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16-17th century St. Anne’s Church, Goa, restored 2008-10

Restored by INTACH:
- 17th century Raja Mahal, Chanderi, restored 2006-08.
- 1577-1695 St. Anne’s Church, Goa, restored 2008-10.

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The Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture 2015, organised by INTACH on 18th April, World Heritage Day at the India International Centre, is also an annual tribute to INTACH’s prime Founder Member. Especially this year which happens to be the centenary year of her birth. Padma Bhushan Pupul Jayakar had the vision as far back as 1984 to invite eminent people in the field of culture and scholarship to join hands in a national effort to preserve and protect the country’s vast treasury of historic landmarks that might have been lost in the onward march of a developing country. It was a pioneering concept that blossomed over the next three decades, and continues to embrace multiple facets of heritage conservation as they evolve with each passing year. Today it has made INTACH a premier national organization in the multi-dimensional world of conservation, recognized by Government and many kindred international organizations as the largest heritage organization of its kind in the world.

This year Sir Simon Jenkins, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Society of Literature, and till very recently Chairman of the National Trust of England, was the Guest Speaker for the occasion. INTACH Chairman LK Gupta warmly thanked him for accepting our invitation and for his choice of a very topical subject Bringing Old Buildings to Life, a subject of great contemporary interest to many conservators in the audience. Chairman highlighted Sir Simon’s major achievement during his tenure as head of the British National Trust. He said “With his magic, he pushed up the then membership of 2 million to 4 million i.e. 1 Englishman out of 12 became a member of the National Trust. As Chairman INTACH, I will be indeed very proud if 1 in 1000 Indians becomes a member of INTACH. With those 4 million voices behind him, Sir Simon Jenkins indeed made the Government of England sit up and take notice of the advice and views of the National Trust while planning any development”. He requested Sir Simon to share his dynamic views on fighting for a public cause, and to apprise us of the struggle that must have gone into saving old buildings before they were resurrected to life.

INTACH Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta in her welcome speech introduced Sir Simon as an eminent journalist, author and broadcaster with a prolific career spanning years of unabashed convictions and a deep love of English country life and history. Placed in a unique position when his country needed a rallying call, she stated he “unstintingly articulated the gold standard that the Trust has enshrined since its humble late 19th century founders promoted British environmentalist” on behalf of all concerned including private landowners, keeping in view sites of unique history and aesthetic importance, the need for wild places with an awareness of all species, and the
When Sir Simon first took up his assignment with the British Trust, he said he came to an important conclusion that ropes in galleries and corridors of heritage sites were an obstacle for communication with visitors. And they must all come down everywhere, along with all the No Entry and Do Not Touch signboards. He felt it was important to let visitors walk about freely to touch and feel and get a sense of the place. If there was a grand piano or a billiard table, the signboard might say Please Enter and allow people to try their hand, and the ballroom might even inspire a few dance steps perhaps. At the Library in Lyme in Cheshire people need not gasp in wonder at books as they can take them off the shelf and browse through them, “which after all is the point of a library”, he said. And to date they have not lost a single book in that library. When Rudyard Kipling died, his study was strewn with crushed paper that he was in the habit of throwing till they lay 2-3 feet deep on the floor. “It took two whole weeks to make it spotless, absolutely ruining it in my view”! Sir Simon initiated some radical experiments like the Bling meets Baroque exhibition where one of Jonn Elton’s chairs and tables were placed alongside 17th century furniture at the Vyne in Hampshire. “About 80% of people liked it and the rest resigned from the National Trust, which we regarded as a pretty good success rate”, he said.

Another example cited was the most popular room at the Lanhydrock in Cornwall, an Edwardian restoration of a Jacobean house by the Trust. To the amazement of the National Trust people were more interested in Downstairs rather than the Upstairs which was posh. The grand salon, or library or the Chippendale furniture was not as interesting to
Sir Simon sensed there is no point in telling people they should be interested in the great masters of art when they are more interested in knowing how the plumbing worked in olden days and if it still works. Sir Simon regaled the audience with many other snippets of information, not to forget how after his return from India Lord Curzon wooed his second wife by leading her blindfold to the Bodiam Castle in Sussex. When she saw the place she gasped at the sheer beauty of the place and that’s when he declared “if we do get married this is the place we’re going to live”. Luckily for Grace she never had to live in it because it didn’t have a single bathroom. The building has come to be seen as the embodiment of the English Middle Ages and is a very popular National Trust property. It has visitors clambering all over the rooms and looking out of windows and battlements like the knights of the 14th century.

Sir Simon Jenkins declared he is no stranger to India. He said each time he “unfailingly falls in love with its many old buildings” and realizes that India had ten times the problems faced in England. Modestly assuming that he was preaching to the already converted, he attempted “to tease out some of the controversies that go into these battles” to save what he describes as “the essence of nationality”. He describes the conservation movement in general being propelled by two kinds of groups – the scholars who play a critical role of recording what needs to be preserved; and the fighters who must take up the cudgel in their various and respective capacities be it as politician, journalist, writer, teacher or local campaigner – and be prepared to lose battles in the hope of winning the war. They and each of us wedded to the conservation cause must find a way of getting through to the ordinary people and to the electorate and their representatives as to why we think old buildings are important for the country, and not merely because we know they are important. They must be made to think and also feel that old buildings belong to them and not just only to historians and archaeologists.

Sometimes there are problems that are not easy to solve. One of the examples Sir Simon cited was the Dover Castle, the great Norman bastion of the English against the French, now owned by a rival association the English Heritage, “although it was actually built by the French, we’re just going to have to deal with that”! They got a group of experts to research what furniture, fabric and colour combinations were used by Normans to refurbish the inside of the castle like it was in 1120–30s at considerable expense. “And I’m told it’s exactly how it looked in 1120. It looks like something IKEA put
together last week, and anyone who went into it said that’s not a historic building, that’s Disney set…A Disney historic building once was a building. Dover castle once did look like that. I find that hugely exciting. People who go there actually love it, once they get over the initial shock. All I can say is that it is one answer to the question of what do we do with these places”.

The point Sir Simon highlighted is there are no easy answers to conservation. England has many examples like the Knole House, Stourhead Garden in Wiltshire, 18th century Chatsworth designed to look like the Versailles, and Bath built by a property developer for profit but it has turned out to be one of the most beautiful cities in Britain today. Another classic example of a good development he cited is Salisbury Cathedral with its spires looking like a beautiful insertion onto the skyline across empty meadows which would otherwise have looked very boring. On the other hand Sir Simon feels the London skyline has turned into an unplanned skyline, and worse than most cities he has seen in the world. “The great view from the Bridge is marred by the cluster of buildings in front of a rightfully angry sky……and a monstrous carbuncle of a building called the Walkie Talkie”.

Surely there is an important message here for India as we launch a 100 ‘smart cities’, or build a new capital for the recently created new State in India.

Sir Simon advises “If we can’t find a way of talking about these things, in a way ordinary people understand we’ll never get them on our side……..if landscapes look as though profit is the only thing that matters, I am as captive as the next person, if we don’t articulate both what we care about but also how we disagree with each other. We need to carry out these debates in public, so that people will be more on our side than if we don’t, or present them with all or nothing solutions. There have to be compromises, if we can articulate those compromises in a way that people understand, I think we engage them. And if we engage them, we engage politicians, and if we don’t engage politicians, we keep losing”.

An animated session of Questions and Answers followed as he had raised some quintessential aspects of how to revive old buildings and make them alive for people. Sir Simon has left us with a lot of ‘food for thought’ and perhaps a another new course of thinking to be explored by INTACH as we commence the fourth decade of our heritage mission.

Two other events followed to conclude the World Heritage Day celebrations.

Last year INTACH Heritage Academy had instituted a number of Scholarships 2014-15 to promote research in a wide range of heritage subjects.

The awardees of these scholarships were announced by Principal Director IHA Navin Piplani after the question and answer session with Sir Simon. For details of award winners and the interesting subjects on which research was undertaken please see under INTACH Heritage Academy, page 28.
This year the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the Council of Architecture (COA) announced another set of Heritage Awards for Excellence in Documentation 2015-16 to be offered at a national level. It is important for students to physically document, understand, analyse and interpret historic structures, in order to inculcate sensitivity and appreciation for heritage. These Fellowships aim to facilitate in-depth understanding of heritage; encourage practical hands-on learning; provide exposure to traditional building knowledge systems, materials and techniques; dissemination of knowledge through exhibitions, publications and workshops; and development of resource material. Bonafide students pursuing a full-time Architectural Degree programme are eligible to apply. Last date for receipt of entries by post/hand is 31st July. The short-listed participants will be invited to make a power presentation to a Jury at the Finals to be held in New Delhi, tentatively scheduled for September 2015. For more details regarding time schedule contact Principal Director, INTACH Heritage Academy, New Delhi.

INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) released Harit Sankalp, My Green Diary to mark World Heritage Day. Principal Director Purnima Datt is congratulated for an interesting and educative diary. It carries a fund of information, quotations and suggestions both to delight the young and to instill an awareness of the beautiful world that exists around them. Specially to be mentioned are the illustrations which are entirely by school children who participated in HECS Nature Club activities. The Diary also has a compendium of animals and birds of different Indian States. It encourages children to make a difference to the world around them by volunteering to undertake work at one of the organizations enlisted that Care for Nature. It takes INTACH’s mission forward to the young people of India.

The 7th Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture has attracted a packed hall of committed heritage conservationists and special invitees due to the excellent organization by Intangible Cultural Heritage Division team headed by Principal Director ICHD Nerupama Modwel who are also congratulated for its success.
Central Office

Mother which is much more than the art and ritual of little traditions. Only fragmentary studies were available to most people and nothing at all in school curricula. She researched original sources that existed, listened to myths and legends, tribal folklores, and delved into “the mystery of colour and its vocabulary of tone within tone” as she described her own research of arts, handicrafts and handlooms.

There is a little known story of hers narrated by a close friend that makes her a woman of substance. She once experienced two weeks of complete blindness when given a double dose of anti rabies injection after a dog bite. She lost her unborn child as she was seven months pregnant at the time. Pupul Jayakar later said total blindness was not darkness as her mind travelled across many levels during that period, thinking of her childhood where the familiar sounds of the recitation of Ram Charat Manas, the epics, the beliefs and philosophies of India came to her through the spoken, the oral tradition by which India communicates with many past generations. Perhaps it was that time of total blindness that inspired her to delve into the nuances, contradictions and strengths of Indian heritage and remember tales and songs that she recollected from her childhood when she travelled through villages and mofusil towns accompanying her father, an ICS officer during British days.

Some of her thoughts are best encapsulated in her own words:

Two vast anonymous rivers of the creative flow in parallel streams over the Indian land mass. One is the male-oriented artisan tradition where craftsmen are organized into guilds or srenis. Craftsmen within these guilds trace their source to Vishwakarma, the first creator. Within this tradition, the transmission of skill, knowledge of material and the quickening of insight is from guru to disciple, from father to son. The other is based on the recognition of woman as the original creator. A heritage that traces its origin to Adi Sakti, the first woman, who spins the threads of creation. She creates, she conceives and she destroys in a simultaneity of time, for in her is alive the wisdom that in shristi or creation is the seed of samhara or destruction. In such a scenario, of ending and beginning, death is an ending and yet a passage to a beginning. “In shristi is samhara, in samhara is shristi.”
Indo-Spanish Initiative

SMART Heritage Think Tank (SHTT)-India was an idea conceived in 2014 at the International Biennial of Art and Heritage Management in Valladolid, Spain. It may be recalled that at the round table discussions, INTACH represented by PD IHA had proposed that a group of heritage experts with diverse approaches could transform their debates into a collection of “essential lessons” on the subject.

In pursuance of this concept, a brain storming session was held at INTACH on 18th April with the participation of Director, Casa de la India, Spanish Director Guillermo Rodriguez and the Director of Culture & Commerce, Valladolid City Council with INTACH team headed by Chairman LK Gupta and heads of all Divisions. The discussion centred on whether ‘Smart Heritage’ should be made one of the key elements that must be built into the discourse on Smart Cities? Due importance must be given to ‘heritage for people’ concept allowing participation of crafts people, heritage property owners, local community leaders. Economic incentives to heritage property owners will encourage conversion of their property into heritage assets. A holistic approach towards ‘Smart Heritage’ would entail participation from public officials, legal experts, policy makers, academicians, local craftsmen, architects/conservationists, etc.

The brain storming concluded that a constant dialogue between Spain and India should be maintained, and perhaps a Think Tank organized at INTACH where heritage experts can discuss particular issues and case studies with similar think tanks already at work in cities like Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

French Delegation Visit

The French Trade Commission announced the visit of a Business Delegation to India. Twelve of their architects participated in a seminar organized by the Commission on the “French approach to the sustainable city” along with an exhibition “Smart Cities India Expo” held at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. Some of the issues discussed were urban design for cities in the 21st century and issues of density in a sustainable city; landmarks and planned design of buildings; green architecture for joyful and economical buildings; architecture for tropical environment and bioclimatic approach; and the perspective of landscaping in urban planning. It was succinctly summarised as “Man in the City, City in the Nature”. This very topical exhibition was supported by various Ministries of the Indian Government.

A visit to Central Office was also scheduled on 22nd May for the architects from the delegation to understand INTACH rules of conservation for historic and heritage structures. INTACH Principal Directors of the concerned Divisions shared some of their perspectives on the subject. The interactive session led to a better appreciation of each other’s capabilities and expertise that could be tapped with regard to smart cities that is currently a major agenda of the Government.

Visit of Secretary Tourism

Secretary Tourism Dr. Lalit Panwar was welcomed at INTACH by Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra on 25th May. He was briefed on various activities particularly the initiatives taken under HRIDAY. Detailed Project Reports on Bateshwar, Daman & Diu and Swami Vivekananda were undertaken. INTACH Divisions elaborated on their various activities and projects. It was a very successful interaction with Dr. Panwar expressing an interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with INTACH to develop ways whereby tourism initiatives could be blended with cultural components. It will be followed up with a second meeting involving tourism officials to anchor these dimensions to be added to tourism projects.

Monitoring Committee

The third meeting of the Monitoring Committee for implementation of Special Corpus Fund Projects was held on 26th May at Central Office. Member Secretary reviewed the progress of projects undertaken. It was pointed out that the limit of unspent funds for carrying forward is 15%, which is required to be utilized in next 5 years, failing which income tax and interest thereon is payable. Various suggestions were made regarding capacity building programmes to be
developed by INTACH that entails both research and training, and developing a centre to facilitate research work on the lines of British Library at Delhi.

Members were informed that the Delhi Metro has allotted space, at three tube stations (Udyog Bhavan, Green Park and Malviya Nagar) for heritage publicity that reinforces communication with the public at large.

**Anirudh Bhargava Environmental Award**

It is an annual award instituted by Dr. Ranjit Bhargava in memory of his son. An eminent jury set up by INTACH made the final selection of awardees. This year recipients of the Anirudh Bhargava Awards for the two preceding years 2012-2014 are Ms. Tanya Balcar and Mr. Roberts. They each received a cash grant of Rs. 50,000, a memento and a citation at the function specially held at Kodaikanal on 24th June. INTACH extends its heartiest congratulations to them.

**DOES HERITAGE TAG HAMPER URBAN DEVELOPMENT?**

A well known Delhi based architect Gautam Bhatia has raised a pertinent question. INTACH had been working on the prescribed UNESCO documentation for a heritage tag for Lutyens Delhi and Shahajanbad for several years. Bhatia is concerned about the recent withdrawal of the submission for UNESCO nomination by the Government. He feels it might be a disservice to Delhi as it comes “at a time when Delhi is at its beleaguered worst”.

With the population doubling almost all public spaces are being overrun with vehicle and “illegal” slums and “unauthorized” colonies. In view of the local government’s inability to enforce urban norms the UNESCO heritage tag would have been critical. “The city’s incapacity to govern itself was to be farmed out to an international organization that would have ensured growth in consonance with other world heritage cities – like Istambul, Cairo, the historic centres of Rome, Florence and Old Havana. …………..In India, it’s a matter of national shame that so little of the country’s urban heritage is preserved. Whether Bengaluru, Jaipur or Lucknow, any drive from the still beautiful countryside into the same repeat squalour and architectural despair, everything subsumed in dust and in a ramshackle state signals an urbaniy built in a poverty of ideas. No public spaces, no greens. Just a city of boundary walls, insecurity and self-protection. In such a scenario, heritage becomes the only real modulation for the citizen’s entire engagement with the city’s public life”, states Gautam Bhatia.

Ack: *Indian Express, 30th May 2015*

Only a well thought out conservation approach that recognizes the cultural meaning in the lives of its inhabitants, and a framework of policies by the authorities, and its long term impact on environment can preserve our precious heritage of thousands of years of life and history of the nation. This again like Sir Simon Jenkin’s Pupul Jayakar Lecture is more food for thought!
The Advisory Committee for Heritage Tourism met on 29th May. Member Secretary C.T. Misra updated the Members on the activities undertaken. She briefed them on projects undertaken during the last financial year: a Tourist Map of Kargil; Travel Guides for Buddhist Sites of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; cultural mapping of Upper Ganga Region to be released in November. INTACH is now working on developing Nirmand, a village in Himachal as a potential heritage tourism village, along the lines of similar projects undertaken earlier at Pragpur Garli Village and the integrated development of cultural assets of Raghurajpur Village in Odisha supported by the MoT. She apprised the Advisory Committee of the draft Tourism Policy (2015) of the Ministry of Tourism as well as State level policies citing the example of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy. She also brought to their attention two new schemes – the national mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) and the Swadesh Darshan.

Committee Members were then invited to share their views on the subject.

Member of Indian Heritage Hotel Association and Eco-Tourism Society Rakesh Mathur drew the attention of the Committee to the objections raised by 35 NGOs. They are of the view that many agencies involved in formulation of this policy and issues of affected communities have not been adequately addressed. For example, there was no mention of Hazarat Nizamuddin, or issues like a code of conduct, ban on liquor sale on highways, cleaning of trekking routes, etc.

The Chief Conservator of Forests Uttarakhand Rajiv Bhartari stated that there is only a passing reference to eco-tourism which could have been a major tool for conservation. There is no mention of the negative impact of tourism, unregulated development, zoning, living arts. The word responsible tourism has replaced sustainable tourism.

Advisor IDC Archives and Listing Dr. T.S. Randhawa is of the view that overall planning should be done by conducting analysis of the failures of 2002 Policy. The major ASI monument have outstanding collections in locked stores and godowns. The main problem was how to get States to do what MoT thinks they should do or how to prevent them from creating concrete monstrosities like the one next to Ajanta Caves. Above all how to ensure that Finance Commission grants are not diverted to other activities. We talk of the Silk Route when the National Museum has half the famous Aurel Stein silk collection from that route in a closed gallery.

Hampi Convenor Shama Pawar pointed out the huge disconnect between local communities and state tourism authorities be it unnecessary constructions, lack of training to manage places, need for solar cooking in religious places where a huge amount of wood is also consumed.

Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar pointed out that legal requirements are complex and contradictory in India. He said all sites should have carrying capacity studies before any tourism-related construction is undertaken, and it was imperative to understand the sensitivity of the site and get a visual analysis done. He will be working on development of heritage walks and pilgrimage routes.

Director Crafts Cell Bindu Manchanda has undertaken the Brochure on Cultural Precincts of Delhi to be provided to all hotels in Delhi. It will contain information on culture, theatres, shopping areas, crafts, etc. subsequently to be replicated in all other important tourist sites in the country.

Members of the Heritage Tourism Committee generally agreed that Tourism should be placed on the Concurrent List. As Dr. Misra concluded it is only then that tourism legislation will be effective and ensure a correct balance and sustenance of tourism policies. She has written to the Lal Bhadur Shastri IAS Trainees Academy to incorporate heritage tourism in their orientation programme.

Members were requested to send in their points to be incorporated in the proposed MOU to be signed between MoT and INTACH; and their views on formulating a preamble for the Heritage Tourism Brochure defining Heritage Tourism.

The next meeting of the Heritage Committee is proposed to be held at Anegundi in November to see the grassroot work undertaken by Convenor Shama Pawar.
ICI DELHI

INTACH Conservation Institute, Delhi received a rare collection of 292 photographs of plays staged at Shimla Amateur Dramatics Club during 1850-1890s. Pasted on mount-boards and bound into three albums, with many pages having ink inscriptions, they are an important part of the Club’s heritage and a record of the artistic expression of people involved in the dramatics society of Shimla in British India. On closer examination they were identified as both albumen and silver gelatin prints. Albumen print was the first commercially available technique of photography invented in the 1850s, and usually consisted relatively thin paper support coated on one side with an image-bearing layer of hen’s egg white. Silver gelatine prints were the most common form of black and white photographs since 1890s.

The 1837 Shimla Amateur Dramatics Club (ADC) formed by British Officers stationed at Shimla, became a leading cultural centre for people so far away from home and was an important part of the cultural heritage of the town. It shifted to its present location the Gaiety Theatre premises on 30 May 1887. Prior to 1947, it flourished under the patronage of successive Viceroy, Commanders-in-Chief, Military Secretaries and Governors and famous personalities like Rudyard
Kipling and Col Baden Powell. Post independence, the Club began functioning as joint Civil and Military Club under the patronage of Headquarters Western Command and in 1993. The Club had the honour of having the President of India as its patron till 1982. On its membership roll are senior members of the judiciary, bureaucrats, and other prominent citizens of Shimla.

The major deterioration observed in the albums was in the mount-board support of the pasted photographs. Flattening warped mount-board, tear mending, consolidation and finally binding was effected with minimal intervention on original photographs.

**Toshakhana, Ministry of External Affairs**

ICI Delhi has been restoring gifts received by the Prime Minister of India from foreign dignitaries at the Toshakhana, Ministry of External Affairs. These include an exquisite brass bowl presented by the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a silver object presented by Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Democratic Socialist Republic of Lanka; a boat shaped brass and wood model presented to Atal Bihari Vajpayee by Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman al Khalifa of Bahrain and a ship model also presented to him by Cassam Uteem, President Republic of Mauritius. Currently they are under restoration at the Delhi Centre.

**ICI Bengaluru**

Thirty-nine artworks by artist Krishna Kumar (1959-89), ink on paper measuring approximately 56 cms x 71cms each, were received at ICI, Bengaluru from a private client for treatment in preparation for an exhibition. He was a charismatic artist and leader of the Indian Radical Painters and Sculptors Association. His meteoric career and suicidal death at the age of 30 makes him the stuff of legend in contemporary art history.

The paintings were in very fragile condition – poor quality
paper pasted on board. Using mechanical methods they were restored and lined using Japanese kozo paper and starch to strengthen the artworks.

INTACH Chairman LK Gupta visited ICI Bengaluru on 11th May and had discussion about current practices in conservation, up-gradation of research facilities, documentation of artwork as well as manuscripts, digitization of archival records, and Intranet to connect all ICI Centers, professionals and experts, etc.

Ms. Amrutha R and Ms. Shilpa S Bramanandan, Conservators from ICI, Bengaluru attended the Conservation Study Training Program, supported by the Leon Levy Foundation, from 15th Feb. to 28th March at Nagaur, Rajasthan.

ICI LUCKNOW

ICI, Lucknow conserved some personal belongings of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, first President of India. The collection included textiles in the form of sherwanis, coats, tanjeb, kurta, pyjama, rumal, pillow cover, bags and banner in different materials like cotton, silk, woollen and mixed fabrics. The problems were bleeding of colour, tears due to weakening of cloth, holes due to insect attack, upper most layer pulverized due to severe fungal attack.
ICI Lucknow conserved artifacts of 2 Kumaon (Berar) Regiment. Five regimental colors, two leopard skins, a visitor book and two certificates were received for conservation treatment. The problems in the skins were much the same with loss of animal hair, mold smell, loose lining and tears. Visitor book had fungus spores, torn pages, bleeding ink and colour, and repairs with cello tape. All the restored articles have been returned back to the Regiment.

ICI BHUBANESWAR

The Art & Craft Gallery, established by INTACH Odisha Art Conservation Centre, Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by Hon’ble Minister for Tourism and Culture, and attended by the Chief Secretary and Secretary Tourism and Culture. The newly created gallery has a Royal Exhibit Section and showcases a vibrant variety of art and craft specimen of the State.
Establishment of Paper Conservation Laboratory

A paper conservation laboratory was established by ICI Bhubaneswar at the Odisha State Archives on 9th June according to the requirement of the State Archives. It has working space with separate shelves for drying, installation of equipments and other conservation materials.

Under 13th FC Project

The conservation work of temples by ICI Bhubaneswar is supported under the 13th Finance Commission Project. It is being executed by AH Division since April 2013. The conservation of 26 important protected temples and monuments under the Odisha State Archaeology, and the overall administration of INTACH State Convenor A.B. Tripathy was almost complete at the end of June. Important monuments such as Laxminarayan Mutt at Cuttack, Bokhari Sahid Mosque at Cuttack, Jaleswar Temple at Bhubaneswar, Paschimeswar Temple at Gangadhar Prasad Dhenkanal have been conserved.

ICI JODHPUR

A miniature painting (23 cm x 14 cm) of Maharaja Ajeet Singh belonging to the Mehrangarh Museum Trust was received by the ICI Jodhpur. It posed a major problem of conservation as prolonged exposure to moisture had resulted in overall warping, with paint layer flaked at many places. It had been previously restored unscientifically causing great stress to the support.

A thorough documentation and analysis was done to study the problems before
drafting a careful treatment methodology. The water-soluble paint layers were consolidated using compatible adhesives to arrest flaking, lining was given at the back for structural strength after carefully removing all previous restorations.

**ICI KOLKATA**

An oil painting (119 cm x 91 cm) was received at the Kolkata Centre in a very bad state, having been previously restored. It suffered from major problems of deterioration ranging from losses in canvas and paint layer, brittleness and flaking, with aging cracks, and dirt stains.

The scientific treatment involved dismantling the painting first to arrest flaking by infusing compatible consolidants. Old and darkened varnish was also removed to reveal original colours. Structural integration by mending of lost portions with canvas of similar weave and thickness was done and finally lining on a new canvas.

**ICI MUMBAI**

*Conservation of Carved Ivory*

The carved Vishnu (late 19th-early 20th century) from Burma belongs to the collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai. The figure had cracks, one running vertically along the face and one the back of the head and had been unevenly filled with bees wax leaving pockets of gaps.

After written and photographic documentation, the unevenly applied bees wax was removed and were evenly filled with microcrystalline wax mixed with powder pigment to match the ivory colour. In addition to conservation work, more than 400 objects were documented in detail and professionally photographed by the Conservators for the Museum Software *JATAN*. 
NEK CHAND

Chandigarh is a totally planned city, probably the first ‘smart’ one in the country. The only unplanned feature, but nevertheless its best, is Nek Chand’s Rock Garden. Compelled to leave his village in Lahore district after Partition, he came to this new town under construction and found employment at a PWD yard. Soon he was going around collecting waste material, discarded bits and pieces from construction sites that caught his eye in the city under construction. From a small room tucked in a little inhabited corner of the city, he assembled broken sanitary ware, pieces of wood and wire, electric fittings, empty coal drums and whatever else that had caught his fancy, giving shape to his fancy like no other artist had ever dreamt. Mixing cement, mortar and discarded trash, he coated some with colourful pieces of broken glass bangles. While all around him imposing buildings were sprouting up with streamlined avenues criss-crossing the city, he worked shielded from sight behind a wall of muddied coal tar drum on unauthorized sarkari land! When thousands of figures arranged in groups over 5 hectares were first discovered, it raised a hue and cry. Only the intervention of Chief Architect MN Sharma who had taken charge after Corbusier, and his perception of Nek Chand’s work that saved them from thoughtless destruction! There was no looking back, much needed funds and manpower were soon provided. Today Chandigarh’s Rock Garden is the city’s major tourist attraction. Its amphitheatre offers public entertainment in a magical setting. The fame of its self taught artist spread overseas, with requests and awards from governments in France and America.

Fellow artist Anjolie Menon says 20 years ago an American expert came to India to assess the state of contemporary art. To everyone’s surprise he declared that the only artist who could be termed contemporary (as distinct from modern) was Nek Chand. She says “this maverick was so ahead of his time, dealing with retrieved junk, creating large scale installations and incorporating thrift, satire, humour and even the bizarre into his very unique repertoire”.

This artist par excellence passed away on 12th June, a great loss to Indian art. Prof Ravi Lochan, author of Chandigarh Landscape : Brief Social History of a Planned City states “Chandigarh was designed without a soul, then it found Nek Chand”. There can be no better obituary for this very humble and gifted man.
Rural Mapping

India is primarily a rural economy with nearly 5,94,000 villages, but there has been little environmental planning in such small spatial units and very little at the microlevel. Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar believes a top-down environmental planning needs to be supplemented by bottom-up grass-root initiatives. The Natural Heritage Division is furthering this concept by preparing a village level environmental plan in Sawai Madhopur District. It will draw upon local wisdom and combine it with modern techniques of environmental planning. The objective is to produce village-wise environmental maps in order to provide decision makers better tools to maximize resource utilization. It will also facilitate local people to mount pressure upon public representatives to factor environmental concerns in their decision making.

Looking at environment through a cultural lens, it is found that the spread of this culturally significant tree has reduced significantly. It is therefore necessary to locate them, identify threats and reverse the declining growth. This is best achieved by propagating sacred groves of Rudraksha trees that would safeguard both culture and environment. The NH Division has taken up the project to document the geographical distribution, reasons for declining growth, and to suggest measures for protection of this tree. Under this project its ecological status, threats (social, cultural and environmental) will be documented along with research on conservation techniques. The project will also examine scientific possibilities of planted propagation simply by habitat conservation in order to enhance the spread of these sacred trees.

Our Green Building

This project will rejuvenate traditional practices of water harvesting systems into landscapes, including management/maintenance of village ponds and wells. It will rejuvenate land and soil management practices, and help in mapping environmental assets within village boundaries.

Rudraksh Tree

_Elaeocarpus ganitru_ or the Rudraksh tree is an integral part of Indian culture. It has been exploited due to its religious, ethno botanical and medicinal uses. There is great significance attached to its circular ridges, and some are highly prized.
All solar panels are now in place at INTACH Central Office located at 71 Lodi Estate, as part of the green building initiative launched last year. The commissioned solar power project has 40 solar photo voltaic panels. They have a capacity of 10 KW thus fulfilling the energy requirements of the two recently constructed portacabins on the rooftop. With the solar power plant, composting units and the urban rooftop farming, the Central Office has taken the first major stride towards becoming a Green Building. This year the wastewater recycling for gardens will also be done, and thereafter rainwater harvesting system will be completed. In the subsequent years the generation capacity will be raised to 30 KW in stages.

**Biodiversity of Delhi Cantonment**

NHD carried out a study of 42 sq.kms. area of Delhi Cantt to assess its existing biodiversity. The total canopy area is 58% of which *Prosopis Juliflora* (*kikar*) has maximum cover. The area is quite close to the Delhi Ridge and can be a potential habitat for various faunal species. Due to various human intervention it has however got fragmented into smaller patches that could be organized together for free movement of birds and pollinators with an effective plantation strategy. This is part of urban biodiversity initiative that needs to be supported by the Cantonment authorities.

**Sustainable Agriculture for Water Conservation**

Traditional agriculture methods are sustainable and can be an effective way to conserve water and increase soil fertility. NHD has taken up a project in the semi arid region of Bharatpur to conserve natural resources through sustainable agricultural practices such as mulching, tillage, etc. It was earlier tested in a pilot plot and resulted in a fair amount of improvement in soil quality within a year. The improved soil texture resulted in better water holding capacity with no trace of residual pesticide. NHD proposes to take this learning experiment to a larger number of farmers around the Bharatpur Sanctuary. In the long run it would reduce the sanctuary vs. farmer competition for water resources and ensure adequate water is available for this Bird Sanctuary.

**Mapping & Documentation of Sawai Madhopur**

The natural heritage mapping of Sawai Madhopur district in Rajasthan is in process in order to document lesser known unprotected features like *baolis* (stepwells), water bodies, abandoned mines, old...
trees, natural storm water channels, etc. in the area. Most of these are prone to destruction or encroachment due to ongoing developments that are ecologically insensitive. Besides documentation, the exercise undertaken by NHD will generate GPS marked features on the final map that would hopefully be taken into consideration in development decisions being taken by the authorities. Other tehsils of the district will be covered to complete a District Landscape Plan.

Rajodha Village, Madhya Pradesh

In an interesting experiment, the Government directed senior bureaucrats to visit the area of their first posting and see what difference they could now make there. One insight was about large villages developing in a haphazard manner. NHD was entrusted with preparing a pilot village plan for Rajodha village, Morena which is the Panchayat headquarter of 29 villages. The project involves intervention of spatial planning principles to upgrade standards and channelise its further growth, as a pilot plan that could be replicated in other villages. Planning model is based on the importance of central locations which command easy access from hinterland settlements, and have greater ability to service a larger population.

Lost Gardens of Khajuraho

The revival of the royal gardens of Khajuraho with the help of local people and implementing acquired traditional knowledge is one of INTACH’s earliest projects. NHD has now undertaken the documentation of traditional agricultural practices and water management focussed on ‘conservation agriculture’ in two gardens around 5 kms from each other, the Patheria Bagh where a seed bank of indigenous varieties is located and at the Rani ka Bagh. Preparing and utilizing organic fertilizers is done on the sites. The project now hopes
to involve a larger community to showcase how traditional practices conserve both soil and water.

**BOTANICAL SURVEY**

The Botanical Survey of India has discovered 148 new species altogether new to science, of which 114 are novelties showing new traits. The Western Ghats accounted for 22%, the North East 15%, Andaman & Nicobar 13%, peninsular India 11%, and the Gangetic and eastern plains 10% of the total ‘novelties’. On the other hand there is no doubt that existing floral biodiversity is under serious threat from human factors like habitat destruction, pollution and deforestation. According to estimates, India has over 11% of the world’s total floral species in the world. The Ministry of Environment has “started working on forming biodiversity committees in all districts to ensure compilation of protocols related to commercial utilization of biological resources from India”, according to Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.

**GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD**

On the critically endangered list is our Great Indian Bustard, one of the largest and heaviest of flying birds now fragmented between Rajasthan and Gujarat and barely seen in Maharashtra, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh which they once inhabited in large numbers. Former Member of the Wildlife Board laments “it is distressing to see how we are allowing projects even within sanctuaries and in their immediate vicinity”. Under established rules, any project falling within a sanctuary or eco-sensitive zone, must have the prior clearance of the Wildlife Board and the Supreme Court.

**RAINWATER HARVESTING IS NOBODY’S CHILD**

Director Vinod Jain of the NGO Tapas had filed a PIL on which Delhi Court issued the Order on rainwater harvesting, stating that the programe had failed in Delhi because there is no institutional framework to guide it. Vinod Jain says “The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was made the nodal authority but no single agency is responsible for ensuring that it is done. Delhi Jal Board gives permission for borewells and billing incentives, municipal corporations are supposed to ensure implementation but take no interest, and CGWA does not have the staff for monitoring. I will now take the case to the National Green Tribunal”. No agency in Delhi seems to have any complete information on Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) structures in the city. Last year officials from Environment Ministry found many people digging pits claiming that they will harvest water but actually to withdraw ground water. In 2001 the Urban Development Ministry made rainwater harvesting mandatory for any structure occupying 100 sqm. land or more. But the current Master Plan allows 90% ground coverage for such plots, leaving hardly any space for RWH structures. Large volumes of water pass through narrow pipes that get clogged in no time.

Sushmita Sen from Centre for Science and Environment on the other hand says maintaining a harvesting structure is extremely easy. “We have about 17 structures at CSE and spend just about Rs.1000 to maintain them every year”. Manu Bhatnagar from INTACH cites the example of check dams at Sanjay Van that has helped to recharge an old well. He also cites Hauz Khas Lake project undertaken when INTACH managed to put around 1000 million litres of water into the ground. He says “wetlands are equally important recharge zones”.

**Seed bank at Khajuraho**

**Discussions with locals, Rajodha village**

**Hauz Khas Lake**
INTACH signed an agreement with the National Institute of Urban Affairs, Ministry of Urban Development on 29th May. INTACH was appointed as the ‘city anchors’ for three heritage towns of Varanasi, Gaya and Warangal. A total of twelve towns have been selected under the HRIDAY scheme. As HRIDAY City Anchor, INTACH will be responsible for planning, advising, and supporting the local authorities for successful implementation of the scheme. INTACH will prepare City HRIDAY Plan (CHP) which is an overall vision for the city based on heritage as the engine for urban development vision. It has the responsibility of drawing up a sustainable Civic Infrastructure Development Plan (CIDP) for heritage zones. INTACH will also be engaged in reviewing the detailed project reports and evaluate project execution in the respective towns.

**Bassain Kothi, Ludhiana District**

The Maharaja Duleep Singh Memorial, Bassian Kothi, was inaugurated by the Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal on 24th May, and well covered by the media. The Chief Minister greatly appreciated INTACH conservation work. The Kothi, has now been opened to the public. It had once sheltered the last Maharaja of Punjab Duleep Singh on his way to exile in Britain and later fell into ruins. The conservation work undertaken by AHD commenced in 2011 with funding from the Punjab Government. It has been restored and dedicated to the life of this unfortunate Maharaja who lost his kingdom for no fault of his own. The exhibits of his early life are complemented with replicas of his belongings, prints and visual media. The surrounding open spaces have been developed into gardens and an amphitheatre to complement the main structure.

**Chhatar Manzil Palace, Lucknow**

Located in a central part of Lucknow, the Chhatar Manzil Palace comprises heritage structures that are an amalgam of Nawabi and European style. Sprawled over five acres, the site has two noteworthy monuments, the Chhatar Manzil and the Farhat Baksh. The latter is the oldest structure built in 1781 by General Claude Martin, with new structures added in later years.

These heritage buildings were seriously impacted after the establishment of the Central Drug Research Institute in its premises in 1950. Currently under the protection of the State Archaeology, and in collaboration with INTACH, conservation work has been taken up by the AHD. The abandoned heritage building with its beautiful premises will be converted into a City Museum and Cultural Centre to
showcase the famous Awadh Cultural Heritage. A comprehensive documentation and condition assessment will be presented shortly for final approval.

**Victoria Market, Gwalior**

The Victoria Market, built in 1910 in honour of Queen Victoria, celebrated its centenary in 2010. Unfortunately in that same year a major fire broke out on 5th June. The eastern half of the building was badly damaged and partly collapsed leaving the whole building in a rather dilapidated state.

The rectangular Victoria Market (45 mts. x 21 mts.) is a unique amalgamation of Mughal, Rajput and Colonial styles. INTACH was invited by the Gwalior Municipal Corporation to prepare a restoration plan and supervise the work that commenced in March this year. The collapsed eastern side of the building was carefully dismantled after complete documentation, and is currently being rebuilt completely from foundation.

**State of Built Heritage of India (SOBHI)**

State of Built Heritage of India (SOBHI), a pan India initiative launched by INTACH, is under progress to collate data through primary surveys. It is currently being conducted in nine regions, in addition to three thematic studies. In view of the spread and strength of INTACH across the country, Chapters have been encouraged to contribute overviews and case studies. As part of the SOBHI document, a Register on Heritage at Risk encompassing sites under natural and human-induced threats will also be included. On 8th May a Consultative Workshop was held at Central Office with the participation of consultants from different States resulting in a very effective session with valuable inputs and presentations made, besides debating on systematic methodology. A team from AHD visited Arunachal Pradesh and eastern parts of Assam from 21st-28th May for first-hand information of this region. A set of Recommendations ended this interactive meeting. Completion of the final SOBHI Document is under progress.
**CHARLES CORREA, A VISIONARY ARCHITECT**

Charles Correa passed away on 17th June (1930-2015) leaving behind a permanent imprint of his diverse works. A dynamic speaker, critic, teacher, architect, he had many friends and admirers. Influenced by two very different persons, Gandhi and Corbusier, his architecture combined effortlessly with common elements like craft, folk art, philosophy and geometry giving us a glimpse into infinite possibilities of light and space and change in architecture. Starting with Gandhi’s Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, he evolved many new concepts like the village-like Belapur housing project in Navi Mumbai, Crafts Museum and the British Council Library in Delhi, imposing Kanchenjunga Apartment in Mumbai, Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur, Kovalam Beach Resort and NIT Neuroscience Centre in Boston, etc. The Champalimau Research Centre in Portugal in Lisbon’s historic Betel District, built almost at the spot from where Vasco da Gama sailed out on an unmapped voyage to India, reveals Correa’s genius is melding past with present. Experiments were a major feature of his architecture. The retrospective of his work at London’s Royal Institute of British Architects in 2013 clearly displayed the urban aesthetics that canopied his works and tried to extend to the whole skyline. Bachi Karkaria laments “It is Mumbai’s tragedy that it was home to one of the world’s greatest architects, but has recklessly spurned this world-acclaimed imprimatur. Forgive us our ingratitude, Charles”.

Ack : Times of India and Indian Express, 8th June ‘15

**BUDDHAS OF BAMIYAN**

A 6th century Greco-Buddhist art, the Buddhas of Bamiyan were stupendous figures carved on to the cliffs of Bamiyan Village 290 kms from Kabul. For hundreds of years the Buddhas had been blessing the people of the village till they were sacrilegiously blasted by the Taliban in 2001. Into the gaping hole of one of them that stood at the towering height of 52 meters, a Buddha recently made a reappearance by the power of modern science. Not carved in rock but a true image visually restored on to the site by a Chinese couple Zhang Xinyu and Liang Hong who are travelling through countries on the Silk Route. Nothing short of a miracle!

**COMMUNITY CRAFTS & HERITAGE CELL (CCHC)**

**Income Enhancing Scheme**

The *Income and Skill Enhancing Weaving Workshop* is a collaborative initiative of CCHC with *SUVIDHA* (Society for the Upliftment of Villagers and Development of Himalayan Areas) for women of the rural areas of Almora district, Uttarakhand. The focus of this project held March-June this year was on teaching and promoting traditional loom weaving in the rural areas where many crafts are to be found in abundance even today. Twenty rural women were selected for teaching the process of traditional weaving and were trained as skilled artisans.

Master Trainer teaching the process of making bobbins over charkha and traditional weaving loom

The prime objective is also to develop training loom centres and provide technical and design assistance. All necessary
tools and equipment have been provided to set up the centres with traditional looms. The women have learnt the process of making bobbins over charka and helping each other in preparing Tana Bana. Some beneficiaries have learnt the basic weaving techniques, and how to sketch the design on graph and implement it with the help of the comb attached to the handloom unit. They have made durries and stoles.

**Video Documentation of Building Crafts**

A design development workshop was conducted by CCHC at Nizambad, a small town situated about 100 kms north of Varanasi in Azamgarh District. The small community of traditional potters, the khumbars, make pottery in a lustrous black colour which is uniquely decorative. The pots are also incised with floral bands and medallions of silver etching. Though ancient and simplistic, it is a traditional craft bringing out myriad nuances and differences in each of its various forms be it a decorative or a utilitarian object.

The design workshop was a major new initiative as it trained them to make wall and floor terracotta tiles that can be used in architecture. It opens a completely new market to the craft cluster. This initiative has been video documented and covers the entire process of production of this craft and its associated intangible elements.

**Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters**

The CCHC jointly with AHD are preparing a ‘base work’ for the World Heritage Serial Nomination Dossier, a tentative list of World Heritage Sites in India. The tentative list identifies eight regions in the five states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. Currently content is being developed for Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh)) as the first saree weaving cluster in this series. Methodical identification of Saree Weaving Centres is based on attributes of value to be analysed with respect to traditional communities and surviving tangible heritage. Chanderi’s unique saree weaving community housed in traditional architecture is being studied in depth to comprehend the long-lasting relationship between the craft, the family and the traditional home.

The Tentative List project in the five States identified will encompass links between tangible and intangible aspects of saree weaving and vernacular architecture, while safeguarding the traditional weavers’ communities. It also interconnects surviving vernacular built heritage and traditional modes of production like looms with the customary weaving skill sets.
The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division took up four projects during this quarter jointly with the Kasargod, Dahanu, Rajpipla and Jharkhand Chapters of INTACH.

For the ICH elements from Kannaur and Kasargod districts of Kerala, a research and documentation team coordinated by Convenor Dr. V. Jayarajan, with an expert P.V Harish, under the chairmanship of artist and folklorist K.K Marar the documentation was completed. A survey and technical team assisted the work. The Chapter has listed the ICH elements through photographs and video documentation.

The Dahanu Chapter undertook a study to document the intangible cultural heritage of the Warli tribal people in order to identify the exact nature of the linkages between tribal cultures with surrounding environment. Warli tribal people are spread over Bombay, Nashik and Palghar districts of Maharashtra and the Dangs and Valsad districts of Gujarat. Cultural mapping is important in today’s rapidly changing scenario. External influences and urbanization of areas are rapidly effacing Warli traditional knowledge systems of the centuries.

The Rajpipla Chapter documented the Bhil community and the role of different festivals in celebration of varied occasions, and the associated cultural paraphernalia around these festivals.

The project titled *A Stroll Amidst Tribal Panorama*, opens up with a narrative of the Bhil people and their symbiotic relationship with nature, and how the Rajpipla Chapter was instrumental in collecting the community’s intangible
cultural heritage. The project looked into festivities like Shitla Mata and Bhadarva Dev fairs; Navratri, Holi, Dev Mogra festivals; Gher dance and folklore; Holi songs, and so on.

The Jharkhand Chapter through their project sought to unfold the hidden secrets of culture of the Santals. Along with seven major dance forms like Daantha, Sarpha, Dasai, Dhonger, Singrai, Langre and Rinjha, the Santal habitat pattern, food habits, ornaments, musical instruments and socio-cultural life have been documented.

Various festivals featuring the dance of the Santals have been covered. Each festival like Baha and Sobrai is followed by performances. The project also documented Oral History and the literature of Jashmi Murmu, a representative of the community.

**GLIMPSES OF THE MANY SPLENDORED TRADITION OF KERALA**

Kooli Theyyam - a rare ritual performed in the Karimbalan houses for their ancestors.
Aati Kalinja - a visiting performance during the monsoon to ward off evil spirits.
Narasanna - traditional fortune tellers of Kasragod district.
Kalan Kolam - a traditional performance during the last day of Aadi month.
Sreepoothi or Cheeyothi - a rare performance to ward off evil spirits.
Poliyanthram - a folk ritual associated with Diwali in Kasargod.
Nikil Kaanal - a social function to settle the disputes of a particular community.
Kothamoori - a rare performance of Kannaur district.
Uchabali - a symbolic sacrifice of the Malayan community.
Kelipatharam - a visiting performance taking the form of Lord Shiva by the Yogi community.
Matahvilasam Koothu - a rare performance of the Chakyar community in the Shiva temples of Kannur Viruthi Koothu; a rare art form of Chakyar.
Seemantham - a ritual for pregnant ladies.
Yakshi and Gandharvan - a magic performance to ward off infertility.

**INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY ( IHA)**

Principal Director Navin Piplani made a presentation on Vision-Strategy-Plan for the Academy. He outlined the broad objectives, target groups/participants, course structure and content, various subjects and themes that had been taken up since the inception of IHA in 2012. He outlined in detail the short term (0-2yrs), medium term (2-5 yrs.) and a long term (9 to 10 yrs.) study programmes of the Academy.

The meeting was chaired by General LK Gupta on 5th May. Member of the Architectural Division Advisory Committee Prof. KT Ravindran, INTACH Member Secretary CT Misra, Convenor Prof. AGK Menon attended along with other INTACH officials.

Chairman emphasized that IHA should hold capacity building workshops at frequent intervals including some basic courses like Heritage Understanding and Save our Heritage, simultaneously developing e-courses that have larger outreach and require smaller budgets. Dr. CT Misra suggested academic studies as an added dimension through collaboration with international organizations.

Prof. KT Ravindran proposed development of new programmes such as ethnography, anthropology, intangible heritage held in collaboration with academic institutions/universities and offering degree/diploma courses.
Prof. AGK Menon felt IHA collaboration with organizations like the IS Academy in Shimla, Income Tax and CPWD Departments was important.

INTACH officials also offered some suggestions like running courses for SAARC countries, teaching subjects like environmental laws and heritage legislation, and short term courses that can be run at other INTACH locations in the country.

**Bhopal Workshop**

IHA jointly with the Bhopal Chapter held the *Conservation Engineering Workshop* on 6th-8th May for officials of the Urban Administrative and Development Department, State Archaeology, engineering students attracting over 100 participants. It received due importance with the presence of Addl. Chief Secretary MM Upadhyay, Principal Secretary Urban Development Malaya Srivastava, Urban Administration Commissioner Vivek Agrawal, Municipal Commissioner Tejasvi Nayak along with Convenor Dr. Pukhraj Maroo, Co-Convenor OP Mishra and other INTACH Members.

The workshop was designed to sensitise participants to understanding conservation management like structural engineering, analysis of rates, preparation of specifications, tendering process, and a case study of Ujjain. The feedback indicates an overwhelming demand for more such practical courses to be held regularly at college level, and also conducted for practicing engineers to update their skills and understanding of conservation.

**Conservation Technique Workshop**

A one-day *Conservation Technique Workshop* was held on 13th May in collaboration with Jadavpur University, Kolkata at the request of State Convenor GM Kapur. About 50 participants attended an intensive session on the Conservation of Writers’ Building which is an iconic landmark of the city.

**Capacity Building Workshop**

The *Capacity Building Workshop* held at Badami, Karnataka on 14th-16th May was inaugurated by the District Magistrate of Bagalkot PA Meghnnavar. Over a hundred people participated in the workshop graced by MP Bagalkot PV Gaddigoudar, District Minister SR Patil. MLA Badami BB Chimmanakatti, noted historian Shilkant Pattar, and several senior officials of the local administration, Police, Municipal Corporation and Chamber of Commerce. It attracted considerable attention as even representatives of hotels, taxis and guides associations, social workers and NGOs were also present.

At the inaugural session, PD IHA Navin Piplani made a presentation on the *HRIDAY* scheme in which INTACH is a partner. He emphasized on the need to base all conservation and development projects on the ‘soul of Badami’ which is a heritage city. Historic landscape architect from Delhi Nupur Prothi Khanna gave a presentation on ‘understanding natural heritage’ and an ‘introduction to cultural landscapes’ elaborating the importance of these facets in heritage management plan for Badami.

The Workshop provided an informal platform for exchanging views and address concerns of both the government officials as well as local communities of Badami, and perhaps change their mindset on issues of heritage management and augment conservation. Especially important as *HRIDAY* is being shortly launched in Badami and will significantly impact the overall development of the city.

**Conservation of Traditional Building Material**

An important course *Study, Use and Conservation of Traditional Building Material* was held at the CEPT Campus, Ahmedabad from 1st-19th June. It was introduced with a day
long guided tour of Ahmedabad historic city conducted by a Consulting Engineer Keyur Sarda. The focus of the subsequent day was on use of lime in historic buildings with PD Navin Piplani touching on various issues involved in lime conservation. Head of Abhikram, Ahmedabad Nimish Patel spoke on the practical approach to lime conservation citing some case studies.

Several all-day practical sessions were scheduled for the following days conducted by CEPT Faculty Member Kayur Sarda who is a master craftsman.

During the second week the focus was on Timber used in historic buildings, that also began with a guided tour. Chief Architect Benny Kuriakose explained the approach to conserving timber buildings and issues involved in its execution. Several practical sessions with master craftsmen and CEPT faculty were conducted.

The focus of the third week was on Use of Stone in historic buildings conducted by retired Regional Director-North, Archaeological Survey of India Dr. KK Muhammed. Again both approach and issues in stone conservation were highlighted through a guided tour in the historic city area of Ahmedabad. The all-day practical sessions on the following days were conducted by master craftsmen and CEPT faculty.

Certificates were distributed to all participants at the Valedictory session on the concluding day.

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**2014-15 INTACH (UK) SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES**

Ranee Om Prakash: Conservation of archival material of the Wallich Correspondence held at Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal.

Sarah J. Lawton: Action, Drawing, Performance, Reflections on Odissi, Bharatnatyam and Mudras inform design pedagogy.


Adam Perchard: Mapping Fatehpur Sikri : Hybrid Space in Rushdie’s The Enchantress of Florence.

Catherine Maclean: Colin Mackenzie Collection in India: Connecting with key Indian institutions and bringing together a body of research, materials and networks.

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**2014-15 INTACH RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES**

Bessie Cecil: Technical Handloom Textiles

Nupur Prothi Khanna: Historic Planting - A contextual approach for heritage precincts in India

Sangeeta Bais: Proposal for Scientific Study of Incised Plaster of Monuments of Delhi

Bhawna Dandona : Survey and Characterisation of Historic Brick (Lahori)

Prajakta Panshikar: Study of Pune Metro Project : A Heritage Conservation Perspective

Richa Aggarwal : Structural Analysis and Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of an Indo-Islamic Domed Monument : The Alai Darwaza

A.R. Chaudhri: Geo-scientific exploration of the Saraswati River Civilisation and Heritage in Himalayas

Vishwanathan Gidithuri: Effects of Hudhud cyclone on British colonial built heritage in Vishakhapatnam coastal city and develop Risk Preparedness Plan

Jayarajan Vayalkara: Study of Body Paintings related to Folk Performing Arts of South India


Neeta Das: Understanding & Replicating Traditional Mortars in India for Brick Structures
TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Wai and Panchgani, 15th -16th April

The Workshop was attended by 100 teachers from 50 schools at Dravid English Medium School, Wai and Vidya Niketan School, Panchgani. Ms. Vanitha Jadhav, INTACH Wai-Panchgani Chapter gave a brief introduction to the history of Wai and Panchgani and the rich heritage in terms of its local temples and ghats and natural heritage. In both the workshops, teachers were shown presentations on how to make heritage education appealing to the students.

Delhi, 1st May

Ms. Vidushi Chaturvedi, Director, Education, New Delhi Municipal Corporation was the Chief Guest for the workshop for New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) schools. Dr. AGK Menon gave a presentation on Delhi’s nomination to UNESCO’s World Heritage City list. Principal Director, HECS, Purnima Datt, spoke about India’s unique and rich heritage and the educational modules to be undertaken by teachers in their school Heritage Clubs. The workshop concluded with felicitations and distribution of certificates and resource materials by Member Secretary, Dr. CT Misra.

Shimla, 7th – 8th May

Ms. Malvika Pathania thanked the Chief Guest Ms. Upma Chawdhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Language, Arts and Culture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh for taking out time to attend the event. Ms. Chowdhary said she was happy to be at the workshop as it was linked to what her department is working on. She pointed out that heritage is non renewable and has immense value. Shimla Convenor Raaja Bhasin said the purpose of such workshops was to create systems and mechanisms to move forward, develop an interest and promote heritage. There was an interesting talk by the Convenor on geographical features of India.
HERITAGE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Guwahati, 28th – 29th April

A Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop for 75 students of Cotton College and Handique Girls’ College was organized by HECS at Guwahati. The State Convenor Jayanta Sharma, initiated the session by speaking about heritage-related initiatives that have been undertaken in Assam. This was followed by an interactive session in which students were made aware of the main kinds of heritage. Dr. Jayanta Lashkar, a renowned professor of the Department of Geological Studies, Guwahati University, introduced the students to a very interesting heritage that is often overlooked – ‘geological heritage’. A talk by Manik Borah on Guwahati’s built heritage, focused on the reconstruction work undertaken by INTACH to restore the Kamakhya Temple. Bhupendra Nath Talukder, Rtd. Divisional Forest Officer, conducted a lively and interactive session related to the natural heritage of Assam. On the second day of the workshop, the students were told about Volunteerism, and were willing to enlist as active heritage volunteers. The workshop inspired a newfound sense of vigour and enthusiasm among the participants to carry forward this initiative and promote heritage in their institution.

FILMIT INDIA

Chandigarb, 10th April

HECS organized Filmit Film Festival in Chandigarb at St. Kabir Public School in collaboration with Chapter Convener VK Kapur, and, Co-Convener Deepika Gandhi. Advisor Vijay Kumar Dev was the chief guest on the occasion. Representatives from participating schools were called on stage to share their filming experiences through speeches and poems. The best films from other cities were shown to them. Students were awarded certificates and prizes at the concluding felicitation ceremony.
HERITAGE CLUB ACTIVITIES

Story telling and Walk at the Begumpuri Mosque and Jahapanah Complex, was held on 20th April in connection with World Heritage Day.

INTACH in association with the Darvesh Group conducted an unique storytelling session on the history of the Tughlaq Dynasty. The students and teachers from Summer Fields School, The Banyan Tree, Pinnacle School and Indian School attended. It was beautifully illustrated by a storyteller Yuvika, and Nitika of the Darvesh group. Students were asked to wear elastic bands to the their hands which were supposed to take them back symbolically to 14th century Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq known as the Mad Genius by historians. Each time before the character of Tughlaq could appear, the children said:

“Oh Tilsmi Duniya ke Khas
Le chalo, Le Chalo
Hume Tughlaq Ke paas”

WORLD HERITAGE DAY AND EARTH DAY

72 students from 36 schools participated in the Just a Minute: Youth Speak for Heritage on 24th April. The participants were given topics such as : Delhi’s heritage and its importance in today’s scenario; State of the structures at present and maintenance of the monuments; Importance of Delhi’s selection as India’s first World Heritage city by UNESCO,

Ways to attract tourists and role of eco-tourism. The panel of judges included Consultant IDC Dr. Narayani Gupta, Delhi Chapter Co-Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle and Senior Coordinator Manisha Singh. The students were given five minutes to organize their thoughts and one minute to speak on their chosen topic. They came up with interesting suggestions to make Delhi a tourist friendly place and how Delhi can truly become a World Heritage City given its rich history and culture. Bluebells International School won the first prize. The event concluded with felicitation and words of encouragement from INTACH Chairman Maj. Gen. LK Gupta and Dr. Narayani Gupta.

BEST HERITAGE CLUB AWARD 2014-15

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad and Delhi Public School, Sec. 45, Gurgaon were
awarded the Best Heritage Club 2014 awards. The First Runner Up Awards were won by Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School, Jaipur; Akshara School, Kakinada; Modern High School for Girls, Kolkata; Sri Sankana Vidyashramam Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chennai; and Global Indian International School, Noida. The Second Runner Up Awards went to SS Memorial School, Mizoram; Mira Model School, Delhi; Delhi School of Excellence, Hyderabad; DAV International School, Amritsar; Bhavan’s AK Doshi Vidyalaya, Jamnagar; Government Higher Secondary School, Peruvallur, Kerala; Global Indian International School, Bangalore; and DAV Public School, Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar.

2nd Paramparā e-Newsletter, 4th June

This newsletter contains information about heritage initiatives of Delhi colleges which were a part of HECS Heritage Volunteer Training initiative.

HERITAGE QUIZ 2015

The Heritage Education and Communication Service along with Xpressminds India organized the largest ever School Quiz in India - The INTACH India Quiz 2014 held in 105 cities across the country; covering all States and Union Territories that was a major success. This year on the same lines the INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2015 is being organized with a larger outreach expected owing to last year’s success. This event is being organized jointly by INTACH and Xpress Minds Edutainment, led by an architect and National Level Quizmaster Kunal Savarkar, who conducted several of them for INTACH during the past few years. The City Rounds will be conducted beginning June 30th in over 100 cities consisting of a preliminary written round. The 16 Zonal Winners will meet in the National Rounds at Delhi comprising 4 semi-finalists to be followed by the national grand finale scheduled to be held later in the year in September-October.
Anantpur

Anantpur Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day with a myriad activities focusing on culture and heritage. An essay and elocution contest on Indian Culture and Heritage was held at SSBN B.Ed. College. A seminar was conducted at the same venue, where papers on Indian Culture and Heritage were presented by Dr. M.V.N. Reddy, Principal of the college. Dr. Uddandam Chandrasekhar, an eminent journalist of the event. Convenor A.G. Venugopal Reddy welcomed the guests and felicitated various artistes.

Kurnool

Zero Budget Natural Farming

Convenor B. Ventateswarlu and Co-Convenor Osman Haroon, organized a widely attended 5 days programme on Organic Farming. The awareness workshop and training programme was presided over by Subhash Palekar, an expert on ancient systems of Indian Agriculture.

The participating farmers were given information about the hazardous effects of chemical pesticides on crops, soil and human health. They were informed about alternative practices – drawn from ancient systems of Indian Agriculture—the use of natural fertilizers, own seeds and reuse of waste material for providing nutrition to the soil.

The attendance included prominent local leaders, agriculture experts, NABARD officials, District Development Manager and of course the farmers!

Srikakulam

Shermahammadpuram is an ancient village near Srikakulam. It rose to prominence in the early 17th century when the first Subedar of Nizam Shermahammad made it his headquarters. He built a fort and a big irrigation tank. The remains of these can still be seen today.
ASSAM

Tourism Department, Govt. of Assam has initiated a step for refurbishment of the historic North Brook Gate at Guwahati and has entrusted State Chapter with the restoration work as INTACH has the expertise in refurbishment of monuments. An estimate of the refurbishment prepared by INTACH has been submitted.

BIHAR

Patna

During INTACH Chairman’s visit to Bihar for the inauguration of the new Chapter in Vaishali, Convenor Patna Chapter, Er. J.K. Lall arranged for a meeting of Patna Chapter and presentation on natural heritage. The educative talk on Butterflies of Patna Zoo covered nearly seventy specimen of butterflies found in the zoo alone. The event was attended by Patna Chapter Members, academicians, forest officers and friends of INTACH.

Vizag

CONDOLENCES

INTACH is saddened to learn about the demise of K.V. Jagannadha Rao on 7th May. Shri Rao was with the Air Force and served in the Second World War. He was a known and respected figure of the city and often wrote articles on Visakhapatnam in ‘The Hindu’. These were published in form of a book recently. We send our deepest condolences to his bereaved family and our good wishes for their future.
Vaishali

A new Chapter was inaugurated at Vaishali, Bihar to carry forward the conservation work of INTACH. This is the first successful initiative of Bihar State Chapter. The inauguration was held on 11th April and was attended by Chairman Maj. Gen. LK Gupta as the Chief Guest and Director Chapters Group Captain Rahul Pathak as the Guest of Honour. The venue for the inauguration was a library in a heritage building that has the distinction of two visits by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930s.

State Convenor Prem Sharan, acquainted the audience with INTACH objectives, functions and activities.

In his inaugural address, Chairman stated that in the last century many elements of our culture and heritage have been destroyed. INTACH is the only non-governmental agency which partners the Government in protection and conservation of our culture and heritage.

Group Captain Rahul Pathak in his address explained the objectives and programmes of INTACH.

The team visited the famous Ashokan Pillar and Stupa at Koluha Vaishali.

CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh Chapter marked World Heritage Day with a colourful and vibrant function of folk dances of Punjab, Haryana and Punjab by performers were from “Puncham and North Zone Cultural Centre”

CHHATTISGARH

Bilaspur

In keeping with the tradition of World Heritage Day, which started in 1982 at a symposium in Tunisia, when ICOMOS decided to celebrate monuments and historical sites of the
world internationally, Bilaspur Chapter held celebrations in the district to mark the occasion. Convenor Dr. Manju S. Mitra in her address spoke about the importance and relevance of the day.

The chief guest for the occasion, Divisional Commissioner of Bilaspur spoke at length about documenting the intangible heritage of the region and it’s conservation. Co-Convenor Dr. U.K. Shrivastava urged people to participate in the conservation activities of INTACH. An exhibition of heritage sites of Bilaspur was well received by all. Prof. Ghanshyam and Anil Tiwari apprised the audience of the various INTACH activities.

Bilaspur Chapter celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June. The programme attracted varied participants – teachers, students, INTACH Members and others. Various environmental concerns were discussed. There was a painting and declamation competition for students on environment.

**Corrigendum:** In the last issue, Bilaspur was mistakenly printed under Madhya Pradesh. It is in Chhattisgarh. The error is regretted.

**Sarguja**

Co-Convenor Sachin Mandilkar acquainted researchers and the audience with the historical facts of Sitabengra and Jogimarah Caves during Ramgarh Mahotsav.
The quiz received an enthusiastic response and thirty seven teams participating. Quiz Master Kunal Savarkar of Xpress Minds conducted the quiz.

The proud winners of the competition were:

Indian Oil Team - 1st; Indian Army Team - 2nd; Indian Oil team “B” - 3rd; Shell Team - 4th; Hachette Team - 5th; Racket Benckisen - 6th.

The Gurgaon Haat was successfully organized for the fifth time by the Gurgaon Chapter. The Haat is a quarterly feature and gives the artisans a platform to exhibit their wares. Convenor Atul Dev, informed that six of the participating artisans were “Differently Abled” and they were allotted the stalls free of cost to encourage and appreciate their efforts.

Kurukshetra

Convenor Dr. Choudhri, who is also the chairperson of the Department of Geology, Kurukshetra University, found merit in Yamunanagar administration’s ‘Saraswati Founder’ claim.

The claims of the district authorities on the chance discovery of water from the now inactive Saraswati River got a boost on Wednesday after Dr. Choudhri termed it as a remnant of an inactive river or stream channel, on the modern identified river route (technically referred to as paleo channel).

After a field study of various spots near Adi Badri in the district on Wednesday, Dr. A.R. Choudhri, said that presence of sweet water at the shallow surface was an interesting phenomenon. He also said that ‘initial study of water and sediments shows them as distinct from local water and minerals’.

Dr. Choudhri said the paleo channel could be one of the streams of a major river flowing in the region in ancient times. He has taken sedimentary samples from the spot for further analysis.

The geologist clarified that it was believed Saraswati used to flow from upper Himalayas and enters the plains near Adi Badri, located in the foothills of lower Shivalik mountain ranges.

Shri Rajesh Chowdhry is appointed as the Addl. Co-Convenor of Kurukshetra Chapter. We extend good wishes for his future endeavours.
Rohtak

Rohtak Chapter organized photo exhibitions of the heritage sites of historical and cultural importance in various schools, colleges and at the Maharshi Dayanand University. On World Heritage Day, various declamations and debates were organized for high schools students.

The emphasis of Rohtak Chapter is not only the historical buildings in the town but also the rural areas. These include chaupals, havelis, deras, temples, muths etc; as well as on Intangible Heritage. The Chapter identified singers and folk instrumentalists and recorded them on video.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Kangra

Kangra Chapter held its Annual Meeting with Convenor L.N. Aggarwal apprising Members that documentation of various monuments was underway and a book on folk songs of Himachal Pradesh will be published shortly.

The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day, involving children from various schools. There was a declamation and poster making competition. All participants took a pledge to keep the environment clean.

Mandi

Convenor Naresh Malhotra organized a Heritage Painting competition for students of class IX to XI. More than 50 students from 14 schools participated. It created awareness among the youth about the need to protect and conserve heritage and cultural legacy of the country. The paintings of the students focused primarily on heritage buildings, monuments, temples, river and forests. Prizes were given to three best paintings by Sr. Superintendent of Police, Mohit Chawala.

Shimla

While the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Shimla recently completed 200 years of its existence, the building has completed over 120 years. The building built in Norman-Baronial style is perhaps the only structure in India, INTACH has proposed its complete restoration and has submitted the proposal to the State Government.

To mark the 200 years of the institution of Shimla Deputy Commissioner, a book was released by the Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh. The book has been edited by Convenor, Raaja Bhasin who is the Co-Convenor of the
State Chapter. The book covers various aspects of Shimla along with its administrative history. The Chief Minister pledged to preserve the rich heritage of the town and the State.

Many organisations have strongly opposed the demand to install ultrasonic sound producing machines to ward away monkeys. It is felt “the demand is preposterous as the man-animal conflict is the result of encroachment by human beings on the habitat of animals”. In the 1970s Shimla was a thickly forested region that is today overrun by crowded habitation not only in Shimla but in other urban sprawls in Kaithu, Shankli, Sanjauli, Phagli, Kaniog, Bhrari, Dalhi and countless others including a Chota Shimla. Monkeys and leopards invade residential areas in search of food and water resulting in some brutal killings of animals. Preservation of greenery was once a passion project of the Chapter. It is now a Catch 22 situation that can only be overcome by synergy between wildlife adventure tourism in the outskirts such as Hasan Valley and areas below Annandale for example. Or even a city forest within the Municipal Corporation area would be a popular attraction. The Chapter’s passion project can perhaps take a new turn?

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Jammu

A brochure on the Wall Paintings of the Ancient Temples of Jammu City was released by Jenab Naeem Akhtar, Minister for Education, J&K on 24th April in the Auditorium of Govt. College for Women. Convenor, S.M. Sahni, Co-Convenor Hemant Sharma, Dr. C.M. Seth, Prof. Anita Beloria, Dr. Kavita Suri and Members of INTACH, Special Invitees

18th April, World Heritage Day was celebrated in various schools in Jammu. Life Member Kirpal Singh and Associate Member Sandeep Singh conducted the heritage tour of Mandi Heritage Complex for the students.
Kashmir

Member INTACH Saleem Beigh called on Governor N.N. Vohra, at Raj Bhavan and briefed him about various conservation and management initiatives undertaken by INTACH like Resource Mapping of the historical city of Srinagar, preparation of the Heritage Map of the city and the status to-date of restoration and conservation of Mughal Gardens.

The Governor asked Shri Beigh to ensure that INTACH plays a significant role in the finalization of Master Plans of Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg as considerable damage has already taken place because of all manner of unplanned urban growth.

The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) was created by the Government as an autonomous body in 1997 as a one point agency to conserve and manage J&K waterbodies and waterways. The Dal and Nigeen Lakes form the core areas of attention and the authority has the mandate to manage these lakes under the National Lake Conservation Plan. LAWDA issued warnings against carrying out any construction work within 200 metres of the lakes or green belts, and that illegal constructions would have to be demolished by the defaulter. In May the demolition squad in coordination with the local Waqf Board demolished 30 illegal kiosks and other constructions in the vicinity of Hazratbal Shrine on the western shore of the Dal Lake. LAWDA also seized six truck loads of construction material near Dalgate. It is an unending battle against construction mafia everywhere.

KARNATAKA

Bagalkot

Bagalkot Chapter conducted a tour under the Heritage Awareness Programme to the Chandramouleshwar temple in Unkal. The temple has an entrance from all four directions and is famous in Karnataka for this rare style of architecture.

The Chapter observed World Museum Day by organizing a one day workshop on Preservation and Protection of Old Manuscripts. It was held at the Shivayogamandir where about 2500 manuscripts are preserved. Convenor Dr. D.G. Kulkarni, welcomed all the scholars to the workshop. Prof. M.F. Kuri proposed the vote of thanks.
**Bengaluru**

**SAVE HEBBAL LAKE**

Once a bird watcher’s paradise, it is feared the Hebbal Lake will soon go the way of Varthur Lake where dirt bubbles froth away and spill into neighbourhood streets. The quick fix adopted by the city’s Lake Development Authority is inadequate for tackling untreated sewage and industrial waste that choke the catchment areas. A number of structures have sprung up at one end of the lake and some shops are selling diseased fish to the people with not a tweet to be heard at what was once a bird watcher’s paradise! Desilting and bunds are short term solutions, the BBMP needs to take up major biological interventions to save Hebbal lake.

**Dharwad**

INTACH, Dharwad Cultural Heritage Museum held a seminar on *Indian Architecture—New Perspectives*. In his introductory remarks Convenor, N.P. Bhat highlighted the establishment of the Heritage Cultural Museum, which showcases the historical, literary, art, and musical heritage of Dharwad and its surroundings. The seminar had two facets—lectures on Museum Movements and Site Museums in Karnataka, and presentations on recent architectural studies.

Four groups of scholars were invited to the Seminar experts on museum studies; experts from field of technical aspects of architecture working on heritage monuments; experts on Indian traditional Vastu texts; and experts in historical dimensions of Indian architecture.

The objective of such an expert panel was to facilitate interactions across disciplines of museum studies, architecture, textual studies and history.

**KERALA**

**Students Day Out**

Convenor, K. Mohan took the commendable initiative of taking a group of 45 economically weaker section of students from Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Puthiyara, Calicut on a conducted tour of the city. The tour covered the heritage sites of Calicut - The Basel (German) Mission Tile Factory, the 2000 years old Wooden Ship Building Yard, the 700 years old Muslim Wooden Mosque, a Portuguese Roman Catholic Church which dates to 1599. The 1847 Calicut Light House was also on the tour agenda. Students were given a much deserved and relaxing break for 30 minutes at a beach, and then treated to a sumptuous lunch at an air conditioned restaurant.

Four Staff Members from the school and two Chapter Members accompanied the students. The tour was not only a treat for the students but also left them with a feeling of pride and awareness of their heritage sites.

**Calicut**

Capt. Dinker Karunakar has taken over as Convenor Calicut from K. Mohan. We wish him all the best for his onerous duties.

Prakash Manhapra is the new Co-Convenor of Calicut Chapter. We wish him a very successful tenure.
CGH Earth Hotel Group is well known for its heritage and eco-sensitive resorts in Kerala and Lakshwadeep. Its Chairman was closely associated with INTACH’s Kerala Chapter for many years. There are many stories about the cuisine offered at Hotel Casino’s famed Fort Kochi restaurant or its Tharavad restaurant and its other resorts. The principles of food at all CGH restaurants are “local, whole, fresh and seasonal”, be it grown in its kitchen gardens or freshly caught by fishermen.

CGH General Manager says ‘gourmet healthy’ comprehensively conveys the idea behind their cuisine, with each dish and menu having a story and a thought behind it that makes the eating experience memorable for guests. At its Spice Village food is almost a social and political statement, according to them. Practicing what they term, as an “old tradition and a new culture”, yoga and ayurveda are also offered for interested guests and their international clientele.

**Trivandrum**

World Heritage Day, April 18th, was observed by Trivandrum Chapter at Varkala, a town 50 kms off Kerala’s capital city. “Save Varkala Cliffs--Our Unique Geoheritage” was the theme of the meeting attended by a small but concerned group of citizens. Convenor Shaji Krishnan welcomed the gathering and gave a brief account of the work being done by INTACH across the country.

Inaugurating the meeting Varkala Municipality Chairman Biju Gopalan, admitted that their unique geological heritage was facing extinction. He thanked INTACH for organising Heritage Day function.

Delivering the keynote address V. Muraleedharan, BJP Kerala State President, recalled how millions of places including forests, rivers, ponds, and trees, associated with our epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas, inculcated in people a respect for the natural features. In the process they got protected and preserved for countless centuries.

Poetess Rosemary lauded INTACH’s work done and mentioned its effort in preserving the pretty 16th century church in Palai where she had prayed as a young girl. She said it was time to rethink modern developments which pollute water, fell trees and blast mountains.


**MADHYA PRADESH**

Corrigendum: In the last issue, Burhanpur was mistakenly printed under Maharashtra. It is under Madhya Pradesh. The error is regretted.

**Dhar**

Dr. Deependra Sharma is appointed the first Convenor of the newly created Dhar Chapter. He is also the Director of Bhoj Research Institute in Dhar, an NGO.

Pinakin Barot will work as the Co-Convenor. We wish the team at Dhar all the best for their task ahead.

On World Heritage Day, Dhar Chapter conducted a heritage walk for students. Organized for the first time it was enthusiastically received.
We congratulate Shri Mukund Bhogale, on his appointment as the new State Convenor. We wish him all the best for his enhanced responsibilities in future.

Sharvey Ramesh Dhongde is appointed as the new State Co-Convener. We wish him a successful tenure, and welcome him most warmly.

Various heritage sites of the town were covered with Convenor Deependra Sharma providing interesting information related to heritage and culture which kept the students captivated. It was well covered by the local media.

**Gwalior**

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH learnt about the sad demise of Shri L.N. Shivhare, Life Member of Gwalior Chapter for the last thirty years. He was a dedicated Member and worked assiduously to create awareness about local heritage amongst the public. INTACH sends its condolences to his two sons and daughter on their grievous loss, and its good wishes for their future.

Another grievous loss for the Gwalior Chapter is Shri C.S. Goswami who passed away on 24th April. He was a very active Member for the last 10 years and will be much missed. INTACH sends its heartfelt condolences to his wife and family at this time of sorrow, with our good wishes for their future.

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur published the fourth edition of his book ‘Shiv Mandir Jugad’. It was released by the Union Minister of State Hansraj Ahir.

Authored by Thakur the book is about the 12th century Shiv Temple built by king Jaggadev Parmar and draws its name from the village Jugad where it is located. The temple was in a very dilapidated condition till INTACH took over the renovation in 2007.

Ashok Singh Thakur also came out with a special leaflet on ‘The Caves of Chandrapur’ released by Chairman L.K Gupta, during the Governing Council meeting held in New Delhi recently.

**Mumbai**

The Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust organised a series of programmes:
INTACH invited all Chapter Members for an informal get-together at the Museum. Convenor, Tasneem Mehta, Co-Convenor Vikas Dilawari, EC Members Kaiwan Mehta and Siddharth Bhatia held an engaging interaction with Members who expressed their views on various aspects of the city’s heritage, especially the Draft Development Plan 2034. The meeting provided an opportunity for both Members and the Executive Committee (EC) to discuss concerns and suggestions regarding the city’s heritage.

On World Heritage Day on 18th April, two activities merit special mention. An online Heritage Photography Competition was held wherein interested citizens were asked to submit photographs of tangible and intangible heritage in the city of Mumbai. The photographs were judged by Co-Convenor Vikas Dilawari, Prof. Pitkar of J.J. School of Arts and an avid photographer.

A tour of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), the erstwhile Victoria Terminus, now a World Heritage Site, was conducted by renowned conservation architect and Co-Convenor Vikas Dilawari. The participants were enthralled by the vastness and majesty of this iconic structure that defines one of Mumbai’s heritage assets.

A heritage tour of Byculla for children was conducted by Alisha Sadikot, Curator - Education and Outreach at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum. The children were excited to learn about the history of the area. A special session on preventive conservation was held by the Conservation Lab team giving children a hands-on look at different ways of caring for objects and materials. Educational workshops, tours and visits were also organised for various schools, colleges, NGOs and private institutions.

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and INTACH are partnering with the Kahani Karnival Trust to organise and present a unique children’s literature festival, the Kahani Karnival, at the Museum once every quarter in 2015.

Several Public Lectures were held by famous artists and art historians. Dr. Jyotindra Jain, eminent art and cultural historian lectured on The Goddess and the Buffalo: Art, Mythology and Ritual of Goddess Worship in India.
INTACH. The two fold event started with a heritage walk through old core of Nashik city, followed by presentations by Pune Co-Convener architect Sharvey Dhongde and conservation architect Chetan Sahastrabuddhe. The event received enthusiastic response from Members as they gained insight on the multiple dimensions of heritage conservation.

Convener Shailesh R. Devi with Chapter Members is actively working towards a strategic research to strengthen and broaden the knowledge base about heritage in the region, working on generating awareness and connecting people to their heritage. The Chapter conducted heritage walks through old city core and heritage trek to Pandav Leni, with the help of Indologist and manuscript conservator Anita Joshi and architect Rahul Dabir.

Games People Play by Thukral and Tagra opened at the Museum. The exhibition has been curated by the Director Tasneem Zakaria Mehta. Artist duo, Thukral & Tagra draw from the Museum’s collection of ancient and traditional games, exploring the idea of ‘play’ from cultural, strategic, physical and psychological perspectives.

Nashik

Soon after revival of the Chapter, a joint meeting was conducted for old and new Members followed by an orientation program to acquaint them with the profile of INTACH. They were taken up by the Agro Society, Khamasom, working tirelessly to preserve traditional artifacts from the past. Francis

Heritage Documentation of Khamasom Village, Ukhrul Distt.

Khamasom, is an exclusive Tangkhul village of Ukhrul Distt. in Manipur. It has a typical ravine landscape and borders Myanmar. The picturesque village which is approx. 700 years old is underdeveloped. The impoverishment is reflected in its barren landscape as people have to cut down trees for livelihood. Once dominated by thick, lush forests, today it is reduced to a mere patch of undisturbed rain forest at the far frontier bordering Myanmar.

Khamasom Tangkhuls follow pre-Christian religious beliefs and practices that are lost to the present generation. Varied ways of divination, beliefs in dreams and omens are part of distant and fading memory. The pride that villagers take in their village echoes in their folklore and folk songs.

Against this background, the need to preserve their own culture, tradition and beliefs from pre-Christianity days was taken up by the Agro Society, Khamasom, working tirelessly to preserve traditional artifacts from the past. Francis
Shongvah the main functionary of the society, collects ancient artifacts like antique jewellery, machete, spears, bridal accessories etc. and stores them in his house as there is no office building.

A workshop on Heritage Documentation organised by Convenor Dr. R.K. Ranjan was attended by local dignitaries and academicians to help Khamasom villagers in their preservation efforts. The Chapter believes that it can contribute its mite to establish an eco museum at Khamasom for the twin purpose of preserving and conserving their heritage, and putting the village on the tourist map as a means of generating livelihood.

MIZORAM

The first publication on listing of heritage “Built Heritage of Mizoram” was released by Pu Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Mizoram, at a function held at Aizawl on 7th May. The Chief Minister spoke candidly about the damage caused to the tangible and intangible heritages of Mizoram in the past due to ignorance and lack of awareness of their value and importance. He lauded the efforts of INTACH Mizoram Chapter in raising the level of awareness and the importance of heritage protection, conservation and preservation. He assured the Chapter that his Government will continue to extend full support and assistance for promoting the cause of Mizoram heritage.

The function was chaired by Convenor Pu P. Rohmingthanga and Co-Convenor Pu Rin Sanga. They thanked the Mizoram Govt. and the INTACH Central Office for their assistance in preparation of the book.

ODISHA

Balasore

Bhabagrahi Mohanty delivering talk on “Tourist Sites of Balasore Dist.”

The Chapter organized a meeting on World Heritage Day, presided by Convenor Himanshu Das. A talk on “Tourists Sites of Balasore District-Potentials for Development” was delivered. Addl. Co-Convenor Nikunja Beharidas arranged for an exhibition of paintings by students on Balasore. Co-Convenor Uday Ranjan Das made a presentation on Chapter activities, in particular the progress of listing work.
**Koraput**

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH was informed about the sad demise of Convenor Koraput Chapter, Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy who passed away on 6th April. He will be remembered for playing a leading role in the establishment of Jagannath Temple, Koraput. He was the chairman of Koraput NAC for three terms between 1967 and 1981. Shri Panigrahy was instrumental in establishing DAV College, DAV B.Ed. College and Govt. Womens’ College at Koraput. He was a Founder Member of the Tribal Museum, and its Director from 1991 till his death. INTACH sends its deepest condolences to his wife Smt. Meera Panigrahy and his son Niladri Panigrahy. He will be greatly missed by the Chapter and forever remembered by INTACH.

**Bhadrak**

INTACH Bhadrak Chapter published the second part of the book *Heritage Wonders of Bhadrak*. It documents and lists, with a brief description and photographs, the various heritage sites that were missed out in the first part.

**Mayurbhanj**

A general body meeting of the Chapter was held to welcome the new Convenor Major Rabindra Nath Parida. Members unanimously decided to intensify the efforts towards conservation by involving school and college students. It was decided to start several heritage clubs with which the young people could associate for conservation activities.

**Puducherry**

The Heritage Festival in Puducherry, spread over three days, covered a myriad venues in the town. The inaugural event was attended by the French Ambassador, actor Revathy, Minister for Tourism, Art and Culture and Convenor INTACH, Puducherry.

The festival was heralded by a drummer inviting everyone to attend the events. It commenced with a performance by Soham Munim at the Alliance Francaise who took the audience to a different realm with his *Alap*. That afternoon, in the courtyard of the beautifully restored old house *Gratitude*, people listened enthusiastically to the Chennai historian S. Muthiah, the creatrix for *Dakshinachitra*. Deborah Thiagarajan and the journalist Vincent D'souza, who started the now famous Mylapore Festival spoke about "cultivating a sense of history and identity though collective events".
The vibrant Crafts Bazaar came alive with paintings, papier mache, stone carvings and leather works. Several groups of dancers accompanied by drummers enthralled audiences at several locations.

At the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Library talks were held on Sri Aurobindo’s vision of the specific role of Puducherry, that still retains some of its French ambience after 1947.

A discussion on *Yin and the Yang of Heritage* was held by Prof. Ravindran and several esteemed guests.

Similar discussions were also held at Judge Annouswamy’s house and at Ecole Francaise d’Extreme-Orient. INTACH Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta spoke about old colonial buildings, and gave a presentation on renovation and restoration of Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai.

It was decided that this Heritage Festival will become an annual event.

**PUNJAB**

On World Heritage Day, Punjab Chapter and Bar Association Amritsar District Courts organized a presentation by Advocate Suneet Singh of Punjab & Haryana High Court on *Heritage Regulations for Punjab* that Punjab Chapter has proposed to the State Government for legislation. Explaining the need for such regulations, Advocate Suneet Singh said “So far there is no law that can provide legal protection and preservation to the unprotected heritage buildings, sites, precincts, or zones. This is essential in view of projects on development in the old/historical cities”. The Regulations shall apply to all urban and rural heritage sites which are not under the purview of Archaeological Survey of India or State Archeological Departments. On this occasion several Members of Bar Association Amritsar, INTACH Members and other local dignitaries were present.

The Convenors and Co-Convenors Meeting of Punjab State Chapter was held at the historic Bassian Kothi. It was chaired by Prof. Sukhdev Singh while Director Chapters Rahul Pathak represented the Central Office. Prof. Singh shared the draft heritage regulations prepared for Punjab Govt. Some of the priority activities discussed in the meeting were – completion of project listing of Amritsar and Taran Taaran, organizing HECS training programmes, projects relating to arts and material conservation in Patiala, and projects related to heritage tourism.
Heritage tour for students

The Chapter organized a heritage tour for school children. Convenor R.K. Aggarwal conducted the tour and gave information about the various historical sites covered during the tour. The programme was well covered by the local newspapers.

Patiala

Patiala Chapter, as part of its heritage awareness campaign, organized a programme which was attended by several organizations of importance and prominent people of the area.

Addressing the gathering, Convenor Advocate Sarbjit Singh Virk deliberated upon the importance and role of INTACH in preserving culture and heritage. He said that Patiala has important historical and cultural monuments and stressed on the need to protect and preserve them.

Faridkot

RAJASTHAN

Baran

Jitendra Kumar Sharma is appointed the new Convenor for Baran Chapter. Shri Harimohan Bansal is the new Co–Convenor. INTACH welcomes them with many good wishes for a very successful tenure.

New Mineral Policy: Rajasthan

State Co–Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya wrote to the Dept. of Mines and Geology with suggestions for a new Mineral Policy 2015. The focus is on conservation of heritage sites. The recommendations include exempting all natural heritage sites from any excavation, no mining activity to be permitted in any forestland or Deosthan (land near place of worship) and lastly no mining lease to be allotted around historical, cultural and archeological sites.

Barmer

World Heritage Day was celebrated by the Chapter with a programme in which extensive discussions were held on art, culture, local heritage sites, environment and many related topics for the day. The platform for discussion was shared.
Students from the Blind School performing at the function

by industrialists, traders, students, teachers, officers, literary figures and others. Students from the Blind School also participated in the event. Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma thanked all the delegates present and promised to organize functions in future focusing on awareness and conservation of heritage.

Bhilwara

The Bhilwara Chapter is lauded for bringing out a book which introduces its readers to the various historical, archaeological, religious and natural places of interest found in Bhilwara. The book also gives useful information about how to reach these places.

Book inauguration by the Governor

Bikaner

The Bikaner Chapter held World Heritage Day celebrations at the Townhall. Various eminent persons spoke about the importance of our cultural heritage and its preservation.

The Chief Guest former Rajasthan Minister, Devi Singh Bhati stressed on the importance of conservation of culture, tradition, natural heritage which he said was the real wealth of any society. He further added that any conservation process will be successful only if there is a paradigm shift in the way society approaches preservation and conservation issues of our culture and heritage.

The programme was conducted by Convenor Dr. Prithvi Raj Ratnu. Co-Convenor Dr. Nand Lal Verma spoke about the aims and objectives of INTACH.

World Heritage Day Celebrations

Exhibition in the State Museum
Bikaner Chapter organized a cleaning drive at a historical monument dating back to Shahjahan’s period.

**Jaipur**

INTACH congratulates Rajasthan Co-Convenor Ms. Dharamender Kanwar on receiving the award for ‘Outstanding Woman Achiever’. The award was conferred by FICCI Ladies Organization, Jaipur on 22nd April.

**Pali**

Shri Karan Singh Chouhan is appointed Convenor Pali Chapter. We wish him all the best for his new innings.

Shri Prithvi Singh has taken over as the new Co-Convenor. We wish him every success.

**Rajsamand**

INTACH Rajsamand Chapter, prepared and presented a film named-‘Rajsamand Ki Virasat’ on World Heritage Day. The film was shown free of charge to about three hundred people. Convenor Dr. Rachna Tailang and her team are congratulated for making this informative film.

**Sawai Madhopur**

Convenor Padam Khatri, Co-Convenor Javed Anver of Sawai Madhopur Chapter handed over the Karauli listing documents to INTACH Chairman, Maj. Gen. L.K. Gupta and Chapters Director Rahul Pathak at Central Office in New Delhi.

**Udaipur**

Udaipur Chapter in its efforts to strengthen heritage conservation of Mewar organized a seminar on ‘Traditional Knowledge Systems of Mewar with Special Reference to Jawarmala’, organized jointly with ‘Itihas Sankalan Samiti’, Udaipur. It was presided by INTACH Regional Convenor S.K. Verma.

The chief speaker Prof. J.L. Khadakawat cited the excavations of Balathal, Ahar civilization, which are more than 4000 years old and even older than Harappan civilization. The oldest recorded evidence of standard metallurgy practices of zinc, silver, manganese etc. are from Jawarmala hills, Aravalli. The first evidence of pure zinc comes from Zawar as early as 9th century CE, when distillation process was employed to make zinc. He highlighted evidences of vertical mining of zinc, silver, manganese from a depth of 260 to 150 meters. It was with local knowledge that they could successfully carry out distillation of zinc. The Zawar metallurgists seem to have brought about a breakthrough in non-ferrous metal extraction around the 12th century and producing it on commercial scale.
The efforts and the joint collaboration of INTACH in several fields of research and development with like-minded voluntary organizations and governmental agencies like Centre of Cultural Resources and Training GOI was highlighted. Co-Convenor Sushil Kumar proposed the vote of thanks.

The Udaipur Chapter issued recommendations regarding rain water harvesting in residential houses, commercial complexes and government buildings to combat the problem of water shortage in the city. The suggestion by P.C. Jain talks of motivating people through various acknowledgements for this scheme, and an active participation by various office bearers of the Government in water harvesting.

The Chennai Chapter in partnership with Alliance Francaise of Chennai organized a talk on the traditional shadow puppetry of south India.

**Kodaikanal**

The book “Kodaikanal– Vanishing Heritage of an Island in the Sky” was formally launched by Chairman INTACH on 14th May.

Major General Gupta highlighted the importance of conservation and congratulated the Chapter and the contributors on this important milestone. The entire stock of 50 books brought to the venue were sold. The book has also received a good response from the residents.

The Jamun Tree is over 500 years old and was a full grown tree even during Akbar’s reign.
**Nagercoil**

To combat the acute water shortage facing the Kanyakumari Distt., the Nagercoil Chapter and Puthiya Thalaimurai TV took the initiative to clean the water bodies of silt and aquatic vegetation which reduces their holding capacity. The exercise undertaken at Nachiyar Tank is spread over two hectares. Next on the agenda is the Karichankulam Tank adjacent to the one being cleaned currently.

**Nilgiris**

In a bid to create awareness of important sites, GO UNESCO, a UNESCO supported initiative in association with Nilgiris Chapter's *Make Ooty Beautiful* project and Lawrence School, conducted a *"Go Heritage Run"*. More than 500 people participated in the run which was flagged by the nuclear scientist M.R. Srinivasan. The route took the participants across a historic mountain railway, a spectacular valley and the 158 years old Lawrence School. The objective of the race was to admire Nilgiri Mountain Railway, declared as *Unesco World Heritage Site* and one of Ooty’s natural beauty spots.

Convenor Geetha Srinivasan, said that such events will play a major role in underscoring the historic significance of Ooty.

**TELEGANA**

To mark the first anniversary of the creation of Telengana State, the Department of Archeology and Museums in partnership with INTACH, held a workshop on *Heritage of Telengana State*. Speaking on the occasion State Co-Convenor, Anuradha Reddy said that there was a need to protect the rich culture and heritage of the State. The workshop highlighted the unprotected forts, cannons, historical iron and steel industries and several Buddhist megalithic sites.
The Telengana Government awarded people from various walks of life on the occasion of State Formation Day on June 2nd. The awardees were each given Rs. 1,00,116 cheque along with a memento. P. Anuradha Reddy was recognized for her efforts in Protection of Heritage Sites. She has committed her cash award to the heritage cause.

**Hyderabad**

A PhD researcher, at the University of Birmingham Jamie Davis, embarked on meetings with Heritage Organizations and students across four Indian cities in 7 days. It was funded through the University of Birmingham India Travel Fund and sponsorship from AudiocompaMss and GoUNESCO.

The visit focused on youth and digital engagement with World Heritage Sites. On 16th April, Co-Convenor Anuradha Reddy, met with Jamie Davis.

The meeting focused on state and priority of heritage in India. Jamie Davis said that the role of INTACH in supporting communities in campaigns and research projects is even more essential and remarkable given that it is an NGO.

The Chapter launched **INTACH Zila Khazana Telengana State** to discover and help INTACH to document Telengana Heritage. It was launched at State Museum Public Gardens, Hyderabad by Principal Secretary Planning, Tourism and Culture B.P. Acharya. The programme invited volunteers to discover Telengana Districts and send digital photographs and photo prints of heritage monuments, forts, old government institutional and private buildings, religious places, dharamshalas, sarais etc. Pictures of lakes, old trees, and sacred groves to be also included.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**Allahabad**

Ms. Pragyana Mehrotra is appointed the Convenor for Allahabad Chapter. INTACH welcomes her to the organisation with many good wishes and with great expectation from her succes.

**Gorakhpur**

To create an impact of heritage and culture on young minds, Gorakhpur Chapter lead by Convenor M.P. Kandoi and Co-Convenor P.K. Lahiri organized a "Virasat Yatra". The heritage walk for over a hundred students, after covering various heritage sites reached Maghar where Sant Kabir breathed his last.

The students listened in fascination to the story of Sant Kabir's death and the discord that followed between Hindus and Muslims over the last rites. Later, they were shown the cave where Sant Kabir meditated and were informed
about INTACH efforts to restore it. The day ended with a conference on heritage of “Purvanchal” where a number of eminent people spoke on the importance of heritage preservation.

The Gorakhpur Chapter also celebrated the World Environment Day with several activities propogating the theme of Sustainable Consumption And Production. The programme spread over three days involved-slogan writing and drawing competitions, and information about roof top gardening. The finale was a cycle rally where a pledge was taken to protect environment. A number of people signed on the banner pledging their support.

The Orai Chapter organized a two day craft workshop in which participants were taught to make images of Lord Ganesha using old wedding cards. Convenor Dr. Hari Mohan Purwar held an exhibition of the items made in the workshop.

The Chapter also organized a meeting to discuss the book-‘Mahaan Sufi Sant Hazrat Mohammad Gaus Sabib’. Various aspects of Sufism mentioned in the book were analyzed and discussed.
Dehradun

The Dehradun Chapter, in association with the Times of India, conducted an intensive four day Heritage Walks programme for citizens. The programme was a great success with more than 600 people walking to little known heritage sites of the Doon Valley, that are in need of conservation efforts. The walkers included Government officials, retired military personnel, media, tourists and youth. The programme was able to generate tremendous goodwill for the work of conservation and heritage awareness that Dehradun Chapter has initiated.

Times of India supported the programme with publicity. Every walk, which had envisaged a maximum attendance of twenty walkers was oversubscribed by almost double the number of walkers. They marvelled at the historical sites and several who had grown up in the Valley admitted they had not been aware of the existence of the rich heritage around them. Rajiv Bhartari, Chief Conservator of Forests (Ecotourism) in Uttarakhand, attended two walks and commented, “These Walks must become a regular feature in the Doon Valley. Connecting with history and nature is a significant aspect of conservation”.

Preparations for the Heritage Walks had commenced several months in advance with. After detailed studies were undertaken, the Convenor Lokesh Ohri trained several volunteers for the four trails chosen after much thought.

Kolkata

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and the State Tourism Department are partnering Singapore based Buzzmedia to implement the ‘Cha’ project conceptualised by city bred professionals two years ago. Buzzmedia had collaborated with INTACH while doing a survey of Tiretti Bazar and Tangra before drawing up that proposal, with the area inspected by the Traffic Police as it is an extremely crowded area. In the first phase the revival will be restricted to Chatawala Gali, two rows of Blackburn Lane and Sunyat Sen Street. The Toong-On Church, the oldest Chinese church in the country, will be its centre. There are six other old churches dotting the place which will be saved. Convenor G.M. Kapur says all encroachment will be removed to give the Chinese houses the original look. An elaborate entrance gate to showcase the 18th century Chinese architecture is also part of the plan. Rinkoo Bhowmick, spokesman for the Cha project says that authentic Chinese cuisine from the mainland China, Hong Kong and Singapore would be available as chefs from these places would be training the local cooks. A complete traffic rearrangement is planned before the project takes off.
Writers Building

A site visit was conducted by Executive Engineer PWD looking after the Writers Building. It was primarily for the department engineers. He pointed out some of the practical problems faced like electrical, plumbing, fire fighting devices, air-conditioning and other such services. PD AHD Divay Gupta shared INTACH experiences of restoration and re-usage of heritage buildings. Another expert Axel gave examples of the post war reconstruction in Germany like the Town Hall in Berlin, a school in Dusseldoff, etc. Guidelines for retrofitting citing Kolkata hotels was highlighted by Shalini Dasgupta. In conclusion there was consensus that all Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for heritage buildings in future should be prepared taking into account hitherto overlooked factors like green rating, structural retrofitting, service up-gradation; and a heritage impact statement conducted on the lines of what is currently followed with regard to energy audit of buildings.

Chapter Meeting

Kolkata Chapter held a meeting in which Members were briefed on the various activities of the Chapter. They were informed that the Deptt. of Tourism, had in principle agreed to take over the Denmark Tavern and Hotel, thus clearing the way for its restoration. National Museum of Denmark has appointed INTACH to manage this project. The South Gate Project which was being managed by INTACH is nearing completion. A field survey of the St Paul's Cathedral is being carried out and a monograph of the Lascar Monument is being prepared as requested by Central Office.

More activities like the Bichitra Pathshala Programme – sponsorship of trophies by INTACH was taken up at the meeting. The Chapter has agreed to provide three trophies for the best schools. Members were informed about the programme on the living heritage of Chitrapur Road supported by the Chapter and has received wide acclaim.

Santiniketan

Santiniketan Chapter organized a Heritage Tour at Nanoor-Chandidas. This is the area to which the famous poet

RESIDENTS VS CONSERVATIONISTS

The demolition of a heritage Gholam Rasool Mosque in Bollygunge triggered a local debate on the legality of demolishing an A Grade heritage structure vs a larger one that would better serve the community. Construction in fact has been going on for many years on a plot that is ten times larger in size. It is therefore a belated debate and hence a bit pointless. A local resident Abdul Mazid had complained to various quarters including the Municipal Commissioner. Convenor GM Kapur points out no matter what the compulsion, a Grade 1 structure cannot be altered, let alone demolished. That the mosque was in excellent shape and would have survived another 200 years without any repair was brought to the attention of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, according to a local spokesman Akibur Rehman, and was even referred to the Directorate in charge of heritage structures. The point is a 1912 heritage structure with beautiful ceramics, with triple domes and twin minarets, that was revered by locals for many generations, should have raised many voices to prevent its demolition.
Chandidas belonged and has beautiful temples with terracotta and stucco ornamentation.

The Chapter also organized a *Know Natural Heritage* programme. It was conducted at Khoai and was attended by various Members and students.

**Engineered Organisms**

A new word "terraform" seems to have been added to the space lexicon.Scientists are planning to introduce genetically engineered algae, bacteria and plants to radically 'terraform' the climate of the Mars into an earth-like planet. The US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is attempting to thicken the Mars atmosphere by greening the red planet through growing photosynthetic plants, algae and bacteria on its arid surface. The lab is trying to discover how to genetically engineer organisms of all types more easily. And not just E coli and yeast as there are millions of organisms on Earth of which only two are currently used for engineering biology. Deputy Director DARPA Alicia Jackson states "For the first time, we have the technological tool kit to transform not just hostile places on Earth, but to go into space not just to visit, but to stay".

First let us hope ‘terraforming’ helps to repair environmental damage that we are continually inflicting on our very own Planet Earth!

**Aurora Borealis**

The sky near the Vedauwoo Recreation Area between Cheyenne and Laramie in Wyoming State of USA looks like a painting when the Northern Lights flare up. Known as the *Aurora Borealis*, the sky flares up in shades of green, yellow and pink hues like a beautiful abstract painting by a Master Artist. In actuality the Northern Lights are created as a result of collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere and charged particles released by the Sun.

*Ask : "Auroa Wow-Realis" Hindustan Times, June '15*
**Stone Age**

It appears that the Stone Age people had started specializing in different technical skills and there seem to have been distinct social groups. A large cache of tools unearthed from the Mughr el-Hamamah known as the Cave of the Doves in Jordan indicate an array of artifacts like blades, scrapers, cutters and other instruments for making pointed objects and tools. Lead researcher Aaron Jonas Stitz, an anthropologist at Emory University states “toolmakers appear to have achieved a division of labour that may have been part of an emerging pattern of a more organised social structure” than hitherto believed. The Upper Paleolithic or late Stone Age seems to have begun in this region 45,000 years ago.

**Lost in an Ocean**

It looks like an intriguing island from the sky amidst a dense forest, set in the azure waters of the Bay of Bengal with amazing beaches. It is not a holiday spot but a dangerous island about the size of Manhattan. Fishermen who dare to set foot on this North Sentinel island are likely to be hailed by arrows and flung rocks, some ferociously killed. So the inhabitants of this island have never been photographed up close. Often referred to as a Stone Age tribe, they are the world’s most isolated group. All attempts to make contact with them have failed. The Indian authorities have made it illegal to make contact or go within three miles of the island. Perhaps someday a “PK” might accidentally try to discover this contrary world.

**Earth Day**

Earth Day marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement triggered by two happenings nearly 50 years ago. The 1962 best seller *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson was the precursor, selling 500,000 copies in 24 countries. It raised public consciousness about environmental concerns in many more countries. In 1969 the ravages of the oil spill in California further energized public awareness. In the lead was US Senator Gaylord Nelson. 20 million Americans took to the streets coast to coast. While war raged in Vietnam and flower child culture flourished, environment was just a word that appeared more often in Spelling Bee competitions. Nevertheless Earth Day was born on 22nd April 1970. Today the Earth Day Network (EDN) reaches across the world. As the ravages of climate change are becoming more and more manifest, the fight for a clean environment must become the battle cry of our times.

**Buddha Purnima**

Buddha Purnima falls on full moon of the fourth Indian lunar month which was 4th May this year. Gautam Buddha never claimed divinity, the name was given to him by his devotees as he was an enlightened person for them. Jolted out of a contented and cloistered youth when he encountered dark realities like sickness, poverty, old age and misery everywhere, he set forth to seek the purpose of life. He learnt meditation and lived an ascetic life till enlightenment dawned under a *peepul* tree. He then set out on a spiritual journey to propagate living in harmony with the rhythms of human kindness and charity. He left such a powerful imprint of his philosophy that travelled far and wide across the world. Today it is estimated that 7.8% of the world’s population practices Buddhism - many more overseas than in India, the land of its origin.

**International Yoga Day**

21st June, declared by the United Nations as the International Yoga Day, saw thousands of people, young and old, participating in many countries. The event, meant to promote the ancient art of breathing exercises that improves
Work-Life balance, is extremely beneficial for heart, lung and life expectancy. Yoga also helps to improve stamina, tone muscles, cure backaches, etc. and according to a recent Norwegian study it affects the way the body reacts to attacks on its immune system. Workouts for young people have become synonymous with all that huffing and puffing in gyms these days. With the declaration of International Yoga Day, and the participation of over 150 countries worldwide, it may become another routine exercise to fight off lifestyle diseases.

In India, a world record for attendance at a single venue was adjudged by the Guinness World Records representatives. Some of the best Yoga Centres are located in distant countries like Clare Island in Ireland, the Kadermo in Finland, YogaSada in Istanbul, Why Nam Beach and Koh Phangam in Thailand, Astangalanka in Sri Lanka, Ananda Cottage in Bali, Yoga Moves in Australia, In Sabina in Italy, Yoga Plus in Crete, etc.

The day was marked with yoga gatherings at many locations in India and across the world.

The Big One

The devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April is a wake up call for the Himalayan region. Just 7.9 on the Richter scale released the “equivalent to about 1000 mn tones of TNT” as reported. India has experienced bigger earthquakes like the 8.3 magnitude that struck Bihar-Nepal region on 15th January 1934; the 8.5 Arunachal - China in 1950; the Chamoli, Uttarakhand in 1999; the 6.8 magnitude one at Sikkim-Nepal border on 15th August 2011. Experts believe the Big One is yet to come as the Himalayan region is a ‘melting point’ with the Indian tectonic plate known to be pushing north-westwards and getting under the Eurasian one. The huge strain results in periodic earthquakes in the region with tremors felt even in parts of Delhi. Former Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad thinks the earthquakes have not released even “4-5% energy that is estimated to be stored there”. We need to seriously study earthquake-resistant methods in urban planning – and to adapt them in order to prepare ourselves. We should examine how in Japan for instance there is negligible loss to life or property after a 7.5 magnitude earthquake. Our Disaster Management Authority has to be professionalized and be a force to reckon with for the time to come.

MOBILE HAS MOVED

Mount Everest moved over an inch to the southwest due to recent earthquake that struck Nepal. According to the Chinese National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation the height of this Himalayan massif however remained unchanged. The images of the devastation beamed within minutes of the quake became a national cause for many nations. This image in particular seemed to stare at all humanity and proclaim that the Himalayas should be respected and left strictly alone.
Un-Holy Murder

From that concrete box of a Government flat
that envied, hallowed abode of many a bureaucrat
In the darkening shadows of the night
as the rare geese flew in a formation flight.
I witnessed a dual murder.

They came with axes, imitation Nike shoes
and plastic jackets singing
celluloid songs of love never felt for women
presented in vulgar gyrations.
They chose the most graceful creation
of nature, the two gentle trees.

Like Draupadi at the hands of the Kauravas,
they stripped the thick black bark off her body,
suffocating and mutilating her.
They slashed the arms of his lover next,
where green buds of spring had just
begun to bloom.

How many times, how many springs
nature had tried to forgive and forget
and still bless them with peace.
Though many a times their arms had
been chopped they had painfully
grown new ones for the sake of the planet
so brutally abused.

This time there was no hope
Doom was being demanded.
The hooligans in the name of Holi
committed an act most unholy.
They hacked away at the trunks
of the beautiful couple –Tall and erect
to be burnt as sacrifice
at the altar of ignorance.

The two awaited with bated breaths
While ropes were tied around their necks.
And as they hacked away at their legs and arm
others pulled them down with brutish fury.
Before they died they blessed the earth
and all creatures whom they loved so dearly.

They looked around lingering for a while,
their eyes searching the windows
of the concrete boxes
Not a single human stirred or cared –
Not a single of them noticed or dared
Their tiny little minds were very very busy,
lost in the red ribboned ambitions
of their dusty brown files.

- Chuden Tshering Misra
Ministry of Corporate Affairs notification effective April 2014 states Companies of Rs. 500 crore net worth or Rs. 10,000 crore or more turnover, or Rs. 5 crore net worth profit during any financial year, must constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee to recommend to their Board the amount to be spent on social causes. At least 2% of the average net profits of the Company during the three immediately preceding years should be spent on activities like eradication of hunger or malnutrition; or enhancing vocational skills, education, safe drinking water etc. important to society.

CSR also covers socially vital activities like conservation of nature; environmental sustainability; protection of heritage properties, works of art, and intangible heritage. These are specialised subjects of INTACH activities since its foundation 30 years ago. The Trust is recognized as an institute of national importance by the Government, and is executing many such projects in partnership with State Governments across the country and at the Centre. The Corporate sector can take up conservation activities through INTACH. It will enhance their public image, and enables them to avail of 2% tax exemption while executing corporate social responsibilities.

In this issue of INTACH newsletter Virasat, we bring to your notice two heritage properties at risk. They are in urgent need of financial support of Corporations who would like to preserve the country’s heritage assets. It is what we need to bequeath to our children and to the generations to come so that they may take pride in our civilisational heritage and enrich their lives.

**Needed**
Enlightened Corporates to preserve and protect our National Wealth!