.

During the meeting, the draft Qualification Pack prepared by the Academy was presented by the CSDCI to all the stakeholders and their suggestions and comments were taken as well as the validation.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS BY INTACH**

**UK Scholarship Awardees**

Ms. Sarah Lawton
Topic: *Kinesthetic empathy for co-existence: Dance Drawing collaboration*

**Research Scholarship Awardees**

Ms. Ananthi Velmurugan
Topic: *Urban heritage, mass tourism, gentrification and sustainability in the Boulevard town of Pondicherry*

Dr. Kavita Suri
Topic: *Intangible cultural heritage and changing tribal societies: A study of Brogpa Tribe of Ladakh*

Ms. Kirti Bhonsle
Topic: *Documenting the Bahuli Vibirs: the lost subterranean architecture edifices of Nagpur District*

Ms. Prathyusha Nilakantan
Topic: *The Sthapathis and Shilpis of Chettinad: Studying the influence of temple architecture on dwellings of the region*

Ms. Priyanka Joseph
Topic: *Fired brick of South India (Madras presidency region): Hindu and Islamic- arrival of colonialism- British colonial era*

Ms. Priyanka Singh
Topic: *A study on the qanat in India*

Mr. Rajendu Sulochana
Topic: *Identification, preservation and maintenance of the Ceras of Makotai Inscriptions*

Dr. Sumitra Ranganathan
Topic: *Towards sustainability- Documenting the puppetry traditions of Tamil Nadu*

**Capacity Building Scholarship Awardees**

Ms. Maalvika Pathania
Topic: *The religious monuments of Chamba*

Ms. Nalini Biluka
Topic: *Nakkashi scroll paintings: Research on art historical and conservation aspects*
Principal Director Purnima Datt is in charge of all the on-going programmes launched by HECS, and scheduled to cover in quarterly phases nearly 190 INTACH Chapters. She attends most of the programmes to emphasise the importance of heritage and explain various facts of heritage through a talk and presentations but sometimes a senior member of her staff is deployed if she is unable to attend due to her other engagements.

**TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TTW)**

**Dehradun, 22nd and 23rd January**

**44 Teachers/23 Schools**

The TTW was organised by Dehradun Chapter at the Jaswant Modern Sr. Sec. School. Convenor Lokesh Ohri shared insights about local heritage through an enriching presentation. There was a heritage walk to Guru Ram Rai Darbar, viewing wall paintings of the Pahadi and Mughal Schools, followed by discussions about heritage club activities and sharing HECS resource materials.

The Workshop discussed various facets of heritage like What is Heritage? and its components, with reference to Historic Delhi. Historian Dr. Narayani Gupta spoke on the city’s heritage and the Role of Youth in particular; ICI Director Dr. Padma Rohilla talked on Understanding Material Heritage. The sessions and interactions helped to instill general awareness on heritage issues gripping a fast developing capital city and some inevitable infringements. A visit to ICI Conservation Lab and a heritage walk through Lodhi Garden was conducted by Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle. Participants presented heritage activities they could undertake within their respective colleges or neighbourhoods on how they proposed to safeguard the heritage of their educational institution.

**College Heritage Volunteer Programme (CHVP)**

The College Heritage Volunteer Programme sensitises college students to heritage protection. It has transformed and grown to become a nationwide youth movement to protect heritage.

**Delhi, 16th January**

**87 College Students/12 Faculty Members/15 Colleges**

The CHVP Workshop for undergraduate history students of Delhi University was held at INTACH Office, New Delhi. Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC), Daulat Ram College, Gargi College, Hindu College, Hans Raj College, Indraprastha College for Women, Jesus and Mary College, Kamala Nehru College, Kalindi College, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Mata Sundari College, Maityry College, Miranda House, Sri Venkateswara College, and St. Stephens College attended in sizeable numbers.

The Workshop discussed various facets of heritage like What is Heritage? and its components, with reference to Historic Delhi. Historian Dr. Narayani Gupta spoke on the city’s heritage and the Role of Youth in particular; ICI Director Dr. Padma Rohilla talked on Understanding Material Heritage. The sessions and interactions helped to instill general awareness on heritage issues gripping a fast developing capital city and some inevitable infringements. A visit to ICI Conservation Lab and a heritage walk through Lodhi Garden was conducted by Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle. Participants presented heritage activities they could undertake within their respective colleges or neighbourhoods on how they proposed to safeguard the heritage of their educational institution.
CM Seth examined the significance of Natural Heritage, and Art Historian cum Senior Faculty Member drew attention to the Cultural Heritage of Jammu in an interactive session.

**Mubarak Mandi Palace** is situated in the old walled city of Jammu overlooking the Tawi River. It was the royal residence of Dogra kings until 1925 when Maharaja Hari Singh shifted to the Hari Niwas. The Palace with its historic architecture draws influences from Rajasthan, Europe and Mughal styles of architecture.

**Mubarak Mandi Palace** is situated in the old walled city of Jammu overlooking the Tawi River. It was the royal residence of Dogra kings until 1925 when Maharaja Hari Singh shifted to the Hari Niwas. The Palace with its historic architecture draws influences from Rajasthan, Europe and Mughal styles of architecture.

**Jammu, 19th January**

**125 College Students/ 16 Faculty Members/ 12 Colleges**

The College Heritage Volunteer Forum organised by Jammu Chapter in collaboration with HECS and the Cluster University of Jammu was held at Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

Jammu Chapter Co-Convenor Kuldeep Wahi gave the welcome address. Convenor SM Sahni encouraged the students to use the Forum to explore the culture of Jammu, and ways to utilise it as a ‘tool’ for sustainable development. HECS representative Shivaa Rawat described the CHVP College Heritage Programme and linkage of heritage with development. Prof. Koushal Samotra, Principal of Government College for Women, Gandhinagar was the Guest of Honour. Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu Prof. Anju Bhasin was the Chief Guest.

Heritage Expert-International - ICCROM Aparna Tandon spoke on understanding heritage and how it can support development; State Convenor M Saleem Beg emphasised upon *Culture as a Tool for Development*; former Development Commissioner, Town Planning Vinod Malhotra highlighted the need to care for Heritage in an Urban Development Perspective; Co-Convenor Dr.

**Shaniwarwada** is a 13-storey Peshwa palace built by Bajirao-I in 1736. It was the seat of Peshwa power and now has a statue of Bajirao-I on a horse in front of Shaniwarwada.

Eminent resource persons Bal Kulkarni highlighted various aspects of heritage and engineering; Sujit Patwardhan described ways to address the challenges of urban mobility; Shyam Dhavale focused on initiatives taken by urban local body and Dr. Chetan Sahasrabuddhe drew attention to the four pillars of sustainability (environment, economy, society and culture) and designing a development agenda that incorporated cultural heritage as a resource for promoting sustainable development. The presentations were followed by an interactive session moderated by Architect Sonal Karanjikar.
The principal gate is called Dilli Darwaja (Delhi Gate); the other gates are Mastani or Aliabadur Darwaja, Khidki Darwaja, Ganesh Darwaja and Narayan Darwaja. Several additions were made to the palace like fortification walls with bastions, gates and court halls by his successors.

Delhi, 13th February
50 College Students/13 Faculty Members/1 College
The CHVP session organised by HECS as part of the Annual College Festival was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. College students together with faculty members were familiarised with Delhi’s Heritage and programme objectives. The Story of Delhi was discussed by Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle with an informative presentation about the capital’s history and heritage. HECS National Coordinator Shivaa Rawat made a presentation on the College Volunteer Programme and HECS Coordinator Teresa Walter spoke about heritage walks.

Delhi, 16th February
40 College Students/2 Faculty Members
Art and Architecture Society of Jesus and Mary College jointly with HECS organised an interesting - Dastaan - as part of the annual college ‘UTSAV 2018’.

Kisse-i-Dilli : the stories of Delhi, Tasveer: A Painting and Sketching Competition (riches of India wrought in living stone) and Aks-i-theilli: Online Photography Competition: 'When the old meets the new' and 'The Hidden Art in Architecture'.

ROUTE TO ROOTS
Andhra Pradesh
East Godavari, 17th December
86 Students
Convenor L Sesha Kumar organised the Route to Roots Competition as a novel contest for school children of Kakinada. Chief Guest KS Kameswara Rao, a teacher cum researcher, author and translator, addressed the children. He compared Indian history with those of USA, Europe and Russia. He said Indian tradition and culture was highly regarded in foreign countries. Chairman, Ashram Public School, DV Kishan Raju, as the Guest of Honour exhorted them to preserve their own heritage. The students thus had enough food for thought to make a Poster with a write up for submitting their own perspective on heritage. On any theme from what they perceived as their heritage roots- be it family, language, festival, folklore, cuisine by letting their imagination and sentiment flow.

Convenor L. Sesha Kumari sent details of this successful event held at all-India level, thanks to the efforts of INTACH Members and Ashram School staff. 100 Regional Winners and 10 National Winners were announced, and the top ten were offered an educative tour to Delhi sponsored by INTACH.

Haryana
Ambala, 22nd November
114 Children/15 Schools
Route to Roots Poster making competition was held at Patel Park, Ambala Cantonment under a 400 years old banyan tree with former DG, AD Arty Lt Gen Ram Pratap as the Chief Guest. Some children recited poems and spoke on Ambala’s heritage. Lt Gen Ram
Pratap complimented the children and teachers on their enthusiastic participation and exhorted them to take an active interest in their Heritage Club activities.

**Palwal, 16th January**
**39 Students/3 Schools**
*Route to Roots* National Poster making competition was held at Tagore Shiksha Niketan High School, Thain Mohalla, Palwal. Principal, NGF Engineering College Dr. Sharad Kaushik, was the Chief Guest at the event well covered by the Media.

**Panipat, 7th February**
**66 Students**
Students from various Schools participated in *Route to Roots* competition held at S D Vidya Mandir.

**Yamunanagar, 17th February**
Yamunanagar Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* competition at Delhi Public School, Yamunanagar with various schools participating. Convenor Major Rajinder Bhatti (retd.), Co-Convenor Siddharth Gauri, Member Neelima Saini and School Chairman Ram Nivas Garg spoke to the students on the various facets of the country’s heritage.

**Kurukshetra & Kaithal Districts, 23rd February**
**75 Students/Six Schools**
The *Route to Roots* competition was organized in collaboration with the Kurukshetra Panorama and Science Centre, Kurukshetra. It was graced by former Chairman, Dept. of Gandhian Studies, Panjab University, Prof. Sandhya Chaudhri, Project Coordinator Panorma K Srinivas Nehru, and Education Officer Panorma Jitender Das, who addressed the students. Convenor Prof. Dr. AR Chaudhri spoke at length on the *Scientific Spiritual Heritage of India*.

**Punjab**
**Amritsar, 30th January**
**96 students / 12 schools**
*Route to Roots* competition was held at Satya Bharti Adarash Senior Secondary School, Fattu Bheela. Principal VK Vohra presided and explained the meaning and relevance of Cultural Heritage. Punjab Convenor Dr. Sukhdev Singh spoke on the objectives of the competition and described INTACH as a ‘think tank’ that tries to relate people to their own Cultural Heritage.

**Jalandhar, 12th February**
**15 Schools**
Jalandhar Chapter organized *Route to Roots* at Army Public School, Jalandhar Cantt. The event received great
Students from English and Gujarati medium schools enthusiastically participated in the event and it was well covered by the media.

**Faridkot, 3rd week of February**  
**10 Schools from Faridkot/Adjoining Areas**  
Co Convenor Raj Kumar Aggarwal, with INTACH Members Ashok Chawla, Maghar Singh, Jaspreet Kaur Brar and all Principals or teachers from the schools devoted their time to organize this successful competition. The was covered widely by the local media.

**Patiala, 17th February**  
**30 Students**  
A seminar ‘Love your Heritage’ was organised by the Patiala Chapter. The poster making competition was held after the Seminar on the same day.

**Maler Kotla, 21st February**  
**90 Students / 10 Schools**  
Route to Roots competition was organized at Al-Falah Public Senior Sec. School. This event was also well covered by the media and seems to have attracted considerable public interest wherever this programme has been held.

**Gujarat**

**Ahmedabad, 22nd December**  
**Class 6th-9th Students/70 students**  
Route to Roots poster making competition was organized at Shreya Foundation, A h m e d a b a d . Pavanbhai Bakeri attended the event for a talk that motivated the participants.

**Rajpipla, 10th January**  
**13 Schools/ 98 students**  
Eklavya Girls Residential School was the venue for Route to Roots poster making competition at Rajpipla.

Students from various schools in Jamnagar participated in the Route to Roots competition held at Summeir Club, which is a heritage site. Convenor Air Commodore (retd) SS Tyagi spoke to the students briefing them about the venue’s history.

**Maharashtra**

**Mumbai, 19th November**  
**44 students / 5 schools**  
The Route to Roots competition was held at several locations in Mumbai given the innumerable schools across the city w.e.f. 15th -19th March.

**Solapur, 9th January**  
**168 Students /17 Schools**  
Solapur Chapter conducted Route to Roots - Poster Competition at Dr. Kothis Memorial. Assistant Commissioner, Solapur Municipal Corporation, Trembak Dengle-Patil inaugurated the poster competition. Leading social activist Ravindra Mokashi was the Speaker at the event well covered by the local press and other media.

**Nashik, 8th February**  
**50 Students/10 Schools**  
Details of the programme have not been given by the Chapter, however a significant number of schools were acquainted with the programme and attended.

**Pune, 9th February**  
**135 Students/ 10 Schools**  
Pune Chapter organized Route to Roots competition at Indradhanushya Citizenship Centre attracting an enthusiastic student participation. Leela Gour Broome was invited as the Chief Guest.
Wai Panchgani, 24th February  
81 students / 7 Schools  
The Wai-Panchgani poster making competition was organized by the Chapter.

Chandrapur, 25th February  
84 Students / 10 Schools  
Lokmanya Tilak Kanya Vidyalaya was the venue for an all India poster making competition at Chandapur. It received good coverage by the media.

Karnataka  
Dharwad, 3rd February  
101 Students from 20 Schools  
Dharwad Chapter organized the Route to Roots competition at Baalabalaga High School. The Registrar, Karnataka University, Dr. Mallikarjun Patil was the Chief Guest. Padmashri Dr. Ganesh Devi, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The event was widely covered by the local Press.

Belagavi, 4th February  
92 students from various schools  
Route to Roots poster making competition was organized at Bharatesh Global Business School. English, Marathi, Kannada and Urdu medium schools participated. Noted historian and Head of History, B K College, Dr. Meena Mohite was invited as the Chief Guest.

Bijapur, 7th February  
72 Students from 11 Schools  
Route to Roots national competition was held at Vachananapitamaha Dr. PG Halakatti Research Centre, Vijaypur. Dr. VD Aiholli, Principal, B.Ed College (Retd), inaugurated the function by sketching lines on the drawing paper of two students. Honorary Secretary, Dr. MS Mabhavi of the Dr. PG Halakatti Research Centre, was Chief Guest. He commended the work of INTACH for last so many years, particularly mentioning that it has created considerable heritage awareness amongst the people of the city.

West Bengal  
Kolkata, 13th January  
21 Students / 8 Schools  
Kolkata Chapter held the Route to Roots competition at Shri Shikshayatan School, Lord Sinha Road, Kolkata.

Santiniketan, February  
59 Students / Class VI-IX  
Santiniketan Chapter organised Route to Roots Poster Competition in two parts at two schools - the Patha Bhavana, Visva Bharati, and Bolpur High School, Birbhum.

Uttar Pradesh  
Varanasi, 21st November  
98 Students / Over 12 Schools  
Route to Roots poster making competition at Gurudham
Temple Complex was part of the World Heritage Week celebrations, supported by Regional Archaeological Office, Varanasi.

Orai, 15th December
12 Students/5 Schools
The Orai Chapter conducted Route to Roots Poster Competition for five schools at one local school.

Robilkhand, 26th December
102 Students/2 Schools
The All India Poster Competition Route to Roots was held at the historic Ramur Raza Library. The event was extensively covered by the local Hindi and Urdu media.

Mahoba, 23rd and 26th December
149 Students/2 Schools
Mahoba Chapter conducted Route to Roots on 23rd and 26th December.

Gorakhpur, 21st January
81 Students from 9 Schools
Gorakhpur Chapter organised the poster making competition Route to Roots at Sr’ Joseph Womens College, Civil Lines. Head of Dept. Ancient History, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Professor Rajwant Rao, addressed the children on the importance of knowing about their own roots.

Brij Bhoomi, 29th January
113 Students / Various Schools
The Route to Roots poster competition was conducted at Three Dots Sewa Marg Public School, in collaboration with Gyan Mahavidyalaya, Aligarh. It attracted a significant number of student participation.

Meerut, 24th February
96 Students
Meerut Chapter conducted the Route to Roots at Shanti Niketan Vidyapeeth, Mawana Road, Meerut.

Lalitpur, 23rd February
10 Schools
Lalitpur Chapter conducted Route to Roots poster competition at Siddhi Sagar Academy, Lalitpur. It attracted good local media coverage.

Himachal Pradesh

Kangra, 19th January
64 Students/9 Schools
Kangra Chapter organized the All India Poster Competition – Route to Roots at Dayanand Model Senior Secondary School, Dharamsala. Eminent environmentalist Dr. Anjan Kalia was invited as the Chief Guest.

Mandi, 18th February
83 Students /8 Schools
Sarawati Vidya Mandir hosted Route to Roots poster
making at Mandi. It was well covered by the local newspapers.

**Jammu and Kashmir**

**Jammu, 2nd February**  
90 Students /10 Schools

Jammu Chapter organized *Route to Roots* Poster Competition at Jodhamal Public School, Channi Himmat. Convener SM Sahni briefed the participants about the competition.

**Uttarakhand**

**Dehradun, Rishikesh, 9th February**  
100 Students/Various Schools

*Route to Roots* competition held at Jaswant Modern Sr. Sec. School, Dehradun was widely covered by the local newspapers.

**North East**

**Aizawl, 25th January**  
The *Route to Roots* competition in Aizawl was held in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, and was widely covered by the local media.

**Dimapur, 15th February**  
62 Students/6 Schools  
*Route to Roots Poster Competition* at Dimapur, Nagaland was a great success, as it triggered many interchanges and discussions among students.

**Dibrugarh, 11th March**  
Salt Brook School, Dibrugarh organized *Route to Roots* competition. Many schools of the District participated. Eminent educationist Dr. Mukul Sharma, a well known speaker, gave the keynote address to the students.

**Gangtok, 16th March**  
80 Students/12 Schools  
Sikkim State Chapter organized *Route to Roots* poster making competition at Gangtok for a sizeable number of participants from different schools.

**Andhra Pradesh**

**East Godavari, 17th December**  
86 Students

East Godavari Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* competition at Ashram Public School. A noted historian Prof. KS Kameswara Rao addressed the students.

**Srikakulam 23rd December**  
137 Students/15 Schools  
Srikakulam Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at the Akshara School. An impressive
number of students participated in the event. Administrator KVN Chakradhara Babu was the Chief Guest at the event.

Kadapa 31st January  
82 Students /8 Schools  
Kadapa Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the Nekhnamkhan Kalashethram.

Kurnool 5th February  
87 Students /10 Schools  
Kurnool Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the Archaeology Museum, Kurnool.

Guntur 7th February  
100 Students /15 Schools  
Guntur Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the Bouddha SR Archaeological Museum Library.

Machilipatnam 10th February  
Over 200 Students /Various Schools  
Machilipatnam Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the KR Gowtham English Medium School.

Anantapur 25th February  
81 Students/Various Schools  
Anantapur Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the Rotary English Medium School.

Kerala  
Calicut 23rd January  
81 students /Various Schools  
Calicut Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the Shri Gujarati Vidayalaya Higher Secondary School.

Kasargod 3rd/10th/18th/26th February & 1st March  
77 Students /5 Schools  
Kasargod Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition in five modules on different dates.

Telangana  
Mahabubnagar, 15th Feb  
53 Students/Various schools  
Mahabubnagar Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competitions with participation of many schools.
collaboration with Maitri, an NGO that works with underprivileged children. 100 students from the NGO participated in the event, which was a unique learning experience. Another group of 123 students also attended, making it a total of 331 students participating in this successful event.

**Madurai 3rd March**
**127 Students / 10 Schools**
Madurai Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the SEV School. Nalini Subramanian addressed the students and spoke to them about Madurai and its Heritage Values.

**Nilgiris 23rd February**
**101 Students / 5 Schools**
Nilgiris Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at the YWCA, Anandgiri. Former Correspondent of The Hindu, Dr. M Radhakrishnan, addressed the students about the importance of their own roots.

**Chennai 1st February**
**108 Students / 12 Schools**
Chennai Chapter organised the Route to Roots Competition at Sri Sankara Senior School, Adyar. The students had the opportunity to interact with Shri Raghavendra, a musician who has worked on Carnatic Music as well as Tamil film soundtracks.

A competition was also organised by the Chapter in collaboration with Maitri, an NGO that works with underprivileged children. 100 students from the NGO participated in the event, which was a unique learning experience. Another group of 123 students also attended, making it a total of 331 students participating in this successful event.

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**Thanjavur 9th March**
**163 Students from 12 Schools**
Thanjavur Chapter conducted the Route to Roots at the Little Scholars Matric Higher Secondary School.

**Puducherry 12th March**
**Over 40 Students / 3 Schools**
The Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition as a part of the month long Pondicherry Heritage Festival. It was held at the Chamber of Commerce Building, a
heritage building of the city.

**Bihar**

**Bhagalpur 2nd February**

**Over 40 Students / 3 Schools**

Bhagalpur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at SMS Mission Sciences School. Dr. Raman Sinha of the S.M. College spoke to the students about the importance of treasuring the past.

**Jharkhand**

**Jharkhand, 23rd November**

Jharkhand Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* National Competition at the Centre for Excellence in Jamshepur.

**Hazaribagh**

**57 Students / 2 Schools**

Hazaribagh Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition with an enthusiastic response from students.

**Odisha**

**Bhadrak, 24th December**

**57 Students / 2 Schools**

Bhadrak Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at the BM Bagurai High School.

**Mayurbhanj 7th January**

**99 Students / 9 Schools**

Mayurbhanj Chapter conducted the Competition at the Retired Govt. Employees Association.

**Balasore 20th January**

**25 Students / 4 Schools**

Balasore Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Public High School.

**Cuttack 21st January**

**23 Students / Different Schools**

Cuttack Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition in collaboration with Cuttack Club. 6 students from a school for differently abled children also participated in the event.

**Sonepur 10th February**

**31 Students / Different Schools**

Sonepur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition with many schools of the city participating in the event.

**Rajasthan**

**Alwar 27th November**

Alwar Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition as part of their Heritage
Week celebrations at Fateh Jung Gumbad, a renowned historic site of the city.

**Barmer 1st December**

120 Students from 12 Schools

Barmer Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition in Kalyanpur District. Member Rajendra Mann spoke to students about the need for conservation and preservation of our heritage.

**Udaipur 6th December**

89 Students / 8 Schools

Udaipur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at the Central Public Senior Secondary School. Dr. Shri Krishna Jugnu spoke to the students about the unique history and identity of Mewar.

**Sawai Madhopur 11th January**

166 Students / 16 Schools

Sawai-Madhopur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Jai Bhawani Garden.

**Bhilwara 27th January**

119 Students /15 Schools

Bhilwara Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition, as part of INTACH’s Foundation Day celebrations, at Rajendra Marg Vidyalaya.

**Marwar – Jodhpur 30th January**

118 Students / 13 Schools

Marwar–Jodhpur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Oasis Garden.

**Karauli 2nd February**

415 Students / Various Schools

Karauli Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition with an impressive participation and several onlookers.

**Jaipur 3rd February**

Students from 8 Schools

Jaipur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at S.V. Public School.

**Bikaner, 10th February**

84 Students / 9 Schools

Bikaner Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Aryan Public School.

**Shekhawati, 10th February**

50 Students / 3 Schools

Shekhawati Chapter organised the *Route to Roots* Competition at Dundlod Vidya Peeth.
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**Ajmer, 10th February**
**182 Students /8 Schools**
Ajmer Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Turning Point Public School.

**Jhalawar, 24th February**
**114 Students/17 Schools**
The Jhalawar Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Emmanuel Mission Senior Secondary School.

**Jaisalmer, February**
**182 Students/8 Schools**
Jaisalmer Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Pokhran. Students from various schools in adjoining regions also participated in the event.

**Chhattisgarh**

**Sarguja, 28th January**
Sarguja Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Vivekanand Vidyapeeth. Chief Guest Durga Prasad spoke to the students about the built and natural heritage of the city.

**Bilaspur, 26th Feb**
**117 Students/16 Schools**
Bilaspur Chapter organised the *Route to Roots* Competition at Deokinandan Girls Higher Secondary School.

**Raipur, 27th February**
**139 Students/18 Schools**
Raipur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Dudhadhari Math. Ravi Shrivastava, in his address suggested students should go into the history of their families. He asked them to enquire from family members about the history, culture, festival, tradition etc. prevailing in their individual families.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Gwalior, 24th November**
**154 Students/8 Schools**
As part of Heritage Week Celebration, the Gwalior Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Mount Litera Zee School, Rairu.

**Jabalpur, 17th January**
**59 Students / 5 Schools**
Jabalpur Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Rani Durgavati Sangrhalaya.

**Datia, 21st February**
**297 Students/14 Schools**
Datia Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition in five phases.

**FILMIT INDIA**
INTACH HECS in collaboration with the Helen Hamlyn Trust, United Kingdom is a part of *Open Futures FilmIt India* programme that encourages students to make films on heritage and culture. Since its inception, over 10,000 students have been trained in content.
development and the technical aspects of film-making through this project during 2008 – 2017-18.

Since its 2008 launch in Delhi, 10 cities have become a part of this exciting multi-cultural film-making project - Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata Mumbai and the latest addition being Varanasi. To date, over 3,000 short films (of 2-3 minutes duration) have been prepared by Indian students and some of these films have received awards at the International Children’s Film Festival held in Hyderabad (November 2013 and 2015). The film by Nigam Pratibha Chaukhandi, ‘Phoolwati Amma’ was awarded the second best film made by Little Directors (across the world), and in 2015, 19 films were shown as part of non-competitive category.

Over a decade, the FilmIt repertoire has been enriched with interesting, informative and thought-provoking films on various facets of heritage. Celebrating the success of the 10th Year of FilmIt, activities were organised with special awards for outstanding films and schools that have contributed significantly towards enriching the FilmIt project during the annual film festival held across each city.

Varanasi, 2nd February

FilmIt Festival held at the W.H. Smith Memorial School was attended by 40 students. Varanasi Convenor Ashok Kapoor and Principal of W.H. Smith Memorial School, Anita P Dey welcomed the gathering. Chief Guest Prof. AK Singh spoke on how heritage is not restricted to the past as the present too is important for future generations and needs to be protected. Guest of Honour, Prof. Manjula Chaturvedi, appreciated the students’ efforts and encouraged their endeavours.

Delhi, 6th February

FilmIt Festival, Delhi at India International Centre was attended by 143 students from 27 schools. Chief Guests were Lady Helen Hamlyn, Lucy Helen O’Rorke and Andy Huntington (of Open Futures FilmIt ), Ms. Shobhita Punja, Ankit Pogula (Tuning Forks) and INTACH Chairman LK Gupta. Lady Helen Hamlyn expressed admiration and appreciation for the students’ efforts and creativity. Lucy Helen O’Rorke recalled the first FilmIt Festival and commented that the quality of films was being well maintained. Chairman LK Gupta thanked the Trust for providing this new digital platform to document heritage and appreciated the collective efforts of the students over the years.

Kolkata, 8th February

FilmIt Festival was held at the Birla High School. It included self-composed poems, speeches, songs and accounts from the students’ film-making journey. After the screening, some teachers came forward to share their
experiences. Teacher in-charge Kailash Vidyamandir, Sharmila Sengupta thanked INTACH for this opportunity and shared how using a camera was exciting for students. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Kolkata Convenor GM Kapoor and teacher Sunny Thomas, Birla High School.

Goa, 8th February

FilmIt Festival at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum was attended by 63 students and 11 teachers from eight schools. Convenor, Greater Mumbai, Rajan Jayakar spoke on how the project presented a unique opportunity for expressing their vision graphically that was not available earlier. He shared his commitment to programs geared to support heritage education. Acclaimed telefilms director and editor Rajan Wagdhare was the Chief Guest. He said such projects instil a sense of responsibility towards heritage protection at a young age.

Ahmedabad, 15th February

FilmIt Festival held at the Shreyas Foundation, was attended by 74 students together with their teachers representing six schools. Chief Guest and award winning Writer, Director, Lyricist, Composer and Producer Aditi Thakor, shared her experiences in film-making. She applauded the interesting films made by students. Ahmedabad Co-Convenor Pavan A. Bakeri also appreciated the students’ efforts. All schools with their team of students and teachers received awards. Among the new schools, the performance and contribution of Shree G. C. Primary School with a maximum number of films was indeed remarkable.

Hyderabad, 15th February

FilmIt Festival was held at the Sharda Mandir School attended by over 90 students from 14 schools. Chief Guests Director, Fundação Oriente India Inês Figueira, spoke about how films were inspiring and captured the unique heritage of Goa. Convenor Himachal Pradesh Maalvika Pathania described the manifold growth of INTACH since its inception in 1984. Representative, Helen Hamlyn Trust and Open Future Platform, UK Andy Huntington encouraged the students to spread the message across other cities.

Mumbai, 9th February

FilmIt Festival was held at Jubilee Hills, attended by 90
students from 10 schools of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Convenor Anuradha Reddy welcomed and congratulated them for being part of the FilmIt project over the past eight years. The Chief Guest Creative Head, Mirage Media, Sanjiv Chakravarthy appreciated the students’ efforts remarking how each film was a unique piece of work.

**Chennai, 17th February**

90 Participants / 12 Schools

FilmIt Festival was held at the Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mutt. Hr. Sec. School, Thiruvanmiyur. It was attended by TN State Co-Convenor Sharmila Ganesan who congratulated the students for making amazing films. The Chief Guest, Award Winning Photographer B Ramana Kumar, appreciated the young film makers and their efforts.

Festivals are under planning in the cities of Jaipur and Chandigarh during April this year. HECS proposal for launching the FilmIt project in Kochi as part of the Kochi Muziris Biennale has been accepted.

**HECS PUBLICATIONS**

‘Dilli-ki-Shaan – Discover Delhi’

This publication explores Delhi's heritage and its evolution as a capital city, highlighting the natural, built and cultural heritage of Delhi. It is a handbook with activities for Teachers and Students. It was released on the occasion of INTACH Foundation Day by INTACH Chairman LK Gupta and Member Secretary Dr. Chuden Misra.

**My City My Heritage, Calendar 2018**

The Calendar is a compilation of student art-works, paintings and photographs from the HECS My City, My Heritage Campaign (2016-17) national essay-writing and painting competitions. The Calendar captures the best of students’ thoughts, concerns and ideas about their city's heritage. It is indeed a colourful expression of their creativity!

**Young INTACH Newsletter – My Nature Story (Jan-Mar ’18)**

This HECS issue ‘My Nature Story’ highlights the diverse natural heritage and the danger that looms over certain species as viewed by school students.
The annual State Convenors Workshop was held this year on 1st-2nd February at INTACH Central Office. Chairman LK Gupta extended a warm welcome to the State Convenors, expressing his appreciation for their sustained commitment to INTACH Missions. He updated them on INTACH Foundation Day celebrations at Central Office held in January. Special attention was drawn to the release of a set of three First Day Covers released by the Postal Department during the Numismatic Exhibition organized by the Chandrapur Chapter at Nagpur.

Chairman shared with the State Convenors some of the workshops and projects undertaken by other Chapters that he encountered during his tours to Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Goa during the past year. He said he was indeed extremely proud of the voluntary work being done at all the Chapters he visited and interacted with their Members.

Chairman also shared some anecdotal observations to highlight the range and scope of outstanding work being done by some Chapters. A PIL filed by the Barmer Chapter along with villagers saved their natural heritage making a palpable difference in their lives. The villagers of Korna and Gangawas were therefore awarded the prestigious Anirudh Bhargava INTACH Environmental Award 2017. The Conservation Plan of Hampi-Annegundi Chapter also impacted the life of their local community. Chandrapur Chapter was lauded for its outstanding effort to get postal authorities to release three First Day Covers for INTACH at a Numismatic Exhibition held at Nagpur. The Varanasi Chapter associated with Natural Heritage Division to undertake the water conservation project at Assi Nala. Bhopal Chapter executed a Temple Conservation Plan in association with MP State Government. The Odisha Chapter took up the conservation of the ASI protected Lingraj Temple. The Haryana Chapter published a Cultural Heritage Guide of the State. The Kerala Chapter and the Varanasi Chapter conducted a PWD Capacity Building Workshop at Trivandrum and Varanasi respectively in association with INTACH Heritage Academy. Convenors may also avail such IHA workshops conducted at Central Office.

Chairman brought to the attention of State Convenors the MOU signed with York University for a Diploma Course in Conservation. Convenors may avail the textbook on Conservation Engineering brought out by
INTACH Heritage Academy. Chairman expressed high expectations from INTACH State Convenors professionally, and advised that they should tap the financial capacity of Institutional Members and enhance their interactions with all Chapter Members.

Member Secretary thanked the State Convenors for their continued support to Central Office. She drew attention to the heightened professional and financial challenges they must now counter. She advised seeking partnerships with the State Government and concerned Departments, and with Corporates looking for knowledge partners. State Convenors should also consult CAs/Financial Advisors regarding the GST regime that is not yet stabilised. The State Convenors were also advised to organize Capacity Building Workshops for PWD Engineers. Director IHA gave a presentation on Smart Cities, Smart Heritage. It provides an integrated action plan and larger mission that connects with all INTACH Chapters, Technical Divisions, local Government and INTACH Central Office if the concept is borne in mind by Chapters.

The State Convenors made their individual presentations followed by Questions and Open House Discussions leading to Actionable Pointers. The role of State Convenors was adequately discussed as the prime movers and shakers who have to guide their Chapters and explore all possibilities.

ANDHRA PRADESH

East Godavari

Andhra Pradesh Co-Convenor Shesh Kumari Lakkaraju, former ITC HR Chief, has been a motivating force for all District Chapters in Andhra Pradesh and in setting up the Guntur Chapter. Apart from conducting training courses and organising Quiz Competitions, she actively distributes cultural publications to promote the heritage cause. Central Office has taken note that she has been proactive in undertaking activities through her own public relations and local contacts and without any requests for financial assistance.

Shesh Kumari was recently awarded the Ugadi Puruskar by MLA Vanamadi Venkateswara Rao at an august gathering on the festive occasion of Kakinada celebrations which was attended by MLC Chikkala Ramchandra Rao, Mayor Sunkara Paavani, District Collector Kartikeya Misra and Joint Collector A. Mallikarjun. INTACH sends its heartiest congratulations for this public recognition accorded to her work.

**Condolescences**

INTACH Associate and Life Member, and former Co-Convenor of East Godavari Chapter Shri YS Harishchandra Rao passed away on 7th February after a prolonged illness. Chapter Members placed a wreath at his funeral in homage to his considerable contributions to Chapter activities. INTACH extends its deepest condolences to his daughters and son at this time of grief and the loss of their only surviving parent. We wish them a successful life ahead and hope they succeed in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of their loving parents.

Srikakulam

Convenor KVJ Radhaprasad along with NGO YARD visited the Sarada Public School at Polaki and the KGB Vidyalayam Gangivalasa on a heritage awareness campaign. YARD donated 25 aluminum buckets for a cleanliness drive.

Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi was celebrated along with the District Administration and the Red Cross on 12th January, garlanding his statue. MP KR Mohan Naidu, MLA G. Lakshmi Devi, District Collector Dhananjaya Reddy, INTACH Members and students participated in this programme, followed by a rally.

On 14th January, Sankranthi, a major festival for Telugu people, was celebrated with a Sambaralu held at the Municipal Corporation Ground. Various competitions in Tappata Gullu, Chenchu Bhagavatam, Gangi Reddula Pradarsana, Rangoli, Colatam, etc. were held with the Chapter playing a major role in organizing them. It attracted a huge participation with Ministers KA Naidu, KK Venkata Rao, all MLAs and the District Collector among the huge gathering. The Chapter also marked Republic Day along with Retired Employees at Visranti Bhavan at Government Stadium, anchored by VJ Naidu.
Another programme of the day, *My Taste My Cuisine*, was held at a private hotel sponsored by Gopuram Food Products with Members of Tourism and INTACH participation.

On 27th January, *Heritage Day* was marked at ITDA, Seethampeta, a tribal area 60 kms from Srikakulam. The staff of ITDA, students of the Government Polytechnic and the Degree College participated. Convenor Radha Prasad presided over a meeting with Project Officer ITDA delivering a good lecture, and INTACH officers explaining different facets of work undertaken by them.

INTACH tourism brochures and awareness pamphlets were distributed.

*Gandhi Jayanthi* was observed jointly with *Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi Trust* at Gujarat Educational Society, and garlanding of his statue by INTACH Members present.

*Uttara Andhra Vaibha Vaalu* held from 28th December to 5th February, inaugurated by MLA G. Lakshmi Devi, was sponsored by Maduri Ads, Vijayawada. INTACH banners drew attention to its educational programmes.

All through February the Chapter continued to hold a series of events like the ODF Rally on 3rd February, *Save the Girl Child* as part of *Chikkolu Sambaralu*, a *Morning Mantra* programme with *Swachate Seva* slogans on 23rd-25th February along with a Flower Show, Food and Folk Art Festival. These series of events were appreciated by senior District Officials and attracted considerable public participation.

**Visakhapatnam**

A Focus Group met at Kakinada Collector’s Office
on 17th March through a communication from Vice Chairman VUDA. INTACH was represented by Convenor L. Sesha Kumari. The entire urban area of Tuni, Thodangi, A Kothapalli and Kakinada Rural falls under the Master Plan area for which the appointed consultants are M/s LEA Associates South Asia Pvt Ltd, Delhi. Officers from AP Micro Irrigation Project and Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Resources, Fisheries, AP Housing Board, State Archaeology, Tourism, and Forest Department were invited to attend. Each Department put forth points regarding on-going works undertaken by them. For example issues like the agriculture areas being overrun by the real estate business came up. Need to micro manage excessive usage of water for crops, expansion of Green Cover as forest area is only 22% against the UN laid 33% standard, and such related issues came up for discussion. The potential of tourism development along the coast near Thodangi and Danavaipet needing exploration, and setting up of Food Processing Industries in many orchards in the uplands, Fish Hatcheries along the coast, etc. were some other subjects that were discussed.

With regard to Heritage, INTACH Convenor Sesha Kumari emphasized the need to protect the Sarpavaram Bhavanrayana Swami Temple; the need for setting up a Museum, and the protection of relics found in the recently excavated sites in Kummarilova, Kotha palli and Velama Kothuru. It was suggested that a Heritage Conservation Committee be set up with INTACH representation for better planning of Temple and Beach Tourism and the Buddhist Circuit to promote tourism and enhance the economy and prosperity of people.

CHHATTISGARH

A very successful programme on 28th January was organized by the Chapter jointly with the State Department of Culture and Archaeology. Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh attended as Chief Guest. It signifies a path breaking initiative and is likely to trigger many collaborations with State authorities. A book on the art and archaeology of Chhattisgarh, Walking with Siva, was released by him. The author of this scholarly work is art historian Dr. Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty, former Chairman of Lalit Kala Academy. It traces the art and culture of Chhattisgarh dating back to thousands of years when the State was famously known as South Kausal with its own distinct culture. State Convenor Lalit Surjan, Chairman of the local Power Company Limited Shivraj Singh and Secretary Culture Niharika Bari shared their thoughts on the subject. A sizeable number of senior retired officials including former Chief Secretary SK Mishra attended the book release.

Another book, Sarguja Darshan written by Co-Convenor Dr. Sachin Mandilwar was released by Opposition Party Leader of Chhattisgarh Assembly, TS Singh Dev.

CHANDIGARH

The Chapter joined hands with Chandigarh Department of Tourism in organizing a Heritage Walk for its students at the Capital Complex. Professor Tahiv and faculty members Arnica and Avita participated in sensitizing the students about their city’s historical antecedents and as a fine example of modern heritage designed by Le Corbusier. Subsequently a similar walk was organised for the Hotel Management and Tourism students along with INTACH Members. Participants enjoyed refreshments served at the Secretariat Canteen.
DELHI

Delhi Chapter recently revived the long forgotten Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal, a 14th century hunting lodge located on an uphill ground behind the towering Hanuman statue in Jhandewalan area of the city. There is some ambiguity about how it acquired this name when in several history books it has been described as the palace of a famous Deval Rani. However in the list of monuments compiled by Maulvi Zafar Hasan in early 1900s, the palace is mentioned as once occupied by Bu Ali Bhatti after whom it acquired its name.

ONGC Park

The Delhi Chapter has several ongoing projects like the development of a Park and Open Museum near ONGC Headquarters initiated by their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team. The space is envisioned as an open air museum which curates the journey of the establishment through design elements placed in the park, like a scaled replica of a rig used in extraction of oil. The metal panels along the designed walkways narrate the story of ONGC contributions to heritage in India. And generally portray the legacy of ONGC.

Dara Shikoh Library

The building was built in 1637 AD as a Library by Dara Shikoh, the elder son of Shahjahan. It was later subjected to additions and modifications several times by subsequent occupants. Some columns and cusped arches on the upper level remain partially hidden by the walls later added, but those found on the lower level were perhaps the Qutub Khana that housed books and manuscripts of Dara Shikoh. The rest of the building represents colonial style with large Roman pillars having Ionic order capitals and probably built in the early 19th century. Delhi Chapter started the restoration work last April, focusing on plastering and waterproofing the terrace and lime plaster will be applied subsequently.

Conservation of 18 Monuments

The NCT Department of Archaeology and Delhi Chapter signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Conservation of 92 Delhi monuments, a part of the 250 monuments listed by the Department of Archaeology to be conserved in a phased manner. The project involved notification and protection of the monuments under the provision of the Delhi Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2004. Preparation of Site Plan of monuments comprised the first phase with total station survey showing topographic features and built structures up to 150 meters radius of the monument, with photo documentation and structural description completed in several phases. Delhi Dept. of Archaeology, GNCTD
& INTACH Delhi Chapter signed other agreements for subsequent phases of conservation. The works have not only helped in conserving many neglected unknown monuments of Delhi but also generated interest and awareness among the surrounding community. In many cases, age old encroachments have been removed with the support of local authorities. The architectural documentations have recorded a wealth of information. It has also trained masons, craftsmen in traditional building methods resulting in tremendous capacity building of all officials and professionals involved.

Some of the monuments being conserved by the Delhi Chapter are:

- Horse stable
- Tomb unknown
- Mosque, Lado Sarai
- Eastern Gateway, Chirag Dilli
- Northern Gateway of Chirag Dilli
- Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal

**Garden of Five Senses**

This popular Park attracts a steady stream of visitors’. In order to enhance the visitors’ experience further, INTACH Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Delhi Tourism brought out a booklet as a guide to the Flora, Fauna and Public Art to be seen at the Garden of Five Senses that has made it an interesting walk all year round.

**Heritage Walk**

A cycling tour led by INTACH Life Member Ashwin Tahiliani was organized on 7th January outside Rashtrapati Bhawan. Another Heritage walk titled 3 Poets, 3 Epochs, 1 City was organized on 21st January by Chandrashekhar
Tampi. It explored places and poets of the past—Nizamuddin Dargah, Mirza Ghalib and his grave, Amir Khusro and Abdul Rahim followed by a discussion on their works.

On 28th January the walk was about the symbols, motifs and meaning of iconography of Qutub complex, conducted by Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle.

Delhi Chapter celebrated *India Heritage Walk Festival* in February in collaboration with *Yes Global Institute* and *Sahapedia*. Nature walks were organized to Okhla Bird Sanctuary and to Delhi’s oldest St. James Church, conducted by the Convenor on 4th February.

Aradhana Sinha conducted the *Phoolwalon ki Sair*, trailing the route taken by flower sellers since 200 years ago that continues to be celebrated to this day every year.

The walk to Daryaganj and Sunehri Masjid explored the lesser known monuments of the lanes in Daryaganj.

A visit to *Quila-i-Mubarak* (Red Fort) was organized by walk leader Chandrasekhar Tampi.

A nature walk for nature lovers was held on 24th February at Aravalli Biodiversity Park.

Another interesting walk titled ‘Begums of Shahjahanabad’ was conducted by walk leader Chandrasekhar Tampi.
The month of March also featured a number of interesting walks with the focus on post-Independence monuments and places.

**GOA**

Goa State Chapter organised the *Panjim Heritage Walk* on 3rd March for students of the Dhempe College of Arts and Sciences, Miramar. Commencing at the 17th century heritage bridge *Ponte de Linhares*, they walked past *Largo de Tabaco, Casa de Moeda (Mint House), St. Tome Chapel, Fazenda, Palacio de Governo* also known as *Palacio de Indalcao* that housed the Goa Government Secretariate until a few years ago. Much has changed but they all retain their old names. The students then went on to *Mhamai House, Panjim Church, Institute Menezes Braganca, Azad Maidan*, the Police and Army Headquarters, with the walk ending at the Goa Medical College building which is also famous as the first western medical school to be set up in Asia. Here they were greeted by Goa State Chapter Convenor, Dr. Fatima da Silva Gracias.

**GUJARAT**

**Mehsana**

Convenor Javahar Mehta informs that ASI carried out excavation at Vadnagar, while the local people cleaned the tank at Gunja Village. The villagers have requested financial assistance from the authorities to construct...
a wall on two sides of the tank and for restoration of monuments in their area. There is a 11th century temple that was known as Sri Daneshwar Mahadev and it appears originally it had a Garbhgriha and open Mandap of which only a bit survives. Last year Abdul Razak Pathan after retiring from the Army, returned to Gunja and cleaned the water tank and the footsteps, a practice sustained by another Pathan who retired from Police. The Sar Panch

Sureshbhai Chaudhari offered to remove the mud and sand from the banks of the tank. There are as many as 55 tanks in the surrounding areas. The Convenor will be writing to the Gujarat State Archaeological Department and the Tourism authorities.

Convenor also mentions about ASI excavation work underway in four places in Vadnagar. From one a seal was found with the inscription, Anandpur Rajen, in Brahmi script. Surrounding the town there are six gates and a fort dating to King Kumarpal era in 1152 AD but restoration work undertaken by the Tourism Department has detracted from its originality.

**Vadodara**

The Chapter organised the *Heritage in Your Own Neighbourhoods* to inculcate heritage awareness among school students. It impressed on them that cultural heritage has the power to transform entire societies, strengthen local communities and create a sense of identity and belonging among people of all ages. It was conducted by Co-Convenor Kakoli Sen, an eminent artist who has been researching stepwells for a few years.

She was assisted in conducting the workshop by an able team of Chapter Members. Students have a pivotal role to play in promoting an environment of sustainable social and economic development that would have a beneficial impact on their own future as well - a message that was well received by them.
As a pilot project the Chapter is proposing to trigger the twin concerns of built heritage and precious water resources. In this context it held an art workshop cum poster competition at the 450 year old Sevasi Vav for students of Shaishav School. It was judged by an eminent artist Jitendra Baoni and Alok Bal. All their works were exhibited in their school.

**HARYANA**

**Ambala**

Convenor Col. RD Singh informs that Haryana Minister for Health & Sports, Anil Vij, visited Rani ka Talab on the eve of Shivratri, 13th February to offer prayers at the Shiv Mandir. He was accompanied by MC Councillor Ajay Baweja and Major Rakesh Sharma of the 77 Armd. Aksp. The Unit is responsible for maintenance of the Talaab. It was announced that the Municipal Corporation will be sanctioned Rs. 20. lakhs from the Minister’s Fund for the sustained upkeep of the Talaab.

A lesser known heritage site is the 14th century Handesra Waterworks described as a British marvel of a water system that is now in ruins. It is a treat to see old shallow wells, the underground ‘pucca’ drain and specially designed bricks used to construct the channel. It was handed over to the Ambala Cantonment Board free of charge in 1908 with an agreement to supply 50,000 gallons of water to the Government free of cost every day! The first tubewell with a 7-inch diameter was made operational in 1935. The remains of the waterworks are valuable pieces of heritage.

**Mahindergarh**

*Dakshina Haryana Sanskriti Manch* held its annual *Mahotsava* on 28th April. Convenor Rattan Lal was
publicly felicitated for his many heritage related activities for the local community on the occasion of Holi.

Yamunanagar

Convenor Major RS Bhatti feels that the sustained emphasis on heritage awareness during the last years is finally yielding results as seen from the response of the District Administration and the local community. Signages have appeared at heritage sites, and the focus on Buddhist circuit has resulted in attractive signposts at prominent locations in the District. Recently an impressive entrance gate patterned on the Sanchi Dewar has come up at Chaneti Stupa. There was eviction of unauthorized encroachment of heritage land at Sugh.

There is a palpable increase in requests for docu-drama films like *Kuru Buddha, Sindhu-Saraswati Cultural Impact* in Yamunanagar after INTACH activities. Co-Convenor Vaibhav Garg made commendable efforts to meet such requests and promote the cause.

The Chapter activities are being successfully executed by forming a dynamic team comprising Director Gurvinder Singh with INTACH Co-Convenor Vaibhav Garg and Members Neelima Saini, Dr. Kamal Preet Kaur and Manoj Thakur. They have suggested another INTACH Chapter be set up at Nahan.

Convenor Major RS Bhatti reports that the Chapter made a presentation to the History Association of Guru Nanak Girls College on 2nd February. He extended assistance to the college in organizing activities in the Heritage Club to be set up under direct supervision of the HOD History Department Dr. Anita Sharma. Heritage related activities would be introduced as part of the College schedule.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Mandi

A week long State level annual *Shivratri Fair* was organized at Mandi from 13th-20th February this year. It started with a former ruler of Mandi, Raja Suraj Sen, in the 16th century who abdicated his kingdom in favour of Lord Madhorai and ruled only in his name. Traditionally about 230 local deities from different parts of the District that were once part of his kingdom participate in this Fair. It commences with an obeisance to Lord Madhorai. Some of the deities are brought from afar, carried on shoulders by accompanying villagers, who often travel for two days on foot for devoutly participating in this major festival. It is also an occasion for trading, and sale of local, traditional products and essential items. The Mandi Chapter participated with displays promoting INTACH objectives by welcoming visitors to the Fair.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

Convenor SM Sahni, Co-Convenor Kuldeep Wahi, along with core team of Chapter Members initiated the field survey of various villages for documenting and listing various indigenous crafts of particular area/villages-Nagrota, RS Pura of Jammu District and Kharhan, and Raya Sucheni and Sangwali of Samba District. These areas are known for Calico-Printing, Bamboo, Clay and Wild Straw Crafts.

A meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Samba Sheetal Nanda after the
He spoke on the depletion of capital generating nodes of production in traditional sectors and lack of research and insight into socio-economic aspects that are issues needed to be brought on the table. The renewed interest in research faculty gives hope for greater attention to capital generating modes of production in traditional sectors.

The restoration of the Spire of Khanqah Shab Hamdan, gutted in a fire incident, was undertaken under supervision of Kashmir Chapter. After salvaging some material the reconstruction of the Spire is being closely monitored. The Chapter maintains a record of the conservation process, along with a phase-wise video documentation of the site.

**Kashmir**

J&amp;K State Convenor Saleem Beg was the keynote speaker at a session organized by the University of Kashmir on Teaching and Research in Social Science.

**INTACH Heritage Day** was marked with an essay writing competition on Kashmir's Heritage: Threats and Protection on 29th January for young people in the age group 16-22 years. Of the six best entries submitted by students,
Zubair Rashid Banday and Tanzeela Wazuir bagged the top prizes, while the third prize had to be shared by Afreen and Mehak Sabir Jan. The remaining students received consolation prizes.

The Kashmir Chapter organised a heritage walk for children, introducing them to the tangible and intangible heritage of the old city often referred to as Shehar-i-Khas. The young participants started from Pathar Masjid and wove their way through different mohallas and were familiarised with the vernacular architecture of residential houses. They visited the tomb of Sultan Zain-ul-Abideen’s mother and ended up at Khanqah Shab Hamdan. Throughout they were explained various aspects of heritage, both built and intangible facets, and were very excited by this first such experience.

The Chapter also initiated a Clean the Monument drive to further strengthen this experience and attracted many more volunteers on the job. The drive commenced at Jhelum River Ghat leading to the Pathar Masjid and enlisted many enthusiastic participants.

The Chapter joined hands with Sahapedia and Yes Bank to organize heritage walks in Srinagar city. On 28th February the Trysts with Kashmir comprised a walk around the River Jhelum, exploring various vernacular styles of architecture and visualizing the old residential and commercial areas with a brief halt at Wakil House in Khawaja Bazaar. They also visited the famous copper bazaar at Maharaj Gunj and other places culminating at one of the old city gates called Bachi Darwaza built by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1500 AD.

The Newsletter published by the J&K Chapter carries interesting news like funds made available for conservation of the Dal and Nageen Lakes. It has some well researched articles including a draft Trade Policy envisioning e-trade and branding of local handcrafts, and some heritage related information from other countries.

Kangra

Convenor LN Aggarwal gave the inaugural greeting at a cultural programme organized by the Chapter at Sanatan Dharamshala on New Year 2018. An enchanting presentation of dances and songs by students was the highlight of the occasion. They listened in rapt attention
to the Chief Guest, former HP Election Commissioner KS Sharma when he apprised them of how New Year is celebrated by different communities in India.

**SHAWL MAKING IN KASHMIR**

At a lecture on *Shawl making in Kashmir Multi-Crore Industry* by Dr. Monisha, the J&K Finance Minister H. A. Drabu lamented that there is no institute imparting post graduate studies in handicrafts, although the State is famous for some of the finest craft products of India. Earlier a *Crafts Development Institute* (CDI) had been set up jointly with the State Government of J&K as an autonomous organization, with initial funding by the State and Government of India. A competent design professional, an alumni of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad was appointed head of the Institute. With his departure the Institute lost focus after having obtained GI (Geographic Indication) granted to Kashmir’s *Pashmina*. In an interesting aside the Finance Minister mentioned that Empress Josephine de Beauharnais of France was the first shawl-loving trend setter in Europe. She had a passion for shawls and spent over 20,000 gold francs on a single Kashmir shawl – an amount equivalent to Rs. 9 crore today when compared to the gold prices at the time! She received her first *Pashmina* shawl as a gift from her husband Napoleon Bonaparte who discovered it in Egypt when his forces were stationed there in 1798-1801. Today many *Pashmina* shawls are being sold for more than Rs. 1 lakh. The Minister added “We haven’t valued our artisans and devalued our crafts in the process”.

The *Pashmina* shawls dating back to the 14th century used the warm undercoat of *pashmina* goats, its craftsmanship first disappearing and then transforming itself as a fabric for fashionable use. It is now generally understood that renowned crafts of Kashmir need professional support. The *Craft Development Institute* is now a part of the Kashmir University academic system.

**JHARKHAND**

The Chapter held a workshop on *Pyatkar* painting and its designs for the first time. It also held workshops on *Dasai* and *Kharsawan Chhau* dances at two local schools.

**Hazaribagh**

The Chapter organised a *Padyatra, In the Footsteps of Buddha* on 16th-18th February. Convenor Bulu Imam has tried for many years to establish the fact that Buddha meditated at Itkori before he went to Bodhgaya. He even sought the good offices of UN Delhi in this matter. His subsequent archaeological discoveries, he says only confirms this.

The Norwick SADACC Trust members accompanied Chapter Members along with several others of Bulu Imam’s family on a visit to Bodhgaya on the Niranjan River and Rajgir where Buddha lived for 50 years at the time of Bimbisara and Ajatshatru – the grandparents of Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka of Magadh Empire who were the earliest patrons of Buddha and
Mahavira. The party visited many picturesque locations in the region en route. Important sites like Itkhori, Buddha cave in Tamassin, Daihar, Bodhgaya and Rajgir were identified. A major discovery of the Pala period during the Padyatra was a statuary at Daihar village just 5kms from Itkhori. Bulu Imam has requested INTACH assistance to get Itkhori included in the tourist circuit.

Shortly after the Padyatra, the Itkhori Mahaotsav was sponsored by State Government during which 16,000 brochures were issued confirming that Buddha lived and meditated in the environs of Itkhori before leaving for Bodhgaya to seek enlightenment. Stones of the Gupta period are lying around in open field grounds of Itkhori premises, but Bodh Gaya alone was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Bulu Imam’s book Antiquarian Remains of Jharkhand however had detailed Itkhori as the starting point of Buddha’s spiritual journey. Bulu Imam has once again sought help of his friend Padmashri Benoy Behl to get UNESCO status as he had done in the case of Bodhgaya.

On 7th March a team of Buddhist lamas from South East Asia held a symposium at Audrey House in Ranchi on Buddhism in Itkhori where 17 papers were presented with Director and other Members of the Jharkhand Deptt. of Culture present. Convenor Bulu Imam led a team and offered prayers at Itkhori. To date the 104 ft. Buddhist
A Jatha was taken out carrying slogans, making people more aware of their past history and heritage. Co-Convenor Prof. MF Kuri gave the vote of thanks to the special guests and the appreciative audience. The attending students seem to have been so inspired that they immediately went on to visit the Yagashala, Someshwara and Kali Temples.

**Bengaluru**

The Chapter began the year with its ever popular *Tree and Nature Parichays*. The first was a visit to the large MN Krishna Park in one of the older parts of the city. The walkers led by Ganeshram saw the trees in an entirely new light due to his commentary this time. In February a visit to the historic *Tipu’s Armoury* was organized for children and adults. This monument in the heart of Bengaluru city is much neglected and is the only one remaining of five that once existed. Story teller Vikram Sridhar captured everyone’s attention with his amusing tales. Events such as these are needed to sustain people’s attention and trigger a public demand for their care and maintenance.

The Chapter continues to work and interact with the Karnataka Department of Tourism. Its architects provide suggestions and plans for interventions at various tourist sites like Nandi, Sharavanbelgola and Belur. The Chapter team also met the Bengaluru Development Authority officials with some suggestions and inputs for the *Revised Master Plan 2031* for the city that is at a Draft stage.
presently.

A 10-weekend course on *Science in Archaeology* as an outreach programme was started on 10\(^{th}\) March. These short courses and workshops have now captured popular attention especially among people who want to delve into facets of heritage and conservation.

The Chapter has made its debut on *Instagram* and garnered more than a hundred followers in just a few days!

**Dharwad**

*Malmaddi*, located at the crest of an undulating slope of Dharwad city, was once the chosen locality for eminent residents of the city. In old days the city appeared to be naturally ‘paved’ with reddish coloured earth that left the soles of bare feet tinged in its colour. – but no longer.

A 1917 bungalow built by a respected lawyer Guryurao Sidenur survives to this day while others have long been bulldozed by the onslaught of new constructions that overtook the city over the following decades. This particular bungalow in fact was the first ever to be constructed in a place surrounded by forests that have also disappeared in the building frenzy. The Sidenur brick coloured bungalow built in British style architecture with a mixture of sand and lime and no cement has a roof of Mangalore tiles, and still survives spanning 4000 sq. ft. area on 7 gunta of land. The Sidenur family recently celebrated its centenary year, and were delighted that INTACH declared it as a heritage site. All others have disappeared, and one retains only its solid foundation on which a homeopathic hospital stands along with a dried up well that served as a drinking water resource for people of the area. All others have been entirely rebuilt without a trace of the olde charm.

Convenor NP Bhat recently put up a signage board outside the Sidenur House proclaiming “a humble request not to demolish or touch this building for any purpose and retain its heritage value. He announced “Without permission from the house owners, we will take steps to preserve such buildings as heritage sites”. Such optimism will hopefully start a movement to preserve a scattered few that still survive in splendid isolation. The Chapter has already identified one such survivor for the heritage tag - the house of an outstanding Marathi writer Prof. GA Kulkarni in the same Malmaddi area, and another - the 200-300 year old *Durgadevi Temple*.

A long time resident Rekha Shettar, who recently wrote a book on Dharwad, writes in the Forward: *I thought I knew Dharwad pretty well as a climatically pleasant resort of pensioners and a busy educational destination, with some melodious music doing its rounds……until I came to know about INTACH listing heritage sites. The search uncovered many a historical narrative, some of them even wonders,
which my naked eye failed to comprehend”. She has taken
great pains to establish the veracity of Dharwad history
(spelt Dharwar in British times) through gazetteers,
records, history books, folklore and interviews galore.
There are interesting bits of little known information
like the visit of Subhash Chandra Bose in 1939 when
he was taken in an open-car procession. Or a tale about
the heroic queen Kittur Chanamma who was temporarily
held captive at what is today the Collector’s Bungalow
according to one report. INTACH congratulates Rekha
Shettar for the publication of an interesting book on
Dharwad. There is a lot more to be discovered about
Dharwad, not forgetting its famous Thakur Pedha that still
reigns supreme over other sweetmeats.

On 10th February the Chapter held a special function to
commemorate the centenary of the celebrated Kannada
poet Dr. Rasikara Ranga at RH Deshpande Sabha griha.
Renowned critics Dr. U. Chandrashekhar Holla and

Dr. Giraddi Govindraj spoke on Adiga Literature, also
considered a literary form. Five published books of Avani
Rasikara Ranga Prakashana set up by Convenor NP Bhat
were released on the occasion. General Sardeshpande
hoped such promotions draw attention to Dharwad’s
cultural assets. Well known personalities like Dr. Ganesh
Devi, Dr. Surekha Devi, Dr. Malati Pattanashetty, Dr.
Shamsundar Budarkuyndi and others graced the occasion.

Co-Convenor Brigadier (Retd.) SG Bhagavat recited a
poem dedicated to Convenor NP Bhat while concluding
the event. The vote of thanks was proffered by Shaila
Kargudari.

Mangaluru

The Chapter was formally inaugurated by Chairman
LK Gupta on 22nd February after a year of its existence.
He spoke about the broad objectives of INTACH and
its various endeavours in heritage conservation. He
inaugurated an indoor exhibition held at the Chapter
premises, Glimpses of Local Built Heritage, and viewed the
documentation work on display prepared by architecture
students awarded by the Chapter. The programme
commenced with a folk song, Pardana rendered by a
community artiste. Convenor Subhas Chandra Basu
briefed the audience about the aspirations of the Chapter
and its targeted work. The second Co-Convenor Dr.
Shaila Bantur invited Members on stage and introduced
them to the audience. Present and presiding over the
function was Dr. Sayeegeetha, a scholar in local cultural
history who offered her insight into local Tulunadu
culture.

KERALA

Kasargod

Chairman LK Gupta was given a rousing reception at
Taj Vivanta, Bekal on his first visit to the Chapter on
20th February. Local architects, artistes, historians and
social workers and INTACH Members, with special
invitees and guests, were welcomed by Co-Convenor
Hareesh PV with a brief introduction to the conservation
work, documentation and heritage interventions of the
Chapter’s. Convenor Dr. V Jayarajan in his presidential
address said it was a special occasion as Chairman
INTACH was visiting for the first time in 19 years of
the Chapter’s existence, but acknowledged the constant
INTACH support given to the Chapter. Conservation
architect Praveen Chandra presented the documentation
work on Traditional Buildings of Allepey and Kottayam
Districts. Manager BRDC made a presentation on
traditional buildings of the District and their touristic
attractions. Former District Council President and art
historian KK Marar and a few other personages were
felicitated.

Chairman LK Gupta congratulated the Chapter and
its Members very warmly for their tireless work on
multiple aspects of tangible and intangible heritage. He particularly appreciated the documentation of heritage buildings of Kottayam and Alleppey Districts. He was greatly impressed by the body of work done and offered project funds for any new project the Chapter proposes to take up.

The national winner of INTACH Painting Competition was introduced to Chairman who extended his congratulations with encouraging words.

**Palakkad**

A first of its kind *Heritage Village* project was inaugurated by Kerala’s Minister for Culture AK Balan during Chairman LK Gupta’s visit at Palakkad. It is the ancestral village of MGR (actor and former CM Ramchandran). A performance of three puppetry traditions of Palakkad – the *Tholpaavakothu* (leather puppetry), *Noolpaavakkali* (string puppetry) and *Paavkathakali* (glove puppetry) including two percussion presentations by gifted local artistes were held on the occasion. This brought many more people to the exhibition on the following days. For the Chapter, the challenge is how best to propose the effective re-utilization of 50ft x 15ft Kodial Guthu with its row of columns. Both the venue chosen and the exhibition were much appreciated by the visitors.

**Thrissur**

Chairman, along with Chapter Members, visited Padinjarechira, one of the oldest of four ponds in Thrissur (others being Vadakkechira, Thekkechira, Kizakechira) with an area of 130 metres and 4 metres deep holding nearly 6 lakh litres of water as per calculations, and the major water table of the area. It is the city’s major landmark owned by Vadakke Madhom. Chairman assured INTACH assistance for its conservation by sending a NHD team of experts to train people in maintenance of this precious water body, with financial assistance from INTACH.

When INTACH party visited the Brahmanswam Madham, students created a spiritual ambience by chanting the *Vedas*. It is an ancient institution that has been imparting *Rigvedic* studies for hundreds of years. Members Vinod Kumar and Surya Prasanth were requested to prepare a revised Restoration Proposal that could be brought to the
Ambica Beri invited Chairman LK Gupta to visit Art Ichol, an Arts Centre and Artists’ Residency set up in Madhya Pradesh with which she is involved, though she is a Life Member of Kolkata Chapter. The Centre welcomes creative people from all over the world of diverse disciplines to come and stay, create and innovate. In a little over two years it has hosted several workshops and residences commencing with the Swiss/French artist Jacques Kafmann, the residing President of the International Academy of Ceramic in an artists-in-residency programme. He spent a lot of time with the local brick makers whose work fascinated him. He came back to Art Ichol and built a Brick Temple as a homage to them! To commemorate this rare happening, a Symposium was held in 2016 titled Art, Architecture and Sustainable Living. Art Ichol was awarded the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Award and also The Most Responsible Tourism Award in 2016. It is after

attention of Corporate Groups for CSR assistance.

The brochure Brahmaswam Madham : The Echoes of a Vedic Gurukulam was released, attended by people of Madham and INTACH Members. The welcome address was by MP Surendran with Convenor KJ Sohan giving the Presidential address. Thrissur Convenor MP Surendran, Co-Convenor Vinod Kumar, Addl. Co-Convenor Prem Manasvi P were present. Among prominent personalities were Tekkemadam Moopl Swamiyar, Brahmaswam Madhyamam Secretary Vadakkumbad Narayan, Advocate Parameswaram Namboothiri, Vediyoor Manoharan Nampoothiripad, and Pushpanjali Swamiyar of the Padmanabhaswamy Temple among others. Chairman handed a copy of the brochure to Moopil Swamiyar Tekkemadam who gave his Anugrabha Prabhas.

Chairman highlighted the tangible and intangible qualities of the Madham emphasising the urgent need for its conservation, with INTACH support for restoration process. INTACH Treasurer Rakesh Om gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of what was a grand function of the Chapter.

At a second programme held to honour Chairman LK Gupta, the inaugural address was by Mayor Ajitha Jayarajan who presented him the traditional ponnada. Prem Manasvi gave the vote of thanks.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**Bhopal**

The MOU signed between the Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd (BSCDCL) and INTACH has paved the way to give a smart look to the sites currently under conservation. The first phase is conservation of the famous Darwajas in the city. The sites will have an audio-guide, e-ticketing facilities and issue of monthly passes for visitors. Wheel chairs for physically challenged visitors, kiosks to guide visitors and some other facilities are under planning besides an App that will be developed for guiding visitors with stories related to the sites.
the recent visit of Chairman at the invitation of Ambica Bei that it has come to our attention and is shared with all Chapters.

Chanderi

The Chapter constructed a pilot conservation plan using traditional materials under the Weavers Welfare Initiative with the assistance of AHD INTACH. The thick walls of the houses are made with white sandstone and the roof made of stone and heavy wooden pieces. The villagers were explained that the project undertaken was to teach them methods of new construction and repairs of old houses in a traditional way. This is the essential aspect of livelihood of the handloom weavers’ community. Chanderi figures in

Dhar

Convenor Dr. Deependra Sharma invited local citizens and explained some of the Chapters’ activities and objectives.

A classical dance programme was organized by the Chapter at a heritage location on INTACH Founders Day, inaugurated by a famous architect Vallabh Agarwal and singer Harjeet Singh Hoda. Priyanshi Vijaywant and Nikta Bhavani Joshi presented a brilliant programme of classical dance. The audience specially appreciated the Khadi Lavni Apsara Aali by Tulja Ashish Dubey and the Main Radha Teri Mera Shyam Tu by Amisha Solanki. Another scintillating performance was a Thumri – Lat Ulajhi Mori Balma by Anchal Suchan. The programme was directed by Parag Bhonsle.

Morena

Chairman visited the Morena Chapter on 5th March. He advised Chapter Members to accord priority to save heritage sites, some of which are 6th century old in Morena, using only traditional techniques. He said the preservation efforts of NGOs and local citizens along with the State Government should be speeded up towards the nomination list for World Heritage as – “vernacular built heritage of iconic saree weaving clusters of India”.
all ancient heritage of Morena. Through such efforts the economy can be strengthened. Municipal Corporation should also be contacted to pinpoint the importance of dustbins to tackle the garbage problem in the city.

It was decided to document the folk singing heritage of Languria and Kanhaiya. Chairman will try to persuade Hindustan Petroleum to promote Chambal’s heritage with INTACH tie up with them. There is great scope to develop tourism in the Gwalior-Chambal region. State Convenor HB Maheshwari, and several other members from Orcha and Gwalior Chapters were present at this meeting. It was also decided that an INTACH team will be sent to Pahargarh to study the wall and mural paintings of Likhichhaj and work out a conservation plan.

At the conclusion of this visit Chairman visited Karas Village, Pahargarh.

MAHARASHTRA

Chandrapur

Addl. Co-Convenor Pravin Nikhare gave some interesting details on the formal release of a Special Cover (See Foundation Day news) by the local Post Master General Mariamma Thomas on INTACH Foundation Day at the Ramgopal Cultural Auditorium. Convenor Ashok Kumar Thakur was unfortunately unable to attend after making the arrangements due to a sad demise in the family. Among the dignitaries present were Chairman Numismatic Research Institute (NRI) Bharat Sariya, and its Secretary Jayant Khedikar, President of the Nagpur Philately Society, Member MS Bharadwaj, Co-Convenor
Piyush Agarwal, and Member NRI Sanjay Misra along with several other Chapter Members prominently present at the event. Pravin Nikhare was felicitated by the Post Master General Mariamma Thomas for painstakingly designing the Special Cover to mark the 35th Foundation Day of INTACH.

**CENTRE POINT**

Life Member Dr. Deepak Bhattacharya writes that the first major pan-India work that the British did in India was the Railways, far bigger than the Survey of India.

It was a huge exercise involving trigonometry led by military engineers and native militia being the skilled labour force. Nagpur was the identified central point for this massive project - the heritage vestige of which is the “Centre Point”. There is a commemorative pillar that still stands with the road marking E-W-N-S going via this pillar known as “C P Sq” for short.

**Greater Mumbai**

Ms Indrani Malkani is appointed as the new Co-Convenor of the Greater Mumbai Chapter. We wish her every success in the onerous responsibilities she has accepted and extend good wishes for the challenges ahead.

**Nagpur**

The Nagpur Chapter in collaboration with the Chandrapur Chapter held a meeting at the local Ashok Hotel, with Chairman LK Gupta present along with some Members of the Pune, Varansi, and Mumbai Chapters. Convenor Kishor Divekar welcomed the gathering and spoke about the multiple efforts made by Chapter Members to propagate the art and cultural heritage of the region. Chairman summed up the work profile of INTACH during the past few years, with special mention of the Heritage Academy efforts to ‘educate’ PWD engineers and sensitise them to heritage concerns. The courses to be conducted on Museums and the Diploma on Cultural Heritage are offered at Deccan College in Pune. Chairman mentioned that INTACH was seeking affiliation with George University of London.

Chairman accompanied by other Members, visited Mansar, about 45 kms from Nagpur, an area well known for manganese ore, and historically important as the site dates back to the Vakataka Period.

At Mansar

The party also visited the historic temple of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshman at Ramtek (Ramgiri). At the
Numismatic Showroom they saw an amazing collection of stamps in a well ordered layout.

**Nashik**

Chairman LK Gupta and State Convenor Mukund Bjogleji visited Nashik for the release of the Chapter’s publication - a photographic book on the *Kumbh Mela*.

**Pune**

**Interactive Forum for Colleges**

An Interactive Forum for *Heritage based Sustainable Development for Colleges* was held by Pune Chapter in association with Sinhgad College of Architecture, Conservation Department on 23rd January. Subject matter experts like Bal Kulkarni, Dr Chetan Sahasrabudhe, Sujit Patwardhan and Shyam Dhavale along with Shivaa Rawat, INTACH Co-Convenor Prof Sharvey Dhongde and Life Member Prof Vaishali Latkar addressed the students.

**Pune Heritage Festival 2018 : 12th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival (KVIFF)**

INTACH Pune was an Associate with Nadicha Powada for the KVIFF followed by a cleanliness drive on 6th Jan. The performance on Pune and its rivers was by traditional *Powada* troupe of Shahir Suryawanshi and 6 musicians at the river ghats of Pune.

*Warsaa*, the Pune Chapter Heritage Shop presented a range of eco-friendly products at the *Eco Bazaar* held as part of the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival.

*Our City Our River* was a panel exhibition put up at at KVIFF to display through design, river fronts in urban settings as socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable development.

**Discover Pune**

**Kahi Goshti Punnkaranchya Warsaa**

On 5th January a session of fascinating stories of Punekars (Pune people) through history was narrated by Prof. Sharvay Dhongde

A Walk to the religious and market precincts of Pune was also held on 6th Jan. led by Dr. Chetan Sahsrabudhe.

The 14th edition of the *Annual Heritage Hunt – Discover Pune* was successfully held on 7th Jan with more than 120 participants.

The Chapter organized a series of heritage awareness programmes during the second half of of February:

- *Heritage Landscapes of Pune* on 13th. February
- *Moti Mansion – Architectural and Cultural*
interpretation at Botanical Survey of India, on 14th. February

• Heritage Appreciation - Aesthetics in Everyday Life at Kelkar Museum, on 16th Feb.
• Pune Food Hunt 2018 on 18th Feb.

Solapur

Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar welcomed parents, teachers and the students participating in the Route to Roots competition held in an open air amphitheatre at Dr. Kotnis Memorial. She introduced a leading social activist Ravindra Mokashi who inspired them with the unique history of the city. Assist. Commissioner Trembak Dengle-Patil inaugurated the event. He spoke about the migration of people from surrounding districts to work at the Mills of Solapur, strikes by Union Leaders, Marshal Law in 1930, and the struggle for India’s Independence. Inspiring the selfless service of Dwarkanath Kotnis made an impact on young minds. He is recognized as a great humanitarian who promoted Sino-Indian friendship through his services in China. Children wrote about the stories of their own families and surroundings, made colourful posters and write ups in the open air nip of winter morning. The Convenor and Co-Convenors Shveta Kothavale and Pushpanjali Katikar, along with Life Members Narendra Katikar, Goverdhan Chatla, Shashikant Patil and active Member Nitin Anvekar interacted with the teachers and others.

Wai-Panchgani

On the occasion of Krishnamai Utsav the Chapter continued its distribution of Heritage Maps to encourage visits to places marked on them to enhance tourism. The Chapter also distributes recycled cotton bags that can be reused. For Ganesh Chaturthi they printed “Dholya Ganpati Temple” on one side of the bag and Menavali Ghat on the
Dr. Paul was an Associate Professor in Commerce at Government College, and the author of a number of publications on Management Studies. He was one of the Chapter’s most active Members, ever ready to extend his help in organising its activities and programmes. His absence will be greatly felt by all Chapter Members. INTACH joins them in sending our deepest condolences to his family members.

**ODISHA**

State Convenor AB Tripathy informed Central Office that the draft Final Report of Jagannath Sadak was handed over to the State Minister of Tourism and Culture Ashok Panda. He drew attention to the three volume report and the importance of notifying the various monuments covered as protected structures. He also brought to the Minister’s attention that half a dozen monuments listed in the report already destroyed in the last two years, and it calls for urgent attention to save nearly 400 listed monuments covered by the Report with 410 maps provided, and over 1400 photographs. It is the most comprehensive document of the old Jagannath Sadak and valuable for research scholars and of great interest to devotees of Lord Jagannath.

The old Jagannath Sadak should be developed as an important Pilgrim Trail which would be the best way to preserve and protect it.

**Balasore**

Convenor Himanshu Das informs with a heavy heart that one of his illustrious Members Dr. Chinmayanand Paul passed away at the age of 58 on 11th March. Dr. Paul belonged to a well known political family of Jaleswar, his father had served in the Odisha Assembly.

**Bhadrak**

Convenor Digambar Mohanty organized the Annual Function of the Chapter on 24th January, presided over by Advisor Prof. Dr. Sanatan Mohaty. Vice Chancellor KIS University, Bhubaneswar cum former Vice Chancellor of Tirupati Sanskrit University Dr. Harekrushna Satapaty was the Chief Guest. After lighting of lamp, a Vedic sloka was chanted by Vedabit Bijay Bahgali. Dr. Satpathy talked about the Ramayana, Mahabharat, Manu Sangbitta, Srimad and Bhagavat Gita. The Akbalandalamaniu, Bhadrakali and Biranchi Narayan Temples, the merging of the Brahmani and Baitarani Rivers near Dharma Naval Port, and the culture of Odia-Bengali-Persian mixed language in Moghub Tamasa drama is evidence of the brotherhood shared by Hindus and Muslims.

The Chief Speaker Anil Kumar Dhir, a research scholar of History and Art narrated the terrible conditions at Bhadrak during the Naanka Famine of 1866. He also presented his documentation of the Jagannath Sadak that...
passed through Bhadrak from Puri to Kolkata.

This outstanding work of the Chapter and its utility for District Administration was lauded by the Deputy Collector Rajendra Kumar Panda who graced the function as the Guest of Honour. The Convenor presented the annual report highlighting the heritage documentation and heritage tour to Chandipur, Dhamra Port establishment and other social works undertaken by the Chapter. Co-Convenor Pravakar Mallick acknowledged the individual contribution of several persons like Sanatan Mohanty, Prof. Kamalakanta Jena, Sriman Abhinandan Panda, Gaurav Bhuyan and Abinash Mohanty for their individual support to the heritage cause. Also to be specially thanked were members of the Pursattam Sri Jagannath Dibyanga Musical Institution and the blind singer Ajaya Kumar Das which was much appreciated by the audience that included Press reporters, media persons, students and teachers and made the event a notable success.

**Bhubaneswar**

Chairman LK Gupta on a visit to the Chapter released the *Members Directory* at the Conference Hall of Bhubaneswar Club, along with State Convenor AB Tripathy on 14th January. The Directory was compiled by Baikuntha Panigrahi with details updated for facilitating communications. Bhubaneswar Convenor SKB Narayan along with several prominent Members were present on the occasion. Chairman also visited the ICI Odisha Conservation Centre that has now shifted to the place allotted outside the main Museum where he was received by its Director Mallika Mitra.

Bhubaneswar now has an active *JD Centre of Art* established by Padma Bhushan awardee Jatin Das. Aruna Vasudev is the Director, with Biren Das as the Associate Director of JD Centre since 2016. It aims to conserve and promote traditional and contemporary visual arts. It also has a Film Forum as a permanent in-house programme archiving short and documentary films on performing, literary and visual arts and artists of all forms like painters, sculptors, potters, musicians and crafts people from India and overseas. The focus is on natural and man-made art, imaging the arts and ensuring authentic visual documentation.

The non-competitive *12th International Film Festival on Arts and Artists* was held at the JD Centre from 12th–14th January. The Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha was the principal sponsor with dailies *Orissa Post* and *Dharitri* as media partners that ensured wide publicity. It opened this year with respects paid to renowned curator and textile expert Martand Singh, with excerpts shown of his interview with Prasad Bidapa about the importance of handmade fabrics in India. There was also an exhibition of traditional handicrafts, handlooms and art books with stalls showcasing Odisha crafts. This year’s focus was on literature and cinema, with an Advisory Committee comprising eminent film makers, critics and artists from Odisha and Delhi to curate it. It showcased four award winning films: *The Salesman* by Asghar Farhadi from Iran; *The Secret in their Eyes* that won
the Best Foreign Language Film in 2009; *My Family as a Zucchini* by Claude Barrass that won the Best Animated Film Cesar Award, and *Life in Metaphors: A Portrait of Girish Kasaravalli* by OP Srivastava that received a National Award for the Best Biographical Film. There were several other films that were screened, along with various workshops on diverse subjects.

On 26th March, an exhibition of news items on Orissa published in national and international newspapers more than 150 years ago was held at the State Archives. Minister for Tourism and Culture Ashok Chandra Panda inaugurated this interesting event attended by Chapter Members.

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**DOCUMENTING MAHANADI**

The *Mahanadi* is the very soul of Odisha, its lifeline providing economic, social and spiritual wherewithal to its people. The viver runs for 490 kms from the upper reaches of Hirakud and merges into the Bay of Bengal in Jagatsingpur, creating soil, and irrigating and feeding more than half the population of the State. Joined by and creating other tributaries it weaves a grand geographical pattern that dominates the economic and geographic, the social and cultural life of the State. On its banks have sprouted all the major settlements of the State like Sambalpur, Sonepur, Boudh, Nayagarh, Angul and Cuttack districts. Major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and ‘Tribalism’ blossomed and thrived along its banks and resonated with temples, forts and palaces. Intangible heritage like folklore, songs and dances much like its arts and crafts became colourful living traditions. Diverse flora and fauna as may be seen at Satkosia Sanctuary are an example of its rich bio-diversity.

Documenting Mahanadi is an idea churned out in the cauldron of INTACH that is already engaged in extensive documentation of this heritage. Seven teams of heritage enthusiasts will cover 1000 kms stretching both sides of the Mahanadi.

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**Jaipur**

A Symposium with various competitions like Quiz, Drawing and Debating was held in the closing week of last year. It coincided with the *Jaipur Book Fair*.

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**Koraput**

The Chapter organized the twenty fourth *Dongar Samabesh* on 12th January at the Tribal Museum, Koraput. This has now become a traditional event held in collaboration with the *Sri Jaganath Temple* and *Tribal Museum*. The Chapter initiative in inviting schools and colleges of the Koraput Municipality resulted in attendance of nearly 250 students. They referred to books on the life and socio-cultural aspects of tribals in the Koraput region. 224 students participated in events comprising drawing, debating, elocution and song competitions and won awards.

The Chief Guest Godaddhar Parida, a former Collector of Koraput and presently Director of the Tribal Museum,
elaborated on the varied language and culture of different tribes of their region, impressing the young participants to take an active role and responsibility in protecting and preserving their traditional culture. Professor Narayan further elaborated on how the traditional village Panchayat was instrumental in maintaining law and order and providing justice in the olden days. Chairman of Koraput Municipality Bhagaban Bahinipati assured the Chapter of active cooperation in achieving their objectives. In conclusion Prof. Dr. Jagabandhu Samal shared field experiences when working on his research and pointed out how tribal economy was self sufficient and how it can be aided in the present context of development process.

Later Convenor Dr. PC Mohapatra held a discussion on Art and Cultural Heritage of Koraput Region. He mentioned the efforts made by the late KC Panigrahy to promote heritage awareness as the first Convenor of the

Puducherry

“Pondicherry” came into existence in 1674 as the first trading centre set up by the French East India Company. Today it is a melting pot of cross cultural exchanges, small in size but like great capitals of the world warmly welcoming people of all countries and cultures. But it guardedly retains its own passionate and peaceful environment. The city harbours a deeper meaning and connection to the intangible realms of beauty, wisdom tranquility and harmony. An amalgam of spirituality and material is what imparts to Puducherry, as officially named on boards, its uniqueness and excellence. The fact that most people still know it as Pondicherry speaks volumes about its innate and enduring character.

When the 1870 Marie Building (Town Hall) collapsed, citizens realized the urgent need to conserve their heritage. A civil group People for Pondicherry’s Heritage came together. The Pondicherry Heritage Festival was instituted by the People for Pondicherry’s Heritage (PPH) with INTACH Puducherry and Pondy CAN. The first annual Pondicherry Heritage Festival was held in 2015.

The objectives of this Festival are to strengthen the distinct identity of Pondicherry Heritage, to exhibit its unique character in all its facets to visitors, and create a platform for experts, historians and old residents to own and discuss their precious assets, and how to preserve the town’s heritage that comprises French mansions and vernacular Tamil quarters.

The 4th Pondicherry Heritage Festival 2018 from 18th January-18th February hosted diverse events like different classical Indian dance presentations, music concert, crafts bazaar, student competitions and excursions. There were discussions, lectures, demonstrations, photo contest and exhibition, and heritage walks, one of which focused on the unique character of Pondicherry streetscapes and its ancient heritage temples at Thrubhuvanai, Madagadipetu and Thiruvandar Kovil now under ASI purview. The
Puducherry Khadi & Village Industries Board had their traditional products on display, and so had many of the city’s cottage industry groups exhibiting beauty products, essential oils, candles, terracotta pottery, etc. *The Traces in Time: Pondicherry/Indochine: Reminiscences Croisées* highlighted even the art, culture and cuisine of the Indochinese community in Pondicherry capped with a Vietnamese Food Festival!

One of the Festival events was a talk on *Dance as Yoga: The Spirit and Technique of Odissi* by its author Dr. Rekha Tandon. A choreographer and researcher in Odissi, she is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of *Dance Routes* based at Skandavan, Auroville. She spoke on the essence of *Yoga* as the union of matter and spirit, that has been the fundamental building block of Indian art for centuries. The process of refining any dance movement and aspiring for excellence is by its very nature ‘yogic’, and all Indian classical dance forms embody this knowledge, she said.

**PUNJAB**

**Amritsar**

The ICHR sponsored National Seminar on *Monuments of Punjab: A Study of Art and Architectural Heritage of Medieval Times* in Punjab was organized by the Department of History, SGGGS College to highlight its currently existing architectural heritage. It initiated a multi-disciplinary discussion and interpretation of the crumbling state of some monuments in the region with the objective of bringing this to public attention and remedial actions. The panelists were INTACH State Convenor Dr. Sukhdev Singh, Professor of Applied Linguistics, GNDU Amritsar; ASUI Suptd. Archaeologist Dr. Vasant Kumar Swarnkar; former Chairperson of Department of Ancient History Punjab University Professor Surinder Singh and Chairperson of the Department of Ancient History Dr. Renu Thakur who initiated that multi-disciplinary discussions that could trigger legal provisions to safeguard unprotected built heritage. There were several other scholars who participated in the dialogue emphasizing the priority of preventive conservation. The Seminar concluded with Chief Guest, Secretary Tourism and Culture stressing on their development as self sustainable sites. Dr. Amandeep Kaur was the organizing Secretary of the Seminar.

**Patiala**

The Chapter organized a seminar on the subject *Love You Heritage* on 17th February at Bhai Ram Kishan Gurmat Public School, Urban Estate for students, teachers and interested people from different strata of society who wished to participate. President School Trust Chamkaur Singh, renowned scholar Lakshmi Narain Bhikhi, social worker Devinder Singh, Principal Amarjit Kaur, former DIG RS Bhinder, former official of Mining & Industry Laljit Singh Siddhu and Advocate Sarabjit Singh Virk attended. Chief Guest Chamkaur Singh stressed on the need to save culture and language in an increasingly globalised world.

The rich heritage of the Guru Granth Sabib containing not only the *Baani* of Sikh Gurus but also the contributions of many prominent social reformers must be preserved. Lalit Singh Sidhu said students are the future harbingers of peace and harmony. Dr. Bhikhi described India as a *Guldasta* (bouquet) of different languages and cultures whose beauty and value need protection. Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk elaborated on INTACH work in different facets of heritage...
and exhorted them to be the future champions of the heritage cause. He invited them to join the movement and participate in INTACH walks, competitions, quiz programmes, etc. The programme concluded with refreshments.

**RAJASTHAN**

**Barmer**

The Chapter celebrated its 34th Foundation Day on 27th January at Silor village, Samdadi Tehsil of Barmer District. Held at the Rajkiya Adarsh Uchch Madhyamik Vidalaya, the students were inspired to write essays and paint pictures of what they considered My Village My Heritage with prizes awarded. Such rural initiatives create awareness at grass root levels. Co-Convenor Rajendra Singh Man highlighted INTACH's conservation efforts and the importance of preserving their precious heritage that lies neglected across the Silor and Devliyali villages. He also stressed the importance of cooperation from the Gram Panchayat.

Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma expressed his thanks to guests, teachers, students and local people who attended the celebration through a video conference as he was unable to be present.

**Bikaner**

The High Commissioner of Mauritius, Jagdish Goburdhan was felicitated by Convenor Dr. Prithviraj Ratanu on behalf of INTACH Chapter and the Rotary Club, chaired by Mahant Ramdayal Shastri. His Excellency Goburdhan said that he has found divine peace by coming to the birthplace of Swami Krishnanand who believed in providing relief to the poor and needy. He said respect for patriotism and mother tongue should be a priority for all people. He said development and recognition of Bhojpuri will receive due recognition in Mauritius given its multi-racial profile. Special Guest and former Vice Chancellor of Veterinary University Prof. AK Ghelot spoke about the possibility of good work that could be done between the two countries in animal husbandry and the veterinary fields. Renowned heart surgeon Dr. DK Saxena talked about self satisfaction he derives from his work inspired by Swami Krishnanand.

Convenor Ratanu, former Secretary of the Rajasthan Language, Literature and Culture, said the voices and work of Rishimuni and other saints need to be widely known. He also talked about the Chapter's activities. Chapter Treasurer Suni Banthia shared memories of his visit to Mauritius and spoke feelingly about its natural beauty and patriotism of the people.

**Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu**

Convenor Dr. Shruti Poddar organised a Chhau making workshop at Ramgarh Shekhawati from 4th-13th January. It was attended by nearly 40 participants comprising both
interested students from three local schools, local artisans practicing different crafts, a potter, a lac bangle maker, a painter, a tailor, an embroiderer, women practicing tie and dye, and talented women from lower income groups. Even a compounder from a local hospital!

Dr. Poddar is also the Managing Trustee of Shruti Foundation and subscribes to the philosophy “Let’s celebrate, learn and grow with India from the grassroots”. She plans to send some prototypes of the masks to the Heritage Shop at INTACH.

Chhau Mask making is not a simple process but involves nine stages like soaking clay overnight, kneading it into a dough next day, a potli of ash sprinkled over the object and left to dry with several layers of paper that are liberally coated with flour. When dried, the masks finally get a fine coat of river clay, when the paper moulds are taken off the cast clay and given a white base before they are painted and decorated. There is also a method involved in making the flour or the tamarind adhesive and in the application of a pest repellent chemical.

**Kota**

Convenor Shyam Sunder Jha proposes to launch a nature campaign for Chambal river health assessment and methodology, including its flora and fauna. He has an ambitious plan to do the cultural mapping of the Chambal region, propagate cultivation of rudraksha, chandan and almond trees and undertake a photo documentation of Mukandara Tiger Reserve, bird and crocodile sanctuaries. The Chapter hopes to do the listing of natural heritage and conservation of the Chambal Heritage Ghats and its forts, temples and rivulets. Much of this requires, according to his assessment, both time and effort. Co-Convenor Sqn. Ldr. RP Bhatnagar (retd.) and Member PC Jain, facilitated the work of eco-tourism development circuits/operations by providing safari vehicles.

**Sawai Madhopur**

The Chapter conveyed that Tiger tension would only increase if interference in forests throughout the day is not stopped immediately. Wildlife experts including former IFS Officers have raised solid objections to safari launched by big hotel businessmen and other expensive hotel honchos. The Chapter is of the view that tourism and conservation must be placed on the same scale, and that the Forest Department needs to give serious thought to this problem. The matter deserves a serious research study. Many local papers have drawn immediate attention to the menace, only the authorities now need to take note.

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**CONDOLENCES**

Shri Mriginder Singh Bhadauriya Member of INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter passed away in a car crash on 6th Feb, 2018. He was associated with INTACH family for the last 20 years. He was deeply interested in the preservation/promotion of art, culture and heritage. His important suggestions were received by Sawai Madhopur, whenever required. In the last days he has worked dedicatedly on the guide book “Heritage City Sawai Madhopur” a publication of INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter. This was highly appreciated.

His death has caused an irreplaceable loss for the INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter family. We pray for the departed soul to rest in peace and send our good wishes to his family members for the future.
**Udaipur**

The Chapter held its periodic General Body Meeting on 13th January at the residence of former Vice Chancellor Dr. BP Bhatnagar presided over by Senior Town Planner SK Shrimali. The Guests of Honour were Prof. JS Kharakwal of JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University and former Vice Chancellor Prof. ML Kalra. State Convenor SK Verma welcomed the assembled gathering with a New Year message “Life is about appreciation of new hopes and aspirations for the future. May the New Year start with fresh joys and a life filled with harmony amongst us”. He specially greeted Co-Convenor Sushil Dashora who had worked untiringly for the Chapter since the last 20 years and was unable to continue due to family compulsions. He was given a rousing reception and honoured with a Samman and shawl. His place will be taken by Gaurav Singhvi with immediate effect.

Members were briefed on various significant administrative measures taken by the Chapter. Prof. JS Kharakwal delivered his lecture on Manuscripts : Its Conservation Practices and Value. He made a strong plea to conserve manuscripts in Pali, Brahmi and other local languages before they are lost forever. Prof. ML Kalra highlighted the value of accepting multidisciplinary streams in today’s changing education system while speaking on Scientific approach in traditional wisdom. Today’s science and modern life style has accepted yoga, naturopathy and spiritualism as value systems and relevant to our current society - which was not the case earlier.

Town planner SK Shrimali highlighted the significant characteristics of urban planning of Master Plan and the finest examples of Udaipur architecture like City Palace, its havelis like Bagore ki Haveli, Bavaries like the Gangod Kund, cenotaphs and interlinked lake system. Important architectural elements of the city are multi-point cusped arches, onion domes, jharokhas (bay windows), gokra, mirror and stained glass and lime inlay works, and wooden artifacts. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Co-Convenor Gaurav Singhvi.

**CONDOLENCES**

Dr. Yeshwant Laxman Nene, a Life Member of the Chapter and former Member of INTACH Advisory Committee of Natural Heritage Division passed away on 15th January. During his illustrious career he headed the Pathology Deptt. of GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar; and held several other senior positions in related fields like Principal Plant Pathologist (Pulses) and Legumes, and Deputy Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-ARID Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad. He later formed the Asian Agri-History Foundation, Secunderabad and invited research scholars to translate and document Sanskrit literature on agri-history. He was the recipient of several international awards during his illustrious career like the FAO International Rice Year Prize, Pest Control Association of India Lifetime Achievement Award, Indian Phytopathological Society AP Misra Lifetime Achievement Award, etc. He had several extensive research studies in plant pathology and agriculture history to his credit.

Udaipur Chapter Members felt they have lost a very distinguished and learned Member of their family. INTACH joins them in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his family members at this time of grievous loss and wish them well for the future.

**TAMIL NADU**

**Madurai**

The Chapter honoured celebrated local artistes and craft persons. It regards them as the silent trailblazers of the
city in keeping alive the cultural traditions of Tamil Nadu. It was indeed a “graceful gesture” as the Chapter mentions to mark the 10th Anniversary of its existence.

The life of the late Sadasiva Vellar is Madurai’s best pottery story. He made his village famous for Golu Bommais after training with professionals from Andhra. Subsequently for seven decades he trained other potters and their children and expanded his own skills into fine craftsmanship and Vilachery Doll makers thus gained far and wide popularity. The Chapter honoured other such legendary artistes like Nadaswaram player Sheik Chinna Moulan and his nephew Sheik Mastan; M Govindaraj whose creations of temples, gopurams and jasmine buds from pith called Netti are works of art. Others are D Govindrajan known for Marakalattam folk dance, AK Ramesh for the Sungundi tie-and dye art, VP Ponnusami who took the applique Thombai art to a new level, M Sheker who patronises Thappaattam, Muthulakshmanarao known for traditional leather puppetry, painter A Kannan who beautified the city’s lung spaces, and Leela Venkatraman who paints Pullikolams in temples. Ten such artisans were honoured at a function with cash awards and certificates presided over by Babaji Rajah Bhonsle; with EC Members Dr. G Vasudevan and MD Vel Valli in attendance. Present for this special occasion were Chapter Convenor Arvind Kumar Sankar and former Convenor Dr Uma Kannan. The Chapter is committed to sustaining art and culture at grassroots and avers it will continue to extend its patronage “now and by future generations”.

Chapter Members Haresh Ramachandran, Dr. Aravind Srinivasan, Chitra Ganapathy, and Rajesh Kanna are congratulated for the sustained efforts made to conserve Madurai’s heritage and create wide spread awareness of the city’s ancient history and heritage. Madurai is one of the two oldest cities in India with 2000 years of history according to Dr. G Vasudevan. As MD Vel stated, “it has been an eventful journey. Our diverse strengths helped to ensure that our organization got apt and knowledgeable direction in meeting the core objective of keeping our rich culture and heritage intact. The huge responsibility cannot be handled by a few INTACH Members alone. We believe by making this a people’s movement it will bring a sense of ownership and we will be able to leave behind a rich legacy of art, culture and heritage for successive generations to enjoy”.

Here is a great message for all Chapters.

**Nagercoil**

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan forwarded a Report on the Ockhi Cyclone that hit the Kanniakumari coast last year causing immense damage to local infrastructure and agriculture. The warning to 1000 fishermen living in the area came too late and precious lives were lost, and in some cases, tragically, even bodies not recovered. There was a public outcry over inadequate compensation that has left many families impoverished forever. The Report details the extent of Inland Damage and the Cost of the Cyclone. Scientific Investigation identifies the cause of damages apart from the role of illegal tree cutting earlier.
There has been much damage to heritage structures like the *Udayagiri Fort* built by a French General Delennoy in 1765. Its walls were damaged by the 200 trees uprooted due to the cyclone. The Chapter has already initiated action to plant a 1000 saplings and hopes to get the fort wall repaired. Crowd Funding may be an idea to explore.

Convenor RS Lal Mohan also gives news of a major 2.4 km port proposed along the Kanniyakumari coast that has been declared eco sensitive. It envisages a 2000 mega watt thermal plant which will mar the visual atmosphere of the city where lakhs of people and tourists come to see the sun rise and set in clear skies. Moreover, less than 5 kms away from the proposed harbor lies 500 hectare of habitat for thousands of flamingos and other migratory birds for whom it would be a death knell. Other heritage sites like the *Vivekananda Kendra, Rock Memorial, Suchindrum Thanumalaya Temple* and the 6th century *Guhanantheswarar Temple* are within the proposed project-affected area of the port. There is also the lurking danger that the mud flats serving as a buffer zone between the island and the coastal area, if lost, will flood the neighbouring areas including Nagercoil, apart from destruction of ground aquifers, wetlands and livelihood of people. The Ockhi cyclone killed more than a 1000 fishermen and completely destroyed the agricultural framework of the district. There is fear that if the mud flats are lost it will cause even greater grief to people in the future. Man made disaster can be worse than cyclones!

Convenor RS Lal Mohan on an exasperated note says “*Planners and developers should know that coast lines are formed by millions of years of geomorphological evolution. It should not be altered by our century old civilization*”. He hopes INTACH will surely take up the matter with the Ministry of Environment at the highest level and most urgently.

**TELENGANA**

**Hyderabad**

Programme Coordinator Jyothi Bezawada writes about a splendid evening when guests were welcomed by Namrata Rupani, the photo artist for the month of *Women’s March*. She welcomed them to her exhibition, *Stories in Stone* with life size pictures of the *Qutb Shahi Tombs, Chowmahalla Palace, Jantar Mantar, Paigah Tombs* and the *Golconda Fort* from her photo service company called *Capture Life*.

Co-Convenor Telengana, Anuradha Reddy spoke about the role of women in the Aviation Industry recently including flying a jet plane, and generally about many women who are taking detours from their profession, like Namrata, to explore other ways of making a mark in life, while she practices as a pediatric dental surgeon! Member Arvind Chenji expanded on how much he appreciated the pictures on display, commenting that today there was
no demarcation between what a man can do versus what a woman is doing. Eminent photographer Ambareesh Pittie and other photographers Satya Prasad Yachendra and Santosh Korthwada were among the appreciative audience.

Anuradha Reddy was invited by the Salar Jung Museum and Historical Society of Hyderabad to make a presentation at the Museum Lecture Hall on the cultural and commercial relations between Hyderabad and China based on the antiquities found in Golconda that are now a part of the Museum collection. The Chinese Gallery of the Museum has several objects from China like a small snuff box to huge storage pots, furniture, paintings, etc collected by the connoisseur Nawab Mr Yousuf Ali Khan, Salar Jung III.

Anuradha Reddy also judged Jignasa on 24th January at JNAFAU near Masab Tank, an initiative of the Commissionerate of College Education. It was a day long session to evaluate the history study projects of the students of 31 Districts and a learning experience for the judges too!

Convenor Reddy attended a seminar on 27th-28th January on River Saraswati Through the Ages convened by the Itihasa Sankalana Samithi involving academics in universities and educational institutes to rewrite history and present correct perspectives.

In February Anuradha Reddy visited Surat that has a unique heritage because of past association with Dutch and British cultures. It also has an Armenian cemetery. There are stories to tell beyond diamonds and business. Bharuch, Udwada and Navsari also have historic antecedents. In Daman there are some beautiful Portuguese houses outside the Fort that vibe well with typical Parsi houses and fire temples. It was an informative journey with many interesting interactions with both locals as well as officials.

Governing Council Member M. Vedakumar was the Chief Guest at various functions held at Hyderabad. He represents INTACH sharing his views on the subject concerned and wherever possible on heritage related matters of INTACH. He forwarded a number of interesting photographs he has taken like the tribal deity Sammakka Saralakka, a lady possessed by the deity, a child devotee taking a bath at Jampanna Vagu. He attended a programme on Child Rights. He is a man of multiple interests and seize such opportunities to profile INTACH work in cultural and intangible heritage.
**UTTAR PRADESH**

**Gorakhpur**

The Chapter marked *INTACH Foundation Day* as an awareness programme with Faculty, Ph.D and post graduate students of the Upadhyay University. Department Head Dr. Pragya Chaturvedi, speaking on heritage conservation, cited the loss of ancient idols lying neglected in public areas. The need to identify them with proper storage was emphasised. Chapter Convenor MP Kandoo elaborated on INTACH work pointing out how the Faculty and students of history and culture could make a difference by actively participating in INTACH activities. He elaborated on various INTACH training programmes and scholarships offered for advanced studies in heritage related subjects. Life Member Dr. KK Pandey made a presentation on the activities of the Chapter during the last three years. Co-Convenor PK Lahiri gave the vote of thanks.

It may be recalled that the Chapter had found some idols that were conserved by INTACH and installed in a temple built by villagers. After considerable persuasion ASI finally visited the site and confirmed that they dated to 8th-9th century. The Chapter observed that villagers continue to cherish their heritage, having been made aware of the value of such artifacts.

Life Member and Coordinator Monika Malhotra conducted a Walk to the *Choukhandee Stupa* at excavation site Sarnath and to the *Dhammekh Stupa* on 18th March. Renowned archaeologist Dr. Ajai Shrivastava and Regional Archaeological Officer Dr. Subhash Chandra Yadav briefed the walkers about historical antecedents. Lord Buddha first met his 5 disciples at the Choukkhandee Stupa site and gave his first sermon at the Dhammehk Stupa which is 93 feet in height. In fact Dr Srivastava had headed the team that first excavated the site in 2014.

Dr. Mumtaz Khan is appointed as the new Co-Convenor of the Gorakhpur Chapter. INTACH extends a hearty welcome to him and wishes him every success in sustaining the good work of the Chapter.

**Kanpur**

The Chapter discovered a site 10 kms from Bhitargaon on the banks of the river Rind under a high mound. Probably it was a settlement or might even have been a palace, according to Convenor Syed Tariq Ibrahim. Many gold and silver coins have been found by nearby villagers while plowing their fields. Dilapidated and broken pieces of engraved stones and a brick wall have been discovered by
local people but without understanding the significance of these findings.

Chapter Members collected a few rock pieces, metallic arrow heads and pottery. After carbon dating and testing they were identified by the Kanpur ASI as dating back to the Kushan period. Efforts are being made to secure the excavation site and an important slice of Kanpur history may emerge in due course. The Chapter has thanked Central Office for the assistance given in getting the area secured for further investigations.

**Lalitpur**

INTACH Foundation Day was celebrated with a Bundeli Folk Dance Festival at the Chandrashekhar Azad Park. It was inaugurated by Minister of State Labour and Employment Manohar Lal Panth, MLA Ramratan Kushwaha and Municipal Commissioner Rajni Sahu. In their talks they emphasized that Indian culture is our life philosophy and the importance for students in knowing about ancient history, heritage and our freedom struggle. Convenor Santosh Sharma explained that Bundeli Folk Dance was part of ancient folk culture hence must be popularized with the young and brought to public attention.

The Chapter organized a General Knowledge Competition at the Sai Inter College. Over 90 students were first given a lecture on the local archaeological heritage prior to a questionnaire session. Convenor Mahoba Pramod Paliwal along with Principal Manoj Avasthi with teachers, and several other INTACH Members were present. This large gathering attracted considerable media attention. The winning students were Piyush Kant followed by Nihar Tiwari and Saiyad. They were awarded medals while all participants received certificates of participation.

**Varanasi**

The Chapter celebrated INTACH Foundation Day with a three day programme dedicated to conservation of Varanasi heritage involving students, teachers and the public. It set the tone for this quarter packed with activities launched by the Chapter.

The Chapter, jointly with the UP Archaeological Department, assembled at Varuna Sangam, the confluence of the Varuna and Ganga rivers that meet at the jaun Vinayak (a barley growing region), and long been considered a geo-sacred site due to the unique positioning of Varanasi and Panchkroshi pilgrimage route. They explored the little known pilgrimage site of Kapil Dharma that finds mention in the 14th century text of Kashi Khand and the surrounding shrines. Legends concerning Ram
and Sita, Draupadi and Pandavas in *Dwapar Yug* are associated with this place. *Panchkroshi Yatra* is a pilgrimage place in the 16th century *Kashi Rabasa* text. It circumnavigates the city and defines Varanasi as *Kashi Kshetra*. Over 60,000 pilgrims visit it every third year during the extra lunar calendar month of *Purusottomasa* (*Mallamasa*) over the course of five days. The legendary novelist Bhartendu Harishchandra published a booklet on this famous pilgrim route in 1872.

The group was briefed at each site by the head of the Geography Department, Banaras University and by Dr. Subhash Yadav of Archaeology Department. They learned that the Vedic sage Kapila established a Lingam in the red sandstone temple Kapil Dhara. It pre-dates many other images found in adjacent shrines and bears his name. One of the shrines has the Chappan Vinayak, a Ganesha representing his 56 forms including a beautiful dancing pose. There were many other such intriguing idols and 12th century *apsaras* to be seen that made it a memorable visit.

The Chapter organized an illustrative lecture by Padmashri Vijay Sharma, an iconic artist from Bhuri Singh Museum in Himachal, at the Ganges View Hotel, Assi Ghat on 4th February who was welcomed by Shashank Singh. He has done exceptional work in the Basaul and Kangra style and has written books on the subject. He described these miniature painting styles with a film and even sketched some paintings describing to the audience the characteristics of each. Convenor Ashok Kapoor thanked him profusely for what was a unique experience for the eminent guests and the audience.

Regional Director IGNCA expressed his desire to collaborate with INTACH in future programmes and gave the vote of thanks.

The Chapter is setting up different cells on the lines of INTACH Divisions in Delhi for greater efficiency. The Heritage Walk Cell has done excellent work under Anurag Chandra, Anjila Agrawal, Monika Malhotra and the recent addition of Jeremy Oltmann, Prof. Rana PB Singh, Ajay Pandey and Deepa Jain. There is much to walk and talk about around Varanasi! The ICHD Cell has six Members, Shalini Deva, Anjila Agarwal, Aditi Gulati
of Little Flower House, Prof. Suresh Nair with Shashank Narain Singh as advisor. The visit to the excavation sites at Rajghat, confluence of Varuna and Ganga, and Lal Khan ka Rauza had Regional Archaeological Officer Anurag Chandra accompanying the walkers, and telling them that Lal Khan was the Senapati of the Varanasi ruler in 17th century. The excavated structures date back to the Gupta period over 1500 years. The walkers also saw the Rajghat Fort built in 18th century by the British to oppose the king of Kashi. They also visited the confluence of the rivers Varuna and Ganga and the 17th century Adikeshav Temple situated nearby and the Lal Khan ka Roja.

Anjali Agarwal coordinated this captivating evening perfectly. It ended with a treat of Banaras Chaat. It was a great inception of the Varanasi ICH Cell.

80 year old renowned writer and author of the famous novel Kashi kaa Assi, Prof Kashi Nath Singh read his stories for the first time before an audience at the function organized by the Chapter. There were other notables like Pandit Hariram Dwivedi and Manjaree Pandey who read their poems for the audience.

Convenor Ashok Kapoor organised a musical evening on 24th February featuring a Hindustani classical vocalist Nirali Kartik from Mumbai. The gifted artiste’s forte was an elaborate Aalapchar, brisk Taans and the clarity of the Swars. She concluded the vocal renditions with semi classical compositions and bhajans and Kabir paddas. Anjali Agarwal coordinated this captivating evening perfectly. It ended with a treat of Banaras Chaat. It was a great inception of the Varanasi ICH Cell.

The Chapter hosted a classical music programme Alaap in collaboration with IGNCA Varanasi Regional Centre. Life Member Shashank Narain Singh who owns the Ganges View Hotel hosted this musical dialogue followed by an interactive session. Music gurus, senior artistes...
A public rally was organized on 11th March to create awareness about the thematic development works in Gurudham Colony. Students of Little Flower School and Batuks of the Ram Mandir paraded with hand written slogans on boards and banners. The rally was conducted with the approval of Municipal Commissioner Dr. Nitin Bansal (Housing and Urban Department), and as part of the Hriday scheme of the Indian Government.

On 18th March Chapter Members including the Regional Archaeological Officer Dr. Subhash Chandra Yadav and others assembled at the Choukhandee Stupa, a brick structure 93 feet tall. At the top is another octagonal structure built later during Mughal times by King Todarmal’s son Govardhan. The assembled party was briefed by renowned archaeologist Dr. Ajai Shrivastav and Dr. Yadav on the excavation site at

and scholars were invited to the programme, with this first in the series held on 7th January. The Chapter plans on inviting performing artistes on a regular basis. Prof. Retwik Sanyal, a senior Dhrupad artiste of Dagsbaani tradition cum Professor at BHNU was introduced by Dr. VS Shukla. Convenor Ashok Kumar welcomed him, while Shashank Narain Singh gave an introduction to the concept of this musical programme series. Retwik Sanyal was the first to perform and held the audience spell bound with a rendition of Alaap in Raag Shree, accompanied by his disciples Anuradha Raturi and Ashutosh Bhattacharya on tanpura and by Ankuit Parikh on the pakhawaj for rendering a traditional composition Chautala Bhasm Bhushan Ang. He concluded the event with his own composition of Har Har Vishambhar – Chandra Lalaat Par. His explanation of the deep and subtle aspects of music in his performance was a treat for the audience.
**WEST BENGAL**

**Kolkata**

The Chapter participated in the GOUNESCO World Heritage Day at Hiji Bij Bij to draw public attention and promote heritage awareness of North Kolkata especially. It was a “hard earned success” as getting permission from owners of heritage properties has been a “behemoth challenge” according to Convenor Ashok Kapur but he always finds an alternative solution! It resulted in some brilliant ideas for the future heritage activities that will soon be forthcoming from the Chapter.

The tour ended with a scrumptious Navratri breakfast arranged by Convenor Ashok Kappoor and Rahul Mehta at the Highway Inn. Dr. Ajay Srivastava and Dr. Subhash Yadav were profusely thanked for this heritage experience that left the party with a desire to learn more and do more for the heritage cause.

The 1857 Sepoy Mutiny often referred to as the ‘first War of Independence’ was a historic milestone that eventually triggered the struggle for India’s freedom. As part of heritage awareness, the Chapter organised a talk by IPS officer Soumen Mitra who is currently with the Swami Vivekananda Police Training Institute at Calcutta Rowing Club. A keen heritage buff, he talked about many unknown facets of the erstwhile Laat Bagan. As Convenor GM Kapur said “Barrackpore never fails to attract with its stories from the Raj era” as reported in the Press.

Restoration of the Presidency University was criticised by a section of its alumni as reported in the Press. State Convenor GM Kapur who visited the University...
however, stated any fear of the University’s heritage being destroyed was quite unfounded, and in fact it was an “awe inspiring” project. Its interiors have retained the overall character of the buildings. He said “Given the enormous challenges of carrying out such a mammoth project on a campus that is functional, I think they have done a great job”. The conservation consultant had participated in discussions with Dutch heritage experts regarding the run down condition of this prestigious 200 year old university, and then executed changes for functional reasons with a touch of modernity, optimum use of space and art installation reflecting the spirit of Vivekananda. A bigger gate was needed for fire tenders to have access. Heritage is not only about preserving but also utilising and adapting it for current usage which ensures its preservation as well, as asserted by the INTACH team much to the relief of Vice Chancellor Anuradha Lohia who had been criticized for it by a section of the alumni.

The Walk Down the Old China Town for history enthusiasts highlighted what few people are aware of - the hidden gems of this historic area. There are six beautiful temples situated in the heart of a busy commercial street. Led by photographer Deepanjan Ghosh, it was a walk through the bylanes of old Chinatown and an insight into their unique history and cultural heritage. A retired geologist Satyabrata Guha accompanying the walkers said “I am speechless and overwhelmed. This is one of the most memorable experiences of my life” although he is a resident of Kolkata. Most Kolkatans know it as a place famous for authentic Chinese breakfast. Tiretta Bazaar was once home to 20,000 ethnic Chinese Indian nationals but the population has now fallen drastically.

Surjodeb Basu who participated in a game of Mahjong was left asking for more and to learn how to play it well.

Local resident Dr. Chang arranging Mahjong board

A talk by Soumen Mitra on the History of Barrackpore Government House was held on 4th February at Calcutta Rowing Club.
DENMARK TAVERN – FROM RUINS TO REBIRTH

The 1786 *Denmark Tavern*, originally a church lies on a peaceful stretch of the river and a two minute walk from Serampore’s main street. It was re-inaugurated on 28th February by Minister of State for Tourism & Culture, Indranil Sen. Present on the occasion were Ambassadors of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden along with representatives from the National Museum of Denmark and the Realdania Foundation. Architect Dr. Fleming Aalund from the National Museum was the Architect Advisor.

*Denmark Tavern*, that later was the Hooghly District Magistrate’s Office, was a project of heritage restoration and adaptive reuse jointly undertaken by the National Museum of Denmark and West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation. It is a part of the comprehensive 6-year *Serampore Initiative* to preserve and document heritage buildings of Indo-Danish history. It is headed by Dr. Bente Wolff of the Denmark Museum and supported by historian and architect Simon Rasten and conservation architect Manish Chakraborti. This is a remarkable effort to keep intact the identity of an old trading town that was located at the Nishan Ghat and where the Danes kept their flagstaff and salutation cannons. A specialized team of craftsmen from West Bengal accomplished the restoration using traditional materials and old crafts technique with some new additions like a balcony in the central room inspired by the Indian Coffee House in Kolkata. The Tavern will be managed by the Bengal Tourism Development Corporation as a café and lodge through lease to a private contractor. It will become an attractive space for citizens and tourists and will include other restaurants and shopping.

1790 Painting by Danish Governor of Tranquebar and Serampore Peter Anker at the Museum of Cultural History, Norway

Denmark Tavern before restoration, 2011

Tavern nearing completion, February 2018

**A PIPE DREAM FOR INDIAN CITIES?**

With the rapid urban development taking place in Kolkata and its suburbs, it is important to keep and maintain some of the historical city cores like the one in Serampore, in order to maintain the history and identity of these old trading towns. The historic city centre should be an attractive space for citizens and tourists where you go shopping, visit restaurants and cafés, and take a morning walk or evening stroll along the river front. This can only be achieved by keeping new multi-storeyed buildings outside the historic city centre........as tourists we like to be a part of the local life, rather than just meeting other tourists.

*Dr. Bente Wolff, Head Serampore Initiative. National Museum Denmark*

**Santiniketan**

**The Trekking Team**

The Chapter successfully completed the *Kopai Trekking Expedition* from its source. Some professors, scholars and students of the Visva Bharati had undertaken this trek in 1991. The current trek was to study the temporal changes along the river regime. The team halted at 14 villages en route during the 8-day walk to study the cultural realms on both banks of the Kopai. There were as many as 40 participants including Chapter Members, students of Visva Bharati, professors, scholars and eminent people from various institutions. The study was documented along with the tangible and intangible heritage along its course, with a detailed report in a booklet. A marker stone was also installed at Khajuri Village to indicate the source of the Kopai River.
Unrest due to felling of Peepul tree at Kali Temple

Unethical lifting of sand destroys ecology

River course dotted with brick kilns

Participants beside the river barge

Marker stone at Khajuri Village

Villagers at inaugural programme

River erosion till agriculture fields, Palsaragram

Pagan culture is widely prevalent

Vaishnav community grave within courtyard

Professor of Textile Deptt., Kalabhavan delivered his speech in Inaugural Session

Subash Baral showing the use of Lux meter

Subrata Sen showing the use of whirling hygrometer

Practical session: measuring of light intensity by a participant

How to measure the acidity of the objects

Practical session: Padding of hanger by participants
The preliminary Report submitted by the Trekking Team has a number of photographs with write ups, references, historical backgrounds, and supporting literature that was subsequently discussed with Convenor Susmita Guha Roy and other INTACH Members. The Final Report is eagerly awaited as it will carry a fund of information judging from the photographs published below.

A Workshop on Conservation and Restoration of Textile Objects was held at Kalabhavan, Visva Bharati on 26th–27th February as a part of the Nabanna Utsav. It was organised by the ITACH ICI Kolkata and ICI Delhi in association with Suresh-Amiya Memorial Trust. In addition to talks by them, there were practical hands on session for understanding conservation and restoration processes, control of degenerative agents and minor repairs. The 35 participants also learned about proper handling, display and storage of heritage collections. In addition to the students of Kalabhavan there were participants from Kalabhavan staff and museum, Shantiniketan.

The Chapter released its annual magazine Paribesh 2017. Convenor Sushmita Guha Roy welcomed the audience and invited renowned environmentalist Subhas Dutta at the Krishti stall, to release the magazine during Pous Mela.

**SERPAI CRAFT**

There is only one Family in the Khajuri Village near Shantiniketan, West Bengal that practices the Serpai craft. Serpai is an indigenous measuring pot. The maker of this Serpai is the recipient of the President Award this year.

**NEWS FROM HERE & THERE**

**Slice of History**

Catacombs have been periodically discovered in Egypt. Most recent finds were from the Pharaoh Thoth Period and Ptolemaic dynasties in Minya, an ancient necropolis near Cairo. The Egyptian Antiquities Ministry identified them as belonging to priests of Thoth, the ancient God of the Moon and Wisdom. Archaeologists also found over a 1000 statues and 40 sarcophagi that might have belonged to a priests’ family members.

**Jupiter, as never seen before**

Galileo telescoped the Jupiter 400 years ago, but the Juno Mission from NASA has now managed to take a closer look. Some staggering photographs of the planet surface reveal cyclonic surfaces lined with what look like whirlpools of gas deeper than earlier estimated and unlike anything else countered in the solar system. As many as 13 massive cyclones seem to cover the planet in intense massive storms. Scientists hope that Juno could help reach the depths of the “Great Red Spot”, a colossal swirling storm that is one of the planet’s greatest mysteries.

**Mt. Nyiragongo, Congo**

Mt. Nyiragongo is a 120,000 sq. meters active volcano that last erupted in 2002, and meteorologists recently warned that another eruption might well be on the way. Trust a 26 year old Christopher Horsley to pose next to this lava Lake for what was his ninth time, leading some British dare devil thrill seekers who camped with him on the edge of this active volcano before descending into its crater. Earlier, Christopher lived with
remote tribes in Papua New Guinea, and revelling in the world’s most active volcanoes is a hobby for him. Great adventure or youthful folly?

**PETA Demonstration**

Activists of *People for Ethical Treatment of Animals* (PETA), India painted themselves as animals and demonstrated near Alipore Zoo, Kolkata. The placards read “Don’t Need Cage to Control Animals’ Rage”. A little kindness and thought goes a long way not only with animals but people too!

**Tree Climbing Lions of Serengetti, Tanzania**

The big cats of the Serengetti Plains like to perch like sleeping beauties on tree branches. They are neither chased by elephants or tsetse flies but like to take a chance against animal gravity! Some curl up with their tummies popping out between branches, while they gently snore and sneeze in deep sleep! If they fall off cats always land on their feet!

**Lonar Lake, Maharashtra**

Lonar is a little town in Maharashtra with a very picturesque lake. It is not only a lovely picnic spot, but a geological survey spot. And it is a paradise for wildlife watchers as there are gazelles, moors, magpies, fowls and several other feathered creatures to be seen around this water body. It is believed that 52,000 years ago a meteor fell on this little town in Maharashtra making it the sole meteorite crater in India. It is a paradise for bird watchers.

**Red Rain, Kerala**

There was a heavy downpour of red coloured rain for the first time that fell sporadically in July-September 2001 that left people bewildered. It was initially thought to be a fall out from some hypothetical meteor burst. The Government commissioned a study and concluded that the rain had been coloured by airborne spores from local terrestrial green alga. It was later identified by an international team as *Tannulate*. The districts of Kottayam and Dukli have also seen yellow, green and black rain sporadically.

**Mass Bird Suicide**

In the scenic village of Jatinga in Assam, along the Borail Wildlife Sanctuary, townspeople gather to see hundreds of birds commit mass suicide every night from September-November. This bizarre phenomena has been happening for over a hundred years or perhaps more. No one really knows why. Some scientists explain that perhaps it is because the local birds become disoriented by the monsoon fogs. They seem to fly towards the evening lights they see in village homes and buildings, and crash into it blindly. Perhaps no one has checked if this is true by declaring a war time black out to see what the birds would do - instead of watching them perish night after night.

**Magnetic hill, Ladakh**

The Magnetic Lake 30 kms from Leh is a famous tourist site on the Leh-Kargil highway. It is called the Magnetic Hill where gravity takes the back seat. The alignment of the road with the slope of the background creates the illusion that cars are able to drift upwards, but actually this is because without a horizon judging the slope of the surface is difficult and a reliable reference is missing. It thus creates an optical illusion!