A limestone statue depicting Vishnu Hayagriva, the horse-headed avatar of the Hindu god. Sambor Prei Kuk, Cambodia. 10th century CE. (Musée Guimet, Paris)
In This Issue

10th Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture 3
News from Central Office 6
Heritage Tourism Division / Publications Cell 8
Art & Material Heritage Division 9
Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) 20
Heritage Craft and Communication Division (HCCD) 24
Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) 26
Cultural Affairs Division 29
INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) 31
Natural Heritage Division (NHD) 35
Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) 39
Chapters 45
News from Here & There 90
Dr. Sachchidanand Sahai delivered the 10th Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture at the India International Centre, invited by INTACH. He has spent a total of 14 years in Cambodia at Ishanapura, that might seem symbolic of Vanvaas but for him it seems it was just a short break. He is determined to go back to Ishanapura and its 2000 glorious temples at the first opportunity! He referred to them as the “Other India” and he feels those who live in India do not care enough for the ones who migrated to Cambodia and spent an entire life building this great, everlasting “Cosmos of Cultural Relationships”.

Dr. Sachchidanand Sahai said INTACH invitation to give the memorial talk put him in a dilemma. Should he present just image after image showing Ishanapura heritage temples – pleasing to the eyes no doubt, but that would leave many a basic questions unanswered: How is India interacting with this heritage overseas? Have we succeeded? How are we going to proceed further? When Dr. Sahai talks about Cambodia, he is in fact referring to the whole mainland Southeast Asia, and raising the question that is today resonating even in our political relations – “How do we define our relationship with this part of the world”?

There are two basic words that establish a close linkage – one is Ganga and the other is Bhakti. Ganga in Khmer language is written as Kaunkia, as they cannot pronounce ‘Ga’ which has been changed to Ka. It is even the surname of many of Dr. Sahai’s colleagues! The other word is Phakda which means Bhakti that is found in Sanskrit inscriptions of Cambodia from 4th/5th century BC for 1500 years. In the 11th century, when one of the rebel kings came to Angkor, 400-500 supporters assembled to take the oath of loyalty signifying their devotion to Pheakdai (Bhakti) for protection. It thus became a political instrument to ensure the loyalty of the people. Even today when the Prime Minister of Cambodia gives a lecture, at least 60% of the words are of Sanskrit origin. Even in common parlance, 30-
40% words are derived from Sanskrit, and new words are being coined from Sanskrit with the help of a dictionary even today.

Little wonder that Dr. Sachchidanand Sahai found himself struggling to define India’s relationship with “The Other India”. For example, most people only know of Angkor Wat but it is just one of 200-300 temples in the centre of a big world city, Angkor Thom. Very few people seem to know that Angkor, Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom are three different places. During his stay, Dr. Sahai lived in a city called Siem reap near Angkor Wat which he says would be hard even for a travel agent to locate! Even after 70-80 years of Independence we have no direct flights to many places in South East Asia.

From Siem reap it is 150 kms to Ishanapura, a 3-4 hours drive. Ishanapura is named after Ishan, one of the most potent forms of Shiva and the protector of the city. There were legislations established by King Ishanvarman at the beginning of 7th century. It has a conglomeration of 200 brick temples of many varieties. It was declared a World Heritage Site last year. The astronomer and geographer, Ptolemy, called it India Intra/Extra Gangem or ‘India beyond the Ganga’.

French writer, George Coedes, in his great book refers to the region as ‘The Indianised States of South East Asia’ which Dr. Sahai described as akin to an injection of Vitamin B complex into the body! He thinks perhaps the phrase ‘Greater India’ was invoked under colonial rule. As a scholar he personally believes there are many Indias beyond India. During the past 2000 years they have acquired more recent nomenclatures like West Indies and East Indies. While studying in France during the 1960s, Dr. Sahai said that he used to introduce himself as coming from the Indies!

The sacred geography of India is replicated in many places, be it Gaya, Varanasi, or Shree Parvat in Telengana. Dr. Sahai says India is a paradigm of plurality transformed to a well coordinated mechanism that steers the socio-cultural, economic and political facets of human settlement, etc. Dharma is the soul of this paradigm not to be translated necessarily as religion but as righteous behaviour. The Vedic Rishis like Buddha and Mahavir both debated and explained Dharma without any adjectives. Even the Hindu law developed during British times includes Jains and Buddhist in its fold. Dharma is Kul dharma, Jati dharma, Apad dharma, Desh dharma – all inclusive with multiple facets. The definition of Dharma has been long forgotten.

Dr. Sahai explains the source of Dharma as Shruti, meaning what is heard from great sages, while Smriti is that which is remembered – giving rise to custom, codified by various ancient authors. There is Sadacha, the conduct of good men as exemplar, the Atmanas Tushti meaning pleasing oneself and one’s own conscience. One may well ask how come the Khmer people who are followers of Shiva, Vishnu and other Hindu gods are also one of the biggest beef eaters in the world. This is their Dharma as long as they understand how a cohesive life can be created. Individual conscience should be the final authority and belief, which we need to remember in the present times also.

Yasovarman was one of the kings of Angkor who established hundreds of ashrams. There were legislations in which new Varnas were created but it did not degenerate into caste system or untouchable sectors like in India. Instead in South East Asia, or the ‘Other India’, it was a different kind of caste society divided into Uttam (excellent), Madhyam and Adahm. There are only some customary differences from India like the Dharamashastras recited, or some marriage practices. Khmer society was basically matriarchal with women tracing their genealogy from mother, grandmother, great grandmother, etc.

Dr. Sachchidanand Sahai laments that India has forgotten its past relations with its neighbouring countries of South East Asia, and our culture conserved by them. He exhibited some fascinating pictures of Dravid style temples – Maymatasays. There is Durgaswami, powerful son-in-law of the ruling king Ishanvarman who was an expert on Yajurveda and was born in dakshina path. Ishanapura’s octagon temples are unique compared to its counterpart, the 7th century Mundeshwar Temple in Bihar. This temple and two others in Champa in South Vietnam are the only specimens of this type of octagonal temple in Southeast Asia. Some in Ishanapura are known as flying palaces, and the upper part of the temples has a smiling god. They also have 10-12 mythical creatures – half man and half bird as if they are upholding the structures and flying. Dr. Sahai thinks that in India there is complete amnesia about many elements of our...
culture, perhaps because of so many invasions. However many things India has lost are seen preserved in the storehouse of Southeast Asia. Prabhasiteshwar, Lord of the Smile, is the presiding deity in the Sao Temple complex of Ishanapura. Prabasiteshwar means Ishwar who is prabasta. Hasita means Has denoting both laughter and smile. The inscription says victory to Prabhasiteshwar whose shining body and smile instantly spreads and drowns the whole earth in an ocean of liquid gold.

The Arthshastra Bharat (200 BC-200 AD) describes a six tier Indian emotional pyramid – the top most two tiers – Smit and Hast – signify imperceptible and perceptible smiles; the lower four tiers represent increasing scale of vulgarity in laughter. After smiling gently, the smile with teeth open is Prabhasiteshwar. The Skanda Purana mentions a temple of Shiva in Pataliputra and Kritya Kalptaru in Varanasi. Dr. Sahai said although he was born in the capital city of Pataliputra, he had never heard of a Prabasiteshwar Temple in that city which is recorded in the Skanda Purana! But it is there in Ishanpur and is under renovation.

Another ancient temple, Gambhireshwar, as the name denotes, is a serious and profound God in the heart of a group of temples of Ishanpur. It finds mention in three inscriptions, and is worshipped throughout Angkor. The temple also finds mention in the Mahabharata – Gambhir Ghoso, Gambhiro and Gambir Balvahanah. The Kuttanimuttam of Damodar Gupta, composed in the closing years of 8th-9th century Kashmir, refers to only three temples of Shiva in Banaras, of which one is Gambhireshwar. He is an almost unknown deity in India but a very popular aspect of Shiva in mainland Southeast Asia.

Dr. Sahai talked of a strange figure found in India with a remarkable presence in Ishanapura called Hayagriva – a horse-headed God. He is an incarnation of Vishnu who recovered the stolen Vedas from the demons, Madhu and Kaitabha.

Shodash Upchar Puja replaced the Vedic culture of sacrifices with Dhoop, Deep and Navaidya which is inscribed on the stone of Hawan Kunda in Ishanapura.

The Ishwara of Kadam tree - Kadambeshwar, worshipped in Ishanapura - gives a beautiful flower that lent its name to a dynasty that ruled from Banvasi in Karnataka during 345-525. A shakha Durgaswamy, who was a great pundit of Yajurved, was one of the earliest people to depart from India to Cambodia. There are at least 4-5 temples in that country dedicated to Shakha Brahmin, originator of the Shakha cult.

The name Ishanapura was forgotten in India 200 years ago, and instead the place got the name Sambor Prei Kuk as it is known today. It was the French who deciphered the inscription and discovered this temple area and city as Ishanapura. Singapore can probably trace its antecedents to such history in South East Asia. There are many such Puras with changed names – for example Yasghodharapura became Angkor in 18th-19th century. To trace all such origins, Dr. Sahai says we have to study the Southeast Asian History and Culture directly from Sanskrit and Khmer sources that are available in abundance. Needless to say it requires a passionate historian to undertake this daunting task!
MEETING OF THE INTACH GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council met on 23rd April at INTACH Office with an impressive attendance by 31 Members and 10 Members given leave of absence due to prior commitments. Chairman congratulated some of the members on their election/re-election/nomination and extended a warm welcome. He also mentioned the six outgoing Convenors/Members, Sanjay Narayan, Nandita Lahri, Tara Murali, Vijay Kumar, AB Tripathy and Jayant Krishna placing on record appreciation of their valuable contribution, innovative suggestions and support to INTACH as Members of the Governing Council.

Chairman briefed the Members on his visits to various Chapters at Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Nagpur, Nasik, Coimbatore, Palghat, Thrissur, Calicut, Kasargod, Mangaluru, Agra, Morena and Varanasi as well as some of the highlights of these visits. He had also met most of the Members of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on his extended tours. In particular he mentioned the Numismatic Exhibition at Nagpur where 4 INTACH Stamps were released. He also informed the Members that a museum in memory of MG Ramachandran was established at Palghat, the satisfactory progress of AHD restoration work at St. Aloysius Church in Mangaluru, and the visit to the beautifully crafted spaces of Brahmaswam Maddham at Thrissur, a centre for ancient tradition of vedic chantings.

There were some noteworthy events for INTACH, Chairman’s meeting with the Orissa Minister for Culture, and conservation projects undertaken by INTACH under the 13th Finance Commission; setting up of the Virtual Experiential Museum at the Maan Mandir in Varanasi; postal stamps of heritage monuments preserved by INTACH with its logo released by Maharashtra Postal authorities, and the MOU signed with York University to start a Diploma programme on Conservation.

The Governing Council unanimously approved of the appointment of Dr. Sarayu Doshi as INTACH Vice Chairman. Some of its Members offered suggestions for consideration for future action plans that will be considered by INTACH. Post lunch they saw some notably interesting documentaries produced by INTACH Divisions. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

VISIT OF DECCAN COLLEGE VICE CHANCELLOR

Vice Chancellor of Deccan College, Vasant Shinde visited INTACH on 11th June for discussions with Chairman LK Gupta on subjects of mutual interest. INTACH has been closely associated with the Deccan College for study programmes over the past few years.

He presented the Chairman a copy of his recent publication, Ancient Indian Knowledge System: Archaeological Perspective. Prof. Shinde has worked with more than fifteen international museums around the world, analysing material ranging from the Prehistoric to the late Medieval Periods and is an established authority on the subject. He was recognised as one of the 100 Most Influential Vice Chancellors by the World Education Congress. He has initiated several levels of international collaborations with institutes around the world and has been much honoured by them.

The book is a collection of data through exploration and excavations of ancient Indian sites which have survived only in remote places and rural areas while development swept them away from urban areas. He believes ancient cultural heritage preservation is only possible if everyone participates in this exercise, and that the tax payer’s money used for research should at least reach people’s knowledge. Perhaps it is too late but he has tried to communicate this knowledge to people who might still care to know. The book has some small interesting details like placing
vermilion in a woman’s hair that prevailed in Harappan times and survives as a tradition among Hindu women in many parts of country to this day. The Harappans are considered to be the Founders of the Indian Culture and Traditions.

KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYAY, 1903-1966

2018 is the 115th birth centenary year of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay who made a very special contribution to the ‘Making of Modern India’, as titled in the book published jointly by India International Centre with the Crafts Council of India. It has a number of anecdotal events contributed by people involved in the arts and crafts field during the early years of independent India.

In an open air speech given at the Clock Tower, Bengaluru for election to the All India Women’s Conference, Kamaladevi spoke with both passion and literary skill for which she was famously known, lobbying for the Prevention of Child Marriage Act as far back as 1926. Not surprisingly as she herself was married at the age of 11 and widowed within a year! She said “when you lend me your support, it is not merely a personal favour you do to me, but you pay your homage to womankind. If the first Indian woman who has come forward in spite of difficulties and obstacles is not helped, it will greatly discourage the women who in future might stand for elections….I wish to prove to the world that a woman can fight and fight well in spite of everything”. She even had a confrontation with Motilal Nehru and remained a dissenter in the higher echelons of the Freedom Movement till they recognized her true worth when she led a labour strike.

The book includes a series of articles by personages like Devika Jain (whose husband Lakshmi Jain was the right hand man of Kamaladevi for decades), Ashok Chatterjee who describes her as “the mother of handicrafts”, Aparna Basu who recounts some incredible stories of how she captured the imagination of the nation when she clung to the national flag to protect it amidst a scuffle at Bombay. She later marshaled women’s participation in the Salt Satyagraha. Gulshan Nanda describes her setting up of the Cottage Industries Emporium at Delhi in 1948 starting with a team of women from different walks of life for display and selling handicrafts from the refugee camps after 1947 Partition. Kamaladevi became Chairperson of the All India Handicrafts Board and also walked from village to village to unearth unusual objects to be sold at a fixed price at the Emporium run by a small dedicated group of women. Soon it became a fashionable place for VIP visits, first by Pandit Nehru who passed by early one morning asking dukaan khula kya? and was told no by a lady whose back was turned as she was still dusting the shelves - till his voice was recognized and much activity broke loose and a hurried bouquet of flowers procured! National guests like Queen Elizabeth, Jackie Kennedy, Shahbano of Iran and others were taken for a visit to Cottage Industries. Queen Elizabeth even wore the silk coat she purchased to the Rashtrapati Bhavan Dinner the same day.

The book has many other articles covering the multi-faceted life of Kamaladevi Chhatopadhyay whose sister-in-law was Sarojini Naidu. She even acted in some films for a time but mostly “she was a real life heroine” said Gopal Krishna at a meeting held in her remembrance and added, “we meet here to honour that strength. The strength that has no tenure, no territory”.
Tourism Minister KJ Alphons has urged corporate houses, private individuals and groups to join the *Adopt a Heritage* scheme. He emphasises the need to look at models that can work and achieve global standards and double the footfalls that benefits the national economy. He cited the example of *Angkor Wat* in Cambodia and the Colosseum in Rome that are managed privately. The Humayun’s Tomb assigned for conservation to a foreign agency *Aga Khan Foundation* did a splendid job. Only a few private firms are currently working on heritage sites under the National Culture Fund. He said India has adequate skills and enlightened Corporate houses that can play a valuable role that will enhance the national economy.

The Division has produced a guide book titled *Along the Ganga – Travel Guide*, in collaboration with Eicher Goodearth. It promotes heritage tourism along the river, from the wellspring in the Himalayas, down to Sagar Island, where she enters the Bay of Bengal – a 2,525 km journey across five states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The book covers mythology and history of significant places on the banks of the Ganga like Haridwar, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna and Kolkata. It familiarizes us with the threats the river faces and INTACH’s current research and conservation work along the river course.

** REFRESHER COURSE FOR GUIDES **

A 3-day training programme for Tourist Guides in Varanasi was organised on 22nd–24th June at Amaaya Hotel, Cantonment Area, Varanasi. The programme was inaugurated by Commissioner, Varanasi Division, Deepak Agrawal.

The course details for training were designed in collaboration with tourism expert Baljit Sarin from Jabalpur who was also the main resource person. Convenor Ashok Kapoor arranged other experts/resource persons on various subjects and a State Official (Regional Archaeological Officer) for the workshop.

- Introduction: Tourism as an activity, Concept of Tourist Guide and it’s importance in Tourism
- Tourism in the context of Varanasi: its speciality defined in terms of physical, cultural and spiritual
- Identification and Promotion of Tourism and Tourist activities in Varanasi
- Personal and Professional traits required for a Tourist Guide with special reference to personality development, presentability, and use of information matrix
- Effective Itinerary preparation - Developing package deals for both domestic and international tourists
- Study of archaeological structure of Temples and Heritage Buildings and field visit to Gurudham Temple as a heritage tourism destination.
- Essence of Varanasi as Kashi in context of culture, food and ethnic speciality
- Linkages and narratives between the sites and the intangible heritage components

Convenor Ashok Kapoor also invited local resource persons/experts to share their first hand experiences with the trainees. Thirty Varanasi licensed guides attended the workshop.
RANA PB SINGH - KASHI & COSMOS: SACRED GEOGRAPHY OF BANARAS

Prof. Rana PB Singh in his book, Kashi and its Cosmos : Sacred Geography of Banaras, describes Varanasi (Banaras/Kashi) as a mosaic of Indian culture with respect to representing diversity and points out the distinctiveness of regional cultures of India through superimposition with the passage of time. The diversities, contrasts and various religious notions of Varanasi have played a major role in attracting tourists from India and generally from overseas as well. Varanasi in fact is one of the top individual tourist destinations in India with about 7 per cent of all the international tourists coming to India paying a visit to Varanasi. Every year, 5.5 million devout domestic tourists (Hindus, Buddhists and Jains) also visit Varanasi to perform rituals and pilgrimages. It is interesting to know that the frame of the cosmic reality, according to ancient Hindu thought, comprise three fundamental states, namely evolution (shrishti), existence (sthiti), and involution (samhara) that act in a cyclic process of infinity. Each one of the forms is controlled by a god - Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver) and Shiva (the destroyer), the three gods forming a kind of Trinity. Shiva being the last to complete the cycle from which a new cycle begins, is also known as Mahadeo, the Supreme Divinity. The symbolic form of Shiva, the Linga, represents the unity of the three states of cosmos.

ART & MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION

PROTECTING OUR WALL PAINTING HERITAGE

The objective of all Preventive Conservation measures taken is to minimise decay by controlling deteriorating factors, and thus avoid unnecessary remedial conservation treatments or interventions.

Internal causes of decay, inherently present in the wall paintings, are difficult to control. The external causes of decay like lighting, temperature, etc. however can be controlled to slow down the deterioration process to some extent.
PROTECTION FROM LIGHT

To minimize damage to wall paintings by lighting, the light source used for illuminating them should be free of ultraviolet and infra-red radiations, and further ensuring that both the intensity and duration of light on the paintings are reduced to the minimum. The recommended upper limit of light intensity and its ultraviolet proportion are 50 Lux and 50 Microwatt per Lumen respectively. Ideally, paintings should be exposed to light only when these are being viewed. LED light sources are recommended and in case UV free light source is not used, UV filters are recommended.

PROTECTION FROM TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

PD NHD Nilabh Sinha advises that by lowering ambient temperature, most chemical and biological reactions can be slowed down. The recommended optimum temperature in the area of the wall paintings is 20-25°C. Sharp fluctuations in the temperature should be controlled. The recommended relative humidity for the area is 45-55%. Temperature can be controlled by using room heaters, coolers or air-conditioners as per requirement. RH can be controlled using air conditioners, humidifiers and dehumidifiers. Certain materials like cotton cloth and unpolished wood also act as buffers against fluctuations in the atmospheric humidity and can be effective. The best method however is to maintain uniform temperature and RH by the use of heating systems and ventilation. Controlling the number of visitors in the area to avoid the increase in RH is another simple method.

PROTECTION FROM ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Atmospheric pollution can be controlled at source by taking suitable measures like using sulphur-free fuel and installing pollution-control devices in factories, powerhouses and means of transportation. In museums this can be reinforced by supplementary measures to prevent pollution from reaching wall painting sites, for instance by developing green belts and using air filters at the site.

PROTECTION FROM BIO-DETERIORATION

Insects, fungi and rodents are amongst the major causes of deterioration of wall paintings. It is important to eradicate these from areas where wall paintings are exhibited. Exposing these areas to certain biocides that kill the biological organisms at all stages of their growth is a proven effective method. Care should also be taken that the chemical used does not affect the paintings. Most importantly, what is required is a systemic planning methodology known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and not sporadic measures that are inadequate for eradicating biological agents of deterioration. It is also recommended that stagnant air pockets, dark corners and condensed moisture, eatables or cooking should not be permitted in the area housing wall paintings.

ACTIVITIES UNDER SPECIAL CORPUS FUND

Directory of Wall Paintings Documentation Project (WPD)

The year 2018 commenced with completion of the survey work of Karnataka State. A total of 79 sites comprising both wall paintings and rock art with approximately 80,000 sq. ft. surface area were recorded. Similar surveys are on-going in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Odisha and Delhi. In Himachal Pradesh there are more than 1200 listed monuments but only 16 wall painting sites were found recorded. Thirty eight wall paintings sites were found with the oldest structure having wall paintings of 10th century AD. The Shiv Shakti Temple (Chamba), Rajasthan has the highest number of wall paintings in a State, with more than 250 sites and still counting. In the States of Madhya Pradesh (60), Uttarakhand (32) and Odisha (8), wall paintings and rock art sites were found.

To spread awareness and sharing the recorded data with the Public, a NHD publication on Delhi will be available for a start. Meanwhile the data of other surveyed States is currently being reviewed.
Wall Paintings

Wall Paintings - Lost in Time

Shree Achaleshwar Mahadev Mandir in Sirohi, Rajasthan, constructed in 10th century AD, has paintings that were added later in 15th century. While it is said the entire area was painted, only a small painted area remains showing an elephant and tree due to whitewash and unscientific restoration work.

Lime Testing Centre

The Centre has continued its various experiments to establish new parameters of testing. During the current period following tests were undertaken:

- **Salt Crystallization test:** This experiment illustrates how soluble salts are transported by water and damage porous materials. These salts, in crystalized form, cause breaking and scaling on the surface of the plaster.

- **Water vapour transmission rate:** Using ASTM: 96 standard cup dessicant method, the test is carried out to study the water vapour transfer through lime plaster of varying compositions.
• Testing of Mangalore tiles for Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi: The Mangalore tiles were received by AH Division from their ongoing conservation project. The tiles are to be used in the building during conservation.

The following tests were carried out to evaluate the physical properties of the tiles.

• Water absorption by total immersion
• Water absorption by capillary action
• Compression strength

A report was submitted based on the findings. Architects can for example decide upon the use of tile in conservation of the old structure.

**Studies in South Indian Traditional Paintings, Mysore and Thanjavur**

This research project focus is on analysing organic materials used in paintings. Research through literature on the subject and identification of natural products from which dyes are obtained in South India are in process. Several art historians and painters have been contacted for information on sources of organic materials used in Mysore. Meanwhile documentation of paintings under microscope (digital and stereo microscope) is on-going at the Centre.

**ICI DELHI**

**Bethany Chapel Conservation Project**

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany was founded in the year 1921 by then parish priest of St. Sebastian Church, Bendur, Mangaluru, Rev. Fr RFC Mascarenhas. The Congregation started with 4 Sisters and at present has 1383 members serving at 178 Convents all over India, Europe and Africa.

The Bethany Chapel has beautiful paintings on the altar and walls of the Chapel painted by Francis De Gama in 1942. The Chapel also has a collection of four...
oil paintings on canvas, depicting events following the visit of Jesus Christ to Bethany to meet Mary and Martha mourning the demise of their brother Lazarus. There are eight more wall paintings in the Chapel depicting various incidents from the life of Jesus Christ, Mother Mary and Saint Francis. All these paintings have a deeper meaning and message to be comprehended by viewers. They symbolise the vision and teachings of the founder of the congregation, that are imbibed in the daily rituals and practices of the congregation of the Bethany Sisters.

**Conservation of Oil Paintings at Bethany Chapel**

The treatment involved cleaning of paintings, mending, consolidation of paint layer, strengthening of canvas support and finally reintegration of losses.
Wall Painting Conservation at Chapel

The eight wall paintings in the Chapel suffered major problems like uneven layer of varnish coating that had darkened over the years, with water stains, paint splashes and flaking of the paint layer.

Conservation of paintings at St. Aloysius Church, Mangalore

The conservation work at St. Aloysius, Mangalore is in progress. The ceiling and walls paintings beautifully depict the masterwork of artist Antonio Moscheni. The ICI Delhi team is currently working on both canvas and paintings in one part of the Chapel. A scaffolding was required to work on the canvas paintings that are at a height of 47ft. The team works in sections, so the scaffolding is constantly dismantled and re-installed at a new locations taking nearly a week which is quite a challenge in a living Church.
Conservation of paintings, Amar Mahal Museum and Library, Jammu

The Amar Mahal Palace Museum is situated in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Planned by a French architect in 1862, it is made of red sand stone by Raja Amar Singh. Amar Mahal, completed in the 1890s, is a fine example of French architecture. It was the residence of late Maharani Tara Devi, wife of late Maharaja Hari Singh of erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir till her death in 1967. Subsequently their son and heir Dr. Karan Singh and his late wife Yasho Rajya Laxmi set it up as the Hari-Tara Charitable Trust to
showcase the magnificent Dogra history, diverse culture and richness of this region. Its library and a research station now houses over 36,000 books, and is an immense storehouse of knowledge and some valuable rare manuscripts and prints. A large section also houses rare photographs of events during the post and pre Independence eras of the region. Museum also has a fine collection of Pahari paintings, artworks by renowned contemporary Indian artists and family portraits of erstwhile Dogra Rulers of Jammu and Kashmir.

ICI Delhi has started restoration and conservation of six life size oil paintings of Dogra rulers that were on display at Durbar Hall in Amar Mahal Palace Museum.

**ICI Lucknow: Conservation of damaged artifacts at Institute of Design, UP**

The State Government constituted the *Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design* (UPID) in 2003 as an autonomous institute registered under the Indian Societies Act 1860 to conduct suitable certificate/diploma courses in Craft Design. National Institute of Design (NID) submitted an exhaustive report recommending an institution that could draw on the vibrant local crafts industry with innovative educational programmes leading to development of craft community. The Institute has collected various craft items of historical importance over a period of time.

The ICI Lucknow is currently conserving 218 objects made of metal, wood, bone, horn and soft stone. Metal objects are of various types like brass, bell metal, copper ware, Moradabad metal, white metal and some with enamel work by craftsmen comprising decorative plates, different shapes of bowls with motifs, decorative ornaments and utensils.

**Conservation of Craft Documents of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad**

Twenty-six craft documents were conserved at the Centre during the current period.
Conservation of Leopard Skin of 18 Maratha Light Infantry

The skin posed a major conservation challenge as it was full of holes with missing hair and other parts. Insects had also eaten away portions of the skin.

Conservation of textiles from District Museum, Sultanpur, UP

Sultanpur city is located on the right banks of the Gomti River, 135 kilometres east of state capital Lucknow. A district museum was established in 1988 by the UP Culture Department to preserve Sultanpur’s historical traditions and monuments. The museum has many artefacts belonging to politician Rafeeq Ahmed Kidwai, an Independence activist and socialist. Five of his attires were received for conservation at Lucknow Centre.

ICI BENGALURU

Drawings by Sri Devalakunda Vadiraj: Artist Devalakunda Vadiraj is one of the most venerated traditional sculptors from Karnataka. He is an inspiration for many young artists carrying forward traditional Indian Stone sculpture. 66 paper artworks of
the artist including drawings in various sizes using pen and pencil were received at ICI, Bangalore.

"Pichhwai" watercolour on textile (197 x 50cms) is a traditional water based colour from the famous Nathadwara Temple near Udaipur, Rajasthan. It serves as a backdrop for the main idol of Srinathji and often depicts various moods of the child God and festivals. Traditionally these paintings have been made with mineral pigments on prepared cotton cloth; rich colours like red, green, yellow, white and black are used, with a lot of gold decorating the figures. There are also examples of embroidery or appliqué work used on the paintings. These days however synthetic colours are used. One such Pichhwai was treated at ICI Bangalore recently.

ICI Bhubaneswar

National Mission For Manuscripts

The Institute is presently carrying out conservation work of palm leaf manuscripts of the National Archives of India, Eastern Zone Record Centre, Bhubaneswar under the National Mission for Manuscripts project with the Centre designated as a Manuscript Conservation Centre.
Conservation of Archival Records of National Archives India, Eastern Zone, Record Centre, Bhubaneswar

The National Archives of India, New Delhi entrusted the Odisha Centre with executing the third phase of this prioritized project for conservation of archival records of Regional Record Centre.

Conservation of Pattachitra

This form of art as the name suggests is a painting on cloth and closely linked to the cult of Shri Jagannath Temple traditions in Puri. Believed to have originated in the 12th century, it is one of the most popular living art forms practiced to this day by people in Odisha.

ICI KOLKATA

An Oil Painting (70 cm X 100 cm) executed on masonite board was conserved at the Kolkata Centre. It depicts the image of poet-musician Swami Haridas, guru of the famous singer Tansen. It was painted by Siva Narain in 1969.

Kamlesh Kumar Gupta

ICI Senior Consultant Kamlesh Kumar Gupta left INTACH end May after seven years of dedicated service. Earlier he had served at a National Museum Conservation Lab, National Manuscripts Mission and was a source of inspiration for his associates. INTACH invited him as consultant in 2011. At ICI he took classes for conservationists and improvised many conservation treatments. He visited all ICI units and provided inputs on improving existing methodologies. Although retired he has promised to make himself available to ICI whenever needed. INTACH wishes him the very best for a long and busy life ahead.
VIRASAT | April - June 2018

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (AHD)

VIRTUAL EXPERIENTIAL MUSEUM, MAN MANDIR, VARANASI

Man Mahal, built by Maharaja Man Singh in 1600 AD, was upgraded as an observatory in 1737 AD by Raja Sawai Jai Singh. Ministry of Culture, Government of India proposed setting it up as a Virtual Experiential Museum. INTACH was approached by the Ministry to become the knowledge partner. A MoU was signed between INTACH and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM, MoC). The Museum will provide an experiential understanding of Banaras city, using state-of-the-art technology and interactive exhibits.

Man Mahal, an ASI protected monument, is a 3-storeyed structure spread over 1220 sq. mts. with a courtyard at the centre. The virtual experiential museum proposes to use the ground floor, while the basement is being conceptualized as the ‘Archives Section’. While the Palace is intricately ornamented with jharokhas, brackets and carvings, the Museum has been designed by integrating all these elements. The 6 proposed galleries will display the historical timeline, city travellers, architectural treasures, lanes of Banaras, multi-ethnic intangible traditions, sacred geography, iconic personalities, Vedic traditions and the cycle of life and death. The exhibits will use different technologies such as 3-D projections, holographic projections, multi-view image reconstruction with web-based interfaces. The project is expected to be completed in the next quarterly year, tentatively scheduled for 31st July.

CONSERVATION OF TOWN HALL, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA

The Deptt. of Tourism, Odisha Government entrusted INTACH State Chapter with the conservation work of the Town Hall at Samabalpur. INTACH Conservation Institute started execution of this prioritized project from June last year.

The restoration work of the main building and development of outside area are under progress, along with the paving of outside areas and construction of boundary wall.
SEHER INTACH

The program Sustainable Cities through Heritage Revival (SEHER INTACH) organized a session on Heritage Cities: Achieving Urban Sustainability during the 4th Smart Cities India 2018 Expo on 24th May. This annual event gathers thousands of participants and was held at the exhibition grounds of Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

INTACH was the official Heritage Partner of the 4th Smart Cities India 2018 Expo, and shared insights into various ways of integrating natural and cultural heritage into the urban fabric of Smart Cities so that significant economic, social and environmental benefits are garnered. Olga Chepelianskaia, Founder of UNICITI and Program Manager of SEHER, moderated the session comprising INTACH heritage experts: Prof. KT Ravindran, Chairman of Architectural Heritage Advisory Committee, and from INTACH, Principal Director of Architectural Heritage Division Divay Gupta, and Principal Director of Natural Heritage Division Manu Bhatnagar. Chief Operations Officer of Raipur Smart City Ltd, Gaurava Mishra, contributed city’s insights into how to lead heritage revival through community participation. Discussions ended with the statement: design of the future is embedded in the past – a subject that needs to be taken up for further research on priority - given for example the scale of currently ongoing development in the capital and subsequent traffic problems that are going to severely affect the city.

The session mainly discussed in detail how heritage can be incorporated in Smart City proposals. The idea was backed by various Indian and Asian case studies. The need to look at heritage as a resource and development engine was examined in depth

INTACH experts with Olga Chepelianskaia

To contribute insights and follow SEHER INTACH: join us on www.facebook.com/seherintach

RANI BANDRALI SARAI AT SHATALI VILLAGE, JAMMU

INTACH AH and NH teams led by Jammu Convenor SM Sahni, surveyed Rani Bandrali Sarai at Shatali Village, Dansal Block, Jammu. The 19th century Sarai built by Rani Bandrali, wife of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, as a stop over point for travellers going to Udhampur from Jammu, is located 38 km northeast of Jammu city. The sarai is made of a local stone (ashlar masonry) with lime mortar, and covers an area of 750sqm (approx.). There is a pond in the surroundings that suggests it was a major halting point for travellers. The rectangular plan has an entrance gate (deodi) on the west side, and is planned around a central courtyard with rooms around all sides. A Preliminary Project Report for Conservation & Development of Rani Bandrali Sarai was submitted to the MLA Devinder Singh Rana, Nagrota, Jammu. The sarai can be reused as Anganwadi Centre or Skill Development Centre for women.

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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)

INTACH was entrusted with preparing the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Report for the following projects:

**Nav Nirman Vidhayak Niwas**: Type-5 multi-storied residential building constructed by Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) at Darulshafa Campus, Lucknow. It falls within the regulated area of the protected monument *Amjat Ali Shah’s Mausoleum*. The Inter-Modal Station (IMS) by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Varanasi, falls within the prohibited and regulated area of the protected monument *Lal Khan Tomb* and Rajghat.

Both the HIAs have been submitted to the project proponents. On the request of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, INTACH team also visited the site for the proposed elevated metro corridor Phase-IV in Wazirabad, located near the centrally protected monument *Shah Alam’s Tomb*, Wazirabad for preparing the HIA.

**SET OF VARANASI MAPS**

The Architecture Heritage Division has printed a set of four Banaras Maps of interest to visitors who come to explore this eternal and historic city. It is also of special interest to ascetics, philosophers, foreigners, and salvation seekers alike. This set of maps are of Banaras City, Vishwanth Temple, Panchkroshi Yatra, and Laving Heritage of Banaras.

**BENGAL GOT OLDER BY 22000 YEARS**

A mult-disciplinary research team led by a city-based archaeologist Bishnupriya Basak, who teaches at Calcutta University, confirmed the presence of humans in the Ayodhya hills of Purulia about 42000 years ago. From 2007-2011 she couldn’t go near the sites due to Maoist insurgency but returned in 2011 with the help of the Police camping there. Her finding pushes Bengal’s archaeological calendar 22,000 years back. In the subcontinent, the earliest evidence of microlith-using cultures – hunter gatherers that made and used light stone implements found in Ayodhya hills is in Metakheri, Madhya Pradesh and date to 48,000 years ago. Those found in Andhra Pradesh are from 35,000 years ago and ones from Sri Lanka are from 25,000 years back. Bishupriya’s findings opens a whole new chapter in India’s archaeological dates.

**HRIDAY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER**

The first bulletin of the HRIDAY has been published after the scheme was launched in January 2015 as the *National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana* (HRIDAY). The focus was on development of civic infrastructure development projects around heritage sites that would revitalise the city as cultural and heritage destinations. Twelve cities were selected for the first phase. INTACH is one of the anchors appointed by the Government for three cities- Varanasi, Gaya and Warangal. Other cities under Hriday project are Ajmer, Amravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, and Velankanni.
LISTING CELL

Completed and On-Going Listings:

- The built heritage listing of Mysore, Karnataka, (undertaken by Mysore School of Architecture), Gurdaspur District (Punjab) and Hisar District (Haryana) is on-going, the samples for which were received and have been followed up with the respective Chapters and institutions. The listings for Rewa and Sagar Districts in Madhya Pradesh have also been received and are currently being reviewed by the Listing Cell.

- Thematic listing of Prachi Valley and listing along Mahanadi River (Odisha), and listing of Basadis in Moodbidri and Karkala (Karnataka) is ongoing. Natural Heritage listing of Gaya District is also ongoing. In continuation with phase-I, listing of Historic Gardens of India in Uttar Pradesh is in progress.

- The listing and documentation of the artefacts stored in the Borbhoural of the Dakhinpat Satra started on 3rd May, inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Majuli District, Convenor and Co-Convenor INTACH, Assam Chapter, and other government officials. For initial training, Lalit Kumar, art conservator A & MH Division, visited the Satra and conducted a 4-day workshop (30th April – 4th May) for the documentation team.

- The other listings that are on-going include Jalandhar District (Punjab), Baran District (Rajasthan), Dausa District (Rajasthan) Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur Districts (West Bengal), Vidisha, and Burhanpur Districts (Madhya Pradesh), Nashik District (Maharashtra), Sonbhadra District (Uttar Pradesh), Himachal Pradesh Phase-III.

- The proposals received for the following District are under review:
  - Listing of Tikamgarh District in MP by Orchha Chapter
  - Listing of Hoshangabad District in MP
  - Cultural mapping of Chambal River by Madhya Pradesh State Chapter
  - Listing of Thrissur in Kerala by Thrissur Chapter

The listings that have been proposed by the respective Chapters for the year 2018-2019 include heritage trail in upper Assam by Dibrugarh Chapter, of megaliths in Dima Hasao by the Assam State Chapter, of Madras Art deco buildings by Chennai Chapter, and of Zanskar by Ladakh Chapter.
BALAJI GHAT MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE, VARANASI

The Balaji Ghat Museum and Cultural Centre was set up by the Heritage Craft & Community Division in the recently restored section of the Balaji Ghat Palace Complex. It was inaugurated on 11th April with INTACH Chairman LK Gupta, CEO Adhlakha, and Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications, India & Area Countries Vibha Bajaj, American Express Banking Corp, Representative of World Monument Fund Amita Baig, and Representatives of Scindia Devasthan Trust attending. Director HCCD, Bindu Manchanda has been involved with this passion project from inception and has greatly contributed to the aesthetic showcasing of exhibits and other details.
The Museum section has a collection of craft objects reflecting skills of the current crafts people of Varanasi, as well as objects associated with the culture and lifestyle of the people of the city.

The Ganga is an essential part of the city with numerous legends and rituals associated with the river which is highlighted in one section of the Museum. Boat making is an important craft practiced by the community of boatmen and their whole lifestyle and culture revolves around activities related to their profession.

Varanasi is renowned the world over as a prominent centre of Handloom Weaving. One section of the Museum illustrates this with a handloom and samples of exquisite handloom fabrics and saris.

The outstanding architectural features of the Balaji Ghat Palace Complex are highlighted while also showing the conservation process.

During his lifetime, Ustad Bismillah Khan practiced his daily riyaz at this Ghat. One hall has been earmarked for holding cultural events in his honour. The inauguration concluded with a performance by the son in law of Ustad Bismillah accompanied by two grandsons of the Maestro.

A book on Varanasi and the restoration initiative at Balaji Ghat Palace Complex was also released on this occasion.

CRAFTS WORKSHOP AT KOLKATA

INTACH Calcutta Chapter in association with Daricha Foundation organised a workshop on lac art (gala shilpo). Lac artist Brindaban Chanda personally trained girl students drawn from various strata of society at this workshop. With evolving substitutes and other socio economic reasons the demand for lac articles began to dwindle. It has almost become a dying art with extinction only a matter of time unless efforts are made to revive it. According to Daricha Foundation there is only one artist left in Bengal, namely Brindaban Chanda. All others have gradually found alternatives since lac art did not earn livelihood. Besides giving training to the aspirants, Brindaban Chanda demonstrated various aspects of making dolls and other articles from lac.

Lac is a secretion of a particular kind of insect resident on palash, kul and kusum plants. Once it was a flourishing activity in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum and Medinipur by a community of artisans. Various types of dolls, ornaments, utensils like vermilion boxes were made of lac. The INTACH workshop will be truly successful if it can generate further interest among the people about Lac Art since it is a part of the cultural heritage of Bengal.
Varanasi, one of the most ancient cities of the world, is a repository of cultural heritage from continuous historical events of invasions and inhabitations, secular and spiritual influences. Each carries a plethora of intangible and tangible properties, social contracts and related norms of knowledge, traditions and customs. Kashi, Banaras or Varanasi as it is variously called by people, assumes a complex identity as result of the collective memory of generations of communities settled here, and the multidimensional cultural constructs accommodated by the city over the ages. The steadfast river Ganga, the famous galis, the magnificent ghats, the countless temples, kunds and places of religious interest, the historic Banaras Hindu University, the sadhus and their varied cults, the profound and overwhelming theories of life and death, the commerce, craftsmanship and culinary treats, the vitality of the Banaras gharana and its exponents in the field of music and dance, all add up to give Varanasi its special and much revered place in the country.

Two researchers from ICH Division, Gunjan Joshi and Nishtha Gorke, collected information/data during numerous visits to Varanasi between October 2015-March 2017 under guidance of its Director ICH Nerupama Modwel. Numerous local people were interviewed to collect personal stories. The conceptual framework spanned extensive interviews with community members, knowledge/wisdom holders, and representatives from cultural and educational institutions, craftsmen, and performance artistes. Personal and individual data, such as family histories and photographs, the dynamic and undefined social assets of cultural heritage, were gathered. Nuances of city life were observed and captured through videos, photographs and spontaneous interactions revealing a memorabilia accumulated through generations, and stored in various forms by people who have long settled in Varanasi.

Various categories were created for this study, to document the intangible inheritances found in the city, and the in-house publication categorises the collected data under the following themes: Traditional Knowledge; Art and Craft; Cuisine; Oral Traditions and Performing Arts; Fairs and Festivals; Ghat and Ganga Rituals/other Practices.

It is an exhaustive study that is not only relevant to present conditions, transformations and transitions of varied ICH elements found in the city, but also tries to bring multiple cultural facets under the ICH umbrella. The cultural mapping of the city, in an amalgam of primary
and secondary data revealing the multiple layers of its intangible heritage, has been attempted and presented in a publication by the ICH Division. It is also the starting point for further researcher studies.

ICH DOCUMENTATION PROJECT: THATERAS OF JANDIALA GURU

The Documentation of the Thateras was taken up by the Punjab Chapter to document Craft - A Living Cultural Heritage of Jandiala Guru. The tradition of Thateras and their art and craft is a magnificent journey of place and people through times. It is a ‘living tradition’ expressed through knowledge system transmitted from generation to generation with its products continually relevant to people of all ages. The craftsmen living in Jandiala have been doing this work for the last eight or more generations.

CRAFT, INDUSTRY AND MARKET

The work of Thateras is categorized as a small-scale industry and termed as cultural heritage. However the raw material and products are taxed as small scale industry. It has impacted their work negatively with utensils being higher priced and hence do not sell. The craftsmen’s work is further affected by the middle man or the local distributor as profits have to be shared. The operation of this ‘small scale industry’ is two–tiered which doubles the exploitation of the craftsmen and benefits only the middle man. Since most craftsmen do not have enough capital to buy raw material, they remain dependent on the distributor who provides them metal by weight and takes back the finished product by weight and not by number of units produced (as if it is raw material without any value addition)!

ICH DOCUMENTATION: LIFESTYLE OF SEDENTARISED NOMADIC GUJJARS OF JAMMU

This Project initiated by Jammu Chapter documents the Lifestyle of Gujjar Community to assess the socio-economic status of Dodhi Gujjars of Jammu plains. The Gujjars are originally a nomadic pastoral tribe. Anthropologists believe that the name Gujjars is derived from Sanskrit meaning ‘one who is the best’. It comprises two words, Guh ( in Sanskrit meaning one who tills the land) and Jar. Some writers believe that Gojari language is derived from the Vedic Mantra of Gayatri as Gujjars were worshippers of Sun God and Gayatri Mantra explains the importance of Sun.

Lifestyle of Gujjars

The Dodhi Gujjars or Banhara Gujjars mostly rear buffaloes and migrate shorter distances of about 50 kms from their base in a year. Their animals are bulky, requiring good quantity and quality of fodder and sufficient water. A few of them supplement their income from agriculture and forestry. During summer months, Dodhi Gujjars migrate to Jammu in good numbers from adjoining state of Punjab for grazing purposes.
Religious Practices of Gujjars

Gujjars practice Islam and closely observe its religious customs, rituals, beliefs and rites. Religion is one of the dominant factors which deeply influences the social life of Gujjars.

Economy of a Gujjar Family

They are exclusively engaged in milk production so the economy of Gujjars depends on cattle rearing. Some of them are involved in agricultural activities but very few own cultivable lands though they can become Zamindars if they muster the financial resources. Dodhi Gujjars who sustain themselves on sedentary livestock rearing, prefer to possess maximum number of buffaloes that provide commercially viable quantities of milk. This study throws light on the importance of livestock in the lives of these tribal communities. They store milk everyday and then convert it into butter/ghee, cheese, milk bread known as Kalari, and sell it to many halwais (confectioners).

Traditional family practices of Deras among Gujjar Tribe

The Gujjars have divided themselves into social kinship groups: The Era (household), Dada – Porte (Lineage), the Gotra (clan), and Kunmbha (kunda – extended family)

DIALECT OF THE TRIBE

The Gujjars of the entire Jammu and Kashmir speak Gojri language which is considered an Indo- Aryan language, with linguists having traced the origin and use of Gojri language to BC era. The language is closest to Dogri, Pahari, Punjabi and Haryanvi. The Gojri speaking people constitute the third largest linguistic group of Jammu and Kashmir after Kashmiri and Dogri speakers.

Tribes: Culture, Language, Dress and More

Gujjars are quite hospitable and cultured, and known for their nationalistic spirit. They follow their own kinship and traditions. The Gujjars of Jammu plains have maintained their own cultural and linguistic identity. The tribal community has an exquisite dressing style for both men and women. Their colorful turbans with a unique style of wrapping are a mark of the Gujjar community.

Folk Songs and Dances, Gojri Literature

Gojri has as strong tradition of folk and oral-lore including folksongs, ballads, folk tales, proverbs, children’s literature etc. Taja, Noora, Meerian Dhandi, Bharisyoe, Noor Beguma, Munshi (Qanchi) are the top ballads of bravery and valour of Gujjars. Bait is the most important Gojri Sufiyana music and is sung in the beautiful vales, forests and meadows.
Bait is simply vocal music with no instrument used and comprises poetry based on love, ethos, mysticism and some glimpses of philosophy.

**Arts and Crafts**

Gujjar community has experts in embroidery, famous for their embroidered Gabbahs, Namdahs or Maatu (mattress) or blankets. Crochet work done with wool, glass or plastic beads woven with thread as jewellery, and colourful threads worn with the religious Tabeez are examples of the artistic expression of the Gujjar Community.

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**CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**TENTH PUPUL JAYAKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE – 18TH APRIL 2018**

The *Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture (Cover Story)* will be brought out as a publication for outreach purposes, as is the annual practice.

The speaker, Prof. Sachchidanand Sahai, alumni of Banaras Hindu University, is a Masters in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology. Subsequently he researched at the University of Paris, Sorbonne (1965-69), and later his post-doctoral research was at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (1982). He was awarded the *Padma Shri* in 2012 for his contribution to the understanding of India’s cultural relations with neighbouring Asian countries. Professor Sahai is currently Adviser to *Preah Vihear National Authority* and *APSARA National Authority* (Angkor, Cambodia) under the auspices of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Preceding the Lecture, publications from Cultural Affairs, Natural Heritage, Publication and Architectural Heritage Divisions were released. The *Heritage Awards for Excellence in Documentation of Unprotected Heritage 2017* were announced. The awards, constituted in 2015 for undergraduate students of Architecture Colleges/Institutions across the country, promote documentation of heritage buildings and sites of historic, architectural and cultural significance.

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**BRAJ – CREATING A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOR BHAKTI – 18TH MAY 2018**

Braj Region was a major Vaisnavite pilgrimage destination between the twin Mughal capitals of Delhi and Agra. An amalgam of myths, legends, history and stories exists here, with their symbiotic and symbolic relationship determining the cultural landscape of the region, giving Braj its unique distinction. The resource person, Principal Director (AHD) Divay Gupta,
elaborated on the entire cultural landscape within the region and how it was first imagined and then evolved over the last 500 years, at first for celebrating Krishna Leela and how it has transformed over time. The lecture was well received and drew a houseful.

**DIVAY GUPTA PRESENTING HIS ILLUSTRATED TALK**

Divay Gupta, an alumnus of ICCROM, University of Birmingham & School of Planning & Architecture, has been striving for better management and conservation of cultural resources of the country for more than 20 years. He was part of a number of prestigious conservation projects in India, Nepal and Cambodia, and has participated in joint UNESCO and ICOMOS missions to World Heritage Sites as a conservation expert. His restoration projects in Ladakh have won the SA UNESCO awards of Merit & Excellence. He has been on the Jury of various national and international conferences, seminars and architecture colleges in India. He is a visiting faculty and Member of Board of Studies, Department of Architecture Conservation at SPA, New Delhi.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PROGRAMME**

**Natural Heritage and Plastic Pollution - 4th June 2018**

Resource person Erik Solheim spoke on the impact of plastic pollution on natural sites and policy initiatives required to mitigate the environmental hazard posed by our casual littering.

Erik Solheim is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director UN Environment. Prior to this he was the Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). An experienced peace negotiator, he was the main facilitator in the Sri Lankan peace process 1998-2005, leading to the ceasefire and the 2002 Oslo Declaration. He continued to lead peace efforts in Sri Lanka as Minister, and has also contributed to peace processes in Sudan, Nepal, Myanmar and Burundi. As UN Special Envoy for Environment, Conflict and Disaster since 2013 and as a Patron of Nature for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2012, he has received several awards for his work on climate and the environment, including UN Environment’s Champions of the Earth and TIME Magazine’s Hero of the Environment. Not surprisingly, there was a great response to his lecture at INTACH.

It drew attention to some of India’s Natural Heritage Sites that remain to date unprotected, vandalized, encroached upon and are steadily being degraded.

**INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY, 21ST JUNE, 2018**

**Lec-dem on Nada Yoga: Vibrational Yogic Science**

The lecture familiarized the audience with ‘Nada’ – the body of vibrations, waves, frequencies and harmonies within everything that exists. It is both experienced and influences us at all times, often unknown to us. Nada Yoga, used in almost every Indic spiritual and wellness practice, offers powerful Nada (vibrational) techniques and remedies. The experiential talk and lec-dem on Nada Yoga on International Yoga Day taught the audience some tools for self-healing.
Shruti Nada Poddar, a pioneer of the NADA VIBRONICS - a Nada Yogic Wellness Ecosystem based on Indic Vibrational Yogic Science - was the resource person. She has taught and influenced 15000 teachers in integral education, and regularly conducts workshops on various subjects ranging from leadership through Vedas, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita to scientific explorations of music and ancient Indian sound for curing diseases.

Shruti Poddar founded the Shruti Foundation in 2007, as a research and charitable foundation for promoting education, wellness and healthcare, value based leadership and advocacy focused on indigenous knowledge systems and science.

Shruti Poddar is our INTACH Convenor for three districts of Rajasthan - Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu.

**INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY (IHA)**

**HERITAGE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DOCUMENTATION– 2017**

An Award Ceremony was organized by IHA at the India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi on 18th April, to coincide with the World Heritage Day and the annual Pupul Jayakar Lecture. The awards were given under three categories – Award of Excellence (national), Award of Merit (for North, South and Central Zones) and Commendation Award (for North, South and Central Zone).

**AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Project: Building Stories – Chakrata  
Awardee: Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies, Mumbai

**AWARD OF MERIT**

**North Zone**

Project: Gulab Rai Ladiya Ki Haveli, Mandawa  
Awardee: Poornima University, Jaipur

**South Zone**

Project: Zeenath Baksh Masjid, Mangaluru  
Awardee: Srinivas School of Architecture, Mangaluru

**Central Zone**

Project: Kuchaman Fort- A case study of ‘Traditional Water Conservation System’  
Awardee: School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal

**COMMENDATION AWARD**

**North Zone**

Project: Shikarburj, Bundi  
Awardee: Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

**South Zone**

Project: Revitalization of an Urban Space- PUDHU Mandapam, Madurai  
Awardee: Care School of Architecture, Trichy

**Central Zone**

Project: Revdanda- A living habitat  
Awardee: Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai

Group photos of awardees receiving Award of Excellence and Awards of Merit
A 3-day workshop was hosted by the Institute of Conservation, University of Applied Arts and supported by the Embassy of India in Austria. PD(IHA) Navin Pipani, was invited to attend the workshop. Director ICI, Delhi Centre with Padma Mareppalli Rohila and Director ICI Bhubaneshwar Centre Mallika Mitra also attended. The objective of this workshop was to share the advancements in conservation tools, methods and technology, both traditional and modern, and create an environment of shared learning and progress between India and Austria. The workshop was attended by representatives from Government agencies, cultural practitioners, professional organizations, academics, non-governmental organizations, conservators, curators, industry representatives and researchers. A special ‘Business to Business’ session was also hosted at the Embassy of India in Vienna, presided by the Ambassador of India.

Some of the key outcomes include: Consideration for MoU with INTACH; Capacity Building Workshop with ASI, NRLC, National Archives etc; Conservation

Training workshops for Conservators, Scientists, Students etc.

Capacity Building Workshop – VI, 13–16 May, at INTACH, New Delhi

A 3-day Workshop on Capacity Building–VI was organized in collaboration with the Chapters Division for INTACH Members. Thirty-one participants attended from Bikaner, Rajasmand, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Kawardha, Varanasi, Kasargod, Coimbatore, Kodaikanal, Dibrugarh and Shivpuri Chapters. Special field visits to the Lodhi Gardens and Hauz Khas Lake were organized for participants as part of the course. At the conclusion of the workshop, ideas and events that Members would like to take up in their Chapters were discussed.
Preservation of Heritage Structures, 21-22 May, INTACH New Delhi

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) requested INTACH to conduct a training workshop for their officers. The broad aim of the workshop was to create awareness and understanding about heritage - its significance and conservation, focusing on built and material heritage. The objective was to sensitize Customs Officers about heritage buildings in which their offices are located. The workshop was attended by 31 delegates (Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner level) from various cities like Jodhpur, Jabalpur, Puducherry, Goa, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bhopal, Chennai, Trichy and Bhubaneshwar.

At the end of the workshop, it was suggested by DG CBIC Bhattacharya that INTACH should conduct similar workshops for their officers every year. They may consider signing a MOU with INTACH for Identification, Documentation and Conservation of heritage buildings under their ownership or jurisdiction.

Training Programme on Public Policy and Governance for the Officers of State Administrative Services of Madhya Pradesh (24-25 May), National Centre for Good Governance, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

It was a breakthrough in INTACH efforts for setting
up an association with the LBSNAA, when PD IHA was invited as Resource Person to deliver lectures in two sessions: ‘Cultural Heritage and Good Governance’ to Madhya Pradesh State Department Officers, and Officers of Central Tibetan Administration. The sessions were held at the National Centre for Good Governance, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. The interactions were useful and productive. The participants will man important positions in Government at various levels during their career ahead, and can make cultural heritage integral to good governance.

Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies

INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) announced a one-year multi-disciplinary and progressive full time Post-Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies. The focus will be on wider understanding of the philosophy and practice of cultural heritage conservation, and its management in India and worldwide. The course comprises four trimesters: first three are teaching terms and the fourth is dedicated to individual research or project. The course conforms with the ICOMOS Guidelines for Education and Training in Conservation (1993).

The course is open to graduates in architecture, engineering, interior design/architecture, planning, landscape, archaeology, conservation, museology, history of art, architectural history, and related subjects. Experienced professionals including conservation architects, conservators, heritage managers, contractors, engineers and conservation scientists can enroll for the course.

The application process for the course:

- An undergraduate degree with minimum 50% (overall) marks in architecture, engineering, interior design/architecture, planning, landscape, archaeology, conservation, museology, history of art, architectural history, or in a relevant allied discipline.
- Mature students and those with less conventional qualifications but with relevant work experience will be considered.

The course is scheduled to commence in August 2018.

Publication of the ASEM Workshop on “Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts”

A major international workshop on the Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts was held at IIC last year, co-hosted by INTACH with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. A publication on the workshop, a compilation of proceedings and discussions of the event, is now available. It includes an executive summary of the workshop, paper presentations and the final recommendations. There are short write ups on conservation practices followed by various INTACH Divisions to share a broad overview of the conservation scenario in India.
A STEP TOWARDS CONSERVING LENTIC WATER RESOURCES OF CHHATARPUR DISTT.

Abhishek Kr. Upadhyay

There are approx. 600 water storage tanks in the Chhatarpur District, which adequately meet the demand (primarily for irrigation and domestic supply and to combat Monsoon failures; changes in amount, pattern and intensity of rainfall, alterations in the land use pattern and distribution of water resource in Chhatarpur District. Thus, conserving the lentic water resource will provide water to the biota of the District and ensure water security to the District. In recent years Chhatarpur District witnessed back-to-back droughts due to monsoon failures. The impact of future climatic variability is expected to be more severe than the present time.

The geological formations and tough rocky terrain of the region are not able to hold the monsoon rains and as a result water flows to the rivers. Chandela rulers and their successor dynasties including Bundela, Paramara and Padhara kings, and Jagirdars found the solution to the problem. They constructed numerous ponds (Tal, Taliya and Sagar) to stop the flow of rainwater from the plateau of mountains. Before Chandela rulers, the southern part of Bundelkhand (also part of Chhatarpur District) was grassland. People used to temporarily stay near rivers and streams when there was ample availability of water. Agriculture was mainly based on the rainy season.

Presently however with the increased population, urbanization and irrigated agricultural activities, the pressure on water resources has increased manifold. Change in land use pattern, encroachment of water body (illegal entry into the defined boundary) for various human activities like construction, agriculture, commercial establishments and mining activities in and around the catchment area have decreased the quantity and quality of water in several water bodies.

In last three decades Chhatarpur District has seen an enormous increase in agricultural area. The spatial and temporal distribution of groundwater is also changing because of over-extraction and inadequate recharge. In last twenty years, ground water level has decreased in many parts of the district in Pre-monsoon, Monsoon and Post-monsoon Seasons.

Recent droughts have brought urgency to measuring and monitoring water use in Chhatarpur. In order to conserve lentic water resources (lakes /ponds /tanks/ reservoir /derelict water), INTACH started the identification and
mapping of these resources of the District. There are about twelve hundred water bodies identified in eleven Tehsils of Chhatarpur District with the help of Google Satellite imagery and Bhuvan’s Water Body Information Centre (WBIS). The identified water bodies have been further divided into different categories as water body of the mining area, check dam/water reservoir, Chandela/Bundela tank, natural depression, dried and seasonal water body. After identification process, water resource map of the District was generated with the major focus on natural and manmade water bodies, rivers and river channels. Based on previous studies, identified water bodies and water resource map of the area, INTACH is working on understanding the present status of lentic water bodies with the prime focus on water quality, water balance and biodiversity in and around water bodies. This work will open the doors for conservation and protection of water bodies.

Does urban development have to be destructive of environmental resources? India is poised to urbanize rapidly and is projected to have 600 million people in cities by 2030 i.e. 50% of the total population. Urban planning agencies, local bodies, real estate developers, government construction agencies hardly show any sensitivity to environmental issues and submissive regulating agencies like Forest Departments, Groundwater Boards and the likes easily cave in to official pressures and permit destructive development. Two cases, recently in the news, illustrate the point.

Old low rise, low density Government housing in New Delhi is being redeveloped and densified at the cost of cutting down 16,500 mature trees. The permission to cut trees has been obtained from complicit State Govt. Department and Central Govt. by agreeing to carry out compensatory plantation elsewhere. The following most questions arise:

- Govt. is talking of smart cities. Nowhere does the smartness entail conservation of natural assets. In this instance ‘smartness’ needed to plan around existing trees rather than cutting them en masse.
- Can planting small saplings substitute for the ecological services provided by mature trees of which some are over 100 years age?
- Can planting many kilometers away improve the air quality, provide local climate moderation, and retain the ability to attract rains?
- Are our cities not in need of more trees when they are having the most hazardous air quality?
- Where is the land where compensatory plantation will be carried out? An RTI enquiry in Delhi showed that in South Forest Division 38,000 trees were

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**Water Body Inventory of Chhatarpur District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Un-Specified Water Body</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Body of Mining area</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check dam/Water reservoir</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandela/Bundela Tank</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Depression</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dried &amp; Seasonal Water Body</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cut and only 1560 planted! This is because there is hardly any vacant land in the public domain. Further, there is an utter lack of transparency in the Forest Department where despite directions by the State Information Commissioner in 2015, the Dept. has not posted quarterly information regarding tree cutting, species cut, number of compensatory plantations, their species and location.

• And finally, why do official agencies insist on planting ornamental and often exotic species instead of robust native species of the region? Often the replacement species are narrow canopied spindly species whereas the felled trees were well rounded species. This is because the agencies only try to make up the numbers within small land parcels.

The above issue has snowballed into a public movement in Delhi putting the Central Govt. on the back foot. The State Govt. too is complicit having looked the other way until the public exploded in anger. The Urban Development Ministry is now talking of revising its plans so that no tree is cut (this could have been done in the first place) and planting a million trees of 8-12 ht. in the next 3 months in Delhi. This again raises questions as to whether this is for placating the citizens because it is not at all realistic. A million trees require some 40-50 sq.km. of space and 8'-12' saplings are not available off the shelf apart from their exorbitant cost. Even if they were available they are already providing ecological services at current nurseries and a shift in location is not going to increase the overall ecological services generated in India.

Tree cutting has now become rampant and perhaps that is why our rains have become wayward. An unnecessary 4 lane highway to Kedarnath has managed to fell 25000 trees already – mature trees with gnarled trunks, many planted by pilgrims in memory of their ancestors, and who in earlier decades offered genuine pilgrimage by making the difficult trek on foot. The petrol chain saw now enables rapid cutting of trees with a single operator cutting down 20 trees or more, destroying nature’s work of centuries in a day. One may well ask, is whizzing to Kedarnath on a 4 lane highway or whirling there in a chopper pilgrimage or just ticking off another item from the “to do” diary in a pilgrimage?

With cities becoming concrete jungles, their radiated heat does not allow clouds to condense. Lack of large forest masses has decreased the sub-continent’s capacity to draw in moisture bearing clouds. Mere row plantation or isolated trees do not produce the eco-system services of a mature forest community. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Unfortunately, many of our forests too are degraded with low density forest areas becoming a larger proportion of the total forest area whereas very dense forests are losing ground.

The Purana Quila Lake in Delhi was part of the Fort moat, occasionally getting filled by the Yamuna floods when in earlier centuries the river used to flow closer to the Fort. In recent years the lake was filled with groundwater to enable some recreational paddling. But in 2016 the lake went dry and it is in the process of being revived in compliance with directions of the National Green Tribunal. The current plan of the ASI and NBCC is to deepen the lake and thereafter line it with an imported fabric thereby sealing the bed of the lake before filling it with treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants. The objective of sealing is to reduce the seepage of water. But the area is notified as a critical zone notified by CGWB where further groundwater extraction is not permitted and thus requires the underlying aquifer to be recharged. The action of the ASI and their agency NBCC is retrograde as they are preventing recharge both by rainwater and treated wastewater. Alternative solutions to filling the lake and maintaining recharge are available.

It is clear that concerned citizens have to step up watchdog activity and prevent the destruction of environment by all means at their command. This would require keeping a close watch on proposed developments, making efforts to obtain information, putting the information in the public domain through social media and the press, providing alternatives, approaching the courts, engaging with the decision makers through letters, mail and dialogue. It is a long and hard battle ahead.
SHOR T TR IP T O M E G H A L A Y A

PD NHD Manu Bhatnagar made a short visit to Lady Keane College on 21st June to deliver a lecture at a National Seminar on Environmental Sustainability. He shared a host of observations what is obvious to a visitor often escapes the resident. Although thinly populated with about 3 million people residing in about 22000 sq.km. and still having 66% forest cover, Meghalaya shows all the signs of following the destructive pattern of development that has destroyed natural capital in the rest of India. The theme of his talk was ‘The Path Less Travelled’.

Clouded Leopard – The State Animal

State Tree Gamari State Flower - Papheopedilum Orchid Hill Myna – The State Bird

Shillong City is being developed as a Smart City. However there are no signs of urban planning and regulation. Recent affluence has resulted in a growing car population and the streets are congested with traffic jams. The city is overbuilt with ugly constructions patterned on the mechanical architecture of the plains. There is no sign of the State’s traditional architecture and nature. Water scarcity is a growing issue despite copious rainfall. The hills have a thin topsoil cover over rocky strata and thus do not have much storage capacity for sub-soil water.

Encroachment of Rivers and Floodplains Discharge of Sewage in the Rivers. Few were aware of the State’s Natural Symbols

Hills destroyed for construction material Limestone Caves at Mawsmai
HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE (HECS)

TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TTW)

Hissar, 13th and 14th April
34 Teachers/19 Schools
The TTW began with an introduction by Convenor Sumita Tayal and Co-Convenors Manju Singh and Parnita Singh. Local resource person from Doordarshan Ajit Singh spoke about the history of the region, ranging from the pre-Harappan to the modern era, Harappan site Rakhigarhi and the rivers of Haryana. Principal Director HECS Purnima Datt presented Understanding Heritage and HECS describing heritage education in classrooms with step-by-step interactive methodology. A heritage walk to the palace of Feroz Shah Tughluq included the mosque, baradari, horse stables and the Diwan – e – Aam. Resource material and certificates were distributed after an interactive session.

to Delhi’s urban heritage conservation were discussed by Prof. AGK Menon. Mapping of Delhi was described by Gita Wahi Dua in four stages of examining a city through its geography – focussing on the hills, the river, the changing role of the two under the British, and finally the metropolis of today. Dr. Narayani Gupta spoke about the history and heritage of Delhi, and ways to educate students urging them to inculcate a sense of curiosity about their history and architecture. Dr. Vasant Kumar Swarnkar discussed archaeological excavations in Delhi and ASI conservation of Delhi monuments with special reference to the Purana Qila. PD HECS Purnima Datt made a presentation on HECS publication Dilli ki Shaan. INTACH Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra congratulated them for their efforts.

Middle Andaman Islands, 26th – 27th April
34 Teachers/19 Schools
The workshop began with an introduction by Convenor Samhita Ved Acharya, HECS team PD with Coordinator Abhishek Das as the resource person. DEO, Middle Andaman Islands S Mallick addressed the teachers. Convenor Samhita Ved Acharya talked about the local heritage and different native tribes inhabiting the islands, the flora and fauna, and the etymology of the islands. The participants got an insight of the local heritage of Ranga through visits to the Lord Hanuman Temple, St. Johns Marthoma Church, Kadanmalai Swamy Temple, and observed the architecture of traditional buildings in the market place. The workshop concluded with presentations of group activity by the teachers and distribution of certificates and resource material.

The Palace of Feroz Shah Tughlaq built by Emperor Firoz Shah Tughlaq in 1354 AD, comprises a mosque, Lat ki Masjid, with underground apartments situated inside Diwan-e-Aam. It served as a hunting retreat for the Emperor. Gujri Mahal, another palace standing on a massive rectangular platform situated near the complex was built by Firoz Shah for his wife Gujri and completed in 1356.

Delhi, 24th April
59 Teachers/52 Schools
The TTW presented the city’s history and heritage in an interesting, classroom-friendly manner. Issues related
Rangat is a large island in middle Andaman. It has pristine beaches, waterfalls, and beautiful islands. Aamkunj beach is located at a distance of 8 kms from Rangat towards Mayabunder. It is a sandy beach on the way to Cutbert Bay. The beach, developed in a unique way with the help of eco-friendly structures, has eco-huts and groves named after locally found flora (casurina, jamum, pandanus).

Varanasi, 3rd and 4th May
38 Teachers/20 Schools

The workshop began with a welcome note by Varanasi Heritage Education Incharge Nirmal Joshi. The inaugural address by Convenor Ashok Kapoor and sessions by guest speakers Jeremy Oltmann and Dr. Jyoti Rohilla Rana followed. Understanding Heritage and HECS in classrooms was presented by HECS Principal Director. Site visit to Kardmeshwar Temple was conducted by Dr. Rakesh Yadav, followed by group work and participants, presentations on different aspects of Varanasi’s heritage and discussions envisaged for heritage club activities.

Varanasi is a unique co-existence of all types of heritage - Natural (River Ganga); Architecture (Ghats); Music (Ganga Aarti and music gharanas) Festivals and Rituals at the Ghats; Arts and Crafts (Chhatris, wooden toys).

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As a part of school’s work experience week and awareness of heritage issues, five Grade 11-12 school students from British School spent a week-long internship with HECS in May. They were briefed on heritage activities, and had the opportunity to interact and work with various INTACH Divisions.

Thank you for the week spent at INTACH: The time and effort spent taking care of me and other students was really appreciated! The knowledge of the staff members and the insights received from them exposed me to different facets of INTACH. Moreover, being able to interact with them helped understand cultural heritage and what must be done to conserve it. - Ketaki Uma Krishnan.
About 30 students (Grade 8, 10 & 11) from four shelter homes, Udayan Care, Kilkari Rainbow Home, Khushi Rainbow Home, Umeed Amar Ghar attended a workshop on Material Heritage Conservation on 25th May. Coordinated by HECS, the students received an overview of INTACH heritage activities, and were sensitised through a hands-on sessions on material heritage conservation undertaken by the Material Heritage Division.

It is hoped students will undertake heritage activities within their respective educational institutions in the current academic session.

**HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME (H&CTP)**

The H&CT Programme sensitises citizens on heritage and good citizenship initiatives, and encourages constructive civic action for heritage protection.

**Dhar, 26th April / 70 participants**
The H&CTP organised by the Dhar Chapter in collaboration with HECS was attended by over 70 participants from varied fields and professional backgrounds. Dhar Convenor Dr. Deependra Sharma in his welcome address explained the Jago programme objectives and background. The sessions by resource persons were enriching and thought-provoking.

**Datia, 10th May / 78 Participants**
The Heritage and Citizenship Workshop organised by Datia Chapter in collaboration with HECS was held on 10 May at Datia, and attended by participants from varied fields and professional backgrounds. The opening address was by Datia Convenor Vinod Kumar Mishra, and Chief Education Officer Anil Tiwari was the Chief Guest. A senior journalist Manoj Goswami and head of

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Thank you for the workshop, everyone really enjoyed it and learnt a lot as well! Really appreciate your support.

- Kriti Sood (Devi Art Foundation, 4 June 2018) – Coordinator Shelter Care.
Shramjeevi Journalists’ Association was a special guest. The sessions by resource persons were enriching and thought-provoking.

**Historically, Datia was a part of the Bundelkhand State region. Steeped in history and heritage, it has numerous well known sites and temples, like the Peetambra Peeth, Ratangarh Temple. The Puarana Mahal (also known as the Datia Palace) is among the interesting built heritage complexes of the region.**

**FILMIT INDIA**

INTACH HECS in collaboration with the Helen Hamlyn Trust, UK 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 technical aspects of film-making through the FilmIt India project during 2008 -2018.

Since its 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. The latest addition Varanasi, a Hriday City was introduced this year. To date over 3,000 short films (2-3 minutes) have been made by Indian students and some received awards at the International Children’s Film Festival held in Hyderabad in November 2013 and 2015. A film by Nigam Pratibha Chaukhandi, ‘Phoolwati Amma’ was adjudged the second best film. 19 films have been shown to date in the non-competitive category.

Celebrating the success of FilmIt in its tenth year, activities were organised on a bigger scale with special awards for outstanding films. Schools have indeed contributed significantly towards enriching the FilmIt project during the annual film festival held across each city. The festival was held at Chandigarh and Jaipur during this quarter.

**Chandigarh, 11th April**

**91 Students/13 Teachers/ 8 Schools**

Chandigarh Chapter organised the FilmIt Chandigarh Festival at the Strawberry Fields High School in collaboration with Chandigarh Convenor Virinder Kishore Kapoor who inaugurated the programme. HECS National Coordinator Shivaa Rawat highlighted the importance of FilmIt with its multi-cultural objectives.

An appreciative Chief Guest Juneja remarked on the films exhibited, pointing out how these films gave expression to sensitive and creative ideas in addition to showcasing socially relevant subjects on heritage theme. It gave him an understanding of how young children view heritage and hope for the future. The festival concluded with a vote of thanks by Member Deepika Gandhi, Chandigarh Chapter and a commemorative photograph with the
chief guests.

Jaipur, 12th April
70 students/18 teachers/9 schools
HECS in collaboration with Jaipur Chapter organised FilmIt Jaipur Festival at the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya. Chief Guest Haleja congratulated the students on making such wonderful films, and he appreciated the team efforts. He stressed how short attention demanded crisp and interesting films. It concluded with award presentations to celebrate their efforts, creativity and commitment to promoting heritage.

Madhya Pradesh
Khandwa 25th January
50 Students from 6 Schools
The Khandwa Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at Government College of Music and Fine Arts.

INTACH congratulates the following films selected to be screened at the Tel Aviv International Children's Film Festival
- Let's Change: Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad
- Kolam: The PSBB School, KK Nagar, Chennai
- Bhopas: Kahaniyon ra Khazano, Neerja Modi School, Jaipur

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES
Route to Roots - National Poster Competition
Trivandrum 31st March
17 Students/14 Schools
The Chapter conducted the Route to Roots at Kaduvapally, 35 kilometers away from the city centre at KTCT Higher Secondary School. It was inaugurated by Chairman KTC Trust MC Shefir who spoke on spreading awareness of heritage and commended INTACH on its work.

Datia 21st February
29 Students from 14 Schools
The Datia Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition in five phases.

Mandla 25th February
25 Students 4 Schools
The Mandla Chapter conducted the Route to Roots Competition at Sanskriti Bhawan.

Shivpuri 14th March/36 Students
The Shivpuri Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* Competition at Central Convent School.

**Orchha 15th March/ 53 students**  
The Orchha Chapter conducted the *Route to Roots* at Sunrise School.

**Gujarat**  
**Jamnagar, 17th January/ 70 Students**  
Various schools in Jamnagar participated in the *Route to Roots* competition at Summeir Club, Jamnagar, which is also a heritage site. Convenor Air Commodore (Retd,) SS Tyagi spoke to the students and gave a brief talk about the venue's history.

**Haryana**  
**Gurgaon, 1st February**  
INTACH Gurgaon Chapter organized an inter school poster making competition at Delhi Public School. Director, Center for Art & Archaeology at American Institute of Indian Studies, Dr. Vandana Sinha, was the eminent guest speaker. She made the children aware of the ongoing water related issues, traditional water management systems and ways of water conservation. Col. Atul Dev praised the students for their knowledge of heritage and culture.

**Route to Roots – National Winners - Educational Trip to Delhi**  
15 national winners of the *Route to Roots Competition* will be invited to Delhi for a 3 day educational trip from 4th – 6th of July. They will visit important heritage sites of the city, and be given the opportunity to interact with conservationists, historians and heritage experts of Delhi. The winners will be coming from Dimapur, Jamshedpur, Jammu, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Jaipur, Ambala, Chandrapur, Pune, Nashik and Delhi.

**Congratulation : To Routes to Roots winners**  
Chennai, Ajmer, Solapur, Sawai Madhopur, Thanjavur, Yamunanagar and Mahoba Chapters.

**HECS PUBLICATIONS**  
**Young INTACH Newsletter – My Nature Story (Apr–June’ 18)** In a country like India, traditional homes are heritage and diverse. In this issue titled *Homes in Harmony*, school student highlight the diverse traditional homes and unique vernacular architecture.

**Dilli-ki-Shaan – Discover Delhi**  
Explores Delhi’s heritage and its evolution as a city, depicting the natural, built and cultural heritage of Delhi. The handbook was released on the occasion of INTACH’S Foundation Day at INTACH headquarters.
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

The Chapter, in association with Naach Academy of Performing Arts celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity on 21st May at the remote north island of Diglipur. It introduced an exchange program of musical genres like Baul music and various Bengali folk music popular in Diglipur along with Hindustani classical, Sufi music and Ghazal that is more popular in South Andaman.

The Painting and Cuisine Fest organized by Club Handumaan for children on World Heritage Day was a great hit with young people. Not only did they pour their imagination on paper but also heartily enjoyed the dishes brought by their mothers to celebrate the special day in an explosion of tastes.

The Chapter had earlier sent a documentary on the Japanese Occupation during last World War. The Central Office hopes to receive the just completed documentation of Quaidi Bachche shortly. Both films, exhibited as part of the Cultural Programmes held at Central Office, should be of great interest to our invitees.

The Chapter accepted the request of Port Blair Municipal Council to jointly host the World Environment Day celebrations on 14th June. The Chapter volunteers along with the children from Naach Academy of Performing Arts got together early in the morning for an auto rally that was flagged off by the Chief Secretary. The children carried placards and banners with about 20 INTACH Members guiding them to the Municipal wards where they held a nukkad natak in association with a local DNA group. A Swachh Bharat cleanliness drive to promote usage of bio-degradable bags was launched by the PBMC which felicitated the Chapter for making this public event a great success.

Note: INTACH bid a fond farewell to Group Captain Rahul Pathak. He wished to return to the academic field, his first love and assignment in the Air Force. He has now joined Nalanda University at Rajgir. INTACH wishes him every success in fulfilment of his new responsibilities at this ancient university that has been revived now.
ANDHRA PRADESH

East Godavari

INTACH extends a hearty welcome to Shri V Ramakrishna, appointed recently as the Additional Co-Convenor of the East Godavari Temple. You have joined one of our active Chapters that continues to be a major centre of heritage conservation. We wish you every success in your work and for sustaining the high expectations from this Chapter. Our good wishes are with you – all the way.

Srikakulam

World Cultural Development Day was observed at Central Library. The Chapter felicitated Chief Guest Bandaru Chittibabu, a famous cine music director who gave an inspiring lecture.

The Chapter felicitated the guest Dance Directors Siva Kumar, Dr. Srikanth and R Satyanarayana, Singer M Satyanarayana. The Kuchipudi and Kathakali dance performances were performed by dance students.

Co-Convenor N Mohana Rao, Additional Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao, N Mohan, VJ Naidu, PV Ramana Murthy. MV Swamy addressed the guests. The program ended with the National Anthem and thanks given by VJ Naidu.

World Heritage Day was celebrated on 18th April in Peddapeta Village, Burja Mandal, Palkonda Division. Arts (NGO) community workers were given training in conserving natural resources. Tahsildar Kiran Kumar was invited as chief guest. Co-Convenor S Mohan Rao and Additional Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao addressed the audience.

World Heritage Day was celebrated on 18th April in Peddapeta Village, Burja Mandal, Palkonda Division. Arts (NGO) community workers were given training in conserving natural resources. Tahsildar Kiran Kumar was invited as chief guest. Co-Convenor S Mohan Rao and Additional Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao addressed the audience.

A press meet was conducted with Chapter EC Members on 28th April. Convenor K V J Radha Prasad announced that late Dusi Dharma Rao’s Vardanthi will be conducted on 30th April in his memory and two of his books – Srikakulam, A Story on Stone and Kalinga Desa Charitham would be released by District Collector, K Dhananjaya.
Dr. B R Ambedkar Jayanthi was observed on 14th April in Balaga ward along with citizen forum people. Chapter Treasurer N Mohan, and President Citizen Forum Mohan Rao, garlanded the statue.

Conserve Water Rally was conducted in DG Puram (Tekkali Division) by High School students as a part of World Heritage Day led by teacher T Bhaskara Rao. Statue of Mahatma Gandhi, APJ Abul Kalam and Dr. S Radhakrishna were inaugurated in the school campus.

Summer Happy Exhibition was inaugurated by MLA G Lakshmi Devi. This program will be conducted every Sunday.

The Chapter celebrated Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanthi with District Administration. Chapter Members Dr. M V Swamy and P V Ramana Murthy garlanded the statue.

World Health Day was observed in coordination with Red Cross and health camp organized at Balivada village. RDO B Dayanidhi, Chairman Red Cross PJ Mohan Rao and Doctors of GEMS Hospital participated and examined 300 patients with free distribution of medicines.
Curator of KK Handique Library of Gauhati University focused on the maintenance of manuscripts, discussing techniques used in preservation, and problems of manuscript conservation. Exploration Officer of the Directorate Smiti Chabina Hassan gave the vote of thanks.

The Chapter started work on retrieving manuscripts at Dakhinpat Satra supported by Prince Claus Emergency Funding and Whiting Foundation, Netherlands. It is encouraging to see the monks (Bhakts) enthusiastically learning the process of cleaning manuscripts.

World Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8th May with Red Cross Society, inaugurated by Joint Collector KVN Chakradhara Babu. MLA G Lakshmi Devi and other elite of the public participated. The Free Medical Camp distributed clothes to the poor people.

National Dengue Day was observed along with DM&HO with a rally via main roads flagged by Joint Collector Rajani Kanth Rao.

World Museum Day celebrated in Central Library had District Secretary M Satyanarayana and DTO Narayana Rao as special guests. Co-Convenor S Mohana Rao explained the importance of the museum.

ASSAM

The State Chapter conducted a one-day Workshop on Heritage Conservation in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology and the Directorate of Museums, Government of Assam on 7th April at the Assam State Museum, State Convenor Prof. Shiela Bora warmly welcomed the participants. The Director of the Museum, YS Wunglengton delivered the key note address elaborating on the new developments in heritage conservation with special reference to cave art and museum objects. Assam Co-Convenor Swapnanil Barua defined INTACH’s relationship with heritage conservation as a major facet of its work in this field. Several presentations were made by the invited Speakers - Ashok Das from Assam State Museum on Conservation of Cultural Property and Professor from Assam University, Silachar, Dr. Alok Tripathi on structural conservation of monuments. Curator of KK Handique Library of Gauhati University focused on the maintenance of manuscripts, discussing techniques used in preservation, and problems of manuscript conservation. Exploration Officer of the Directorate Smiti Chabina Hassan gave the vote of thanks.

The Chapter started work on retrieving manuscripts at Dakhinpat Satra supported by Prince Claus Emergency Funding and Whiting Foundation, Netherlands. It is encouraging to see the monks (Bhakts) enthusiastically learning the process of cleaning manuscripts.

BIHAR

The State Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day, 18th April at Maner Sharif. Patna Convenor JK Lal, State Co-Convenor DK Baxi and Executive Engineer, Building Constructions Department of Bihar participated.

A heritage walk was organized to Ara House and the Jagdishpur Quila of Vir Kunwar Singh, the 80 year
old hero of the 1857 War of Independence who later sacrificed his hands in the Ganges River. It was a great success thanks to support of Prof. BK Das, NIT Patna and his colleagues Prof. M Danish and Arun Prabha, the students of NIT Patna, BIT Patna and engineers of Bihar State Building Construction Co. The Chapter hopes to finalise a MoU with the State Government Deptt. of Art and Culture for heritage conservation. The construction of a tunnel built with art brick work and colonial arches to connect the twin properties Ara and the Quila is proposed.

The Chapter held a Seminar on the Vanishing Scripts of Bihar in the auditorium of Patna Museum on 2nd June attended by noted scholars. Convenor Shiva Kumar Mishra invited several major organizations. Addl. Co-Convenor Dr. Wibhu Kumar Roy gave the welcome address. Dr. KD Prabhat, in his presidential address said heritage conservation is the most important factor for better survival of people as it mirrors both our old traditions and a rich history.
The Chief Guest was Dr. BD Pandey of Tilkamanjhi University, Bhagalpur at the programme attended by a large number of students, teachers and scholars.

**CHHATTISGARH**

Shri Daulal Chandrakar is appointed Convenor of the new Mahasamund Chapter. He will be assisted by Shri Rajeshwar Khare as the new Co-Convenor of the Chapter. We welcome them warmly into the INTACH family. All our good wishes are with them both for the success of this recently established INTACH Chapter.

**Bilaspur**

**Annual General Meeting 2017-18**

The Chhattisgarh Chapter organised its Annual General Meeting for the year 2017-18 on 12th May at Hotel East Park, Bilaspur. The representatives from Raipur, Bilaspur, Khoiragarh, Sarangarh, Durg-Bhilai, Mahasamund, Kawardha and Manendragarh Chapters attended. Representatives from the proposed Chapter at Dhamtari also participated. Chhattisgarh state Convenor Lalit Surjan welcomed the participants and presided the meeting.

The Chapters presented their activity reports for the year 2017-18 and also the work plan for the year 2018-19. Some suggestions regarding conservation of water bodies came up. The publication of the State newsletter and membership drive were also taken up.

**Sarguja**

On *World Environment Day* a Heritage Walk was organized by the Sarguja Chapter.

A meeting was conducted at a historic theatre *Sita*
Bengra chaired by Prof. Rohini Prasad, Vice Chancellor of the College and Chief Forest Officer of the Forest Department KK Bisen as Chief Guest. About 120 school students were taken on the walk by Sarguja Chapter. Convenor OP Agarwal made the young people aware of the perspectives of INTACH activities. Dr. Sachin Mandilwar talked to them about the history of the theatre.

CHANDIGARH

This quarter began with a Heritage Walk and Painting Competition on Sukhna Lake for young and old alike. A large number of bureaucrats, architects and INTACH Members participated in the walk before the onset of a predictably hot summer. High Court Judge Justice Sharma (Retd.), Judge RK Neura (Retd.) and Vice Chancellor Punjabi University Patiala, GS Ghuman were the Guests of Honour. The walk began with a hearty breakfast as well at the Sukhna Lake Canteen. The prominent attendance of high profile guests attracted considerable media coverage.

DELHI

The Chapter held a Public Lecture to mark World Monument Watch Day, 20th April at the India International Centre. Dr. Kaiwan Mehta as the Guest Speaker focused on How Contemporary is Conservation? The
ensuing Panel Discussion by key stakeholders, eminent professionals and experts in the field was chaired by Prof. AG Krishna Menon. The major participants were National Scientific Counselor, ICOMOS India/Director DRONAH Dr. Shikha Jain, Associate Professor (South and SE Asian Art History, Delhi University) Dr. Parul Pandya Dhar, Advocate Anish Dayal, Architect/Planner Arun Rewal, and Architect Kunal Savarkar (resident of a building proposed to be notified). Like all high profile public events at the Centre, it drew attention of a large audience who are witnessing multiple developmental changes in the capital city that is already choking the city roads.

Delhi Chapter once again packed April with its weekly Heritage Walks that have captured considerable public attention – before the summer heat takes over to dampen the spirits. The visit to Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid, a perennial favourite, was held on 8th April, It was followed by visits to Purana Qila on 14th April, New Delhi Cycle Tour on 22nd April, and Hauz Khas and Deer Park on 29th April.

A Guided Walk for College Students was held on 20th April preceded by a lecture on the Significance of 20th Century Architecture of Delhi by Dr. Giles Tillottson, a former Chair of Art & Archaeology in South Asian Art at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. He subsequently led the ‘stroll’ at the “Six Stars of Post-Independence Architecture in Lodhi Estate”. A related Lecture followed by a Panel Discussion was addressed by Chairman LK Gupta and Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra later the same evening.

The scheduled walks for June were to the Town Hall and Mirza Ghalib’s Haveli on 3rd June, a New Delhi Cycle Tour on Sunday, 10th June, Humayun’s Tomb Complex on 17th June, and to the National Museum with a narration of nine stories on India & the World – A History, on 24th June. The summer heat notwithstanding, they attracted the usual enthusiastic participation of many brave hearts!

COOL!

It is that time of the year when temperatures soar during summer and often even exceed 42 degrees plus! Not everyone is as lucky as this Jumbo, especially with the water shortages even at several homes and localities. A little rain now and then helps, though it is unlikely to keep temperatures at bay for long. This picture from the Delhi Zoo is rather ‘cool’!

GOA

CONDOLENCES

Life Member Ramesh L Kamat passed away recently, as informed by his brother Sriram Kamat. No other information was received. INTACH sends its condolences to the Kamat family on their bereavement, and our good wishes to other members of Ramesh Kamat & Associates who have lost the head of their company and will be much remembered.

HARYANA

Convenor Haryana State Chapter, Shikha Jain attended the celebrations of World Heritage Day, 18th April at Chitkara University where a documentation exhibition in Narnaul by students under the guidance of Prof. Kiran Joshi was on display. Ratan Lal Saini showed the visitors the 300 structures set up by 115 students who had come to Narnaul, and worked night and day to design the exhibition during their weeklong stay. The listing of 300 structures with havelis and almost 100 baolis have been
documented with all architectural and artistic details. Shikha Jain has discussed with INTACH Listing Cell about converting this information into the listing format. The material also lends itself for publication of a new book on the subject in view of Narnaul currently coming up as a tourist place. It is also proposed to publish the Hisar District listing (including Rakhigarhi) shortly.

Ambala

Chapter Members participated in a Walkathon *Ek Kadam Shaibidon ke Naam* by senior citizens, in remembrance of martyrs who had served or sacrificed their lives for their country. Two groups converged at the Jaggi City Centre to recall tales of valour over refreshments.

Convenor Col. RD Singh (Retd) carried a placard with a message. He saluted 82 year old Bhalla Saheb, veteran Captain Baldev, INTACH Member Saighalji and others. The group included several spirited ladies who walked down GT Road with passers-by and commuters looking on as they walked accompanied by civilian friends and relations. Convenor RD Singh describes it as a “humble experience” to salute our martyrs and soldiers, to be one with them in an overwhelming feeling of love and remembrances. He says it was the senior citizens who
was conducted by Co-Convenor Reena among others on hand who shared the work.

Convenor Col. RD Singh led the heritage rally to Rani ka Talab amidst fluttering banners and heritage posters with children raising slogans to catch public attention to make Ambala a heritage tourist spot, maintain the British Cemetery, and preserve the Handesara Waterworks as a tourist attraction. They also helped in cleaning the Rani ka Talab and visited the Shiv Mandir. They resolved to become ‘heritage ambassadors’ of their respective schools.

Convenor Col. RD Singh proudly announced that Ambala had received INTACH Best Chapter Award.

Faridabad

Convenor Anand Mehta organised a Heritage Declamation Contest at the Aggarwal College for Girls, Ballabhgarh in which 32 students participated and five of them won prizes.

Gurugram

State Convenor Shikha Jain reported details of the Haryana State Advisory Committee held on 1st June. Chairman LK Gupta attended and advised the Chapter to sign a MoU with the State Government on the lines adopted by the MP State Chapter. The Chapter should focus on listing the remarkable colonial buildings where Customs and Excise Department is currently located. Some of the other suggestions were to avail of training programmes for PWD staff offered by INTACH Heritage Academy and to hold regular competitions for children with the help of local INTACH Institutional
Members. Two of the Chapter’s passion projects like the Gurguram Haat and Corporate Quiz, and 15 heritage walks, some to locked monuments, were reported by Gurgaon Convenor Atul Dev. Hissar Convenor Sumita Tayal, Faridabad Convenor Anand Mehta, Mohindergarh Convenor Ratan Lal Saini, Kurukshetra Convenor Dr. AR Chaudhari, Rewari Chapter Convenor Sudhir Bhargava and representatives of Yamunanagar Chapter Vaibhav Garg and Gurvinder Singh made their individual presentations. The Natural Heritage Learning Centre for studying the biodiversity and research work to find evidence about the 14th century Saraswati River was mentioned. State Convenor proposed a National Conference on Haryana’s Cultural Landscape to converge research findings of various Chapters, and a vision document for Rakhigarhi under preparation in dialogue with the Deccan College of Architecture. Chairman appreciated the efforts of all Haryana Chapters and emphasised the need for such quarterly meetings of the Advisory Committee to support their efforts.

State Convenor Shikha Jain, Member of Heritage Committees under Ministry of Culture and HRD, recently co-edited the book Haryana Cultural Heritage Guide. She is of the view that while the Chapter listed heritage structures of Gurugram in 2000, they cannot be saved unless they are actively protected. She recently published an article on Water Systems drawing attention to the critical times ahead when a water crisis is looming on the horizon in several cities of India. She says baolis, kunds and jhors are important components of subterranean architecture, and that there would be no dearth of funding if residents and public/private sectors themselves take action in sustaining historic water bodies and getting authorities to integrate them with existing systems. Presently however most water bodies are in a pathetic state with some encroached upon or lying neglected and used as dumping grounds for the city’s waste. A tale of many cities in India!

**UNDERSTANDING GURUGRAM CULTURE**

In an article by Shikha Jain published in Hindustan Times, she wrote about the need to look beyond physical remains to understand Gurugram’s culture. In the present day millennium of high rise buildings and malls, with heavy traffic and footfalls, not much history is visible in the midst of new communities constantly moving into the city. She asks “How do we understand the culture of a place? Does it reside in iconic masterpieces or can it be experienced in a combination of places, people, arts, crafts, architecture, music, dance, cuisine and the way of life? Can Gurugram the so called Millenium City link the stories of its transformation from the Aravali Van of the Vedic period to the concrete jungle of the 21st century?”

Today its historic antecedents are in evidence only in a few monuments and the scattered history recorded in Gazettes like the army of Begum Samru of Sardhana given the village of Jharsa (now Sector 21 of the city) as a principal cantonment. The weekly melas and the Chaitra month festivals continue. The Chapter is remembering and recording these and appreciates the need to delve into archives and oral history and look beyond the physical.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**Kangra**

Radio Gunjan broadcasted a message by Convenor LN Aggarwal on the occasion of World Environment Day 5th June, reminding people of Kangra of their place, blessed with a richly endowed environment. He also spoke at
a function organised by a local NGO at Gandhi Vatika Dharamshala, and judged posters painted by the students of various schools.

New Member Dr. Vishal Nehria was welcomed with an INTACH badge by Chapter Members.

**Mandi**

State Convenor Malvika Pathania was the Chief Guest at a Painting Competition for students held at Secondary School at Behna near Mandi on World Heritage Day. She explained the significance of this day for all heritage lovers. She apprised them of the aims and objectives of INTACH and its multiple efforts to preserve the rich national culture and heritage. The students participated by painting pictures related to nationally or internationally recognized heritage sites. She gave away prizes to the winners and certificates to all participants.

Chamba artists and residents are disturbed by the alleged damage to the heritage Akhand Chandi Palace that was handed over to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College.

Located in the heart of the city, it is known as a rich cultural heritage in a historic town. Built by Raja Umed Singh as his residence over sprawling acres of greenery, it speaks of his architectural knowledge. It has hand painted walls, delicately carved doors, and much wood and glass work making the palace a perfect colonial type edifice. Later it was re-designed by Raja Sham Singh with the assistance of British engineers, with the Zanana Mahal and a Darbar Hall added. In 1958 the palace was sold to the Himachal Pradesh Government and converted into a college building. Padma Shri awardee Vijay Sharma, currently doing research work at London, is greatly perturbed that the management of the College undertook haphazard construction contrary to the stipulations laid by the 1977 HP Town & Country Planning Act. Convenor Malvika Singh informed Chairman that a PIL is the only option left for INTACH if the situation has to be brought under control, and the Palace notified at the earliest.

The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day at the Government Nursing School with the participation of 90 trainee nurses who can sensitise people during hospital service. They promised to ensure proper disposal systems as hospitals generate considerable disposable material. The doctors and nurses thanked Convenor Naresh Malhotra and the Chief Guest Director Medical Education Dr.Harbans Kapoor for talking about issues like plastic pollution that they have to contend with daily.

**Shimla**

The UNESCO-inscribed Kalka-Shimla Railways is once again in the news. Another major initiative was taken
by the authorities – this time by the Himachal Pradesh High Court that triggered a cleanliness drive all along its track on 12th May. It was supported not only by the State Administration and Railways, but also the civil society, teachers and students. Even the Police and Territorial Army played an intrinsic part in this initiative. Thousands of students have also joined this movement. There is an open invitation to volunteers and bystanders to join the cleanup brigade or simply extend support by posting views on social media. No wonder Convenor Raaja Bhasin is delighted and has widely circulated the news to neighbouring States. People’s movement, rather than official policies, are indeed the more immediate and effective way to “be the change to make the change” as Gandhiji propounded.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

The World Museum Day, 18th May coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) is held worldwide. Jammu Chapter collaborated with stakeholders of a private museum to mark the day jointly with the District Administration Udhampur, Handicrafts Deptt, and M/s Amar Santosh Museum. It was held at Bhartiya College of Education, the host educational institution of Udhampur District. Several museum artifacts were placed on display like stone tools, fossils, bronze and copper utensils, oil paintings, numismatic Mauryan and Mughal period artifacts, J&K revenue stamps of Dogra period, jewelry from Dogra, Kashmiri and Gojri regions, traditional attire, etc. with detailed information on their historical antecedents.

Convenor SM Sahni sent a Preliminary Project Proposal for conservation of historic structures and revival of traditional routes to MLA Devinder Singh Rana and the authorities. He and a team led by State Co-Convenor Dr. CM Seth, Co-Convenor Jammu Kuldeep Wahi, and some architects and planners will carry out field surveys including step wells with the help of local host community.
The UN theme this year for a global platform on World Environment Day 5th June was Natural Heritage and Plastic Pollution. It was marked in collaboration with the Department of Environment Sciences, Jammu University, with participation of academicians in life sciences and environment. Prof. Geeta Sambl was Chief Guest. UN Under Secretary-General cum Environment Executive Director Erik Solheim delivered the lecture on Natural Heritage and Plastic Pollution. The subject is grabbing attention in all countries of the world as one of imminent importance. The Vice Chancellor Prof.

RD Sharma elaborated on how plastic pollution is taking a heavy toll on natural resources, and the vital need to use bio-degradable material for disposal of all wastes. Otherwise it will continue to seriously impact human health, agriculture and ecosystem. Consumed by cattle and fish, it also pollutes the food chain and marine life apart from the atmosphere and drainage systems. Disposal of water bottles and plastic bags block water flow, leads to decomposition and pollution, and in the final analysis impacts not only our health, but tourism and the local economy.

A Workshop on Crafts of Jammu was held on 27th June at the Jawaharlal Nehru Udhyog Bhavan Jammu on 27th June with former Dy. Chief Minister J&K Kavinder Gupta as the Chief Guest. An array of handmade products were on display.

JHARKHAND
Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced the building of a large Stupa at Itkhori similar in dimensions to the Kesaria Stupa built by Ashoka in North Bihar.

Hazaribagh Chapter is thrilled that their three decade long effort has fructified at last.

Itkhori is famous as a place where Lord Buddha meditated before going to Bodhgaya. It is now a major Buddhist, Jaina and Hindu site. Its archaeological relics date back to the Mauryan period. Thousands of stone carvings of 6th century Gupta and Pala eras were found here. Experts are of the view that these carved temple remains may reveal it as the site of Bodhgaya. The large blocks of carved sandstone and exquisite Pala-Sena sculptures of Tara, Avalokitesvara, Bhadrakali (datable with others) are of Mauryan period 300 BC. Many of the carvings in black Rajmahal stone are of Jaina worship. Gupta period is characterized by smaller figures in mottled pink sandstone, possibly from Chunar about 600 AD. The fame of these sculptures reached Tsang and Tsung in China, and was known especially in Yunnan, Java, Sumatra, Burma, Nepal and Tibet.

Itkhori was always on the pilgrim route from Bodhgaya to Puri in Odisha and Tamralipti in West Bengal, both ports for pilgrims. It brought Sakyamuni Gautama to Itkhori in the 4th century BC and the spot where he meditated is marked by a massive black stone votive Stupa. He then proceeded to Bodhgaya in search of enlightenment. Convenor Bulu Imam hopes to enlist help of Benoy Behl to get Itkhori recognised as a World Heritage Site as he has successfully done in the case of Bodhgaya. Especially after the proposed Rs.600 crore Stupa, it will hopefully be completed by the time of the next Itkhori Mahastov.

**Hazaribagh**

Itkhori is in the newly created Chatra District of Hazaribagh. It took the Chapter three decades to get Itkhori declared as a Buddhist site. Convenor Bulu Imam is already in touch with Architecture Division to see what INTACH inputs can be given to Jharkhand authorities as the proposed budget is Rs. 600 crore for this project.

Bulu Imam informs that Dr. Benoy Behl recently visited the Itkhori Museum and 20 other sites in the satellite villages, in particular the Bibari Mound where 15 exquisite stone sculptures of the Pala and Gupta period were found in an overgrown mound. Dr. Behl accompanied by Sujata Chatterji planned a nine day trip to the excavation site funded by the Jharkhand
Tourism Department. It is proposed to use Karma village as a temporary museum site to store all the recently found artifacts and others that might be unearthed during the proposed excavation.

The Chapter has discovered a Pala period temple city of Daihar just 5 kms from Itkhori where dozens of Pala period statues were discovered in underground recesses. Bulu Imam personally took Director Archaeology Amitava Kumar and Director of Museums Dr. Umesh Dwivedi, along with a bus load of guests from Myanmar, Korea and Ven Lamas in Vietnam, on a visit to this site.

**KARNATAKA**

**Bengaluru**

Chairman visited Bengaluru to attend the *Seminar on Economics of Urban Heritage: Conservation, Hurdles and Opportunities* on 7th April. It was presided by Principal Secretary Urban Development Department, Mahendra Jain. State Convenor Dr. A Ravindra, former Chief Secretary of Government, gave the welcome address. Chairman LK Gupta in his inaugural address said the biggest challenge is developing a heritage management strategy working in collaboration with policy makers, planners, stake holders and the local community. The critical component is heritage development as an asset well integrated in the metropolitan region’s development and management. Discussions spanned a wide range of subjects covering *Economics, Incentives and Heritage Conservation and its impact.*

There was a presentation on the role of heritage in the success of the *Kochi Muziris Biennale* by Riyas Komu, and the *Heritage Conservation and Transformation in Puducherry* by its Co-Convenor Ashok Panda. Founder *Three Foundation*, Rajiv Patel made a presentation on the *Economic Impact of Heritage Conservation in Ahmedabad*. The panel discussions on *Links between*
Heritage and Tourism had a cross section of participants like entrepreneur Prashanth Prakash, Shama Pawar from INTACH Anegundi and Kakinada Trust, RG Singh from Ramsons Kala Pratishtana, Mysore; and Director of Department of Tourism Dr. N Manjula. Convenor Meera Iyer, who is a freelance writer and researcher, gave the vote of thanks.

The Chapter released its first e-newsletter ‘INTACHER’, giving prominence to the restoration and inscriptions at Panchalingeshvara Temple in Begur.

Kalaburgi

On 18th April, International Day of Monuments, the Chapter in association with Post Graduate Deptt.of History of Government College, organized a tour for PG Students. Convenor Dr. SS Wani conducted the students to two of the oldest historical sites of Karnataka, Sannati and Shirwal in Gulbarga. Dr. Sarvodaya Shiva Putra of the College History Department explained the historical importance of these ancient sites. Faculty Member Chandrashekar Anadi and INTACH Members were among the participants.
At a function organized last year by the Chapter in association with the local Hyderabad Karnataka Chamber of Commerce, Chairman LK Gupta had released a CD, *Kalburga Darshan* produced by Convenor Dr. SS Wani highlighting many cultural sites of the city and INTACH’s efforts drawing public attention to join hands for preserving their local heritage.

**Mangaluru**

**MATTUR VILLAGE, KARNATAKA**

The people of Mattur, a tiny village in Karnataka, has at least one IT Engineer in every family! The news was reported not by any Kannadiga but by Odisha State Convenor! Its a village with one foot in the Vedic times where residents can converse in classical Sanskrit language, with the other foot firmly placed in 21st century that has resulted in at least one IT Engineer in every family. Absolutely amazing!

**KERALA**

**108 YEARS OLD POLICE STATION**

The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the revamped Old Police Station building at Payyannur on 29th June. It was attended by the Minister for Museums, Archaeology and Archives, Kadannapally Ramchandran.

This 108 year old building has been witness to some of the major events during the freedom struggle and post-Independence era. It once served as a police lock-up and has even seen torture of detained people who had participated in the agrarian struggles of the region. It was to be demolished when the Payyannur Municipality identified the site for construction of a mini-civil station - till conservationists actively launched a campaign over a decade citing its historical antecedents. At last, it was declared a heritage structure under the Kerala Archaeological Department and a Rs.90 lakh conservation work was initiated.

**Calicut**

Shri Jaiprakash Raghaviah has been appointed the new Convenor of the Calicut Chapter. He will be assisted by Co-Convenor Ms. Archana Kamath who is also a recent appointee. INTACH extends all good wishes to both our colleagues and wish them every success in sustaining the good work of the Chapter and extending its reach in this well endowed city.

**Palakkad**

Valluvanad, one of the distinctive three regions of Palakkad, was once an independent kingdom in the Middle Ages. With the defeat of Tipu Sultan and the Treaty of Srirangapatnam after the 3rd Mysore War, the forces were merged into British Malabar. After
INTACH has lost an eminent Chapter Member when he passed away on 8th April. We join Chapter Members in mourning this great loss to INTACH, and request them to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family at this time of grief. We wish his near and dear ones the very best for the future.

MADHYA PRADESH

Chanderi

Dr. Avinash Kumar Jain Saraf is the newly appointed Co-Convenor of the Chanderi Chapter. Welcome to the INTACH family. We send you all our good wishes for fulfilling the onerous responsibilities you will be undertaking successfully no doubt!

Datia

The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day for a whole week. It even adopted a mountain and named it INTACH Mountain. The first day began with ‘Tree worship’.

8th June was also celebrated by the Chapter as Herb Conservation Day during environment week. Homeopathy physicians identified local herbs and described their properties and values for the good health and well being of people. The event was organized by Convenor Vinod Mishra on the Chirai Tor Mountain in Datia.

Thrissur

CONDOLENCES

Dr. LN Santhakumaran was a Member of the Thrissur Chapter since its inception in April 2013. He was an expert in Marine Biology, Mangrove Biology and Ecology, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Science, India. With over 37 years of research experience, he was often invited as the keyote speaker at several scientific conferences held in India and by universities abroad in Germany, Denmark, Norway, UK, New Zealand and Japan. He had over 140 publications on conservation aspects of mangrove ecosystem to his credit. He received the Ron Cockcroft Award from the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IGR), Stockholm. He was awarded the Vishisht Vaigyanik Puraskar 1994 by the Government of India.

Independence however it became part of Palakkad Malabar, retaining its own distinctive cultural identity. Chapter Convenor Arun Narayan organized the first of a three part series of heritage tours to Valluvanad on 29th April. His team took great pains to research destinations and curate circuits in planning these tours. The focus was on raising heritage awareness and appreciation. Participants visited some of the region’s heritage homes, ancient temples and saw traditional art forms.

Participants visited the famous temples of Pattambi, the lesser known but spectacular Anchumoorthi Temple at Thirumittakode, the aristocratic Poomulli Mana, Tharakkal Warriam and the Olappamanna Mana. The concluding event of the itinerary was a Cholliyattam performance at the heritage village of Vellinezhi where participants learnt about the fundamentals of this traditional form of Kathakali. It was also an opportunity to gather more friends for INTACH and expose viewers to the importance of safeguarding heritage.
World Environment Day was celebrated with a series of events from 5th -11th June covering each component of the environment which was indeed a great educational idea and an event that will be long remembered by the people. The first day, 5th June, was marked Tree Environment Day by worshipping a 150 year old Banyan tree at the premises of the Pakodia Mahdev ancient temple. The second day was Earth Conservation Day when invited dignitaries contributed labour for a public cause. A ‘INTACH Mountain’ was also adopted by Members. Water Conservation Day followed with cleaning of the Swatantra Khedapati pond located at the Lal-ke-Taal, a historical ghat of the region where participants removed polythene, garbage, discarded clothes, etc. with the help of volunteers from the Hasya Club. The fourth day was observed as Herbs Conservation Day at the Chirai Tor mountain, about 4 kms from the city. A team of homeopathy doctors from Datta visited the place and Baba Phakkad planted various herbs. The fifth day was Birds Protection Day on which Sakora vessels made of mud were placed on many trees by Chapter Members with the promise of keeping them filled each day naming the vessels as Kalash. Air Conservation Day on the sixth day comprised a walk with slogans like Cycle Chalyein Swasthya Banaayein Pradushan Bhagaayen from 7am till evening. Hawkers, Members and students participated in this rally going through market places and even covering Baggikhane and the Townhall. The seventh and last day was Biological Conservation Day organised by the Chapter at Gulab Bagh of the Agriculture Department. A seminar on Biodiversity was held with scientist Dr. RS Tomar, Forest Officer Aditya Purohit, and the in-charge of Gulab Bagh VD Suman present. Convenor Vinod Mishra gave a report on the environment week that was a resounding success thanks to the support of so many Chapter Members who enthusiastically pitched in, making this a unique event.

INTACH congratulates you all! It was a novel concept and well executed.

Shri Vinod Tiwari is appointed Co-Convenor of the Datia Chapter. We welcome you to the INTACH family. We hope you will have a long and interesting association with us and find success in promoting the heritage cause. Our good wishes will always be with you.

CONDOLENCES

Life Member Santosh Kumar Geda, Co-Convenor of the Datia Chapter passed away due to heart failure at his residence at Bhander at the early age of 48 years. He was actively involved with social work and archaeology, and had cultivated many friends in the conservation field. The Datia Chapter expresses its deep sorrow at his sudden demise. He will be greatly missed by his friends in so many circles. INTACH joins Chapter Members in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his family members, and wish them strength and fortitude at this time of great sorrow.

Dhar

Dhar Chapter organized a heritage walk on the occasion of World Heritage Day on 18th April at Chhatri starting from its premises. The history of the canopies of Chhatri premises was explained by Durga Goswami. The participants were quite taken in by the heritage and architecture of canopies of Anandrao Pawar and Udajirao Pawar and understanding the finer details. The monarch symbol of Dhar was the center of attraction. The second stage of the walk covered Bhojasbala premises of the Parmar era. Dhar Convenor Dr. Deependra Sharma explained the detailed history and architecture
of entries is a rigorous process. Amrita Joshee is the Founder and lead performer of AJH Dance Concepts. She was adjudged the winner and received the Gold Trophy. It is the first time in the history of EEMA that the Gold Award (recognized as a national award) went to the same person for Choreography. INTACH extends heartiest congratulations to our Life Member Amrita Joshee.

**Gwalior**

Shri Vikas Singh was recently appointed Co-Convenor of the Gwalior Chapter. INTACH extends all our good wishes to you on this new assignment and every success in fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to you. Hope you have a long, successful and happy association with INTACH in the years to come.

**Khandwa**

The Chapter organized a seminar on *Eco Friendly Products – Papier Mache* on the occasion of Environment Day, 5th June. Apart from *papier mache* being light weight, it is a non-toxic, non-inflammable and non-hazardous waste material converted to make reliable eco-friendly products like flower pots, stools, baskets, lamps, etc. Students belonging to minority groups were among the participants. An expert on the subject, Govind Nagvanshi gave a demonstration on how to make such paper products – which should increasingly become products most used by households in future if we have to save our environment.
Chandrapur

Addl. Co-Convenor Pravin Nikhare informs that the World Heritage Day programme held at the Hindi City High School on 18th April, was conducted with the participation of thirty Class IX students. He spoke about Apurna Dewalaya and other such heritage sites of the city with a power point presentation. INTACH Life Member AN Pullawar (former Principal of this school) and current Principal Anita Sadafal were present at the function held under guidance of Governing Council Member cum Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur. The help extended by Chapter Members Vijaykumar Dhande, Vaishali Pashine, Saguna Kankate, Priti Taunk, Priya Kodape and Iswari Kannake was acknowledged with thanks.

Mumbai

Flora Fountain Restoration Project

INTACH Mumbai has been working on the Restoration and Cleaning of Flora Fountain with Architect Vikas Dilawari and experts from INTACH Conservation Institute, Mumbai Centre. At this stage when the project is nearing completion, the main statue of Flora is looking almost complete. What remains to be done is just the reconstruction of the missing hands sourced from old photographs for reference which was an interesting exercise for the team. Considerable effort of the team went into maintaining authenticity at every stage after cleaning up earlier paint layers to reveal details of the original statue.

Heritage Walks

Continuing the INTACH Heritage Walks held in collaboration with Yes Global Institutes / YES Bank, four walks were conducted during April and May. Commencing with the Museum Special Walks, several Mumbai City Museums were identified to cover one museum per month as part of this program. To date, walks to Mumbai High Court Museum which displays the legal history of Mumbai and Maritime Mechanical Museum on the port history of Mumbai have been held. Both these walks were well received by participants. More Museum tours are planned for the monsoon months. In addition, two regular walks were conducted to Ballard Estate, repeated due to several demands from the participants, and the Worli Walk which is the first ever walk done around the area. There have many demands for the Chapter’s special museum programmes as they include museums that are not often open to the general public. The details of the walks are shared with the general public on social media and not restricted to Members only, thereby reaching out to new audiences and supporters of heritage.

Ballard Estate Walk - 14th April

The heritage walk to Ballard Estate on 14th April was conducted by Alisha Sadikot, Heritage and Museum
Learning Consultant. The participants assembled at the steps of Asiatic Society where they were taken through the history of the seven islands of Bombay which consolidated to form today's Mumbai. He then led the walkers around the area sharing the fascinating history of Evolution of the Fort area in erstwhile Bombay. The hierarchy of the buildings and prime locations were spotted. They soon came to a road that is the line dividing Gothic and Neoclassical buildings into two distinct groups. The participants understood the importance of landmarks such as Hamilton Studio in the cultural history of Mumbai and got the whiff of old age charm. They saw a small petrol pump in art deco style in the midst of neo classical architecture that is still functioning with no alterations in the design. It was an interactive walk sharing the fascinating history of how the Fort area developed in stages into erstwhile Bombay.

**High Court Museum Tour, 21st April**

*High Court Museum Tour* was the first tour in the series called *Museum Special*. It was conducted by the new Convenor Rajan Jayakar, who is also the Curator of the Museum. He spoke about the need for a fully functioning legal system explaining how justice was delivered in earlier days and the flaws. The walkers learnt the hierarchy in the system and how to distinguish different legal professionals. At the Museum they saw the court set up as it is inside a Court Room with a regal wooden table and swing fans. They learnt about some of the court's leading lights and their education in law. It was thrilling to learn about leaders like Sardar Patel, Gandhi and Jinnah. The museum tour was a great experience for the 56 participants. More such visits will be scheduled in the coming months.

**Worli Village Walk – 28th April**

This walk was organised with Anita Yewale as the heritage expert who has been dealing with living heritage for some time. It became more interesting as it gave an opportunity to interact with the village residents. The group visited the homes of the *Worli Koliwadas* whose profession once used to be entirely fishing. *Kolis* are the original settlers of Mumbai, comprising East Indians and migrants from all over the country. Walking through the village, visiting temples and churches, with the whiff of salt air, was a discovery of the vast sea with the new Sea Link looming in the background, and the small boats complimenting the scenery. The participants were soon lost in photography! Next they were taken to *Worli Fort* to watch the beautiful sunset. It was a great experience for them and for Members, as it was the first time ever that INTACH was conducting a walk around this area.

**Maritime Mechanical Museum Tour – 19th May**

*Maritime Mechanical Museum* is usually closed to the Public. Mumbai Chapter got special permission for this tour led by Anita Yewale who has been closely associated with its Curator Dilip Vishwanath. The participants had the opportunity to revisit the history of the Port Trust and see age old photographs, and the evolution of the dockyards comparing them to photographs of today. This Museum also houses rare pictures of different dockyards visited by politicians, including one of Pandit Nehru. It houses different kinds of horns and light signals which were available for demonstration. The visitors understood the working of different ships and primitive ways of
signalling. The blow horns preserved in their original state were one of the highlights of the tour. The tour concluded with a walk around the Museum enjoying the sea view.

The Victorian and Art Deco architectural style buildings stretching from Marine Drive to the Fort area in Mumbai have been listed on UNESCO World Heritage Site. These buildings of 19th century Victorian and 20th century Art Deco structures comprise familiar landmarks of the city like the Bombay High Court, Old Secretariat, Mumbai University, Elphinstone College, David Sassoon Library, Western Railways Headquarters, Oval Maidan, Dinshaw Wacha Road, Eros and Regal Cinemas to mention some. As the names proclaim, it was an amalgam of so many cultural and cosmopolitan requirements that gave Bombay of earlier days its unique buildings and they still dominate the heart of Mumbai city. Except for VT Station there has been no renaming of these buildings despite urban development during the last 20 years fortunately! UNESCO also appreciates the fact that Bombay was the first city in India in 1955 to establish heritage regulations, says conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah - never mind if it s now Mumbai as that is how it was always called in Indian languages earlier and even now.

Pune

The Chapter organized a Traditional Games Workshop on 16th–17th April in association with the Doodle Tales Studio. It was a perfect time with the onset of summer vacations to play old games like Ganjifa, Saripat, Chaduranga, Wagh-Bakri, Navkari and others.

On 22nd April World Heritage Day was marked by joining hands with the Urban Sketchers Pune for a meet at the colonial era Moti Mansion, Botanical Survey of India established in 1890.

The Chapter sustained its Warsa Walks and Workshops as these programmes are very popular. During this quarter the Chapter celebrated International Museum Day in association with the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum for Exploring Heritage Musical Instruments on 26th May. The session explored the history of musical instruments with reference to the impressive collection of heritage instruments at the Museum. Coordinator Supriya Mahableshwarkar along with a music lover conducted a fun and learn session that delighted the kids. The Chapter proposes to curate the music section and create information booklets for visitors.

A demonstration of Kasuti-Kashida Embroidery was held at the Handloom Store. This exquisite craft dates back to the Chalukya times. It was demonstrated by a master embroiderer Usha Shrikant, who is also an author of three books on Indian embroidery. She is a master of Kasuti-Kashida since four decades. The participants even tried their hand at embroidering various motifs.

Solapur

Co-Convenor Shveta Kothwale informs that the Chapter strongly opposed the installation of a RO Plant covered with a shed on the terrace of Indra Bhavan, the former residence of Warad family that now houses the Solpur Municipal Corporation. Installation of stainless steel grills at the entrance porch caused damage to the entrance and verandah of the Bhavan. The Chapter was supported by the citizens and the Media. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Dr. Avinash Dhakane took note of their protest and supported the Chapter, and ordered immediate removal of the unit.

On World Monuments Day, 15th April a Heritage Walk was organised by INTACH Member Nitin Anvekar to Valsang, a village 24 kms from Solapur. The fifth generation of Hulles who live in the Wada welcomed the large number of participants and showed them around their
premises. Massive stone plinth, carved wooden pillars of the double ovri-verandah around the internal court, lime stucco over mud plaster and remains of wall paintings left the participants awe struck. The wooden stairs, the upper storey ovri, decorative cast iron grills, traditional roof of wooden joists and beams, a unique exterior with decorative windows in black basalt and Shahabad stone, and a massive wooden entrance with a Adsar - cross log - used to secure the door, basalt troughs for drinking water for animals gave a distinct character to the Wada.

The group also visited the Shankarling Temple with its stone well where Gandhiji addressed a gathering in 1927. Here they met some noted craftsmen known for designing the famous Kolhapur Chappals that are in great demand all over India and even elsewhere. They also visited the well dug through Sharamadan of the villagers that was inaugurated by Bharat Ratna awardee Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1937. Nonagenarian Shahubai Khandu Gajadhane who had felicitated Ambedkar with a traditional aarti shared her memories of that time with the group. She even sang a song that she had sung on that occasion!

**ODISHA**

There has been considerable progress made on tribal life documentation of undivided Koraput District, and other cultural mapping from the upper reaches from Mahanadi in Hirakud to Jagatsingpur where it reaches the Bay of Bengal. The Odisha Government sanctioned Rs.50 lakhs for the conservation of Bejbarua House at Sambalpur. A DPR has been submitted for opening a museum in the OMC Office at Bhubaneswar; while another DPR is pending approval for conservation of a colonial structure at Khordha. State Convenor AB Tripathy strongly recommended broadening INTACH outreach programmes to cover the rural areas of India.

He also drew attention to a unique service rendered by the Police Pigeon Service seen by INTACH Members at Bhubaneswar. It was quite a spectacle witnessed by the public and received wide coverage in the Press.

The Odisha Pigeon Service, at present the only one of its kind in India, is more than 70 years old. It is a sophisticated and unique service dating back to 1946 when 200 pigeons were handed over to the Police by the Army as an experimental communication channel with places having no telephone links or wireless. It was pioneered in the mountainous region of Koraput, and actually used effectively during the super cyclone of 1999.

Emperor Shah Jehan was known to be one of the greatest breeders of pigeons in Mughal times, and many of the
A rare idol of Dakini Lion head dating to Buddha era was found in two pieces in Jharsuguda District. The Sambalpur Chapter requested the District Collector to safeguard the idol under a shaded place till it can be moved to a suitable museum space. In the course of a sample survey undertaken under the project Documenting Mahanadi, another priceless idol was found. It looks like a Nataraj having 10 heads. State Convenor AB Tripathi congratulated the Sambalpur Chapter for these discoveries.

**Balasore**

Once again this year the Chapter celebrated the *Pitha* event on 14th April that has managed to capture public interest with a variety of dishes. It was an old tradition to offer a variety of *Pitha* culinary delights to the Lord at the famous Jagannath Temple. It was also common in all households to enjoy a *Pitha* meal, till fast food became more easily available even for festive times! Many families have now adopted the easy route of family eating out at restaurants to celebrate festivals.

The Chapter revived *Pitha* making as a precious intangible heritage, and as a family occasion when it organised the first of its kind *Pitha* exhibition-cum-competition in 2017. Since then women are vying with each other to compete in *Pitha* making. This year they enthusiastically entered the competition-cum-exhibition organised by the Chapter at the Hari Plaza. There were 60 contestants displaying their dishes and receiving requests for recipes. It has once again become a family occasion with women folk vying with each other to present their best culinary talents! Even the public gathers to see and taste various delicacies on offer.

The programme, coordinated by Co-Convenor Nikunja Bihari Da, was inaugurated by Collector Ramesh Chandra Rout with a huge response from the public. Other dignitaries present were the DIG Police Amitendra Nath Sinha, Addl. District Magistrate Manas Ranjan Padhi,
Sub-Collector Nilu Mohapatra, and a throng of people. Three cash prizes were awarded to the most delicious dishes by seven eminent judges, and 10 consolation cash prizes were given. *Pitha* (Indian pancake) tradition has been revived, thanks to the imagination and initiative taken by the Chapter. There is an old saying that the best way to a man’s heart is through the stomach!

**Bhubaneswar**

Shri Biranchi Mishra was recently appointed Co-Convenor of the Bhubaneswar Chapter. He will be assisted by an Additional Co-Convenor Shri Abanis Nayak, also a recent appointee of INTACH. We wish the new team every success in fulfilling the expectations of preserving and promoting heritage awareness in this much visited city and its famous tourism destinations.

**Jajpur**

An oath taking ceremony was held at the Biraja Women’s College presided by Advisor Prafulla Chandra Samal. Convenor Prof. Balaram Mohanty administered the heritage oath to eight new Life Members of the Chapter – Debasis Mohanty, Debendra Kumar Nayak, Gopinath Sethy, Rashmiranjan Mohanty, Dipti Prakash Mohanty, Girish Bihari Misra, Nityananda Misra and Dr. Harighara Routray. Of special note is their contribution of Rs. 3 lakhs each to be placed in a Fixed Deposit, the interest from which will be contributed to Chapter’s heritage activities. This is indeed a unique development, and an example that needs to be explored by other Chapters.

To date Jajpur Chapter has listed 170 heritage sites that were sent to the INTACH Listing Cell, and 200 more sites are currently under the listing process. Congratulations are due to Chapter Members on both counts!

Convenor Prof. Balaram Mohanty informs that the Chapter observed *World Heritage Day* with a function held at the Goutam Buddha Samskruti Bhawan on 18th April. ADM Brajabanu Bhol was the Chief Guest. Life Member and eye specialist Dr. Rajkishore Panda was the Chief Speaker, and another INTACH Life Member, ENT specialist Dr. Kesirod Chandra Mohanty presided the meeting. Considerable work on listing has been completed by the Chapter and further listing of 200 historical sites will be taken up. The speakers on the dais stressed on the glorious heritage of the city and creating public awareness of past history. The event concluded with the vote of thanks given by Co-Convenor Binoda Chandra Nayak.

The Chapter observed *World Museum Day*, 18th May at the DRDA Conference Hall. It was attended by over 65 dignitaries. Chief Guest Sahoo elaborated on the importance of museums as a learning centre for society. The Chief Speaker, a senior journalist, gave an informative talk on the large number of museums in India stressing that conservation of artifacts needed greater attention. A number of Chapter Members also spoke. Co-Convenor Dr. Binoda Chandra Nayak gave the vote of thanks.

**Mayurbhanj**

In the closing week of March, the Chapter held its Annual Day presided by Co-Convenor Raseswar Sahu, with Art critic Hindu Daily Shyamhari Chakra as the
Chief Guest. Among the chief speakers was research scholar Regina Wu of China as Chief Guest. INTACH Members were urged to make a concerted effort to research the hidden heritage of Mayurbhanj, and the historic contributions of the Bhanja Dynasty. There are many tourist attractions like the Similipal National Park with its rich flora and fauna, its centurian trees and water falls that could attract the overseas tourists as well if publicized. The added touristic attractions are cultural dances of Adivasis like the Chhau, Jhumar and Chadheia that were performed on this occasion. Baripada also offers attractions like Dasain Bagha dance, Ghoda nacaba and the antiquities of former kings and royals. Such heritage needs to be brought to the attention of college and school students as well since they are the future guardians of heritage conservation.

World Museum Day 18th May was marked on the premises of Sai Adarsha Vidya Mandir with 230 students and a visit to the District Museum. Dr. JP Nath explained details about the exhibits, including the palm leaf pathries and various articles dating back to the Stone Age. A Quiz Competition was also held with prize awarded.

Ma Panchubarahi Temple in Satabhaya Village is unlike any other in India. Men are not allowed to touch the five idols in this shrine by the sea beach. Only married Dalit women from the local fishing community have the exclusive privilege of performing rituals, a practice that has been prevalent for the last 400 years and needs to be brought to public attention in our times. Alas, the rise in sea level brought on by climate change is threatening the very existence of the temple. So the taboo on men was reluctantly lifted for only one day to transport the heavy 1.5 tonne stone idols to be carried piggy back to the new destination 12 kms inland in Bagapatia. It must have felt like a special privilege granted! The priestesses will then purify the idols, and the ban on men will be back in place!

Ma Panchubarahi is a beacon of light to all those temples that have a ban on women entering the inner sanctum in our modern times when women are even flying in the skies.

PUNJAB

Chairman LK Gupta visited some Punjab Chapters during 26th-28th May.

On 26th May he announced the proposed opening of a new Chapter at Sangrur, the erstwhile capital of Sind State that was part of Haryana. About 80 persons attended this meeting and this portends well for future membership drive.

The next day Chairman visited the Bathinda Fort and made a general assessment of the state of ASI protected monuments of the area. The subject was extensively discussed with Members during the subsequent Chapter Meeting when he interacted with them, and advised them on the importance of upgrading their skills and making the Chapter a knowledge centre for Bhatinda District. The meeting was attended by the State Convenor as well as the Convenors of Bhatinda, Patiala, Malerkotla and Faridkot.
**Amritsar**

The Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day with a Folk Song and Dance Competition for students held at the Cambridge International School. These popular forms of entertainment among youth are perhaps the best way of sensitising them to this heritage. There was so much talent and excellence on display by the enthusiastic youth that the judges – Prof. Ballwinder Kaur of Dance Department, Prof. Sharminder Kaur from Dept. of Instrumental Music, and Prof. Chadha from SR Government College Dept. of Vocal Music, had a difficult time in picking the best performances. The Chief Guest Dr. RS Bajwa, former Vice Chairman of Punjab School Education, Amritsar gave away the prizes to students of Springdale Senior Secondary School, Amritsar, Pathseekers School, Beas, and MKD DAV School, Attari in order of merit. He praised the students and the management of their schools for associating the children with such activities and kindling heritage values in them at a young age.

Speaking on the occasion, Convenor Dr. Sukhdev Singh said cultural heritage provides roots to the socio-cultural and intellectual growth of a society. It is reflected in a variety of forms be it language, narratives, art, skills, craftsmanship, architectural and natural sites. The Chapter proposes to organize a series of events to promote inter-generational transfer of knowledge, he added. Efforts will be made to encourage traditional crafts people also. He cited the example of Thathiars of Jandiala Guru whose skill and craft is inscribed in the UNESCO book since 2014.

**Bhatinda**

Chairman LK Gupta presided over the Bhatinda Chapter meeting held at the Civil Lines Club on 27th May. Some of the difficulties faced by the Chapter were explained and he proffered some suggestions to enhance its presence. It was decided that the Chapter will target promotion of Bhatinda Fort and also organise a Rural Sports Competition for a start.

**Sangrur**

A new Chapter was inaugurated at Sangrur in association with Punjab Chapter on 26th May by INTACH Chairman LK Gupta at a meeting held at the Akal Degree College for Women and attended by College Principal KS Sibia. A video on the built heritage of Sangrur, erstwhile capital of Jind, Phulkyan Riyasat and its several sites, buildings and intangible heritage was shown to the gathering. In his inaugural address Chairman elaborated on some of the new initiatives taken by INTACH like research scholarships and MOUs signed with State Governments. Head of the College Management Committee Karanvir Singh talked of cultural importance and how it can be best preserved if our young generation respects monuments and the cultural morals received from their ancestors.

Several Members of the Sangrur Chapter visited Ranbir Club complex which is in a degraded condition.

**Puducherry**

During the marathon Pondicherry Heritage Festival, the Symposium & Exhibition in memory of the scholar and artist Hu Hsu (Xu Fancheng) was held at the Accord Hotel, Puducherry. He was a Chinese scholar, Indologist.
and artist who lived in India for more than 30 years (1945-1978). He studied at Shantiniketan, and learnt about Indian philosophy under Sri Aurobindo and the Mother (Mirra Alfasa). He translated numerous classical texts and contemporary writings of modern philosophers from Sanskrit and English into Chinese, including the works of Sri Aurobindo, and executed 300 paintings in the traditional Chinese style. It encouraged people-to-people contact between the two countries, connecting them through both ancient culture and heritage, and explored educational and cultural exchanges.

RAJASTHAN

The 2018 Rajasthan Virasat gave prominence to the Anirudh Bhargava Award to the villagers of Korna and Gangawas, and to the Bhagirathi Prayas Award received by Mahavirsingh Sakurlai Pali for the conservation of Bandi and Luna Rivers threatened by pollution. Both these achievements are outstanding landmarks in INTACH history.

Ajmer

The Chapter marked INTACH Foundation Day with an exhibition of antiques and rare manuscripts placed on public display. Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh presided over a meeting of Chapter Members and invitees. Eminent scholar Dr. Anant Bhatnager spoke on the importance of heritage preservation.

During the last week of March the Chapter had celebrated the 906th Foundation Day of Ajmer with the Prithviraj Society, inviting eminent scholars Padma Shri Dr. CP Devel and Dr. KK Sharma who narrated the history of some of the city’s historic landmarks, and exhibited rare photographs.

Barmer

The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day on 18th April with villagers at the Thakurji Temple, Balotra, Gangawas, presided by Parmeshwar Lal Paliwal. Chief Speaker PS Jakhad said the history of any nation is the foundation of its present as well as its future. Heritage is also the base foundation of culture and civilisation, and has given India a unique place in the comity of nations. It is the supreme duty of all people to cherish and protect it. Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma added that the objective of World Heritage Day is to raise awareness of our historical heritage and treat it as a valuable asset. Among the audience were Chetram Paliwal, Pukhraj and Bhoma Ram Mundan taking a deep interest and they will undoubtedly carry the message back to their respective villages. GR Paliawal, Administrator of the Gram Seva Co-operative Society, Gangawas and Manager of Village Services Cooperative Society thanked INTACH organisers of this inspiring event.

World Museum Day was also marked on 18th May. Many valuable heritage objects were found after the erosion of the river in Silor, Samadadi, Devniyali and Salai villages situated on the banks of the Luni river of Samadri tehsil in Barmer district. They are currently stored in villagers’ homes and not secured. The Chapter has suggested that villagers set up a museum at their level that would attract tourists and create employment opportunities.
An observation visit to Mehrangarh Museum and ASI run Umaid Garden was organized for the villagers led by Co-Convenor Rajendra Singh Man. They have been inspired to raise funds for land and construction work to build a small museum in their village. Chapter Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma assured INTACH technical support to build the museum, while Mehrangarh Museum Trust will provide guidance in construction of the proposed museum.

Natural Heritage Division has been attending to important ponds in this region, ensuring water facility for wild animals in Bhoma Bhakra along with conservation in the Oran forest areas.

*World Environment Day,* 5th June was celebrated with a district level program organized at Tilwada School. Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma welcomed the guests through video conferencing. Co-Convenor Rajendra Singh addressed them highlighting the negative impact on environment due to pollution, in particular pinpointing the negligence of *Luni River* by the local administration. It has resulted in the current pollution level leading to water contamination and impacting both farming and the environment. Soon a concrete plan for a pollution free *Luni River* will be drafted. Various local species of plants will be planted by villagers at the premises of Mallinath Temple. *Sarpanch* Shobhsingh Tilwada expressed gratitude for the restoration of *Borawas Khadee.* A polythene free campaign will be conducted by the Chapter at Luni River area during the famous Animal Fair. Dustbins and notice-boards for cleaning will also be placed. Chapter expressed its gratitude to the villagers who assured in one voice that they will help in all possible ways.

**Bikaner**

On *World Heritage Day* which is also *Bikaner Foundation Day,* a debate/discussion program on preservation and promotion of historical, cultural and literary heritage of Bikaner was organized under the ‘*VIRASAT Bikaner*’ program. Major General Abhay Kumar Gupta chaired the meeting at the Rotary Sabha Building. He said cultural heritage has to be cherished by all. Five talented people were honoured for their remarkable services in different fields - Shivraj Changani as the connoisseur of the cultural heritage of Bikaner, Brig. Jagmal Singh in the field of National Service and Courage, Rotarian Arun Prakash Gupta for social service, Dr. Satar Khilji for long-term medical service in rural area; and Tarunna Shekhawat for promotion of tourism. They received shawls, *shrifal* and other honorary items by scholars from different fields present at the program. Some of them shared their views and memories of military life like Saroj Rathore on *Bikaner “Itibas Ke Jharokhe Se”,* Shivraj Chhangani on the cultural concept of Bikaner, and...
Brigadier Jagamal Singh on ‘Bikaner the land of victors’ with his memoirs of military life.

The scholars present were welcomed by Bikaner Chapter Co-Convenor Nandlal Verma. Famous litterateur/writer Bulaki Sharma, Ravi Purohit, Krishnalal Vishnoi, Rajendra Joshi, Bishan Matvala, Chairman of Kshatriya Mahasabha Bajrang Singh Shekhawa, Research Officer Usha Goswami, Dr. Manjula Barhath, PR Lil, Dr. Kuldeep Bithu were present and were also honoured by INTACH Members.

Jodhpur

Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar informs that the Chapter initiated a programme for cleaning old water bodies of the city. It called a meeting at Mehrangarh Fort with its Museum Trust and like minded NGOs on 8th May. All the parties joined together to chalk out a comprehensive plan for cleaning 12 old water bodies in Jodhpur city with active cooperation of the general public.

The programme was subsequently launched on 12th May, Jodhpur Foundation Day. In the first phase they have undertaken the cleaning of Navi Baori that is situated on the outskirts of the city. Local residents of that area willingly joined in the drive.

Local Press and Media covered the event that attracted a large number of eminent speakers from different Universities and considerable public attention.

The Heritage Walk held jointly with Shahpedia and supported by Incredible India on 15th-16th February was announced by the Chapter as a free guided tour for
participants, with Jaipol, Mehrangarh Fort as the meeting point. Jodhpur Chapter Members and the Mehrangarh Museum Trust conducted the tour in both Hindi and English.

The focus was on historic antecedents of Jodhpur known as the Blue City, and the role of Rathore rulers who contributed to the literary and cultural heritage as far back as medieval times. Jodhpur was renowned for their heroism and nobility, for its festivals and rituals, havelis, temples and old market places. The walled city was fully developed by the 16th century. Today Jodhpur is well known not only for its arts and crafts, havelis and historic architectural gems, but also as one of the international tourist hot spots of the world. Not to forget some of its delicious eateries that are much indulged favourites of domestic tourists. Often the city is the chosen venue for high profile marriages even by parties overseas.

The Chapter initiated a comprehensive programme on 8th May for cleaning old water bodies of the city. Launched on 12th May, Chapter’s Foundation Day, it was supported by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust. Work has commenced with the Nuvi Baori on the outskirts of the city and has even attracted active participation of the general public.

Jhalawar

Madhu Sudan Acharya is appointed as the Additional Co-Convenor of the Jhalawar Chapter. Welcome to the INTACH Family! We send you all our good wishes for a long and happy association with us in fulfilling the responsibilities you have taken up. Wish you every success!

Kota

Nikhilesh Sethi was recently appointed as the new Convenor of the Kota Chapter. He will be assisted by Bahadur Singh Hada as the Co-Convenor who is also a recent appointee. INTACH wishes them a hearty welcome and sends good wishes for success their joint efforts. We hope they will fulfil the high expectations by breaking new ground for the Chapter in one of the most visited state of India.

Udaipur

Dr. BP Bhatnagar is appointed as the new Convenor of the Udaipur Chapter. The Chapter is well known for its major contributions in multiple areas of heritage conservation. He will be carrying a heavy burden of responsibilities, and we hope he finds the work both interesting and rewarding. We wish him every success in sustaining the good work of the Chapter in a city that captures world interest as one other place in Rajasthan that is among the most visited by tourists.

21st May, World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was marked by the Anthropological Survey of India Regional Centre. Chief Guest INTACH Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar, who is a former Vice Chancellor, stressed on the basics of Indian culture that is inclusive of other cultures, and importance of harmonising unity with diversity. A number of eminent speakers from many places like PC Joshi (Delhi), Prof. MA Kalam (Chennai), Prof. RP Mitra (Delhi), Dr. NK Dibrary (Kolkata), Dr. Ratna Dhar (Nagpur), Dr. AVRakery (ASI), Prof. Jagannath Das (Utkal Univ.), Dr. Tilak Bagchi (ASI), Dr. Lalit Pande and others from Universities in Udaipur touched upon different facets of heritage. The organizer of the Seminar, Anthropologist
& HOD Dr. Bhibhu K Mohanty expressed hope that the proceedings of this seminar will result in making viable recommendations to the authorities. Dr. Tilak Bagchi proposed the vote of thanks.

18th May, *International Museum Day* was celebrated by the Chapter under joint auspices with the Anthropological Survey of India at their Centre. Advisor SK Verma presided the programme. Students from tribal belts of Udaipur District participated enthusiastically in the programme that highlighted various aspects of the Museum by subject specialists from other museums in and around Udaipur. Anthropologist and Office Head Dr. VBK Mohanty spoke about the role and need of museums in conserving heritage. There were several guest speakers from *Haldighati Museum* like Mohan Lal Shrimali, Vilas Janve (WZCC), Dinesh Upadhaya (TRI), Rohit Manaria Bharati (Lok Kala Mandal), Mahesh Sharma and KP Singh from the Institute of Rajasthan Studies, and Gaurav Singhi who spoke about wax museums. Dr. Tilak Bagchi from the Anthropological Museum highlighted the features of this museum and gave the vote of thanks.

18th April, on Founding Day of Udaipur, *Akshay Tritiya* coinciding with the *International Day of Monuments & Sites*, a picturesque 500 metres Heritage Walk to Doodh Talai-Rampole was led by Convenor Dr. BP Bhatnagar alongwith DCF RK Jain and retired ACF Dr. Satish Sharma and many Chapter Members, TRC staff, with older generation and toddlers participating as well. Folders and details of geo-heritage sites and Rampole were released to them, explaining the importance of forest resources of Udaipur region. INTACH Life Member Prof. PS Ranawat who organised this walk conveyed thanks to the Forests and Tourism Department for their help in making the walk, conducted by Ajay Choudhary a great success.

**CONDOLENCES**

Engineer BL Mantri, one of the Chapter’s active and supportive Members, passed away on 26th April. Despite his ill health he attended all meetings with the help of his attendant that speaks volumes about his zeal and enthusiasm for heritage conservation. He was a motivating force for other Members to pursue the heritage cause with full dedication. Chapter Members as well as many others in Udaipur will cherish his memory for times to come. Indeed he was a great source of inspiration to all his fellow INTACH Members.

Members of INTACH family in Central Office join our Chapter Members in extending our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family at this time of great grief. We wish them fortitude to bear the loss of an inspiring member of their family.
Tamil Nadu

Chennai

The Chennai Chapter in association with the National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures, IIT Madras held the Sixth Annual Lecture of the Dept. of Engineering on Safety and Conservation of Heritage Structures on 18th April in commemoration of World Heritage Day. Guest Speaker Anil Dey, former Joint Transport Commissioner of Orissa is currently the Chairman of Kalinga Heritage Preservation Trust at Cuttack. His focus was on the Engineering of Temples and conservation of the Jagamohon of Konarak Temple. The meeting was presided by an eminent author and scholar of temple architecture, iconography and epigraphy Dr. Chitra Madhavan. The Chapter has been dedicated to the conservation cause for 34 years since its inception in 1984.

An absorbing talk Amid the Fragile Environment of the Trans Himalayas was held on 7th June. The Speaker Surya Ramachandran is an engineer who pursued his passion for jungle journeys that commenced in the Satpura forests at Forsyth. He became an intern and later a full time naturalist mentored by Hashim. His interests widened to all life forms, especially the lesser fauna of the region and their micro-habitats. Next he pioneered Central India’s first walking safari, wilderness camping, canoeing and night drives at Satpura, a lesser tiger-centric park. It gave him the opportunity to explore activities other than jeep safaris. After 5 years in Satpura he moved to Kanha for experiencing a tiger-centric park. Be it Datpura or Kanha he enjoyed sharing secrets of jungle life with visitors, and wrote a guide book Photo Field Guide to Central India, a first of its kind covering many of the 850 species of the region including rare mammals, birds, reptiles and butterflies. Not to be beaten by the heavy monsoons, he led his own tour groups to Africa. His passion and dedication earned him the TOFT Joint Runner UP Award in 2015.

Currently he is working on setting up wildlife lodges in Ladakh in the Trans-Himalayas, the habitat of Snow Leopards and lesser fauna in collaboration with householder and villages in the valley. He believes involving local people would solve several issues of Conservation. Truly a man of many parts and many worlds!

Senior Advocate NL Rajah conducted a heritage walk of the Madras High Court for interested participants on 24th June.

State Convenor Dr. S Suresh returned from a 4-month assignment in US and Canada as Samuel Kress International Lecturer for the academic year 2017-18 at the invitation of the Archaeological Institute of America (ASI counterpart). This lectureship is one of the highly prestigious ones offered by the US authorities to a non-American for the last 35 years, and our Convenor is the first Asian to be nominated. He delivered lectures at a total of 15 Universities and Museums all over USA and Canada on his favourite subject – the commercial contacts between South Asia and the Roman Empire. His book Symbols of Trade and Pseudo-Roman Objects Found in India is a prescribed textbook for the university course. He received “an overwhelmingly positive student feedback”, according to the University of Mary Washington Professor of Classics. INTACH congratulates Dr. S Suresh.

Nilgiris

Assembly Cine Museum

The Assembly Room was built in 1886 to entertain British soldiers and citizens of Nilgiris. The Assembly Cine Museum was opened at the 1312 years old Assembly Rooms Theatre and dates to 1922 when the Governor of Madras Presidency Lord Willingdon and Lady Willingdon purchased the premises from
the Trustees of Assembly Rooms for regularly staging cultural events and theatre performances. In 1930 it was converted into a Cinema Hall, and came to be regarded as a heritage theatre in the heart of Ooty.

The Assembly Rooms in Udhagamandalam is now a Public Trust of which Convenor Geetha Srinivasan is a Trustee along with INTACH Member Rajesh Nahar and an Honorary Secretary D. Radhakrishnan. The Governor of Tamil Nadu is the Patron. The Assembly Cine Museum was recently dedicated to the Public by Collector J. Innocent Divya as its ex-officio President at a gathering attended by INTACH Members and local citizens. It now has a sound system moving into the digital era technology. The outdated projectors and other equipment will be housed in a museum to be created, along with old gramophone records, two 60 years old Bauuer projectors from Germany, film reels, spools, carbon rods, and old photographs including those of Lord and Lady Willingdon. It will introduce future generations to the genesis of cinema. The site was described by the Press as a “gift for cinema buffs and the pride of Ooty”

Trustee Geetha Srinivasan said “as a Convenor of INTACH-Nilgiris Chapter, I am sentimentally attached to the heritage building of the cinema hall. When the theatre was digitalised in 2015, we thought the priceless old equipment should be preserved for posterity”. Thus the idea of opening a Cine Museum came up and it now houses a lot of the old memorabilia.

INTACH MEMBERS AS ROTARIAN

Last year INTACH Members Anandi Chandran, Meenakshi Venkatraman and Raghuvir Srinivasan donated funds for a digital smart board at the Tribal School in Bokkapuram as their contribution to the Silver Jubilee Project of the Rotary Club.

TELENGANA

Hyderabad

World Heritage Day was marked with a gathering at the Salar Jung Museum on 18th April. Convenor Anuradh Reddy invited Professor Suresh Kumar, Vice Chancellor of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) as the Chief Guest. It concluded with the annual presentation of Hyderabad Heritage 2018 citations. In association with the Historical Society of Hyderabad, an exhibition of Far Eastern Wood Furniture and Carvings was also organised by Convenor Anuradha Reddy at the Salar Jung Museum on 12th May.

On International Day for Monuments and Sites the Chapter broke its 22 year old tradition of announcing the annual awards for the best maintained city monuments. Only a few winners of previous awards were honoured for taking care of monuments in their custody.

This year’s theme for the International Day for Monuments and Sites was “Heritage for Generations” but India might lose this battle if monuments and landmarks are seen as real estate. Sajjad Shahid of INTACH feels “the prognosis for Hyderabad heritage is bleak. Mumbai has 850 listed monuments. We have a far more glorious history,
but only 160 odd monuments listed, that too without any legal protection after scrapping of Regulation 13 A. He says “there is even an orchestrated pressure to demolish the Osmania General Hospital, otherwise why are the doctors wearing helmets?”

Meanwhile the International Association of Lighting Designers in association with Hyderabad Chapter held a workshop at Mozaam Jahi Market on 27th April. They also lit up several monuments to capture the beauty and splendour of the city’s heritage.

On 9th June the Chapter joined hands with the Historical Society of Hyderabad and organised a heritage visit to Aza Khana-e-Zohra at Darul Shifa which was another interesting event for Members.

Governing Council Member M Vedakumar has been active as usual attending a number of local events in Hyderabad.

700-YEAR-OLD BANYAN TREE
A centuries old banyan tree, probably the second largest in the world, is being administered a saline treatment by the Telengana Forest Department to save its life. It’s good to know that Pillalamarri (children’s Banayan tree) on which they must have swung too often, is being rescued from termites. Many insecticides were tried to no avail. The District Collector got the premises shut. The District Forest Officer Chukka Gangi Reddy thereafter got into action. A trench was dug around the root system and watered with 20 mililitre Chloropyrifos added to every litre of water and then pressure-pumped onto the affected trunk and branches. Hundreds of saline bottles filled with insecticide were hung every two metres to cover the entire area as the infection must have started at the roots. It will take a couple of months of ‘intensive care’ for the tree to survive! Thanks to Chukka Gangi Reddy!
Warangal

Convenor M. Pandu Ranga Rao specially invited the Honorary Speaker of Legislative Assembly S. Madhusudhan Chary for the World Heritage Day, 18th April celebrations held by the Chapter at Mulug Ghanpur group of temples. As the Chief Guest Speaker he spoke on the Kakatiya Dynasty and the magnificent heritage monuments and tanks they created for all times. He urged the people and students especially to actively participate in safeguarding this precious heritage and to spread the message across the region. Presiding the function, Convenor Pandu Ranga Rao detailed the importance attached to World Heritage Day set up by the UNESCO General Assembly in 1983, to enhance cultural heritage globally. It is an effort that needs to be redoubled with each passing year as fast paced development is taking a heavy toll on heritage, he said. State ASI officials, senior citizens of the mandal and INTACH Members briefly addressed the gathering.

UTTAR PRADESH

Allahabad

Convenor of the Allahabad Chapter, Smt. Pragyana Mehrotra passed away on 4th June after ailing for some time. A condolence meeting was held by Chapter Members who recalled her invaluable services to the cause of conservation and heritage preservation of Allahabad city. She was tireless in her efforts to protect the heritage landmarks and structures that are a pride of the city and to prevent felling of trees. She was lauded in particular for saving the old Curzon Bridge that was going to be dismantled, and remains one of the city’s major landmarks. Tributes were also paid for her tireless efforts to inculcate cultural values in school children. In fact she will be remembered for countless tasks she voluntarily undertook.

Many people gathered at the condolence meet conducted by the officiating Convenor Shambhu Chopra, followed by a two minute silence. May she rest in peace. INTACH sends its deepest condolences to all members of her family, with our good wishes for the future.

Gorakhpur

Convenor MP Kandoi welcomed the guests to the Seminar held on World Heritage Day, 18th April. Prof. Rajwant Rao, HOD Ancient History at the Gorakhpur University, Director Buddha Museum Dr. Jaimal Rao, and Krishnanad Tewari of DDU who was instrumental
for all excavations in the area were present. During the 3 years since the Chapter’s inauguration, a number of artifacts have been found lying around in neglect without any satisfactory procedures instituted for their protection. Surprisingly it was the villagers who came forward to protect their heritage and narrated their experiences. Now that public awareness has been created, they are looking to INTACH Chapter to enhance the museum that was officially inaugurated on 23rd May by the Vice Chancellor of DDU Gorakhpur University. Purvanchal Museum will remain accessible for housing many new artifacts. INTACH and the State authorities must make effort to set up a proper museum for an entirely satisfactory solution.

The late Gorakhpur Co-Convenor PK Lahiri donated all the artifacts collected during his life time to the Museum. He is much remembered to this day by fellow members of the Chapter. The Chapter will also be giving some artifacts and photographs to enhance its collection.

**CONDOLENCES**

Convenor Mahavir Prasad Kandoi informed that Life Member of the Gorakhpur Chapter Shri Protull Kumar Lahiri passed away on 4th April. He was the Co-Convenor of the Chapter. His contribution to heritage work will be long remembered by all his colleagues. Chairman INTACH LK Gupta and other officials at Central Office send their heartfelt condolences. Convenor MP Kandoi is kindly requested to convey the same to the Lahiri family members at this time of great loss and grief. We send our heart felt good wishes for their future.

**Kanpur**

Co-Convenor Charu Manglick informs that it was an enthusiastic bunch of students who joined the walk organized on World Heritage Day and received certificates after a talk on importance of culture and heritage. There were some winners of the essay competition held at the Methodist High School in Kanpur who received prizes on this occasion.

**Lucknow**

*KITAAB* as proclaimed was a Literary Festival held on 7th April at the Shri Ram Swaroop Memorial Technical University, The Chapter organised a session on *Our
Heritage – Our Identity, Save, Serve and Savour. Convenor Vipul B. Varshney conducted an interactive session on the recently published books. *Shaam-e-Awadh*, a Visual Journey of Lucknow, was published by Bloomsbury in 2017 and *Lucknow – The City of Culture and Heritage* is a publication by Niyogi Books. Convenor Vipul B. Varshney gave an introductory talk and welcomed the audience.

*Shaam-e-Awadh* offers a visually arresting story telling about the many facets of Lucknow city. It leads the reader through gateways, courtyards and gardens along broad streets and narrow lanes into historic buildings, *chowk* and *nukkad*, through gateways and broad streets, many of which are etched in black and white pen sketches. They are all part of the intrinsic value of Lucknow *olde worlde* lifestyle.

The second book *Lucknow – A City of Heritage and Culture* takes one on a walk through historic Lucknow, recapturing alluring tales of a splendid bygone era. It covers heritage precincts and buildings that speak volumes about this ancient capital city. It suggests 18 such Heritage Walks through heritage precincts with architectural drawings and panoramic photographs that speak of quintessential Lucknow and its grandeur in days gone by. Not to forget the melodious music, ethereal dances and exquisite crafts and cuisine for which the city is famous to this day.

Nearly 250 people attended this event including students. Among the dignitaries were authors, poet Sudeep Sen, journalist cum author and publisher Zafar Anjum, historian and author Dr. Rakshanda Jalil. A sizable number of media persons covered the event. *Our Heritage – Our Identity, Save and Savour* was indeed well *Served as* the byline to KITAAB Festival had proclaimed.

**Varanasi**

*Heritage Tour – Panchaganga Area*

On 8th April, a heritage walk was organized by Varanasi Chapter Convenor Ashok Kapoor and Dr. Subhash Chandra Yadav, Regional Archaeology Officer of Varanasi in association with Regional Archaeological Unit Varanasi, to create awareness of the ancient heritage of *Kashi*.

*Kashi* is important from ancient times for the Ganges baths and for its archaeological and religious importance. *Panchaganga* is prominent among the main five holy shrines in Varanasi situated at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Kirna and Dhootpapa. ‘*Hajra Deep Stammb*’ created by Queen Ahilyabai, the ancient *Dev
Dipawali function in Varanasi are other matters of interest. This area is linked to many literary activities, such as Ramanand and acceptance of Kabir as a disciple/student, the composition of Ganga Labiri by Pandit Jagannath, etc.

About 50 people participated in the heritage walk to Gopal Temple, Bindu Madhava Temple, Chaukamba Mosque, Shri Ramanand Ashram, Shrimath Tailang Swami Math, Vallabhacharya/Shri Mahaprabhuji’s meeting place/hall, Alangir Mosque, Kangarwali Haveli, etc. J Altman ‘Jai’ Dr. Subhash Chandra Yadav, Regional Archaeology Officer of Varanasi explained the archaeological and mythological importance of these sites.

Chairman’s extended tour to Varanasi included visits to the Sun Dial restored by the Chapter, the Sanskrit University where Kashi Vimarsh series are regularly held by its owner, Life Member Raama Tiwari. Life Member Arvind Kumar hosted a dinner for him at the Bijrana Palace at Dharbhanga Ghat.

The major highlight of this visit was the inauguration of the historic landmark of the city on 11th April, the Balaji Ghat which will have a Museum and Cultural Centre undertaken by INTACH jointly with the American Express and World Monument Fund. The Ghat was nominated by INTACH for the World Monument Watch to draw attention to the cultural importance of this site. American Express CEO Adhlakha and Vice President Public Affairs and Communications Vibha Baja, and World Monument Fund representative Anita Baig were present for the inaugural event.

Numerous legends and rituals are associated with the River Ganga, regarded as sacred by all Indians. The Museum showcases a collection of art objects reflecting the skills of crafts people of Varanasi. Boat making is an important craft from time immemorial and the lifestyle of boatmen revolves around their profession. Varanasi is also renowned the world over for its silks and exquisite handloom fabrics. One hall is earmarked for cultural events in honour of Ustad Bismillah Khan who during his lifetime did daily riyaz at Balaji Ghat. The inauguration concluded with a performance by his son-in-law accompanied by two of the maestro’s grandsons!

On 13th April, Chairman paid a visit to Gurudham Colony. The Thematic Development of Gurudham, a State protected monument was explained by Regional Director Dr. Sabhash Yadav. At another meeting with Shashank Narain Singh at Ganges View Hotel, some cultural heritage projects were discussed. The Ganga aarti and dinner was hosted by Upendra Kumar. The most fruitful meeting during this visit was with Varanasi Institutional Members at Little Flower House, Nagwa followed by a lunch hosted by Co-Convenor Nalin Gulati. Chairman also interacted with Chapter Members over dinner at Ganges View Hotel.

To mark World Heritage Day on 18th April the Regional Archaeological Department in collaboration with Varanasi Chapter organized a week-long painting workshop ‘VIRASAT’ at Amrit Rao Peshwa Haveli, Raja Ghat. Chairman LK Gupta and Convenor Ashok Kapoor and Anurag Singh of ICCR were present on the occasion.

On World Museum Day, 18th May the Chapter organised a visit for to the Crafts Museum for Members where the Curator explained the major crafts of the Varanasi.

The UP State Archaeological Dept., jointly with Pilgrim Publishers, organized the Kashi Vimarsh lecture series on 20th May. Prof. of Hindi, BHU Sadanand Shabi delivered the first lecture lecture on Kabir, titled Saakhi Aankhee Gyan Kee – a programme hosted by Life Member and owner of the publishing house Raama Tiwari.
Other Events of Varanasi Chapter

World Museum Day

Visit to Lal Bahadur Shastri house

Visit to Anand Bagh - Durga Temple

Visit to Kabir Math

At Crafts Museum, Trade Facilitation Centre

Walk to Chowk Lanes

Walkers were taken around by Kabir scholar Umesh who narrated interesting episodes in Kabir’s life, his shastratha with various religious gurus, humbly sharing his knowledge. They saw his Samadhi. There is
a poignant story about his followers who fought over how his last rites should be performed, but in the end found only flowers instead of his body!

**SPIRITUAL CELL**

Varanasi Chapter announced the opening of a Spiritual Cell at Anand Bagh on 3rd June. Spirituality closely interlinked with ‘Benarasi’ culture and the pursuits of many of its inhabitants from time immemorial. Swami Bhaskaranand Saraswati was a noted 19th century saint who travelled to Benaras and soon attracted various disciples from all over the world including Mark Twain, a Prince of Russia and Jung Bahadur Rana of Nepal. After his death, his Samadhi became a spiritual destination for disciples and visitors to Benaras.

**WEST BENGALE**

**Kolkata**

The Denmark Tavern inaugurated last quarter in February with much fanfare has been one of the Chapter’s passion projects pursued by Convenor GM Kapur. The Ambassadors of Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and Norway had been invited, many of them with their wives like Thevesa Molin from Ireland, Iceland Ambassador’s wife Mrs. Thorin Ibsen and Mrs. Peter Taksoe-Jensen from Denmark, and Mrs. Nils Ragnar Kamsvag from Norway among other dignitaries from the local Consulates and Indian officials. Apart from the Tavern structures such as the Main Gate and South Gates, the Compound and the Canteen (formerly the Land Registry Office) had also been restored.

The restoration work was a project of the National Museum of Denmark executed with INTACH and Realdania of Denmark with architectural advice of Dr. Flemming Aalund of the Denmark National Museum. The Hooghly District Magistrate, SDP Serampore as well as the West Bengal Heritage Commission were associated with this project.

World Heritage Day was marked by an interesting talk Memories and Post Memories of Partition 1947 a day earlier on 17th April at the Indian Museum. According to official records 2 million people were killed. There are terrible tales of slaughter of innocent lives and displacement of 14 million people. There may be collective omission in official records but it lives on in ‘partitioned memories’ of a few families to this day. A commemoration effort converging on projects of archiving and ‘musealizing’ on the model of the Holocaust Museum (Washington) was long overdue, especially when the last survivors of the partition are on the verge of disappearing forever. The talk focused on the ethics and aesthetics of remembrances by posing some fundamental questions. What good is the memory archive? How can it deliver what history alone no longer seems to offer? Are there any doubts about factual accuracy of stories narrated by survivors? Is there any need to circulate such stories that are better shared in the intimate space of the family? These are some of the queries that the presentation raised. The answers will be forthcoming for a long time to come – such is this painful chapter of history of 1947 Independence. Meanwhile a Partition Museum has been set up at Amritsar, Punjab.

**Kolkata’s Heritage Buildings in Peril**

The Meeting of W.B.and Kolkata Regional Chapter was held at the INTACH Conservation Institute on 8th June. Members were updated on various events held since the last meeting. The recent demolition of the old
Kenilworth Hotel had caused a lot of protest and a well attended march. The authorities refused to meet on the pretext of a busy day and a memorandum was handed over with no response to date. Co-Convenor Kanchana Mukhopadhyay visited the Kolkata Port Trust Museum and participated in the heritage cruise organized by them which is expected to become a regular feature on the tourism circuit.

State Convenor GM Kapur in conversation with Co-Convenor Nayantara Palchoudhuri

A correspondent of Times of India reported a conversation between Convenor GM Kapur and Co-Convenor Nayantara Palchoudhuri, titled Kolkata’s Heritage Buildings in Peril. GM Kapur highlighted heritage not merely as relics but as a national asset. He referred to the graded list of heritage buildings notified by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Relegated to an inferior grading with no transparency, the buildings were deemed Grade 3 without public knowledge. INTACH Chapter has stopped some demolitions as in the case of Bishop College, Cosmopolitan Club and Roxy Cinema through PILs, but owners and authorities always protest that it is expensive to maintain heritage buildings. They forget there is something called Transfer Development Rights whereby the owner of a heritage building gets financial incentive if he agrees not to knock down his property. It was an expansive interview during which GM Kapur mentioned the wide range of conservation work including restoration undertaken by INTACH. He also referred to a large newspaper advertisement inviting people to join “the army of conscience keepers of the nation” and protect what is rightfully theirs.

The entire ground floor of State Convenor GM Kapur’s residence at Hastings is INTACH Art Conservation Centre. It speaks highly of one who is deeply committed to Heritage Conservation. Currently the entire collection of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose is under restoration by INTACH.

A Symposium was held on 12th June on Heritage Meets Modern Times by the authorities of Rajbari Bawali with an interactive session attended by Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, Principal Secretary West Bengal Tourism Atri Bhattacharya and INTACH State Convenor GM Kapur among other dignitaries. Rakesh Mathur of Indian Heritage Hotels Association made a presentation that was much appreciated. Bhattacharya said “It was an amazing experience. I learnt a lot from the presentation. I would also request all the heritage property owners to take a step forward and create awareness on environment in the surrounding areas”. He presented a plaque to the Rajbari management in recognition of their conservation efforts. With its dimly lit oil lamps along the staircase and bare-brick finish of the interiors it had turned the magical ruins of Rajbari Bawali into a beautiful cultural setting for the show hosted at the thakurdalan – the courtyards of the outhouse where the traditional Vandana by Samar Mandal inaugurated the show on an auspicious note. It was followed by Baul songs by Manoranjan and Gautam Baul, and a rendition of Marga Nritya, an intangible heritage of ancient dance and music from the Natyashastra period. Diplomats and expat community were greatly taken in by the grandeur and elegance of this event in what has become a “living place” as commented by the British Dy. High Commissioner Bruce Bucknell.
WORKSHOP ON TRADITIONAL LAC DOLLS

Kolkata Chapter Members visited Sushil Chattopadhya, popularly addressed as Noku Babu, to see his amazing collection of dolls. Convenor GM Kapur was so impressed by his exhibits that he organised a workshop for the revival of the dying art of lac doll making to be conducted by master artist Brindaban Chanda, one of the surviving artistes. He was facilitated by Daricha Foundation at a function held at the INTACH Conservation Centre on 2nd-3rd June. Until two decades ago shellac dolls or Galar Putul were typically found in lac Birbhum, but with shortage of raw material artistes were compelled to seek other occupations. Later the art was introduced in Bankura and Medinipur Districts among the conch shell making community of Shankhars. Brindaban Chanda is the sole surviving artiste today.

The shellac dolls are about 2-6 inches in height pressed into shapes of people, animals, gods and goddesses from lumps of clay, baked and painted with lac. Young girls were invited (15 years plus) and given an opportunity to learn doll making skills and perhaps take it up as a vocation. Marketing support from All Bengal Women’s Union, Saroj Nalini Trust and Bengal Home Industries would be extended to them. Convenor GM Kapur is well known for initiating new schemes for the betterment of local society like his earlier programme for prisoners to access gainful employment.

Crafts Council of West Bengal showcased his work at Kolkata in an attempt to revive this practically extinct art. As a result Brindaban was invited to other cities like Delhi, Chandigarh and Bhopal and hopes for a surge of interest in some other cities.

SALT GODOWN ON BANKS OF HOOGHLY RIVER

The restoration of the British era Salt Godown on the banks of the Hooghly River in Sakia, Kolkata not far from its Howrah Station, is on track. INTACH was engaged by the Eastern Railway for this laborious restoration work as the consultant, and had submitted a complete blueprint for alternate use of the huge spaces on the banks of the Hooghly. State Convenor GM Kapur said if fully restored “this structure is unmatched as far as historical importance is concerned. Hence, we wasted no time in submitting our plans. If restored, it will be exemplary”, as reported by the Times of India.

Santiniketan

CONDOLENCES

Convenor Susmita Guha Roy with a heavy heart, communicated the passing away of Co-Convenor Animesh Khan at the age of 70 on 6th April at a Kolkata Hospital, as he had been her close associate in Chapter activities. His absence will be greatly felt by all his colleagues given his 21 years association with the Chapter, and being the Co-Convenor during the last 5 years. Animesh Khan was the former Adhyapaka of Science of Patha Bhavana, Visva Bharati. Meticulous about discharging his duties, he and his wife Sumitra Khan were both active Members whose advice was much sought by colleagues.

INTACH joins Chapter Members is sending our heartfelt condolences to Smt. Sumitra Khan and their family on this grievous occasion. We hope Smt. Sumitra will continue her association with Chapter activities in due course, and wish her the strength and courage to overcome this loss. Our good wishes will always be with her.
OVERSEAS CHAPTER

Belgium Chapter

Periodic reports from the Belgium Chapter are always welcome, especially the news about their projects in India. Last year the Chapter organized the Concert Luc Devos as a fund raising event for the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho, nursed by the Chapter for many years. It was an initiative taken by one of the Chapter’s Founding Members Eva Kuijken and supported by the Municipality of Begijindijk. More than 200 people attended the fund raising with a dinner and concert at the Bevekom Church, with music of Mozart, Durlet, Grieg, Schubert and Chopin played by Luc Devos.

The Municipality of Pepingen, hometown of the Chapter’s structural sponsor Pajottenlander, has been a great supporter of the Khajuraho project. Convenor Geert Robberechts gave a lecture on the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho, Dimensions of a Restoration Project held at the Church of Bellingen/Pepingen. The evening’s collection amounted to almost 3,000 Euros to be deployed for the Chapter’s project in Khajuraho. The Chapter has been reviving organic farming and sustainable agriculture for some years quite successfully.

The Chapter’s focus of this project in Madhya Pradesh has been on traditional economy based on agriculture. Presently it only sustains livelihood of the families involved, with the result too many people have left their traditional rural pursuits and ventured into tourism opportunities like setting up guest houses (running empty), driving and owning tourist vehicle or rickshaws (often half used), or becoming self-made tourist guides and even touts. It has turned international focus on Khajuraho as only a “must see in one day” destination – that leaves even the major hotels never fully occupied.

The Belgium Chapter suggested new proposals like creating an architectural college on traditional/classical Indian architecture or an Environmental Research Institute to bring rural, natural and cultural assets together in a holistic way for local/national resilience solutions in view of present constraints and limitations. It feels Khajuraho has the potential to become a lively academic spot for specialized studies and in particular organic farming that the Chapter has successfully initiated on a small scale. It has other suggestions to offer like training local guides and using bullock carts, promoting Bundelkhand painting, and holding an annual Organic Food Festival. The major attraction will always be the Khajuraho Temple but they require lighting to be enhanced with new techniques.

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

The earliest mention of Yoga is in the Upanishads. It was Swami Vivekananda who created general awareness of yoga and later many other spiritual leaders and gurus followed. Again it was an Indian initiative that succeeded in getting 21st June declared International Yoga Day by the United Nations. Prime Minister Narendra
Modi has made yoga the most productive and cashless export from India, now a movement across world. Yoga has also become a successful ‘business of wellness’ like the gym!

**SUCH A LONG JOURNEY**

When terrorists set fire to two libraries in Timbuktu in Mali, all the literature on African heritage tradition was not lost. The manuscripts covered a wide range of Quranic science, Sufism, Arabic grammar, good governance, jurisprudence, astronomy, agriculture, etc. but in scripts developed in Africa – Saharan, Maghreb, Essouk and Sudanese. This important collection was recently on view at the National Museum Delhi till June. Perhaps one day African history will be taught in Indian schools.

**SAND MAGIC**

During the *Sand Magic Festival* in Ostend, Belgium as many as 34 international artists spent four weeks creating sculptures inspired by Disney, Pixar, Marel, Star Wars, etc on the beach at Ostend. Over 150 sand sculptures were created over four weeks using 6000 tonnes of sand – and the sand presumably returned to the beach!

**BUT NOT ALWAYS SAFE.....**

The Antartica is melting at an accelerated pace. About 3 trillion tonnes of ice has disappeared according to an expert international team in the last quarter century! Scientists calculated the American continent’s ice sheet melted enough water to cover Texas to a depth of nearly 13 feet. During 1992-2011 global oceans rose about 7.6 millimetres. During 2012-2017, the melt rate increased to more than 241 billion tonnes a year according to a study published in the journal *Nature*. What will happen by the end of this century?
Winners of Route To Roots, INTACH Heritage Education Programme for school students

Savita Tondwal, 7 SV Public School, Jaipur

Mohd Gulam Ali Khan, 9 Hindi City High School, Chandrapur

Mitali Vinod Patil, 7 Mahila Vidhayalaya Mandal's Eng Med. School, Belgavi

Ritik Pahariya, 9 Pro JNP Govt School, Raipur

Bhaskar Prajapati, 9 Sardar Dastur Hormadiar High School, Pune

S. Swetha Virsanath, 8 SRVS National Hr Sec School, Nagapattinam

Nitika Bhatt, 9 PKR Jain Sen Sec School, Ambala

Jason Lon Murry, 9 Maple Tree School, Dimapur

A Salma, Sree Rama High School, Machilipatnam