Sharad Ritu | July-September 2016

A Newsletter of the INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

CAMBODIA

INDIA

INTACH - APSARA

MoU
INTACH-APSARA MoU

Bringing India and Cambodia Closer Together

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the National Authority for Protection and Management of Angkor Wat (APSARA) signed a MoU on 22nd June 2016 at Siem Reap Region, Cambodia. The Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sun Map graced the occasion as signatory for the Cambodia Government. It is a landmark event for INTACH as it opened an avenue to establish INTACH as an expert conservation organization in the international field. Principal Director Architectural Heritage Division Divay Gupta will be the chief coordinator in following up this new venture.

Chairman Maj. General L.K. Gupta said he was honoured to be invited by APSARA. The idea of INTACH, he said, was borne out of a realization that Government alone cannot protect national heritage and the involvement of people is essential. They have to be made aware firstly that it is their duty to conserve the national heritage as mandated in the Constitution of India.

INTACH steadily grew since 1984 into an army of volunteers who have banded together to protect the country’s heritage. He said today there is a network of 187 Chapters creating a vast presence across the country. INTACH is backed by Divisions at Central Office with professionals in various facets of heritage conservation like architecture, natural heritage, arts and crafts, its tangible and intangible elements. They undertake conservation projects and involve communities to hone local skills. INTACH is also backed by a Legal Cell, Library, Documentation Centre, Publications, a Heritage Academy and a Legal Cell. Chairman high lighted that in a country the size of a continent, different
conservation methods need be adopted to suit local conditions and compulsions of climate and geography, varying from State to State. INTACH conservation management within India also entails training, research studies and capacity building within each of its specialized Divisions.

Chairman L.K. Gupta offered to share this fund of expertise with Cambodian conservationists. He was particularly glad that “this international initiative starts in Cambodia with whom our ties and history of friendship date back to centuries ago” He added a pertinent remark regarding INTACH’s approach to heritage conservation. “We have also evolved our own Charter of Conservation as distinct from the Western Philosophy. It is based on our Life Cycle Theory of Reincarnation rather than Redemption as in the Western philosophy”.

The 2016 INTACH-APSARA MoU is a binding association to undertake a common heritage mission, with a country whose history is rooted in ancient India. Chairman stated “In both our countries, the cultural heritage is alive and vibrant, sharing so much in common in terms of art, architecture, crafts, traditions and customs. There is much to share and celebrate together and be proud of this collaborative partnership”. The pervading influence of Hinduism and Buddhism is visible in the magnificent temples of Angkor Wat. They are evidence of the age old India-Cambodia links going back to bygone centuries – a standing testimony etched in the stone sculptures of this World Heritage Site. They survived even through the tempestuous centuries of later Cambodian history.

The INTACH-APSARA MoU will be the bedrock of the joint venture to be launched to conserve and preserve Angkor Wat for all times to come. It is also an extension of the intrinsic values shared by our two countries. The focus will also be on capacity building and joint venture projects related to the conservation of its historic monuments.

India and Cambodia established diplomatic relations in 1981. It is significant that one of the first initiatives of the Government of India was to undertake the conservation of Angkor Wat between 1986-1993 at the cost of 4 million dollars.

INTACH is furthering this same mission by linking hands with APSARA, the national agency of Cambodia which has been specifically entrusted with the responsibility for conserving the Angkor Wat. The Cambodian Government promulgated that the prime duty of APSARA is to put the management of this heritage site into Khmer hands, “the same hands that sculpted it, that caressed it and protected it for so many centuries” as recalled on the occasion of the MoU.

The INTCH-APSARA Memorandum of Understanding is one more cog in the wheels of history that will draw our nations closer together in a common mission.

The terms of the MoU entails INTACH addressing the shortages in heritage management skills within Cambodia. INTACH will also collaborate in developing research and training of local conservationists. The overarching aim is to enable APSARA and INTACH to work together in areas of mutual interest, particularly research and training.
in archaeology, conservation management and to establish a framework for close cooperation to fulfill this mandate. Apart from exchange of knowledge and skills, the MoU will facilitate workshops, conference plans, student exchanges and placements, etc. A mutually agreed framework will be worked out to establish the work parameters without any financial obligations on both parties.

Concluding his address to the august gathering Chairman L.K. Gupta said “With my experience in India, where there is now a regeneration of interest in heritage after our Independence from colonial rule, I am sure that a similar spirit prevails in Cambodia, to not only love and respect their heritage but also a keenness to acquire the skills and expertise to take care of it”. Chairman reiterated INTACH’s offer of its facilities to share with APSARA whatever knowledge it has acquired over the years. He said it will fulfill what His Majesty the King once said “Khmers are capable of standing in the present with an arm around the past and the eyes on the future”.

PAGES OF HISTORY

According to Cambodian annals, the exiled Prince Kaundinya of Indraprastha founded a kingdom in Cambodia. He was known as Preah Thaong to the Khmers. Cambodian script is a derivative of Sanskrit and Pali languages. In the 5th century Cambodian monks started visiting other South Asian countries, and were later invited to translate Buddhist texts from Indian languages into their own. In later years Indian priests, traders, teachers and adventurers began to ‘invade’ the South Asian peninsula that was known as Suvarnabhumi, an Island of Chryse (Gold) in many ancient sources even in our Jataka tales. The spread of Hinduism and Buddhism left their lasting imprint on the people. It is a testimony to the profound cultural and social links that have lingered and are the basis of Indo-Cambodian bi-lateral relations today.

Cambodia may have aligned itself periodically with China due to the compulsions of later international politics, but the intrinsic Indian culture continues to be palpable in their people. Theravada Buddhism is the official religion of 95% of Cambodia’s people. The Khmer language spoken today traces its origin to Pali and Sanskrit, and is another eloquent statement of the continuous historic links between our two countries. There is no Mahabharata text found in Cambodia and the surviving Cambodian text of the Ramayana is dated as late as 16th-17th century known as Ramakerti. Some of the key characters were remodeled to fit into Buddhist tenets, especially Rama who resembles Buddha.

The INTACH-APSARA MoU will be one more bridge to reinforce old ties that are deeply rooted in our culture and histories, and will serve a common heritage cause.
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

INTACH Governing Council Meeting was held on 28th April at INTACH Central Office, presided by Chairman L.K. Gupta. He thanked the 39 Members who were in attendance, while a few absentees had been granted leave of absence.

The Governing Council Members formally condoled the demise of Shri John Singh, and recorded that he was one of INTACH’s very precious Members. "He had contributed immensely to the protection and promotion of the heritage of Jaipur and Rajasthan. It is indeed a great loss for INTACH that he is no longer with us. May his soul rest in peace." It was highlighted that he was the one who initiated a number of inspirational concepts such as education, listing and documentation of intangible cultural heritage which INTACH further developed. He was an iconic Convenor of INTACH, and his passing would leave a vacuum in the heritage movement. The Governing Council Members observed a two minute silence as a homage to the departed INTACH Member.

Chairman L.K. Gupta welcomed all the Members. In particular Acting DG National Museum Sonia Sethi; Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture P.L. Sahu; and Jt. DG ASI R.S. Fonia. It was a good opportunity for the three Government representatives on the Governing Council to meet the newly elected/re-elected Members to the Governing Council. Chairman also welcomed the two new Members nominated by him under the powers delegated to him by the Governing Council. They are former Karnataka State Convenor G. Asvathnarayan and current UP State Convenor Jayant Krishna.

Chairman also felicitated Dr. Sarayu V. Doshi, a Founder Member of INTACH, who was recently appointed as a Trustee of the IGNCA by the Government of India. She will undoubtedly take forward INTACH’s mission with her knowledge and long association with our organisation, he said.

Chairman shared with the Members some of the positive developments of recent months. Telangana Members, in particular Anuradha Reddy and Vedakumar Manikonda, had appealed against the de-listing of 160 heritage buildings of the State which has been stayed by the High Court.

Chairman updated the Governing Council Members on other major activities of INTACH, and also the State level Chapter Meetings held for Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Haryana that were attended by him.

Taking inspiration from Prime Minister’s advice to MPs to adopt a village, INTACH has also suggested that Chapters should adopt a village to take our vision forward and protect local heritage. It was an idea mooted by Chhattisgarh State Convenor Lalit Surjan at the last meeting of the Executive Committee and fully endorsed by its Members. The Governing Council Members were also updated on some of the major activities of INTACH and its Divisions.

Joint Secretary cum Acting Director General of the National Museum mentioned Prime Minister’s ambitious idea of creating “virtual museums”, as has been effected by some of the major museums overseas. She assured that any such proposal from INTACH would receive due consideration.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

CONDOLENCES

One of INTACH’s Founder Members, Shri Hari Dang passed away on 23rd July. He remained committed to the cause of heritage conservation ever since 1984, the foundation year of INTACH. He was an active Member of the Gurgaon Chapter till the last day – and even visited the south face summit ridge as the monsoon clouds parted on that fateful last day of his life. His many contributions to the heritage cause will always be remembered by the Chapter and so many others who interacted with him.

INTACH joins the Chapter Members in sending out heartfelt condolences to the Dang Family Members, and our good wishes for their future.
CSR COMMITTEE

The CII Task Force on Arts, Heritage & Culture held the first meeting of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee at the CII Headquarters in Delhi on 27th September. WB State Convenor G.M. Kapur was invited to Chair the meeting. WB Co-Convenor Nayantara, with her wide ranging corporate connections, was also invited to join the Committee. Members discussed the subject in great earnest to arrive at ways and means by which appeals to Corporate Houses can be made about contributing to heritage projects. Member Debasis Gupta, who has considerable corporate experience, said it was necessary to package proposals properly in order to catch the interest of any particular corporate house. The CSR project suggested should resonate with their particular field of interest or related activity. It is clear that Companies will look at the overall proposal for enhancing their commercial image or interests, apart from the philanthropic motive or to avail of the CSR tax benefits to their Company.

The Task Force hopes “to build an enabling and engaged cohort within CII to address the needs/issues” of Corporate Social Responsibility. It will identify one or two areas of intervention which are aligned to national priorities like development, effective usage of public services, etc. particularly in the context of Smart Cities. Also, projects that will spur livelihoods through revival of traditional art and craft forms. The Task Force will develop a road map for industry engagement, to facilitate skill building, entrepreneurship and livelihoods; and communication and marketing strategies.

Much of the CII Task Force targets are in consonance with INTACH objectives of our heritage and conservation related projects. Fortunately Member G.M. Kapur is a Member of the Task Force and will keep INTACH informed on the industry engagement in creating an enabling ecosystem to further the objectives of CSR.

VISITORS LOUNGE

The Visitors Lounge is a special place that has been created keeping in mind Convenors, Co-Convenors and Members visiting Central Office. It has been a long pending requirement that was prioritised in the recent expansion and renovation work undertaken at INTACH Central Office. We like to think of it as the Convenors Cosy Corner. The Lounge is well positioned so that the presence of visiting colleagues is highly visible to their Central Office colleagues for interactions and socialising. The Lounge also has a separate entry to the Library, and a tea service is at hand. There is also a small work station for the computer savvy in case you want to dash off a note.

INTACH Convenors and Co-Convenors represent the true spirit of INTACH - the spirit of volunteerism that carries the enormous responsibilities of administering Chapters and involving people to propagating heritage preservation and conservation. They are not only our foot soldiers making enormous contributions across the country, but also the life blood of the organisation. It is always a pleasure to play host to our esteemed colleagues. INTACH looks forward to your visits.
INTACH signed a MoU with HolidayIQ on 30th August at Central Office. Member Secretary said “INTACH has been a pioneer in conserving and protecting India’s natural and cultural heritage. It is our aim to initiate innovative ideas in not only preserving but also promoting the cultural heritage of the country. Our MoU with HolidayIQ therefore seeks to reiterate our commitment by seeking to identify a heritage destination through the views of the Indian traveller and then offer support to the site from INTACH through next year in 2017”.

Founder HolidayIQ on his part said “Promoting domestic tourism amongst Indian travellers has always been the key vision for us, especially amongst the youth…….It is our endeavour to ensure that we promote the Indian culture and heritage. This association with INTACH is a strategic move to take this objective further”.

The project will be executed through a contest targeting youth travellers via an Outreach Campaign. They will be asked to identify upcoming heritage destinations and give a feedback by way of reviews, photos and videos to support their destination suggestions via a dedicated co-branded microsite on the HolidayIQ website / HolidayIQ.com/ Next Big Heritage Destination. The most promising destination will be jointly selected by INTACH and HolidayIQ.

INTACH will use its website and publications outreach to promote this initiative. HolidayIQ on its part will reach out to its community through its site, app., social media campaigns and PR. State Tourism Boards will be contacted to publicise the project in their respective States. The Microsite will upload destination suggestions including the identity of the travellers with photos, videos and a write-ups about their choice of destinations. The HolidayIQ will do the initial short listing and a joint jury representing both parties will select the best reviews to be awarded the final Grand Prize and two runner-up prizes. These Better Holiday Awards are scheduled to be presented in January 2017.

There are no financial liabilities involved in this Project. Basically INTACH is providing only expertise and parameters for the selection of heritage destinations. Tourism has long been recognised as a factor in economic growth of their destinations. Member Secretary C.T. Misra on behalf of INTACH signed the MoU on 30th August with Founder and CEO of HolidayIQ Hari Nair to also promote this heritage tourism among youth. The Project Tagline: #Next Big Heritage Destination covers lesser-known Indian heritage destinations – living, built or natural - having significant tourism potential. It is an experimental initiative of the Heritage Tourism Division for a trial period of 6 months and auto-extendable if the results yield positive trends. Tourism is indeed a passport for greater prosperity of communities in regions of tourist destinations.

ON GOVERNMENT’S TOURIST MAP

A concerted effort is in the offing to attract more footfalls to Incredible India. India which stands at 13th place is slowly inching forward in the World Economic Forum’s travel and tourism index. The Ministry of Tourism is considering plans to put India firmly on the Tourist Map with a series of measure to be instituted by the Government. Some of the proposals under consideration are introduction of E-Tourist Visa, multilingual helpline, wellness tourism board, promoting India as the land of Buddhism, birthplace of Yoga, setting up an Indian Culinary Institute, and integrated development of tourist circuits that offer varied experiences to the traveller. Promotion of North East States, programmes for capacity
UNESCO approved the nomination of three Indian sites for nomination to World Heritage Site. Nalanda University, Chandigarh’s Capital Complex, and the third highest peak Mount Khangchendzonga in Sikkim’s National Park that have been tagged. This is the first time any country has succeeded in getting three sites inscribed at a single time at the 40th session of the WHC meeting held recently at Istanbul.

**Nalanda University**

Nalanda Mahavira, now Nalanda University, has archaeological remains of a Buddhist monastic and scholastic institution dating back to 3rd century BCE. A number of stupas, viharas and shrines at this site testify to the evolution of Buddhism into a religion that later spread across Asia. UNESCO Press Release states: Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian subcontinent. It engaged in the organized transmission of Knowledge over an uninterrupted period of 800 years. The historical development of the site testifies to the development of Buddhism into a religion”. It is the second cultural site to be designated after Rani ki Vav, Gujarat.

**Chandigarh Capital Complex**

The nomination of Chandigarh Capital Complex designed by architect Le Corbusier was part of a transnational proposal jointly submitted by seven countries - across France, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Argentina, Japan and India - comprising 17 sites. The designation reflects solutions that were sought to be applied to the challenges of inventing 20th century architectural techniques to meet the needs of contemporary society in building the new capital of Punjab in India.

**Khanngchendzonga National Park**

Khanngchendzonga National Park located in Sikkim has a unique diversity of plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and snow capped mountains with dense forests. Many mythological stories integrated with Buddhist beliefs are associated with its mountains, caves, rivers and lakes integrated and worshipped by the Sikkimese folks. This spectacular site is at the third highest peak in the world.

India now has 35 World Heritage Sites out of 1052 worldwide, with another 50 sites on the tentative WH List. Preserving such sites leads to economic and sustainable development, but does not necessarily guarantee international funding except tourism dollars.

Three other international sites declared as World Heritage Sites this year are: Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Landscape (China); Persian Qanat in Iran; and Nan Madol in Eastern Micronesia.
OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION

The Old Delhi Railway Station near one of the city’s famous Chandni Chowk Market was built in 1864. It is a heritage structure protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. Delhi Railways plans a Rs. 565 crore project to develop this 113 years old station, one of the oldest stations to be built during the British Raj. The first train arrived here from Howrah on 1st August 1864. Currently there are heavily congested roads leading to the station, so two elevated roads in the form of ROBs will be constructed on either side for easy approach from dense areas like Chandni Chowk and Kashmiri Gate. UNESCO will be approached in due course for a World Heritage tag for the station similar to the iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, which was earlier known as Victoria Terminus and still called VT for short by Bombayites!

NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (NHD)

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT/ACTION PLAN FOR ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK

Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurgaon (ABPG) is one of the significant afforested areas in urban vicinity. Spread across 392 acres of land, ABPG is a joint effort of Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon and NGO IamGurgaon (IAG) to create an ecosystem which rejuvenates flora native to the Aravalli range. The Park stretches across the northern reaches of Aravalli ranges that terminate in Delhi.

The Natural Heritage Division was entrusted by IUCN to carry out biodiversity assessment of the Park. The study not only involves biodiversity assessment but also necessitate identifying strengths and challenges in the works undertaken to date by Municipal Corporation Gurgaon, NGO IamGurgaon (IAG) and Haryana Forest Development Corporation (HFDC). It includes generating recommendations for future plans and financial outlays.

NHD team carried out extensive field surveys to assess the current status of the Park. The floral diversity was studied through quadrat sampling and the data was analysed for species richness, dominance, frequency, etc.

Urban Agglomerate of Gurgaon as seen from Aravalli Biodiversity Park

The baseline data helps in drawing up recommendations for further work. Within a span of four years, the Park was successfully planted with native species of Aravalli such as Boswellia serrata, Butea monosperma (Semal), Striculia urens, Anogeissus pendula (Dhau), Albizia odorotissima (Kala basa), Dyspyros cordifolia (Bistendu), Grewia tenax (Gangeti), Mallotus phillipensis (Sinduri), Mitragyna parviflora (Kaim), Mimosa hamata, Wrightia tinctoria, Wrightia arborea (Dudhi) along with native shrubs, herbs and grasses. From being a waste dumping
Balanites Roxburghii (Hingot) has highest density in the Park

Oriental Garden Lizard (Calotes Versicolor)

ground it was turned into a habitat for native species of Aravalli and a birding area in NCR Delhi. ABPG is a benchmark example of natural restoration in urban wasteland.

**NHD’S INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

With increasing input costs and dependence on external inputs like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, irrigation, the condition of farmers is well known – has resulted in incidences of farmer suicides as a result. Not only do these external inputs affect the farmer and village economy adversely, but they also impact the environment, they pollute water systems - both surface and groundwater. They pollute the soil, reduce soil fertility, compact the soil and affect our health too. Considering these interrelated issues, Natural Heritage Division took the initiative to promote sustainable agriculture. It started with a one acre demonstration plot in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, near Keoladeo National Park. In this third year the plot has shown significant improvement in terms of soil and water conservation by increasing fertility, soil moisture and water infiltration while maintaining yields. This natural way of farming has several benefits - conservation of natural resources and biodiversity; as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. Natural farming processes when coupled with indigenous seeds is climate resilient as well. This is time honoured wisdom of the past.

NHD is now reaching out to other villages in Bharatpur, Rajasthan; Rajnagar Tehsil, Madhya Pradesh; and in Jagmmanpur Village, Uttar Pradesh. NHD’s programme on **Sustainable Agriculture** aims at empowering farmers through capacity building. Village level meetings for sensitising farmers and promoting the concept are being organised,
while trainings in sustainable agriculture are planned for the coming months. NHD also proposes to facilitate procurement of indigenous seeds, information on minor farm equipment and certification.

VISIONING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

Sustainable Agriculture draws its core from organic farming. It is considered sustainable because it provides economic viability, ecological security and communities’ participation. INTACH’s endeavor in Bharatpur and Khajuraho translates this conservation vision of water, soil and traditional agriculture practices that are sustainable in nature. There is some awareness about the effect of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides but the conventional practices have become an integrated part of the culture. This reasons the Malthusian theory of population growing exponentially while food production grows at an arithmetic rate - creating pressure on higher productivity to meet socio-economic ends.

Agriculture is a human initiative that is dependent on climate. Change in both climatic conditions and structure of available natural resources like soil and amount of ground water affects the quality and quantity of the productivity. Effects of conventional practices on major aspects of natural resources and resultant change are as follows:

Land Degradation: Earlier, cultivation was not executed on all the farm lands that a household possessed as it required high labor work and time, also because the productivity was adequate and secure. Change in practices like crop rotation, multiple cropping, use of organic manure and adaptation of mono cropping however triggered productivity of weed, pest attack and deterioration of soil nutrients.

Traditional Seeds: Finding traditional seeds has now become a difficult task. The switch over to hybrid seeds for more than 40 years blurred the culture of preserving traditional seeds. Farmers have acknowledged the difference in value between traditional and hybrid seeds, and the lack of nutritional security but find themselves stuck with conventional practices.

Water Usage: Major consumption of water is in agriculture. Traditional crops were geographically evolved and met water needs in accordance with requirement and availability in environment. Replacing traditional seeds with the hybrid with focus on productivity influenced other inputs. The hybrid seeds accustomed to the use of inorganic fertilizers was not effective if used independently. Replacing traditional seeds demanded inorganic inputs and eventually led to higher water consumption. Ground water with the use of deep bores and pumps has depleted from 30 ft. ten years ago to around 80 ft. now. It has resulted in villagers exploiting availability of natural resources on the assumption that excessive supply will yield better produce.

Advancement in Technologies: The shift from traditional equipments to modern scientific decreased the time consumption prevalent earlier and made the process hassle free. This resulted in increasing the number of tillage which is assumed to be important for aeration of soil, although excessive tillage degrades soils in the long term with erosion and loss of organic matters. Sustainability in agriculture becomes important by focusing on conservation of not only natural resources but also communities’ dependence of livelihood on it.

Adaptation of Sustainable Agriculture improves soil quality increasing water infiltration capacities and decreasing surface runoff. According to FAO report, it has been observed that after some years of ‘conservation farming’, natural springs that had dried up years ago started to flow again. Sustainable Agriculture allows yields comparable with the conventional agriculture if the right process is adopted. It also reduces the input costs, time and lesser investment in machinery required in conventional agriculture.

NHD is outraching villagers to shift to traditional and sustainable practices. Old Dried Well used as ‘Charas’ around farm land
Storm water drainage systems in the past were designed for rainfall intensity of 12 – 20 mm. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, which analysed heavy rainfall events during the period 1970-2006, says there is an increasing trend of heavy rainfall (≥125mm) in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

The flooding may not affect all parts of the city equally. Cities urbanize existing watersheds but it is imperative that town planners respect the topography. Does one ever hear of old core towns such as Shahjehanabad or any Cantonment or Civil Lines getting flooded? This is due to their prudent siting on easily drained high ground. The old parts of Srinagar or Chennai – thus did not suffer.

It is reported that the marshlands of Chennai spread over more than 5,000 hectares have been reduced to a tenth of their original size leading to significant loss of flood moderation capacity. A similar situation affects Srinagar where posh colonies were built in the flooding zone of Dal and Wular Lakes, or in Mumbai’s wetlands near Sewri filled as solid waste disposal sites. The structural problem is aggravated with every inch of space being paved over leaving no space for water percolation into the ground. As a result, flooding occurs very quickly. When city planners compromise on basic principles, fail to respect the topography and end up serving real estate interests the flooding problem becomes inbuilt into the city structure.

The National Disaster Management Authority noted in its guidelines for urban flooding laid down in 2010 that “the average rainfall in Indian cities far exceeds the capacity of drainage system. The designed system capacities do not work due to poor maintenance. Encroachments are another big problem in many cities and towns. Consequently the capacity of the natural drains has decreased, resulting in flooding. Improper disposal of solid waste, including domestic, commercial and industrial waste and dumping of construction debris into the drains also contributes significantly to reducing their capacities.” The NDMA went on to lay 25 guidelines one of which states “Low-lying areas in cities have to be reserved for parks and other low-impact human activities.” These sensible guidelines have found no resonance with the authorities despite repeated floods.
CASE OF GURGAON

Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar has done an instructive study of the case of Gurgaon. The converse of waterlogging is groundwater recharge. Gurgaon is a bowl with the floodwaters having only a single route of exit via Badshahpur Drain and general surface runoff to the Najafgarh Jheel or through Najafgarh Drain into the Yamuna. The Najafgarh Drain is an artificial construct of 1865 vintage with a negligible gradient of less than 1 m in a kilometer. If the Yamuna waters are high, as they often are in the monsoons, the waters of Najafgarh Drain do not flow and in extreme cases can back flow. Here, the Najafgarh Jheel comes into play and acts as a holding reservoir for flood water of Gurgaon. Unfortunately, Jheels and depressions have been targeted for their real estate value by both real estate lobby as well as the cooperative town planning department neglecting the basic canons of urban planning. The Town Planning Department in Gurgaon has earmarked several sectors within the 100 year high flood level (HFL) zone of the Najafgarh Jheel. These sectors will be subjected to inundation in due course. The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority of Haryana (SEIAA) is also to blame for allowing building activity in this area with the injunction that "plinth level be kept out of 100 year HFL of the Najafgarh Jheel". The SEIAA may be asked whether by keeping the plinth level out of the 100 year HFL of the Najafgarh Jheel would it be acceptable if buildings and people were marooned, lives endangered, foundations weakened as a result of prolonged water logging, expensive equipment and investments and automobiles ruined?

THE CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD

The Central Ground Water Board has noted the Najafgarh Jheel as an excellent groundwater recharge zone. The National Capital Region Planning Board has in a major study earmarked the Jheel as a groundwater recharge zone and in fact the Haryana Govt. has a policy whereby waterlogged farmlands are to be compensated at Rs. 20,000/- per acre. This would be more than compensated by the 15 MGD water availability for a water starved so called ‘smart city’. The original Jheel spread was vast during floods, extending 145 sq.km. during the 1958 floods, visited by Siberian Cranes – and also by the Greater Flamingos. Can we, for our own sustenance, look beyond land values and towards eco-system services for our own sustenance and retain a spread of just 4 sq.km.?

P.D. Manu Bhatnagar emphasizes that all storm water drains need to have their beds de-concretised so as to enable percolation of surface runoff and quicker clearance of rain water. It seems engineering agencies find greater benefits in sealing and lining drains like the Badshahpur Drain illogically concretised right up to Najafgarh Jheel in Delhi. Cities also need to unseal their paved surfaces, both along public streets, and within private compounds and especially institutional areas. They should be replaced with porous paving to absorb rainwater and reduce water logging. Then perhaps we will have ‘smarter’ cities!

MONSOON WOES

It is the same story year after year, the tale of many cities! Floods and traffic jams despite all the announcements about the preparatory gearing up to welcome the monsoons after a blistering summer

PD NHD Manu Bhatnagar offers some simple but sensible solutions. All stormwater drains need to have their beds deconcretised so as to enable percolation of surface runoff and quicker clearance of rain water. It seems engineering agencies find greater benefits in sealing and lining drains like the Badshahpur Drain illogically concretised right up to Najafgarh Jheel in Delhi. Cities also need to unseal their paved surfaces, both along public streets, and within private compounds and especially institutional areas. They should be replaced with porous paving to absorb rainwater and reduce water logging. Then perhaps we will have ‘smarter’ cities!

FOUR LEGGED DIPLOMACY

India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gifted a baby elephant named Indira to Japan, and it attracted crowds of eager viewers. Former President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma received an African elephant from Zimbabwe, but that did not excite too many people as we have so many trampling our city roads on occasions. Most recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi was gifted a Mongolian horse during his visit to that country. One does not look a gift horse in the mouth, however Delhi Zoo badly needs many more animals. Of late it has suffered too many casualties that needs looking into. The curator however has made it known that the Zoo is in dire need of giraffe, ostrich, kangaroo, and other varieties not to be seen easily in our wilds. Australia is culling the kangaroos, and maybe there is a surplus of other animals in other lands. Perhaps some animal diplomacy and exchange programme needs to be launched to save our zoos.
**NOSTALGIC ENCOUNTERS**

It may have happened in 1984, but these encounters linger in the memory of Manu Bhatnagar. The first was a meeting unlike others that he had encountered during many other journeys undertaken that are usually bereft of memorable incidents. Visiting Chamba, he was walking along this town of many 1000 year old temples and palaces, when a white Gypsy with a blue beacon stopped. It was the Deputy Commissioner Sarojini Thakur who invited him to join her on her rounds and even shared some insights.

Next day on another walk along the edge of the Chaugan he happened to see a doorway at the end of lane and glimpsed what looked like an English Cottage garden full of flowers. The owner was Elizabeth Ghuman, wife of the former Commander of the Chamba State Forces. Her invitation led to sipping tea, with the sound of the rumbling river Ravi in the distance providing a musical backdrop. It was a perfect setting for a chit chat. She was once the Principal of the Delhi School of Architecture and Planning, the architect of notable buildings like the YWCA Constatia Hall, and shared other delightful information. Sadly there has been no second visit for Manu Bhatnagar to fulfill his promise to visit this idyllic place and meet these acquaintances again.

**CORAL BLEACHING**

Corals usually have brilliant colours. They get it from tiny algae living in their tissues in a symbiotic relationship. The coral provides a home and the algae food is produced during photosynthesis. Lately however coral bleaching has been detected even in the famed Great Barrier Relief of Australia. Marine biologist have discovered for the first time bleaching of nearly half the corals of Sydney Harbour. Such a rapid change in their physiology is now being linked to climate change. Corals thrive in warm water but die if temperatures rise even a single degree. Strangely however the corals in the Persian Gulf withstand a punishing 35 degree C. A study has been undertaken by a marine biologist of the University of Southampton, UK to analyse how these corals survive. Perhaps it might help to protect corals in other regions.

**DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**

The Documentation Centre is in the process of upgrading the INTACH Website. This is being undertaken on the basis of information from other Divisions and users in general.

A separate tag will be provided on the Website’s main page for eminent persons and old INTACH Members with their contributions mentioned.

“Home” will be mentioned below INTACH logo.

There will be a picture scroll of 15 photographs that will keep changing every month, including pictures of various interesting INTACH activities undertaken.

A list of completed projects will feature on the main page, year wise, date wise, etc.

There will be a Menu Bar on the main page of the INTACH Website.

Details of all Divisions like initiatives taken, upcoming events, exhibitions, projects undertaken or completed, INTACH Awards, “What’s New”, will be some of the features of the website.

There will be a section on Archives covering information on old projects undertaken by INTACH in past years.

IDC Consultant P.S. Randhawa hopes to set up this Website during this quarter if timely inputs are received from all Divisions.
BIRHOR CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT

The cultural traits of the Birhor community is getting lost because of contact and influences of other cultures. Birhor Cultural Mapping was initiated by the Raipur Chapter to study, research, document and preserve the cultural lifestyles of Birhors.

The Birhors are one of the primitive tribal groups in India spread over Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Ranchi, with Chhattisgarh having the largest congregation of the Birhor people. This primitive tribal group dependent on nomadic gathering, hunting monkeys in earlier time is fast declining in numbers. They are known for rope making. The Birhors are primary suppliers of ropes to the peasant communities, and with dependence on each other they have an exchange relationship. Birhors believe they have descended from the Sun and that the Khairwars, who also trace their descent from the Sun, are their brothers. Cultural mapping helps to conserve and safeguard the intangible heritage of the Birhors and draws attention of academicians, researchers, administrators, social activists, community and mass media towards their significance. The study was restricted to Ethnographic and Anthropological descriptions – quantitative analysis and mapping of their intangible cultural heritage.

The project was completed under the supervision of Raipur Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandak and the Research Team of Anthropology, Dept. of Raipur University.

AUDIO-VISUAL DOCUMENTATION AND CULTURAL MAPPING OF GAYA

This project on the intangible aspects of Gaya with special emphasis on the sacred components of the city, was completed with the film Gaya – A City of Hindu Pilgrimage. The documentation covers many sacred identities, spaces, rituals and customs. Its deep rooted culture was studied and mapped in detail.

Focus of the project:

- The wider sacred geography of Gaya and its significance to Pind Daana during Pitrapaksha or Sraadha Paksha.
- Psychology and belief systems of social groups and communities, who have come to perform the Pind Daana.
- Gaya as a sacred place of important significance for the Pind Daana ritual (an ICH element)
• Role of Gayawals in providing assistance to the Pandits (who often come from other parts of Bihar)
• Gaya and its significance in relation to Pind Daana.
• Important facts of the city/place and people.
• Dynamics of the city
• Significance of Pitrapaksh Mela

GAYA- STRINGS OF FAITH: A DOCUMENTARY

The 55 minutes audio video documentation of intangible cultural elements in Gaya produced by renowned documentary maker Bappa Ray, who has been in this field for past three decades. ICHD objective was to bring out the lesser known, cultural aspects of Gaya to public knowledge through the film Gayas Strings of Faith Pitrapaksha as a sacred complex in public consciousness.

Some aspects like Pitrapaksh/Shradha rituals, Literature, Fairs and Festivals, craftsmanship of Pattharkati, local cuisine, traditional wrestling and Gaya Gharana, are all integral parts of Gaya. These lesser known heritage are on the verge of extinction. The purpose of this documentation is to create awareness in society regarding Gaya’s living cultural heritage and its intangible facets which need to be preserved. The film Gaya was screened on 1st August at INTACH. Chairman and other INTACH Members, as well as guests from Bihar and Jharkhand, and Central Office staff were present at the screening.
AUDIO-VISUAL DOCUMENTATION AND CULTURAL MAPPING OF VARANASI

The mapping and documentation of the intangible cultural and living heritage of Varanasi was undertaken by ICHD to unravel the historic and contemporary elements of city life. The study attaches value to the city’s ancient and authentic culture, and the transition and transformations witnessed over time. A cross-section of information on various ICH elements, in terms of festivals, food, folktales, performance, and other related elements was undertaken.

The following festivals were documented – Karvachauth, Govardhan, Annakut, Bhai Dooj, Krishna Leela and Nag Nathiyya, Dev Deepawali and Makar Sankranti. Aakash Deep is exclusively observed only in the city of Varanasi. It was documented in terms of its relevance and its lore. The story of bamboo umbrellas, an integral part of the ghat culture of the city, was documented from accounts of its craftsmen, the end users as well as an academician who worked on the preservation of these umbrellas which uniquely contribute to the heritage of Varanasi.

THE PERFORMANCE OF KRISHNA LEELA AT TULSI GHAT

The traditions of singing, and various singing styles which are typical to the city, have been documented by interviewing the disciples of Girija Devi. A comparison was drawn in the changes that occurred in the Guru Shishya Parampara, and the impact of transmitting these art forms and traditional skills. Music and dance culture of the city was understood by interviewing members of the Kathak Gharana – that carries the culture forward through teaching students. Similarly, the history and status of Sarangi, as an instrument, and an art form in Varanasi, was documented by interviewing the Guru and the Shishyas (Guru Shishya Parampara).

The various kinds of sculpted art found in the city have been documented by interviewing a cross section of craftsmen, and the end product users. The details of raw material and tools used, techniques of sculpting, the teaching and passage of skill, the nuances of themes, colour selection, and shift in preferences of the customers, the subsequent changes in the art form, have all been recorded through interviews. Both stone sculpting and the illustrious Ashtadhatu, and its status in the city are included in this documentation.

Women gather in groups to celebrate Bhai Dooj

Women at Tulsi Ghat performing Argh to the Sun god

Carved sculptures, idols of goddesses and Shiva lingais
**KAJRI THUMRI FESTIVAL**

A two-day *Kajri Thumri Festival* was organized by the Varanasi Chapter and *Kala Prakash*, supported by ICH Division. It commenced with a *Vedic Mangalabaran* by young girls and songs on the Ganga and *saarwan* by students of Pt. Devashish Dey at the Rasrang Banquet Hall, Sigra, Varanasi. Patiala *gharana* exponent Samrat Pandit performed with Pt. Rajan Mishra and Pt. Sajan Mishra present on the inaugural day.

On the second day at *Anandam* Hall of Surya Hotel, there were vocal artistes Smt. Indrani Mukherjee (Kolkata) and Dr. Sukalpa Mukherjee (Varanasi); Tabla: Pt. Vinod Lele and Pt. Kishore Mishra; Harmonium: Shri Vinay Mishra and Pt. Pankaj Mishra. It was well attended by an enthusiastic audience including children from various schools. Varanasi Convenor Ashok Kapoor and President of the Kala Prakash conceptualized the programme.

**DEMONSTRATION/WORKSHOP OF NOMAD FOOD**

*Demonstration/Workshop of Nomad Food*

In preparation for documenting the lifestyle of Nomads in the Jammu plains, Jammu Chapter conducted a workshop/demonstration under the guidance of its Convenor S.M. Sahni. Ethnic food items of Nomads were prepared by the community’s female professionals / housewives in the cooking laboratory of the Food Craft Institute, Bhagwati Nagar, a unit of Department of Tourism J&K Government. Specialized vegetarian items were cooked in...
the presence of many INTACH Members, the local community and the students of FCI Jammu.

Nomads Food Items

Kadaan Kaladi Sheera Maani Makki ki roti Sarson Ka Saag

Community Members/Participants tasting food for authentication

BAIGAS OF MADHYA PRADESH

A selection of vibrant paintings from different parts of India was exhibited at Delhi featuring the Baiga community on which ICHD brought out a publication. It is a composite collection of various people and art works like the hill community from western Deccan, Gonds from Madhya Pradesh, Kalamkari from Andhra Pradesh, Patachitra from Orissa, Picchwai from Nathwadra in Rajasthan, Madhubani from Mithila, and Sanjhi art linked to Krishna theme from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. More than 30 artists were represented, and many of their artworks are symbolic of Nature. A tree for instance symbolizes society, the trunk stands firm depicting society with branches symbolizing growth. There was even a cow with the face of a woman open to many interpretations.

Originally these art works were usually painted with vegetable dyes and natural pigments, but the works exhibited had a mixture of traditional dyes as well as acrylic colours.

NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY, 7TH AUGUST

Gandhi powered handloom by spinning khadi. Soon there was an emotive connect between handlooms and Indian identity. Dastakar was set up in 1981 by a small group of women spearheaded by Laila Tyabji. They heard of Bihar women held captive as bonded labour spinning silk for 20 years for paltry sums. Friend Gita Mehta committed the royalty of her book The River Sutra to pay off their loans and enable the women to learn weaving. They began to make Bhagalpur tussar saris that were soon in high demand. Today western wear and haute couture have swayed many to buy cheap imitations. It is time to revive traditional handloom skills to change fashion and that might also change the face of rural India.

MASKED CULTURE

Masks have been an integral part of Indian culture from the earliest times, and traditionally used in martial dance forms like Kathakali and Chhau. Recently Mexico Embassy unmasked an exhibition that revealed a long standing tradition of masks used for performances. The Mexican Ambassador stated there were nearly 4000 celebrations including Easter and Christmas when masks are popularly used in his country just like in India! The Embassy hosted a mask exhibition of vibrant colours and some with devilish appearance made out of diverse materials like wood, ceramic, plastic, fabric and metal. The Danza de los Viejitos dancers wear humorous masks of old people. The tradition is vibrantly alive and mask making flourishes unlike India where it is a dwindling craft due to economic reasons.
ICHID CULTURAL CELL

Senior Co-ordinator Manisha Singh organised events of the ICHD Cultural Cell.

Odissi Dance Performance

INTACH recently started a Young Talent Promotion programme. It was inaugurated on 30th June with lighting of ceremonial lamp by Member Secretary Dr. C.T. Misra. A Odissi performance of traditional Mangalacharan by Suvigya Rawat was followed by a salutation to Mother Earth, and to God, Guru and the audience. It concluded with a vigorous dance Shiv Tandav that is symbolic of the cycle of creation, preservation and dissolution. The event drew a packed house of enthralled audience in rapt attention.

THE OCEAN OF CHURN

A vibrant and stimulating panel discussion on the book The Ocean of Churn by Sanjeev Sanyal was organized on 11th August at INTACH Multipurpose Hall. The book is about the impact of Indian Ocean on world history. As an economist and an urban theorist, he challenges several established historical theories. Sanjay Sanyal took the audience on an amazing journey of the Indian Ocean and how it shaped the human history of our land. From the western perspective the Indian Ocean began to churn only with arrival of Vasco da Gama on Indian shores. But long before his arrival India was a flourishing maritime power. During the reign of the Pallavas, the Indo-Roman trade thrived once upon a time. The notable maritime history of Odisha is now permanently harbour in the Maritime Museum in Puri. Sanyal's journey through medieval geopolitics, eye witness accounts of long lost cities, and new historical perspectives widens the scope for new debates on the subject. In his welcome address Chairman also touched on other such little known information garnered during his own military career.

Sanyal's story is written from the perspective of the Indian Ocean region, of its people, trade and commerce that went hand in hand with cultural inter-linkages with our neighbouring countries, leaving an indelible mark on the South Asian countries long before western countries started trading on our shores. Sanyal also touched on the later influences of Indo-Roman trade, the harbinger of subsequent traders from European countries. There was migration of people even in those times that resulted in many genetic and linguistic linkages for all times. Sanyal shared a fund of little known information like South Indian Temples functioning as banks in the olden days; and that Ashoka did not abjure war after Kalinga as there was more bloodshed and wars waged by his army even after that bloodbath.

Panel discussion with Shyam Saran and Ramesh Menon was moderated by Suhasini Haider. A lively discussion, with many questions and answers followed from the interesting tales Sanjeev Sanyal 'churned out' in his much researched and eminently readable book.

AN AMAZING DOCU-FICTION

The film Farewell My Indian Soldier was screened on 23rd August at INTACH. Directed by Vijay Singh, it is a
moving portrayal of 150,000 Indian soldiers who fought valiantly during World War I in France and Belgium under the most trying circumstances and suffered the bitter cold of winters. The presence of these Indian soldiers in Europe is virtually a little known data in most history books. Using rare archives, historical testimonies, 100-year old Indian war songs and 600 insightful letters written home by soldiers about their mind altering experiences in France, the film tells the story of these brave men. It weaves a heart breaking story of Indian soldiers based on testimonials, old war songs, archival material and letters of whom 10,000 were destined never to return to their motherland.

The Indo-French children born during the war years subsequently became ‘prisoners’ of a prejudicial society. The film is inspired by one such story - of a young girl Paloma Coquant who valiantly journeys across France, Belgium, England and India in search of her roots.

The film deeply touched the audience. A lively question and answer session naturally ensued after the screening. With the Director Vijay Singh present for the interactions with viewers.

**MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION ( MHD/ICI )**

The Art & Material Heritage Division/INTACH Conservation Institutes signed two MoUs - with the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla in July.

**ICI PD Nilabh Sinha and Registrar of HP University**

State Chapter Convenor Malvika Pathania, along with, Co-Convenor Raaja Bhasin and Dean Faculty of Art Prof. Chatterjee HP graced the occasion at Shimla.

A similar MoU was signed with the Banaras Hindu University in August.

With the signing of these two MoUs, INTACH hopes to develop training modules in conservation of artefacts with focus on conservation of paintings, paper, manuscripts, display, storage, etc. The objective is to develop understanding of conservation and preservation by students and faculty of the University. Focus is also on research programmes on conservation science with their collaboration. INTACH proposes to open Conservation Labs at both these Universities for practical conservation work and projects that create job opportunities, while catering to the conservation needs in their respective States.

Exchange programmes with leading international universities will also be one of NHD focus areas.
ICIC DELHI

Management Plan of Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi

The Conservation Management Plan includes Documentation of Art and Material Heritage of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect of Rashtrapati Bhavan, used to design country houses for the rich and famous in England before he was assigned New Delhi, the then Governor General’s Estate. It is not surprising that the Rashtrapati Bhavan remains unsurpassed not only in size and splendour, but also creature comforts that have made the Presidential Estate, of which the Bhavan is only a part, the largest in the world. This ‘monumentality’ is evident even in its interiors. Ball rooms with painted ceilings, ornate furniture carved by Kashmiri craftsmen, paintings of kings and nobility, all crowd for space in the mansion fit for the constitutional head of the world’s largest democracy. With such aesthetic and cultural significance comes the need for constant upkeep and maintenance.

NHD is working on the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, or CCMP II project. It entails documentation of all objects of cultural and aesthetic importance; analysis from a technical and stability viewpoint; and finally proposals for the conservation and restoration of these materials which mostly comprise art and antiquities, paintings, sculptures and historical furniture to be attended by ICI. All the 350 plus rooms are being surveyed and anything dating pre-1947 of exceptional heritage and aesthetic merit are being photo-documented to create an inventory.

The documentation will result in a Condition and Stability Report, compiled into a database, that will be the authoritative catalogue of all objects in Rashtrapati Bhavan. In addition to documents and photographs, high resolution 360 degree panoramas are being captured of each room, documenting not only the rooms but also the placements and the design of the rooms. These are doubly important, because most rooms of Rashtrapati Bhavan are of historic importance, eg. the North Dining Room continues to be used to host visiting foreign dignitaries.

The entire basement area, and 25% of the first floor (including the Durbar Hall, Banquet Hall, and the North Dining Room), have been documented and photographed to date. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by February 2017, at the end of which the complete database and a detailed conservation plan will be provided to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Wall Painting Directory of India

A rich collection of wall paintings are housed in temples, monasteries, churches, palaces, etc. Many of these paintings are under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India or the State Archaeology Departments. Many more unprotected sites are in various stages of deterioration due to neglect and lack of awareness, and in danger of being lost with time. It is necessary to document them in a scientific manner and create data for future reference. ICI is preparing
a detailed Directory of Wall Paintings State-wise mentioning area, location, historical background and supported by photographs. The objective is to publish this data and get it duly notified by the respective State Governments as protected heritage.

The project is a collaborative effort between INTACH, its Chapters in various States as well as many organisations.
and institutions that have come forward to make this endeavour a success. Survey teams are selected and various orientation workshops are organized State-wise to train the surveying team for the Wall Painting Directory (WPD). An INTACH team is involved in the continuous process of coordinating with various survey teams, recording both public or private wall paintings as well as those protected under ASI. The comprehensive documentation data is then reviewed and compiled at INTACH Central Office.

This project commenced in April 2015 and the survey work started with Delhi in September. Sites are new being surveyed in several states - Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.

**Lime Testing Unit**

This NHD Unit was established last October and is working on various samples of lime either created or taken from historical sites. Tests were undertaken for water absorption by total immersion through capillary action. Mortar was always considered a sacrificial layer of building facades, as its main purpose is to protect masonry against weathering and slow decay. As a general rule plaster has low water absorption and high vapour permeability, so water can quickly evaporate. Natural weathering of lime plaster in all season test were set-up for 12 months with samples kept in different atmospheric conditions for ageing. Salt crystallization test experiment illustrates how soluble salts are transported by water and damage porous materials. These salts, in crystallized form caused breaking and scaling on the surface of the sample.

**Conservation of Print on Canvas**

ICI Delhi restored a printed canvas painting displayed in the media room of Ministry of External Affairs, South Block.

The canvas print in two pieces pasted on a wooden board was damaged due to dampness and termite infestation. Anti-termite treatment and spraying had caused further damage. The painting is now under conservation at ICI Delhi.
ICI MUMBAI

Conservation of Paper Mache Vase

This late 19th century vase, from the collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, was conserved at the Mumbai Centre. Problems of darkened varnish, cracks and previous restoration were attended using specialised techniques.

ICI KOLKATA

The conservation of personal belongings of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his family members was undertaken at Netaji Bhavan, Kolkata. The collection comprise his personal dresses, shoes, cloths, uniform which was worn by Netaji at the Calcutta Session of Indian National Congress, various badges, photographs of family members, suitcases, medicine bottles, blankets, umbrella, walking sticks, manpatra, note books and also some objects used by his famous elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose.
A 16 X 18 inches glass painting inside a wooden tray with metal handles was broken from the middle with the paint layer lost. All the conservation work was carried out by setting up a temporary lab at the premises of the Netaji Bhavan.

**ICI BENGALURU**

**Thanjavur Painting – Sri Ranganathaswamy**

A Thanjavur traditional painting (35x27 cm) of Sri Ranganathaswamy, the resting form of Lord Vishnu and presiding deity at Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam in Tamil Nadu, was received at ICI Bengaluru. Apart from being worshipped by all Hindus, Vishnu is of particular importance to the Vaishnava community in South India. This 631,000 sq.m. Temple is considered to be the biggest functioning Hindu temple in the world. The painting is thus uniquely important, and unlike usual Thanjavur paintings it is not studded with coloured stones, nor mirrors or foil.

**ICI BUBANESWAR**

**Valuable manuscripts of KR Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai**

ICI Bhubaneswar conservators are working on the conservation of rare and valuable paper manuscripts of the KR Cama Oriental Institute for last 12 years. There are 3,37,563 sheets of rare and important paper manuscripts of their library with the Centre at present.

**Training and Outreach**

A one week long internship programme was conducted at the University on Conservation of Manuscripts in the last week of August at the Centre for the post graduate students of Manuscriptology,
Dept. of Rabindrabharati. The sessions were intensive, technical, interactive and practical-oriented. Experts from INTACH Conservation Institute, Bhubaneswar shared their expertise to impart the best of knowledge to the students.

**Chemical Conservation of Bhabakundaleswar Temple, Manikpatna**

The 13th century Bhava Kundalesvara Temple at Manikapatna is a close contemporary of the Sun Temple at Konark as evident from their sculptural and architectural features. Located close to the Chilika Lake and the Bay of Bengal it is surrounded by sand dunes. The exterior surface of the temple is being cleaned presently using the paper pulp method followed by solvent and antifungal cleaning, and water proofing of the temple will complete the process.

**ICI LUCKNOW**

Conservation of rare printed books of His Excellency Library, Muscat has been undertaken by the Lucknow Centre.

**Conservation of damaged artifacts of Tagore Library, Lucknow**

![Fungus infected book, before and after conservation](image1)

![Soap stone before and after conservation](image2)
MUSEUM TOPPERS

Five Museums in India have figured in the top 25 Museums of Asia that are now recognized world wide as repositories of art objects and treasures:

- Leh’s Hall of Fame, Ladakh
- Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, West Bengal
- Jaisalmer War Museum, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- Bagore ki Haveli, Udaipur, Rajasthan
- Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, Telangana

LEONARDO’S LAST SUPPER

Many artists have painted *The Last Supper* showing Jesus Christ with his disciples, and in all of them they are shown with halos portraying them as saints. Among the many paintings of Christ with his Apostles, the one by Leonardo da Vinci draws attention as it is the only one where the halos are missing. And it is one of the world’s most famous paintings to be seen at the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan. According to experts, this suggests that the artist believed Jesus was mortal. Mario Taddei, an expert on the work of da Vinci, believes the people depicted in this painting are not saints but common men implying Jesus too was mortal, and it is like a secret message by the artist communicating something very meaningful and powerful.

The *Last Supper* also became a subject of debate and mystery after the film *The Da Vinci Code* triggered theories and debates on the role of Mary Magdalene and ‘The Holy Grail’.

FESTIVE TIMES

The recent exhibition of 50 devotional paintings by Ritu Gupta at the Visual Art Gallery of India Habitat Centre, Delhi titled *A Hue of Devotion* encapsulated traditional Festivals of India in a riot of colours. Painted with spiritual abandon, they bespoke of religious epics and legends that are quintessentially a part of Indian culture. This alluring exhibition is one more of her series painted earlier on Sacred Yantras, Empowering Love of Radha, and Divine Goddesses that were an exploratory journey undertaken by the artist to realise her inner self through paintings. As Ritu Gupta says “Painting and meditation to me is often synonymous to my existence”.

NANDAGOPAL’S SCULPTURES

The 21 brass sculptures of artist S. Nandagopla at a Delhi art gallery were both novel and a visual delight. There was a great deal of detailing along with quirky elements that arrested the eye, apart from the colour and enamelled copper sheets welded on to brass. He says “mythology is only the spring board for my inspiration. I believe one needs to know about the past as well as the present. Therefore my work is a blend of both”. Like Krishna fighting the demon in the avatar of a modern day circus performer? Or musicians playing to the call of the birds? The most intriguing part of this exhibition was about imagination and interpretation.

Nandagopal’s Sculptures
**AT THE MET**

Indian art is making a splash in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art popularly known as The Met. Nearly 100 pictures were on display featuring *Divine Pleasures: Painting from India’s Rajput Courts*. The three groups of Early Rajput and Rajasthan, Early Pahari (Punjab Hills) created between 16th-20th century project distinctive styles under the patronage of Rajput rule in different principalities like Bikaner, Bundi, Kishangarh, Kota and Mewar. And there were transformations after coming into contact with the Mughal school. Mughal miniatures are perhaps more celebrated, but the Rajput school has a vast variety of mythological themes painted in opaque water colours and ink on paper, weighted with gold and silver touches. They have been described as “*suffused with powerful imagery of the myths of the past*”.

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**ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (AHD)**

**REVIVAL AND RESTORATION OF BALAJI GHAT, VARANASI**

The 1735 AD built Balaji Ghat Palace, an iconic landmark on the banks of the River Ganga in Varanasi, was built by the Maratha King Balaji Peshwa. The palace collapsed twice in 1999 and 2009 due to extreme climatic conditions, poor maintenance and natural calamities. AHD took it up for restoration in 2012, with financial support of the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), the World Monuments Fund (WMF), and American Express. As part of the restoration process, the building was exhaustively documented with the debris cleared from all the areas. For the purpose of reusing the palace as a museum and cultural centre, the first phase of conservation work commenced with emergency repairs in collapsed parts, mainly south and southwest sections. The collapsed floors have been restored and currently finishing work is on-going in these areas to set up the museum. Restoration of the front facade, temple section and other ancillary areas planned under the second phase has also been initiated on site.

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**RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION OF SCINDIA SCHOOL AND SHIVAJI HOUSE, GWALIOR**

The *Scindia School*, situated inside the Gwalior Fort premises is a residential school for boys. It was founded in 1897
by the late Maharaja Madhavrao Jayaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior. The architecture of the School is contemporary to the barracks of the Colonial era which it was during British times. INTACH signed a MoU with the Scindia School to restore two buildings: the Main School Building (façade and corridors) and Shivaji House (building restoration). Both the buildings are identical, though different in scale and construction details. These double storey buildings have arcaded corridor with semi circular arches on both floors.

Due to several interventions in the past, the masonry was damaged in many areas and additional masonry had been done using brick and cement. On the façade, blackening of stone was a major concern and also several stones elements were found to be broken or missing.

In January 2015, Scindia Trust invited INTACH to take up the restoration of the Main Building. The first phase of the project was completed in October 2015 for the Founders Day celebration of the School. INTACH then commenced work in Shivaji House building which is now nearing completion.

**RAILWAYS BHAVAN, GWALIOR**

The Railway Bhawan in Gwalior was built in 1885, along narrow-gauge rail tracks, as the Head Office of Railways. It is an intricately decorated sandstone building showcasing Rajput and Maratha architecture. The building is now functioning as the Office of Railway Area Manager under the Railways, Jhansi.

The Railways Jhansi Department approached MP State Chapter Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari for the restoration of the building façade. The Architectural Heritage Division team visited the site to document and for condition assessment of the building. The free standing structure covers a 950 sq.mt plinth area with exquisite carving on every panel of sandstone cladding. The building has undergone major structural interventions in the interiors, however the facade has remained intact with some deterioration. The Conservation Proposal is currently under preparation.

**REVIVAL OF LOH GARH FORT, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA**

Lohgarh was the first Khalsa Raj capital of Sikh Empire established by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in 1710. Located 40 km from district headquarter Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, the site is on an elevated summit at the steps of Himalayas. The defense fort at Lohgarh was a symbol of
valour and revolt against the Mughals, led by the great warrior and remarkably efficient leader Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, chosen by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru. In 1715 the Fort fell into the hands of the Mughals and was destroyed completely.

The Deputy Commissioner’s Office approached INTACH for the revival of the Fort. INTACH signed a MoU with the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Heritage Development Foundation to undertake this work. The Fort is estimated to be covering about a thousand acres of land, and only traces of a few random masonry at plinth level and some habitable areas remain. The proposal is divided into 3 phases, the first being the proposal for the Excavation and DPR for the Fort wall, Memorial, Martial Arts School and the Gurudwara.

A dedicated AH team is working on the project and has visited twice spending many days at the site.

INTEGRATED HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PURMANDAL AND UTTARBEHNI, J&K

Purmandal and Uttarbehni are two significant pilgrim destinations of Jammu & Kashmir, located about 40 kms to the east of Jammu city along river Devak. Both the towns are dotted with numerous 19th century temples and sarais with intricate frescos on both interior and exterior walls. The river Devak is also known as Gupta Ganga as it flows below ground level and has various legends attached to it. While Jammu receives a large influx of pilgrims because of Sri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims and Amarnath Yatra, the small pilgrim towns however remain unknown and unvisited. Moreover, the rich built and natural heritage of these towns are deteriorating at a fast pace because of rising pressure on land and lack of awareness in the communities. The dried river is used for parking and connectivity while the temples and sarais are also deteriorating.

Keeping in view the potential these villages offer as a religious destination, the local authority approached INTACH for a vision document. INTACH prepared a draft plan with the view to re-establish Purmandal and Uttarbehni as the “Spiritual Sisters” of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. The proposals mainly centre around preserving the

Site of investigation during visit

 Existing Proposed

Front facade of the Gate

built and natural heritage of the towns. At the regional level, tourist accommodation and a tourist facilitation centre have been proposed, along with a Crafts Village that would promote local crafts.

CONSERVATION OF KUSHALIDHARA GATE, SAWAI MADHOPUR, RAJASTHAN

At the request of the local Chapter, AH team visited Sawai Madhopur to document and assess the damage to the Khushalidhara Gate. This gateway was one of the entry
points to the old city. The city wall can still be seen flanking the gate on one side, which was partly broken to make the Rajasthan State Highway 30. The late Mughal period gateway is under the Forest Department, and abandoned. The Department has added a new floor on the terrace of the gateway which has resulted in extra load on the historic structure. It has thus altered the original façade and visual integrity of the Gate. Other issues are related to maintenance. The restoration plan of the Gate has been prepared keeping in view the original form and fabric of the structure. It is proposed to provide a boundary wall all around to protect it from vandalism. Dismantling of the additional floor and restoration of the battlements would revive the original structure and give it a new life.

INTEGRATED HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE OLD CITY OF JAMMU

The old city of Jammu to the north-western side of the Tawi River is the significant core area buzzing with activities related to trade, commerce, offices, education and health facilities; and it also has a concentration of old temples, palaces, bawalis, shop-houses, etc. The major issues in the old city are related to development pressure with the streets facing acute congestion due to lack of parking spaces, and non-conformity of traffic rules creating frequent bottlenecks. The city also faces severe water logging problems during rains due to the absence of a proper sewerage and storm water drainage system. While the temples face several insensitive alterations, other heritage structures are either abandoned or have been completely altered.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation approached INTACH to prepare a vision document. INTACH has prepared a draft plan for re-establishing the city as the “City of Temples”. Seven heritage zones have been identified, and revival of the heritage structures with augmentation and optimization of open spaces have been proposed. Development control measures have also been proposed for which a heritage sensitive toolkit has been designed. Heritage trails and temple trails have been introduced that connect significant heritage structures and temples along with proposals for pedestrianisation.

INTACH LISTING CELL

Director Listing A. Vijaya reports that the following Chapters have been engaged in listings:

- Nagore and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu State Chapter which has engaged the Prime College of Architecture in Kilvelur (near Nagipattnam). A listing workshop was conducted by the Chapter on 8th August before commencing the field work.
- Ranchi District in Jharkhand by the Jharkhand Chapter. The old listing of Ranchi District and the town done in 1990s has about 145 buildings, which is now being updated.
- Dausa District in Rajasthan by Sawai Madhopur Chapter, expects to cover about 300 buildings and sites.
The beautifully produced publication on the Baolis of Bundi, The Ancient Stepwells features a number of baolis in Bundi, some of the most unique building typologies to harvest and store water in the olden days. They showcase the in-depth knowledge that our ancient communities had about harvesting water and the capacity to construct systems that provided them plentiful water during the dry months of the year – both to harvest and to store. With the easy availability of tap water today, baolis have become forgotten relics of past ages. In a foreword message INTACH Chairman L.K. Gupta hopes that “presenting a detailed study of the baolis, shall initiate a renewed interest in the baolis and lead to conservation and revival of the water systems”. It is indeed a valuable book of information for our times when water is in short supply especially during the hot summer months.

This AHD publication grew out of a listing exercise when INTACH first took up a restoration project of the 1677 Bhawaldi Baoli supported by the Prince’s Charities Fund in 2009. This baoli was in such a deteriorated condition that people were scared of wandering anywhere near it. This AHD publication has now listed nearly 50 baolis and 10 kunds of the region with detailed information on their living traditions, current absence of organised maintenance, intrusive infrastructure in the neighbourhood, encroachments, etc. Ironically baolis are being covered to avoid casualties instead of being revived to trap water in these arid zones of Rajasthan!

A team of INTACH architects carried out field visits for this compilation. In particular PD AHD Divay Gupta and Director A. Vijay are congratulated for the coordination and compilation of this book. INTACH specially appreciates all the local help given by Bundi Convenor Vijai Raj Singh and former IAF Corporal Keshav Bhatia for this work. Hopefully this combined mega effort will trigger conservation of many more baolis of Bundi.

- Puruliya District in West Bengal by the West Bengal Chapter.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the A&N Chapter which proposes to document the Japanese bunkers and the colonial heritage of the island
- Kargil listing Phase II by the Ladakh Chapter. The Phase I listing of Kargil district has been recently completed comprising 91 sites, and the Phase II proposes to list about 150 sites.
- Listing of old bridges of Uttarakhand was undertaken by the Dehradun Chapter. Four districts - Dehradun, Pauri, Tehri and Nainital - will be covered in the listing.

Draft reports for the listings of Rakhigarhi District and Sonepat District in Haryana, comprising 100 heritage sites and 70 heritage sites respectively, and that of Kargil, comprising of 91 heritage sites are under review of Director A. Vijaya.

BAOLIS OF BUNDI

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HERITAGE CRAFT & COMMUNITY DIVISION (HCCD)

TRANSFER OF SKILLS

HCC Division took up training in transferring skills for income generation at Varanasi. There are hundreds of wooden toy makers making traditional toys for generations, as well as rickshaw pullers and painters in the Khojuwa area. Today they lack both raw material and market outlets. They earn less than a manual labourer and face difficulties with no access to facilities for developing their skills. Moreover working conditions are pathetically poor. Varanasi has an estimated 30,000 licensed cycle rickshaws and e-rickshaws, and most rickshaws pullers live hand to mouth. Nor do they own the rickshaws or afford improvements.

Heritage Craft & Community Division (HCCD)

A prototype design for the rickshaw

The bamboo slats and chassis of the cycle rickshaw and the bodies of the e-rickshaw. The aim was to combine the skills of both communities with improved working conditions for an enhanced livelihood. Post “skill application” approach, the traditional toy painters are being trained to create motifs and patterns rooted in Banarasi culture to adorn rickshaws. Also, design interventions introduced have improved the traditional rickshaw with mobile charging point, extra luggage space, better footrest, comfortable seating, etc. in the rickshaws.

As the e-rickshaws and cycle rickshaws move around the city, their overall appearance enliven the streets; and attract attention of tourists, and project an attractive look to these vehicles adding to the cultural ambience of the city. This initiative has enhanced the dignity of the communities while making rickshaws attractive and comfortable for both the passenger and the puller.

HERITAGE CRAFT CELL

For the festive season of Dassera and Diwali, the heritage Craft Cell displayed a wide array of lanterns and gift items.

A prototype design for the rickshaw

Design Improvisation in Traditional Rickshaw
INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY

PUBLIC FORUM OF THE ASIA EUROPE NETWORK

The Experts Meeting and Public Forum of the Asia Europe Network of Urban Heritage for Sustainable Creative Economies was held on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July at INTACH Central Office. The Forum, established in 2014, has four other members: Europe Nostra, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum (IIM), International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) and Yangon Heritage Trust. During the last two years, considerable groundwork was covered to integrate knowledge, creativity and technology to offer solutions to local communities. A structured approach for heritage-linked economies was defined with a publication clarifying any ambiguities. The Forum proposes to open its membership to other organizations, networks and agencies working on development and management of historic cities.

A consultative set up to extend the networking is the next step. Heritage professionals, cultural and creative practitioners, economists, urban planners, tourism related stakeholders, local authorities, heritage groups will be invited to join the Network in the next phase.

IHA TRAINING PROGRAMMES

A five-days Teacher Training Programme on Understanding a Methodology for Identification, Demarcation & Documentation of Heritage Zones was held in collaboration with the Sathyabama University, Chennai at their venue on 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July. The third collaborating partner was NIASA-CoA.

A three day training course cum workshop on Heritage, People and Law was organized on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July at Central Office, attended by participants comprising conservation architects, a corporate lawyer, a consultant, a museologist, researchers, professors, students and a senior State Government official. INTACH Divisions are requested to encourage their technical staff to avail of such opportunities to enhance their professionalism; Chapters may also avail of IHA workshops if any Member is interested.
HERITAGE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DOCUMENTATION

IHA received 33 entries registering for the Awards. An exhibition showcasing the documentation sent by the participating architecture colleges was on display at INTACH Multipurpose Hall during 6th-10th September. The Jury comprised Prof. R.J. Vasavada, Ar. Tara Murli, Dr. Gill Chitty (York) and Ar. Aishwarya Tipnis (CoA nominee).

The presentation of IHA Awards was held on 17th September at the Islamic Centre adjoining INTACH Central Office.

### Award of Excellence:
*Shree Dev Laxmi Narayan Temple*, Walawal District, Maharashtra.

### Awards of Merit:
- **North Zone**: *Mubarak Manzil Mahal*, Malerkotla, Punjab – Chitkara School of Planning & Architecture, Rajpura.
- **South Zone**: *Documentation of Guru Basadi at Moodabidri* – Srinivas Institute of Technology, Manglore.
- **Central Zone**: *Lucknow Portfolio* - Kamla Raaheja Vidyanidhi Institute, Mumbai

### Commendations:
- **South Zone**: *Thazhathangady Settlement*, Kottayam – TKM College of Engineering, Kollam.
- **Central Zone**: *Wai, Satara* - Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai.

The *INTACH-CoA Awards* were presented on 17th September at Chinmaya Mission Auditorium.
HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE (HECS)

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

**Dhar, MP 1st – 2nd July**

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Dhar Chapter. Co-Convenor Pinakin Barot presented local heritage, its numerous **baolis** (step-wells), Dhar Fort, Nityanand Ashram, **chhattris**, Dhareshwar Temple, the Saraswati Temple and its lakes. INTACH Member Parag Bhosle and Director, **Chetna Memorial Samajik Sanstha** addressed them. A heritage walk was held at Dhar Fort.

Thupalli talked about its sacred groves. East Godavari District with its splendid mangrove forests and diverse natural habitats can become a heritage district.

**Western Command Schools, Delhi, 23rd August**

The HECS Awareness Workshop was organised for 38 Principals of Army Public Schools at the Army Public School, Shankar Vihar. The INTACH film was greatly appreciated by Western Command.

**Bangalore, 6th - 7th September**

The Heritage Workshop was held at the Presidency School, Bangalore North with Principal Pushpy Dutt welcoming PD Purnima Datt, resource persons and participants. A heritage walk to the Devanahalli Fort was organised.

Lath Masjid ‘Pillar Mosque’, in the southern end of the town was built by Dilawar Khan in 1405. It derives its name from an iron pillar (supposedly, erected in the 11th century). This 13.2 m pillar has fallen down but is kept outside the mosque. Akbar visited it in 1598, during his Deccan campaign as recorded in an inscription on this pillar.

HERITAGE EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR US

**TEACHERS (USIEF) 11th July**

A delegation of 16 American teachers under the United States-India Educational Foundation ‘**Sustainable Development and Social Change in India**’ attended a workshop 11th July at INTACH Delhi and visited ICI conservation lab to see varied conservation techniques.

**Kakinada, 19th August 2016**

Teacher-cum-College Heritage Volunteer Workshop was organised by the East Godavari Chapter in collaboration with HECS on 19 August at the P.R. Government (Autonomous) College, Kakinada. It was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Municipal Commissioner A. Basha who spoke on the recent declaration of Kakinada as a ‘smart city’. Dr. Ravishankar

**Amazing Fort of Karnataka**

Devanahalli Fort has circular bastions at regular intervals and loopholes or gun slits line on the wall, with slots for four muskets or six in some. It is the place where Tipu was re-united with two of his elder sons who were kept hostages for two years at Madras by the British after Tipu’s defeat.
COLLEGE WORKSHOPS

The Heritage Volunteer Programme aims to sensitize college youth to protect heritage in a nation-wide movement for its conservation. It offers an interactive platform.

Chennai, 5th August

The workshop was attended by many colleges with their faculty members. Chennai Convenor Sujatha Shankar welcomed them. The interactive session was facilitated by well-known heritage practitioners, Principal Architect Durganand Balsavar and Founder KSM Architecture Sriram Ganapathy.

Warangal, 1st September

The interactive forum was inaugurated by Chief Guest Municipal Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad. He encouraged participants to recognize the city's heritage and future 'smart city'. An overview and its management was the highlight of the programme including a presentation by Convenor Prof. M. Panduranga Rao on the Renovation and Restoration of the Thousand Pillar Temple, with a site visit to the historic temple.

CLEAN MONUMENTS CAMPAIGN

Students Excursion to Delhi, 6th – 8th July

Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Campaign of the Government, INTACH launched a Campaign for School Children (Std 6-9) across the country. The 10 national winners visited Delhi and during the three days they were taken to various sites and organizations working in heritage and environment conservation. The programme concluded with an award ceremony with Chief Guests, Founder of Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, and Ministry of Culture Joint Secretary Shefali Shah attending the function at INTACH New Delhi.

INTACH HERITAGE QUIZ 2016

Haryana

Ambala, 6th August: The Chapter organised the Heritage Quiz for the Army Public School, Ambala Cantt. Senior teacher Madhu Singh was the quiz master assisted by the Chapter Convenor.

Gurgaon, 7th August: Gurgaon Chapter organised the Heritage Quiz at G.D. Goenka Public School with INTACH Convenor Atul Dev and Chapter Member Namrata Mishra giving full support.

Kurukshetra, 24th August: Kurukshetra Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz. All major schools of Kurukshetra participated in the event.
**Panipat, 20th August:** The Heritage Quiz was held at S.D. Vidya Mandir (Sr. Wing).

**Himachal Pradesh**

**Shimla, 30th August:** The State Chapter and Shimla Chapter organised a Heritage Quiz at the Auckland House Girls School. Convenor Raaja Bhasin stressed on knowledge and pride in one’s country’s rich heritage.

**Mandi, 28th August:** Mandi Chapter organised the Quiz at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School. An important component of this programme was the participation of two village schools—Government Senior Secondary School, Galma and S. R. Vidya Mandir, Ratti.

**Kangra, 7th September:** The Quiz was organised by Kangra Chapter in the Govt. Boys Senior Secondary School in Dharamshala. Convenor L.N. Aggarwal apprised the students and the teachers on how students could get involved in INTACH heritage awareness programmes.

**Punjab**

**Amritsar, 20th August:** The city-round of the Quiz Competition was held at Sri Guru Harkrishan Senior Secondary Public School. Ms. Davinder Kaur and Dr. Gurshaminder Singh Bajwa were quiz masters for the oral round.

**Faridkot, 20th August:** Five out of 50 teams from 8 schools were selected for the final round.

**Patiala, 27th August:** Six schools participated in the Quiz held at Government Multipurpose School, Patiala.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Allahabad, 20th August:** Ten schools participated in the INTACH Quiz held at the Bal Bharti School.

**Brajaboomi, 27th August:** 11 schools participated in the INTACH Quiz held at Gyan Mahavidyalaya, Aligarh.

**Rohilkhand, 31st August:** Students from various schools participated in the Quiz held at the Symbiosis Public School. INTACH Co-Convenor Kashif Khan explained INTACH’s multiple activities.

**Orai, 30th July / 6th August / 27th August:** The local rounds were held in three schools (Gurukulam, Vinayak Academy and Ram Shri Public School).

**Varanasi, 13th August:** 8 schools participated in the Quiz, with Little Flower School, Kakarmatta winning the. Prize distributed by Prof. Sushila Singh, a former Principal of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, BHU.

**Lalitpur, 19th August:** The Quiz was held at Disha Education College. Co-Convenor Rajneesh Chaddha spoke about
different heritage places and the need for protecting them.

**Kanpur, 20th August:** The Quiz at Sheiling House School, Kanpur had students from 21 schools participating, with Tariq Ibrahim apprising the students about INTACH.

**Uttarakhand**

**Dehradun, 27th August:** Six schools participated in the Quiz held at Modern Sr. Sec. School. Prizes were awarded by Principal Meenakshi Gandotra of Jaswant Modern Sr. Sec. School, Dehradun Convenor Lokesh Ohri cim Uttarakhand Co-Convenor.

**Karnataka**

**Bijapur, 20th August:** 15 High Schools participated in the Quiz held at PDJ High School. Ms. Shrinidhi Kulkarni was the quiz master for oral examination.

**Dharwad, 23rd August:** The city round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at RLS High School, Dharwad with 24 schools participating.

**West Bengal**

**Darjeeling, 24th August:** Nine schools participated in the Quiz held at St. Roberts’ H.S. School. Convenor Bharat Prakash Rai conducted the first round. Five best teams were selected during the first round. Prof. K.K. Tamang conducted the oral round.

**Maharashtra**

**Mumbai, 24th August:** Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with Xpressminds conducted the 3rd edition of the Heritage Quiz, Mumbai segment at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum. 34 schools participated. It was followed by the launch of the INTACH India Heritage Quiz Book IndiQA, authored by Kunal Savarkar and Ms. Seema Chari. The event was co-hosted by Collins India.

**Chandrapur, 19th August:** The Quiz was held at the local Hindi City High School presided by the former school Principal. INTACH Member A.N. Pullawar was the Chief Guest.

**Aurangabad, 19th August:** Aurangabad Chapter organized the Heritage Quiz for school students of Classes VII-X at Bhanudas Chavan Hall, the Institution of Engineers, Osmanpura. Chief Guest was Maharashtra Convenor Mukund Bhogale. Architect and INTACH Member Sneha Bakshi conducted the inaugural session with participation of 13 schools.

**Solapur, 12th July:** 38 teams participated in the Quiz held at Mule Hall, Haribhai Devkaran High School. INTACH Member Anand...
Deshpande talked about the Kailas Temple at Ellora.

Pune, 22nd August: 10 schools participated with Kaveri Institute as the venue partner.

Wai-Panchgani, 22nd July: The Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz on July at Tarktirth at Lakshman Shashtri Joshi Vidyalaya with 63 teams participating. It was conducted in Marathi.

Madhya Pradesh

Burhanpur, 24th August: The Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Ambar Holiday Resort by Convenor Dr. Major M.K. Gupta and Co-Convenor Hoshang Havalder.

Gujarat

Ahmedabad, 30th July: Shreyas Foundation hosted the INTACH Heritage Quiz. Ahmedabad International School stood first with Delhi Public School as the first runners-up. Convenor Abhay Mangaldas briefed the students on INTACH.

Jamnagar, 7th August: Nine schools participated at Shri A.K. Doshi Vidyalaya, conducted in English and Gujarati by Chapter Member Yashi Kumari Jadeja and Jagrutiba Rana respectively. Convenor Air Commodore (Retd.) S.S. Tyagi gave the introductory talk.

Rajpipla, 5th July: INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at the Heritage Vijayraj Palace Hall. 52 teams from Gujarati and English medium schools participated, with question sheets typed in both languages. The Government School for tribal girls won the Quiz which is noteworthy.

Assam

Assam 27th August: Assam Chapter conducted the Quiz at Dibrugarh, in collaboration with the Lion Club of Dibrugarh. It was preceded by a heritage walk to the 100 year old Circuit House and Gymkhana built by the British, led by Members of the Lion Club and INTACH.

Andhra Pradesh

East Godavari, 17th July: The Chapter conducted the Quiz in East Rajahmundry, Eluru and Narasapuram Districts under the guidance of Convenor Sesa Kumari. 35 schools participated. Students were introduced to INTACH and conservation heritage.

Machilipatnam, 17th July: 38 schools participated in the Quiz held at Little Flower English Medium School. Vice-Chancellor, Krishna University S. Ramakrishna Rao, the Chief Guest, addressed them on the importance of heritage. Five winning teams received a cash prize of 500 INR.

Anantapur, 24th July: The Anantapur Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Rotary English Medium School with 11 schools participating. The event was conducted by Convenor Dr. A.G. Venugopal Reddy along with Co-Convenor. Rama Kumar, with several Chapter Members present.

Srikakulam, 28th July: The Heritage Quiz was conducted by the Srikakulam Chapter at a Government School with support from the District Administration. A lecture was organised on Mahabharata and personality development by Pydi Haranadhrao.
Kadapa, 7th September: 10 schools participated in the Quiz held at the Kadapa Kalakshethram. Mayor K. Suresh Babu, Kadapa Municipal Corporation was the Chief Guest. He stressed on the duty of citizens to protect heritage, while Regional Joint Director G. Gopal, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation emphasised on the responsibility of students towards their national heritage.

Vizianagaram 2nd August: Vishakhapatnam Chapter conducted the Quiz at Vizianagaram with 116 teams participating. District Collector Vivek Yadav felicitated the students.

Andhra Pradesh State Finals

The State Chapter successfully completed the State round of the Heritage Quiz at the Vijayawada Cultural Centre. 12 teams belonging to different parts of the State participated. The winning team was from Vishakhapatnam. The State Convenor M. Gopalkrishna graced the occasion.

Telangana

Mubbubnagar, 7th August: 19 schools participated in the Quiz, with INTACH Governing Council Members Ved Kumar and Anuradha Reddy attending.

Warangal, 10th August: 20 schools participated in the Quiz held at the New Science Degree College, Hanmkonda. Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao introduced the subject and emphasised the importance of heritage preservation, and the role of students.

Tamil Nadu

Chennai, 10th August: INTACH Chennai conducted the Quiz at the Anna University Alumni Club, with students from thirty schools participating.

Salem, 28th August: Salem Chapter organised the Quiz at the Sri Vidy Mandir Higher Secondary School with nine schools participating. It sensitized young minds to heritage and its preservation.

Madurai, 31st August: 20 teams from various schools participated in the Quiz held at the Thiagarajar College. State Convenor Tamil Nadu Dr. S. Suresh conducted the Quiz, while Convenor Madurai presided over the event.

Thanjavur 31st August: Students participated in the Quiz held at the Government Girls Hr. Sec. School. Well-known Archeologist N. Selvaraj was the Quiz Master; the event was coordinated by INTACH Hon. Secretary S. Muthukumar under the guidance of Convenor S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle.

Odisha

Mayurbhanj, 24th July: The Quiz was held at the Retired Government Employees Association Hall, Baripada. Rabindra Nath Parida, the Trustee of Marga Darsaka Knowledge Foundation and a renowned educationist Dr. Jagannath Prasad Nath designed the Quiz questions for the written round.

Bhubaneswar 21st August: 49 teams participated in the Quiz held at the DAV Public School Chandrasekharpur. The winners were felicitated by State Convenor A.B. Tripathy.

State Finals

Odisha State Chapter held the State Round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz 2016 at Bhubaneswar on 21st August at DAV Public School. Teams from three cities participated – Mayurbhanj, Sonepur and Bhubaneswar. The winners were from Bhubaneswar.
Jharkhand

Jharkhand, 23rd Aug: INTACH conducted the Heritage Quiz at Motilal Nehru Public School, Jamshedpur with students from 10 parts of the city participating.

Bihar

Bhagalpur, 20th Aug: Six schools participated in a Quiz held at the SMS Mission Sciences, Tilkamanjhi, Bhagalpur. Convenor Bhagalpur K.D. Prabhat urged the students to make their city a heritage space.

Rajasthan

Udaipur, 30th July: 10 schools participated in the Quiz held at the Maharana Mewar Public School. Former Governor Rotary Club Udaipur and renowned social worker Dr. Yashwant Kothari, Former Vice Chancellor Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar Convenor Udaipur Chapter and six senior life Members of the Chapter’s Heritage Education Working Group were among the dignitaries attending the programme.

Karauli, 3rd August: 11 schools, including a school for special children participated. Collector, Karauli Manoj Kumar Sharma was the Chief Guest along with Convenor Maharaja Krishna Chandra Pal, Co-Convenor Shivraj Pal Singh Rao presided.

Barmer, 4th August: Ten schools participated. Quiz in-charge Om Joshi addressed the students about art and culture facing a threat. He emphasised the importance and relevance of organising these events for the younger generation.

Jodhpur, 5th August: Seven schools participated in the Quiz held at the Konark Senior Secondary School, Pratapnagar. INTACH Co-Convenor Bhagirath Vaishnava welcomed the participants and Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar highlighted the importance of heritage.

Chattisgarh

Bilaspur, 11th August: An impressive number of students from the Deokinandan Girls Higher Secondary School participated in the Quiz. It was bilingual with questions in Hindi and English.

Surguja, 11th September: A written test was conducted in various schools prior to the Quiz. The Chief Guest was Mahant Anusuya Das. INTACH Convenor O.P. Agarwal attended the programme along with several other Members of the Chapter.

Raipur, 19th August: Six schools participated in the Quiz held at the Vrindavan Hall Civil Lines. Convenor Prof. R.G. Bhav, while Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandak coordinated and conducted the Quiz.

STATE ROUND

Chattisgarh, 14th September: The Chattisgarh State Chapter conducted the state-round of the Heritage Quiz for students from Ambikapur, Raipur and Bilaspur.

MADHYA PRADESH

Khandwa, 22nd July: Five schools participated in the Quiz held at Vidyakunj International School. Convenor Madhuri Sharma
interacted with students and explained the importance of heritage.

Jabalpur, 27th July:
Seven schools participated in a Quiz held at the St. Thomas Higher Secondary School. The event was geared towards making students aware of their local and national heritage.

Shivpuri, 30th July:
Students of many schools participated in the Quiz held at Happy Days School. It was coordinated and conducted by Convenor Mittal and Co-Convenor Dr. Neel Kamal. INTACH GC Member Kamaksh, a heritage expert, spoke about different types of heritage, and ways to identify them.

Mandla, 5th August:
Students from nine schools participated in the Quiz comprising a written and oral round. Out of the 27 teams that were a part of the written round, around five qualified for oral round.

Gwalior, 6th August:
Students from 30 schools participated in the Quiz held at Oxford Public School. State Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari Jaisal and Principal Rekha Singh were the distinguished guests at the programme.

Dhar, 21st August:
Dhar Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz. The Chief Guests were Manager Rural Bank, Jhabua region Rekha Singh and noted social activist of the city Laxminarayan Convenor Deependra Sharma was also present.

Datia, 29th August:
Over a hundred students participated in the Heritage Quiz organised and coordinated by Convenor Vinod Suramani. Co-Convenor Shivpuri Dr. Neel Kamal and Additional Co-Convenor Gwalior were the Chief Guests.

STATE FINALS

Madhya Pradesh

Gwalior, 6th August:
Madhya Pradesh Chapter conducted the state-round of the Heritage Quiz at Mount Litera Zee School in Gwalior. The city-round winners from eight Chapters were Gwalior, Shivpuri, Datia, Jabalpur, Dhar Khandwa, Mandla and Burahanpur. The state winners from Gwalior Glory High School were felicitated by State Convenor H.B. Maheswari.

Kerala

Calicut, 17th August:
Students from eight schools participated in the Quiz held at Sri Gujarati Vidyalaya H.S.S. Convenor Capt. Dinker Karunakar welcomed the participants and Principal Poppen, Sri Gujarati Vidyalaya inaugurated the Quiz.

Sikkim

Gangtok, 12th September:
Students from 13 schools (in and around Gangtok) participated in the Quiz held at Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School, Gangtok. The winners were Diwakar Pradhan and Palden Lepcha of Tadong Government Senior Secondary School. Bina Sharma, Teacher at Enchay Senior Secondary School was the quiz master.

DELHI

Delhi, 29th August:
INTACH India Heritage Quiz was conducted at India International Centre, New Delhi in collaboration with the venue hosts at IIC. Around 130 schools had participated in the Quiz from Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Gaziabad, Meerut and NCR. The specially invited guests for the occasion were Air Marshal (Retd.) Naresh Verma, Director, IIC, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta, INTACH Chairman and Member Secretary,
Abhishek Das presented the project themes for the current year. The technical session was conducted by Ankit Pogula and Shreya Kakria who shared details about camera handling from different shots and angles.

**Ahmedabad Workshop, 3rd August:** The workshop was held at the Shreyas Foundation. Ahmedabad Convenor Abhay Mangal welcomed the students asking them to examine how old a phenomenon should be to be viewed as heritage. Students came up with unique ideas for making films, such as cobbler, local medicine seller and games. Ankit Pogula discussed stages of film making, explaining different shots and angles, and taught the students how to hold a camera by demonstrating with different cameras.

**Jaipur, 4th August:** Several teachers and students from 10 schools participated in the workshop held at Maharani Gayatri Devi School. Ankit Pogula emphasised on making films not merely for entertainment, but to be undertaken with a sense of responsibility. Various stages of the film - making (storyline, shooting and editing) and camera handling were described. DVDs of Filmit best films were distributed by Jaipur Convenor Dharmendar Kanwar.

**Goa Workshop, 9th August:** The workshop held at Sharada Mandir School had a large number of interesting responses to film making – on Morse code (used by army men), sound of dripping rain in grandmother's house, peacock, utensils, rocking chair and such interesting topics. Resource Person, a Mumbai based film-maker Vinod Sreedhar asked the students to stand and freeze in their favourite camera pose. He prepared a story board and discussed shots, angles and other technical aspects of camera and explained editing using Movie Maker. A movie made by the students of Kings School was shown.

**Mumbai Workshop, 10th August:** The workshop held at Mumbai had noted Gargi Mashruwala discussing the importance of conserving heritage of Mumbai during the introductory session.

**At Bhau Daji Lad Museum**

Students from Bombay Scottish School shared how they had entered the Guinness Book of World Records for recycling...
schools came up with different ideas for their movies, such as grandmother’s secret recipe, three generations of family in Police Service, traditional games played in villages, school gardener, traditional medicinal practices and so on. Ms. Pulkita emphasised that the audience should be left spell bound by an interesting ending of the film.

**Hyderabad, 17th August:**
The Workshop was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Public School, Jubilee Hills. Convenor Anuradha Reddy outlined the heritage of the city. Vice-Principal thanked the Chapter and resource persons for organising the workshop and encouraged the participants. The technical session was conducted by Tuning Forks Films personnel Shreya Kakria and Pulkita Parsai.

**Chennai, 19th August:** The workshop was held at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mat. Hr. Sec. School. Students from various

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**YOUNG INTACH Newsletters in Regional Languages**

Catering to a wider readership, Young INTACH Newsletter was published in two more regional languages - Kannada and Oriya. Translations in Tamil and Telugu are currently underway.

To date Hands on Heritage has been translated into nine languages.

**INDIAQA**

*India QA* is a publication carrying hundreds of quizzes conducted by HECS in collaboration with a professional quiz master, as part of INTACH series held during 2014-2015. This idea was born out of the highly successful Quiz competitions held across India. It is now published in the form of 360 questions arranged alphabetically on various themes starting from ‘Artists to Zoological Parks’ – with answers provided on the next page. The themes cover a wide range of subjects spanning History, Geography, Art, Culture, People and Events, supplemented by extra information and trivia on each question, and illustrations in each Chapter.

It is a book that even Civil Service aspirants might find it worthwhile to study! So many nuggets of information have been encapsulated for young and old alike who are keen on general knowledge. Perhaps 5000 years of history and heritage cannot be encapsulated in a hundred odd pages, but it will certainly spark an interest to delve further into subjects of one’s interest and might even tickle the curiosity of tourists.

The authors have acknowledged the contribution of INTACH, and thank Principal Director HECS Purnima Datt for conceptualizing the idea.
**CHAPTERS**

**RENEWAL OF ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP**

Ordinary Members are once again reminded to renew their Membership Subscriptions for the year 2016-2017, if they have not already done so. We request them to please expedite the renewal of their Membership and preferably deposit it at their local Chapter Offices. Members can also send subscription renewals by mail, to INTACH Central Office, 71 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003; if more convenient. Thank you.

**REMINDER:** Chapters and Convenors are requested to send their reports not later than 20th of the quarter ending March, June, September and December without fail. Reports reaching after that date will not be included in the Virasat as it causes undue delay for timely publication, and therefore complaints about non-inclusion may please be excused. Thank you.

**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR**

Convenor Samhita Veda Acharya sent the *Andaman & Nicobar Magazine*, a new initiative of the State Government. She contributed the article on *Heritage Tourism in Andamans*, a destination she describes as "a concoction of races, castes and creeds of different hues soaked in their varied colours of languages, traditions, folklore and dialects woven into the fabric of a society that we are proud of" - that make the islands a perfect blend of heritage and culture. She quotes Mahatma Gandhi who said that a nation’s culture resides in the hearts and souls of its people.

Once upon a time the Andamans were known for *kala pani*, a place for banishing criminals and unwanted people of society. Today the Cellular Jail is probably the most visited tourist site. The *Andaman Club*, another relic of the past, witnessed British, Japanese and Indian Government presence during phases of history – “and the metamorphosis of society from slave trade, murder, arson and robbery to shipping, fisheries, horticulture and music - the islands have seen it all”. The history of these islands and different facets of the natural heritage of these islands are highlighted in the magazine. The islands have significant aboriginal communities dating to Paleolithic times with varying degrees of change in their pre-historic way of life due to contact with contemporary influences.

Convenor Samhita Veda Acharya prefers to focus on heritage tourism that has lately attracted historians, archaeologists and research scholars. Heritage walks to Japanese bunkers dotting the coastline, statues of Japanese soldiers, old maps and paintings depicting scenes from the past, the ruins at Dandus Point Namunaghar, the engineering marvel of the Panighat aqueduct, the jail ruins at Viper Island, are some of the sites of the cites to beckon tourists in search of new destinations.

The Chapter organized a heritage awareness campaign to familiarize tour operators and tourism students at Vidya Yuva Kendra Foundation. Convenor Samhita Veda
Acharya made a presentation on INTACH’s functioning, potential heritage walks that could be curated in the region, and tourism potential of the endemic species of the Andaman and Nicobar region. Seven students from the institute immediately became Members of INTACH.

ANDHRA PRADESH

East Godavari

Co-Convenor, East Godavari Chapter, Vedula V.L.N. Murthy, has published two books – one on Gothic Architecture (12th-19th CE) and the other on Renaissance Architecture (15th-19th) that succeeded Gothic style. It is admired not for its ornament or tracery, but for its structural achievement.

Humanism during the Renaissance period revived classical learning and produced architectural styles like Baroque, Rococo, Neo-Classical, etc. which shaped the cityscape of Europe, America, Russia and Canada. The book has over 1100 illustrations. Humanism during Renaissance period in Europe brought the revival of classical learning placing greater emphasis on the role of the individual than during Medieval period.

Renaissance architecture was admired not only for its ornament and tracery but for its structural achievement. Gothic cathedrals soaring to greater heights with grandeur were the symbol of progress and development presented in pointed arches, daring and decorative rib-vaulted ceilings, flying buttresses and elaborate window tracery. They seem to express spiritual ideals of medieval Europe and Great Britain through lofty structures. They were presentation of works by great design masters, who devoted their lives to Creativity and Arts.

Another good book by Co-Convenor Vedula V.L.N. Murthy is on Gothic Architecture. Gothic cathedrals create a sense of transcendence from terrestrial to celestial, nourishing emotions and spirituality. With its innovative engineering techniques, this style is a testament to human ingenuity. In the late 1740s C.E, there were many admirers of Gothic architecture especially in England in contrast to the Neo-classical style prevalent at that time. This book has over 730 illustrations, and most of them are declared Heritage Monuments either under UNESCO World Heritage Site or the National Heritage of their country.

Civilizations will always be remembered by their heritage structures from ancient civilizations to contemporary times. They will remain the pride of their Nation or Community for all times to come. INTACH congratulates Co-Convenor Vedula V.L.N. Murthy for publishing these two books of considerable research work.

Convenor Lakkaraju Seshakumari presented INTACH’ Coffee Table Book and a tour brochure of the City’s Heritage to Her Excellency Harinder Sidhu when she visited Kakinada on 2nd September. She is the Ambassador of Australia to India and Bhutan. She presented the Gold Medal instituted in memory of the late Dr. M.S. Sanjeevi Rao Garu, first Union Minister for Electronics.
Guntur

Convenor S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayana writes about a *Puppet Show* held in August that absolutely delighted the pupils of many schools and the audience, both young and old. In September *Teachers’ Day* was celebrated with a talk on Sanskrit literature its influence on languages and contribution to national integration. Sanskrit scholar Dr. D.N. Dixit was felicitated on the occasion.

Kadapa

Convenor Elias Reddy informs that the Mayor of Municipal Corporation K. Suresh and Regional Director Tourism Board G. Gopal were the Chief Guests at the Heritage Quiz conducted by the Chapter. It was supervised by former MLC P. Subba Reddy, Development Officer Suresh Mandal and National Best Teacher awardee Rani. Co-Convenor Dr. P. Venu Gopal, Advocate S. Bharavi and senior Chapter Members K. Ramamohan, Parvathamma and Karimulla participated to make this new event a great success.

Machilipatnam

Regional Director Kuralla Ramachandra Rao has sent some interesting photographs that speak for themselves.

International Yoga Day was celebrated with a lecture demonstration at *Brahmasamajam* Prayer Hall. Convenor Dr. U. Srinivas Rao demonstrated various *asanas* explaining their beneficial effects to health and body to an enthusiastic audience.
Chapter Members performed the Dandiya, a heritage awareness event at the Zilla Parishad High School Vadlamannadu 20 km from Machilipatnam. Convenor Dr. Rao along with several other Chapter Members were in attendance.

**Srikakulam**

Dusi, a small and sleepy village in Amadalavalasa Mandal of Srikakulam, has served the cause of intangible heritage for the last two centuries by promoting folk and theatre arts as well as classical music. Its extinct Bhamakalaapaam folk art form is believed to be the mother of classical Kuchipudi. The village today is in a sorry state, its people impoverished or unemployed or in drunken langour. The only community festival performed is to the Goddess Neeladevata with filmi music and unruly crowds. The Chapter seized the opportunity to sponsor folk art forms like the Thoorpu Bhagotham and the Tappeta Gullu which are group dances practiced by the Yadava community to save sheep from wolves. A theatre drama Balanagamma is held usually through the night. This was in line with INTACH’s directive to all Chapters to create greater heritage awareness in rural areas so that rural people sensitized to treasuring their local traditions.

**Visakhapatnam**

Visakhapatnam, once known as Machilipatnam, has an interesting history. In 1857 Indian sepoys took up arms on a large scale, but the first ever Mutiny against the British actually took place here earlier on 3rd October 1780. The British, facing a war against Tipu Sultan of Mysore, tried to mobilize forces from Eluru and Machilipatnam. When threatened and forced, the sepoys took up arms in retaliation, killing three British officers and injuring two more from the East India Company. They set off on a southwards march to join Hyder Ali in his fight against the British. Unfortunately they were apprehended by a small British force just 20 miles out of the city. The leader Sheik Mahomud and a few were caught and tried, while many others escaped. The report of this mini mutiny to the House of Commons dated 13th October 1780 still exists in British records. A lonely grave of Cadet Kingsford Venner in the old town of Visakhapatnam with the inscription “Here rests the Head upon the lap of Earth, a Youth of Fortune and to Fame unknown……” is the only testimony in India of this event, as most other tombstones are missing. For 150 years the local cemetery has not been used. The Chapter now proposes to showcase it as a tourist site and its appeal succeeded with the GVMC taking up the matter. INTACH Members Edward Paul and Jayshree Hatangadi remained present throughout the cleaning operation to ensure no damage is done to the existing tombs, when 200 truckloads of debris was removed.

**CHANDIGARH**

Chandigarh has the distinction of being placed recently on the International Heritage Map as one of the cities grouped under Le Corbusier’s work. The Chapter organized an event at the Arts Museum on Heritage Buildings jointly with the Institute of Indian Interior Designers, with former Justice of Punjab and Haryana R.K. Nehru as
the Chief Guest. The participation included many of the leading architects of the city. There was a presentation on the *Heritage Furniture of Chandigarh*.

**CHHATTISGARH**

**Bilaspur**

Convenor Dr. Manju Salil Mitra writes about the publication of a brochure *Itihas ke Jharoke*, a historical background of several sites of historical importance in the area of Bilaspur. It is a well illustrated brochure drawing attention of the people to old architectural buildings in their own vicinity.

**Sarguja**

INTACH congratulates Convenor O.P. Aggarwal who received a letter of appreciation from the authorities. In the past he has also garnered recognition and is the recipient of the *Indira Priyadarshini Award* that was presented to him by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Chapter organized an annual function presided by State Convenor Lalit Surjan. He emphasized the need to expand the membership of the Chapter and accelerate heritage activities.

**DELHI**

**Conservation Projects : President’s Estate**

The *Rashtrapati Bhawan Museum* building was completed and inaugurated on 25th July by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and other dignitaries.

Delhi Chapter, the President’s Secretariat and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) are now working in close collaboration to conserve other heritage buildings of the President’s precinct. Currently work on eight buildings is on-going which includes barracks, quarter guard, mess, etc.

**Rejuvenation of NDMC Park**

Growing communities need to upgrade and expand built infrastructure of roads, sewers, and utilities, but they also need to upgrade and expand their green infrastructure, the interconnected green spaces that conserves natural ecosystem values and sustain clear air and water to provide
a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife. This park is located next to historically important monument Jantar Mantar, an astronomy complex of 18th century. It thus holds much heritage value and needs renovation to serve local and communal needs in a better way. Adopted by New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), with support of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the project has been completed.

**Swadesh Darshan**

The *Swadesh Darshan* project is a collaboration between the Tourism Department and INTACH Delhi Chapter to develop a theme based heritage circuit in Mehrauli Region.

Delhi Chapter also conducted a special Heritage Walk from Safdurjung’s Tomb to Najaf Khan’s Tomb on 11th September.

A Heritage walk at the 1857 sites of Northern Ridge was conducted by Delhi Convenor Swapna Liddle in the month of August for the students of Janki Devi College Memorial, Delhi University. It was a great learning experience and an enjoyable and instructive walk.

A visit to Sanskriti Museum was organized by Delhi Chapter on 17th September. The participants were taken to Museum of Everyday Art, Museum of Indian Terracotta and Museum of Indian Textiles at Sanskriti by a professional.

**HARYANA**

Principal Secretary Haryana Anil Kumar sent advance information on the Kurukshetra Mahotsav–Gita Jayanti Samaroh scheduled for 10th December later this year under the aegis of Kurukshetra Development Board. This Board was set up by the Haryana Government for restoration and preservation of pilgrimage and cultural heritage of Kurukshetra region which is described as “the land of righteousness and birth place of Bhagwad Gita – the Celestial Song”. It is proposed to celebrate Gita Jayanti during a five day period ending with the Mahotsav. Various cultural, educational and religious activities and a craft mela on Gita theme will be scheduled during this week, inviting international participation. There will be discourses on the Gita and the Mahabharata, along with exhibitions from spiritual and educational institutions.

Shri Anil Kumar invites INTACH participation as an organization known for disseminating heritage knowledge. He feels INTACH presence would "grace the
entire ambience” of this event. The Haryana Chapter has been informed to look into the possibility of setting up an exhibition-cum-interpretation centre at the Mahotsav, for which necessary infrastructure will be provided by the Kurukshetra Development Board.

The State Chapter published an attractive Newsletter, August 2016 with a specialized coverage on Archaeology and Rakhitgarh. State Convenor Dr. Shikha Jain lauds all Haryana Chapters for the sustained effort made to showcase the heritage of the State. The Newsletter gives a bird’s eye view of the many initiatives taken. It is a good idea for all Chapters to publish one State Newsletter, as often recommended by Chairman, for maximum impact and wider readership.

**Ambala**

Convenor Brigadier G.S. Lamba and Co-Convenor Colonel R.D. Singh have been a driving force of the Chapter, with the main focus on awareness programmes for students. The events are well covered by the local media which augurs well for the forward march of the heritage movement.

The Chapter led a good Clean Monument Campaign with the participation of many young people, with two regional winners. Such campaigns need to be sustained to be effective in the long run.

**CLOCK TOWERS**

Ambala Co-Convenor Colonel RD Singh draws our attention to a very interesting history of the many Clock Towers that dotted cities during British days.

The Ghanta Ghar in Ludhiana was inaugurated by then Lt. Governor Sir Charles Montgmery in 1906. It is now out of bounds because of broken stairs and building cracks, but is a home for pigeons.

The Hall Gate of Amritsar, later called Gandhi Gate, dates to 1876. It is on the way to the Golden Temple but like most other vintage clock towers does not show time.

The 1936 Clock Tower of Hoshiarpur also does not tick, but stands as a monument with which the city identifies itself. The 115 year old Clock Tower of Kapurthala has a clock that was ordered from London in 1893 by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh in 1893. It was given heritage status in 2001 so the lock was repaired and is turned every five years, and actually works.

The 1844 Christ Church in Shimla on the Ridge is the most photographed clock, though it stopped working 20 years ago. The Asian Development Bank has donated Rs.5.9 crore for it renovation so it will hopefully tick again.

The Victoria Memorial Clock Tower in Faridkot was built in 1902 by Raja Balbir Singh as part of his royal estate in memory of Queen Victoria. Its disuse since 1970 has turned it into a pigeon house

Other clock towers like the 1890 Ghanti Ghar that once stood in Bhiwani or the 1837 one of Sirsa, and many more like them have just gone missing anonymously due to city expansions.

**Acknowledgement**

**Gurgaon**

**CONDOLENCES**

Convenor Atul Dev conveyed with a heavy heart the passing away of their Member Mridula Baidwan on 17th September. She was on a visit to her son at Singapore for medical treatment for her long standing illness. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues and long remembered for her contributions to the Chapter activities. INTACH sends its condolences to her son and other family members on their grievous loss. Our good wishes will always be with them.

**Mohenjodaro**

The Chapter planted over 150 trees at Gautam Swarg Ashram. The trees curedt for the plantation were a mix of leafy and fruit bearing trees, procured with the help of the Forest Department. The Chief Guest Nemichandji Shroff, a social worker, spoke about the need for environmental protection. Convenor Rattan Lal Saini gave a brief history of the natural heritage of the region.

**Himachal Pradesh**

Governor Acharaya Devrat and Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh were present with INTACH State Convenor Maalvika Pathania, on the occasion of the MoU for Heritage Conservation in the State. Registrar J.S. Negi on behalf of the Himachal Pradesh University’s Art Department University and INTACH Principal Director MHD Nilabh Sinha on behalf of INTACH signed the document.

INTACH will develop training modules for conservation of artifacts, and for conservation of paintings, manuscripts, their display and storage. The focus will be on conservation science related to research programmes that develop in-depth study for both faculty and students. INTACH is working with HPU Art Department to document Himachal paintings; and its students are already engaged in a INTACH sponsored project in Lahaul and Spiti to document paintings. The MoU will further strengthen such efforts to preserve the precious art heritage of this hill State.

**Mandi**

The Chapter organized a tree plantation programme at the Sunken Garden area of Mandi to conserve local natural heritage and spread some more green cover. The President of Mandi Municipal Council Neelam Sharma participated alongside Convenor Naresh Malhotra, Chapter Members and local officials. Deodar trees were planted at three different locations.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Jammu Convenor S.M. Sahni, in coordination with Life Member Dr. C.M. Seth, conducted a Heritage Walk for 220 students accompanied by the teachers of the Heritage Public School. Environmentalist Dr. Seth explained Dogra History, and how infrastructural growth undertaken by Dogra rulers resulted in the heritage of present times. *Amar Mahal*, one of the built heritage of those times, has now been converted into the much frequented *Amar Mahal Museum*. The students also visited *Raika Park* at Sidhra, located near Jammu by-pass where Dr. Seth explained the flora and fauna of various plant species and their usages, stressing the importance of natural heritage conservation.

During the last quarter, the Chapter celebrated *World Environment Day* jointly with the Central University of Jammu, with the participation of the Chief Conservator of Forests who spoke on the global fight against illegal trade in wildlife. A celebration of *Van Mohtsav* was held in July in collaboration with the Floriculture Department and the Municipal Corporation at a Jammu Park in Gandhi Nagar. Chief Guest Commissioner Mandeep Kour, Floriculture Director K.K. Sharma and Environmentalist Dr. C.M.
Seth graced the event. Evergreen species of plants like the Mounsree, Jiapotha, Sita, Ashoka and others were planted. It attracted a large gathering of students and professors of the University of Jammu as well as the local Resident Welfare Association.

**JHARKHAND**

The State Chapter promoted rural cultural heritage through workshops and other programmes in collaboration with Kalamandir. Under its aegis a Pottery Workshop was organized with 75 children participating. Co-Convenor Amitava Gosh apprised them of the history of terracotta and its usages. Resource person Sahdev Kumbhkar from Susni Village, a potter by trade, voluntarily conducted the workshop engaging the children’s interest with the art of pottery making in an engrossing manner. He also shared anecdotes of heritage and the importance of preserving this skill. Copies of Virasat and Young INTACH were given to each student along with a certificate of participation.

**KARNATAKA**

*Karnataka State Chapters Convenors Workshop*

The Karnataka Chapters Convenors Workshop was held on 18th July at Bengaluru presided by Chairman L.K. Gupta. Karnataka State Convenor G. Asvathnarayan, State Co-Convenor Anil Vinayak Gokak, former State Convenor P.C. Nayak were present along with proposed new State Convenor Dr. A. Ravindra. Others attending the meeting were Convenor Hampi-Anegundi Shama Pawar and Member Indrajeet Ghorpade, Bengaluru Convenor Satyaprakash Varanashi and its Co-Convenor Meera Iyer, Bijapur, Dharwar Convenor N.P. Bhat, Convenor Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni, Gulbarga Co-Convenor S.S. Divakar, proposed Belagavi Convenor Jinadatt G. Desai and the proposed Co-Convenor Meena Mohite, proposed Bengaluru Convenor Ms. Sobha Nambisan, and Director Chapters Gp. Capt. Rahul Pathak (Retd).

Presiding the workshop Chairman L.K. Gupta thanked Shri G. Asvathnarayan for having long led the Karnataka State Chapters in a selfless and exemplary manner. All Members joined in conveying whole hearted appreciation of his unwavering support and guidance. The Chairman thanked Dr. A. Ravindra for organizing this meeting and accepting his new responsibility as State Convenor.
He also thanked Convenor S.P. Varanashi for his work as Bengaluru Convenor, and warmly welcomed retired administrator Sobha Nambisan as the newly appointed Bengaluru Convenor. He elaborated on the mandate and vision of INTACH. He said being a Convenor is an extremely challenging task and promised all support from the Central Office. He especially thanked former State Convenor P.C. Nayak for his continual patronage and active participation in all State Chapter’s activities.

Chairman lauded the Convenors present for their passion, hard work and pursuit of INTACH’s mission. He urged them to continue this shared journey with the same spirit of vigorous volunteerism. He briefed them on the recent signing of MoUs with the Cambodian Heritage Regulatory Authority (APSARA); and on the knowledge partnership forged with the Pune Deccan College for a three months diploma course on Heritage Conservation. He spoke on the uniqueness of Rakhigarhi Project that is going to be taken up shortly by the Haryana Chapter.

Chairman flagged the importance INTACH attaches to documenting the bio-diversity and natural heritage of our towns and cities. He said INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) has established its credentials as a knowledge and research centre for heritage-related scholarships. Recent professional collaborations with Council of Architecture, India and Asia Europe Foundation in Singapore, have provided professional synergy and a wider reach for INTACH operations. Chairman advised Convenors to promote research and analysis among INTACH Members by availing the annual grants/scholarships offered by IHA; and also by organising capacity building/sensitization workshops for stakeholders through IHA at the Chapters’ level. The workshop module can be suitably tailored to meet their own objectives.

Convenors discussed their past activities and presented an action plan for the current year. Various Chapter related issues were discussed in general. Some workable suggestions emerged during the discussions:

- Co-ordinated effort to compile the listings and concerted efforts to get them notified. If administrative efforts do not yield the desired result, PILs may be filed to expedite the notification. Delhi listings for example were notified only after High Court’s intervention.
- All Karnataka Chapters should optimally utilize the capabilities of ICI, Bengaluru.
- A comprehensive, easy-to-read book on Bengaluru and its heritage should be published on the lines of Prof. A.G.K. Menon’s book on Delhi Heritage. Ms. Meera Iyer should spearhead this project and target publication by end of the year.
- Listing and documentation of various heritage elements should be a constant endeavour at all Chapters.
- Natural heritage and bio-diversity in cities/towns is degrading rapidly due to developmental activities. The bio-diversity and natural heritage of each city/town needs documentation at the earliest, and should include an inventory of developmental plans in larger towns.
- Regeneration to be taken up of grass land project at Hampi – Anegundi Chapter in consultation with NH Division.
- Bijapur Chapter’s participation in the Simbhasha Kumbh celebrations at river Krishna.
- Re-printing of heritage Hand Book for Children by Bijapur Chapter.
- Efforts needed to be made for Moat conservation at Bagalkot Chapter.
- Chapters need to be re-activated and revived at Mysore, Coorg, Udipi-Manipal.
- Suitable volunteers need to be identified by all Chapters for supporting their activities.

During the interactive session, Ms. Madhu Rani gave a presentation on activities at ICI, Bengaluru. The workshop ended with Chairman complimenting Shri G. Asvathnarayan and Dr. A. Ravindra for organising this workshop. All the participants also complimented the Karnataka State Chapter for the success of this Workshop.

### Belagavi

The Belagavi Chapter was formally inaugurated on 3rd September with Chairman L.K. Gupta as the Chief Guest.
The meeting was presided by the Bengaluru Convenor Shri Ravindra. Belagavi Convenor Jinadatta Desai invited a host of Guests of Honour like Dy. Commissioner N. Jayram, CEO Belagavi Zilla Parishad Gautam Bagadi, and Commissioner City Corporation G. Pratap to the inauguration. Karnataka Co-Convenor Anil Gokak, Co-Convenor Belagavi Vinod Doddanavar and Dharwad Convenor N.P. Bhat were also present at the Bharatesh Education Trust where the function was held. INTACH Central Office was also represented by Director Chapters Grp. Capt. Rahul Pathak.

Dr. Smita Surebanker, Principal of the City RPD College made the opening remarks on the rich heritage of Belagavi that stands at the crossroad of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. This 2000 year old city, known by many names like Venugrama, Ikshugrama, Azamnagar, Muzafarnagar at different times in the course of history, thus has heritage landmarks of many dynasties. Finally it became Belgaum during British times, and is now Belagavi as the local people have always called it. Dr. Surebamker said its many litterateurs have added lustre to Belagavi region which also has a tradition of festivals and fairs, arts and crafts, and textiles. She hoped the new Chapter will soon undertake a systematic documentation of this multifaceted heritage, and teach children and youth to cherish its natural and cultural assets.

Belagavi apart from its prominent fort precinct has many architectural marvels and natural heritage sites in the vicinity of Nesarggi, Okkunda, Degaon, Degulahalli, Kinnur and Kittur to mention a few that have tangible and intangible heritage like music, arts, cuisine, etc. with a distinct regional flavour. The Chapter hopes to launch some initiatives both to document this heritage and bring them to public attention.

The newly inaugurated Chapter immediately embarked on a Heritage Walk conducted on 27th August by Co-Convenor Doddanavar, who has long been associated with the restoration of the Kamal Basti within the precincts of the Belagavi Fort and explained its history. It was commissioned by Bicchi Raja, a Minister of the Ratta kingdom around 1204 CE. Architect Satyaprakash Varanashi was on hand to highlight some of its architectural details and decorated ramparts. The Fort houses several religious structures including a mosque, an idol of a Jain Tithankara, and the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram where Swami Vivekananda stayed in 1892.

**Teacher Training Workshop**

In association with HECS, the Chapter conducted a Teachers Training Workshop on 26th September for 38 teachers from 21 schools, to acquaint teachers on how to incorporate heritage elements into the daily curriculum. Resource materials were provided to them to also create
Heritage Clubs in their respective schools.

**Dharwad**

The Chapter hosted the National Seminar on the cultural contributions of the Chalukya Kings sometime ago, with eminent historian Dr. S. Rajasekhara directing the proceedings. The latter day Chanakyas of Badami became a dominating military power that ruled over a vast empire from coast to coast in the Deccan. The two outstanding features of their rule were their secular approach to all religions and the monumental architecture they left for posterity. Chalukyan centres like Pattadakal and Aihole are a testimony to their glorious rule and considered to be the ‘cradle of Indian architecture’ at its best.

The Chapter has now published the collection of papers presented at the Seminar on the early “Chalukyas of Badami”. The book covers different facets of their glorious rule presented by eminent scholars and historians who had contributed papers at the Seminar. Dr. A. Sundara explains the prehistoric significance of the region; Dr. S.V. Padigar traces the origin and history of the early Chalukyas; Dr. Meena Mohite’s paper dwells on the legends of Mahakuta Temples; Dr. Rajasekhara gives estimated dates of construction and details of important temples; Dr. Sheelakant Pattar elaborates on the sculptural art of those times; Dr. K. Suryanarayana’s focus is on the early Chalukyas in Andhradesa as it was called; and Dr. Hampa Nagarajaiah touches on the Jain aspects of the period. The seminar also surveyed this glorious heritage in contemporary terms with V.M. Hegde suggesting urban planning in the early Chalukya towns to facilitate tourism. The promotion of Aihole-Pattadakal-Badami circuit as a tourist destination today was in fact highlighted by Vandana Palankar.

The Seminar indeed covered a whole gamut of past history, and added value to one of our most important tourist destinations in the South for attracting more footfalls. In fact the Archaeological Museum at Badami established in 1979, fashioned after a temple facade, is a treasure house of one of the glorious kingdoms of ancient times. All such interesting bits of history have been well encapsulated in this publication.

The **Ganapati Festival** was celebrated this quarter with great fervour all over South India, particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra, with beautiful *Ganesh* idols brought into homes and community spaces for five or nine days as per long prevailing local practice, and then immersed in

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*Sangmesvari Temple, Pattadakal*

*Huchchappayyana Matha, Aihole*

*Dharwad Painter K.K. Hebbar’s Ganesha*
water with a lot of fanfare. Dharwad has great tradition of musicians and painters. Ganesha has always been a great favourite of painters from all over India.

**Bagalkot**

Former Bagalkot Convenor Dr. H.F. Yogappanavar delivered a lecture on the history of Shirur Village in Bagalkot taluka at the Shiddeshwar Temple complex. Vijaypur Convenor Dr. D.G. Kulkarni and Co-Convenor Prof. M.F. Kuri, former Bagalkot Co-Convenor Dr. Sheelakant Putta were present along with many INTACH Members, village people and students.

A *jathra* is usually held in the main streets like a village folk festival. The Chapter however held a *jathra* at the World Heritage Site of Pattadakall in collaboration with the Basaveshwar Arts College. A lecture was subsequently held in the local village *panchayat* office. Convenor Kulkarni spoke on the history of the Basaveshwar College and on the historic Pattadakall temples. He also conducted a special tour to Belur for PG students of Archaeology, SKM Arts and MBS Commerce Colleges. It was an awareness programme that included some visiting foreign tourists for whom it must have been a particularly interesting programme.

**Keeper of Tales**

Cubbon Park in Bengaluru is named after Mark Cubbon, the longest serving Commissioner of then Mysore State in British times. His residence was a stately European bungalow named *Balabrooie* meaning “farm on the river bank” as it reminded him of his hometown on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. Later it housed notable guests like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and M. Visvesvaraya. It was here Rabindranath Tagore read out to PC Mahalanobis a love story *Shesgar Kabita* about an Oxford educated Indian barrister and a governess. *Balabrooie* survived the bulldozers unlike countless other sites in the city that have been destroyed and faded from history. In 1985 K.N. Iyengar of INTACH had listed 823 such iconic heritage buildings. Last year when INTACH took a second count the number dwindled to 354 heritage buildings, according to Co-Convenor Meera Iyer. A granddaughter Camille Gonsalves recalls her memory of the *House of Lords*, an imposing colonial bungalow lined with avocado and lime trees brought from Africa, two Alsatian dogs gifted by the Mysore Maharaja, and the Romeo-Juliet balcony, where the owners who were her grandparents would sit together. It is gone with many other historic buildings like the *Cash Pharmacy* that are all unknown today having metamorphosed into mini messy commercial shopping complexes. Some like *Carlton House* survive because it is a CID headquarters but there are internal pressures to convert it into a legislatures’ club! Project Coordinator with INTACH Aravind Chandramohan points out that “one of the characters that define a city is its buildings.......all we ask is that government shouldn’t demolish its own structures” but is anyone listening? There are instances of vitrified tiles being used to repair heritage buildings! Alas.

*Ack : Business Standard, 25 June ’16*
Thrissur

The Chapter celebrated Independence Day, 15th August as a great ‘family get-together’, inviting both families and their friends to participate in making it a memorable event at the Sopanam Auditorium, Cherpu. Documentary film maker Shri N. Kumar Kalathil, who bagged the Kerala State Television Award 2015 for the best documentary, screened the film Theyyam Kanaladi for the audience. There was a story telling session for children and a dance drama for elders. There was much bonding over the refreshments served at the conclusion of the programme.

MADHYA PRADESH

Bhopal Convenor Madan Mohan Upadhyay forwarded an update on the State Chapter activities, which he has been following up through Bhopal Chapter.

ATHIRAPPILLY FALLS

Athurappilly Falls, an iconic getaway with its thunderous waterfall was the site of many Bollywood films and the breadth-taking scenes one saw in Bahubali. It will soon lose its thunder if the proposed hydel power project on the Chalakudy River in Thrissur district is executed. It would submerge 200 hectares of forest land that is home to tigers, elephants, endangered Malabar squirrel and the Great Indian Hornbill – besides affecting the rich flora and fauna. It will also most critically displace 500-odd tribal families who have declared “They will have to kill us before building the dam. We never expected such a proposal from the new government that we just voted to power. It is a ploy to plunder green cover and destroy the serene waterfall. We will oppose it tooth and nail”. Displaced tribals cannot move downstream which already has 4 lakh people with no place for more occupation. The Madhav Gadgil expert panel on Western Ghats has put Athirappilly and surrounding areas in the ecologically-sensitive list and opposed any permission for a dam first mooted in 1978. State Governments need to walk the talk about environmental protection and upliftment of the downtrodden. Development at what price – the electorate might well ask ?!

The District HQ of Raisen falls on the historic Delhi-Deccan route which was the main route for the Mughal army once upon a time. Collector of Raisen initiated the study on the Raisen Fort, and a conservation grant of Rs.53 crore is under consideration of the Government of India as it is a ASI protected property. A large student team visited the Fort for measured drawings in July, a useful exercise for future conservation work.

Bhopal

The Bhopal Chapter is promoting awareness of local history and heritage by publishing a series of books on local history. The first of these is Tazkira-i-Baqi, a short biography on Nawab Baqi Mohammad Khan of special interest to INTACH Members and history lovers in general. Two others are in progress.

The State Government has sanctioned a grant for the conservation of the Residency, a British era building at Indore. Work will be executed partly by INTACH and partly by the local PWD after an agreement and work order is executed.

Bhopal Chapter is also in touch with the State Government for space in the Museum or any other space for setting up a Conservation Laboratory at Bhopal free of cost.
The Chapter commemorated Rani Durgavatai, the ruler of the Gong dynasty of Garha. She fought valiantly against Akbar’s General Asif Khan and in defeat committed suicide at Narrai on the outskirts of Jabalpur city. Pencil sketches depicting her life and achievement, along with tribal Gond paintings, were exhibited at the Rani Durgavati Sanghalaya. Convenor R.K. Sharma informs it was inaugurated by the Jabalpur Collector at a well attended function that included cultural programmes of dance and poetry recital, and was widely covered by the local Press.

Chandrapur

Chairman received an unusual request from Sudhir Namdeo Ramtek, Chandrapur for a message on Rare Theme of Postage Stamps. S.N. Ramtek is a philately collector of long standing, and regular participant of Philatelic Exhibitions which won him a Bronze Medal at MAHAPEX-2004. Most recently he put together a collection on the theme of “Indian Heritage” for an exhibition held on 15th August at Chandrapur. INTACH Convenor may do well by inviting him to become a Member of his Chapter.

Mumbai

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta was invited to address a number of gatherings during this quarter. On 4th July at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus she shared her experience of documenting this iconic station for the UNESCO nomination, along with conservation architect Vikas Dilwari. On 6th July she addressed senior citizens on Bombay/Mumbai – Past, Present and Future.
at the Willingdon Sports Club. On 11th August Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the *Hop-on-Hop-off Mumbai City Tour* started by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. Bhau Daji Museum which is also the location of INTACH Office will be one of the major stops on this tour. On 21st August Vice Chairman was invited by Mr. Holyoke College, Massachusetts to address students seeking scholarships under their *Shakti* program. She was one of the speakers at the *LILA Prism Series 2016 on Institution as Abhyas* (practices) held at Delhi which will feature 13 seminal conversations by trail bearing practitioners of alternative institution building from August to December.

Xavier’s High School took keen interest in the heritage walk through the old city centre. It concluded with a drawing competition at *Kalaram Mandir* and certificates awarded to participants. The Chapter had published the 2016 Calendar with pictures of the natural, cultural, living, tangible and intangible heritage of the region and a Heritage Walk Guide.

**Pune**

The Chapter supported the *Urban Design Workshop* at BNCA, Pune held 5th -15th July with the theme – *Design as Catalyst for Eco-Socio Culturally Sensitive Development*. It reflected architectural and urban paradigms, and how to present alternatives to the existing paradigm of architectural design, city planning and urban management, based on a strategy for “holistic healing” by addressing the three basic “layers” of the city, namely: Morphological (built and natural), Sociological (social and financial), and Cultural (human and symbolical) as strategic capitals to heal the city. It demonstrated through design that river fronts in urban settings are socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable developments. The workshop results were exhibited at a public function with panel discussion of stakeholders in the city. The proposal will be submitted to the PMC. International architect Prof Johannes Widodo from National University of Singapore (NUS) conducted a five day session of this project. Various experts from BNCA and INTACH contributed as resource people.

**Nashik**

The training and exposure visits launched by the Chapter have assumed great significance as components of capacity building in heritage conservation, and interventions to improve competencies. The program was conceptualized for Chapter Members with a visit to Surat Fort conservation project. A presentation was made on *Champaner-Pavagadh* by local conservationist cum architect Sumesh Modi. He spoke on the key challenges faced from the perspective of heritage conservation.

The Chapter invited participation of city schools as part of its public outreach and awareness A group from St
As a part of the monthly series of heritage walks and workshops, INTACH Pune organised *Warli Painting Workshop* by master Craftsman Rakhi Salunke, an alumni of the prestigious J J School of Art Mumbai, and Advisory Member of Resource Center for Traditional Painting, NI-MSME, on 3rd September in association with Heart for Art; and P.N. Gadgil and Sons Art Gallery as venue partner. *Warli* painting is a time-honoured tribal art that evolved during the Stone Age, and is mostly done by the tribal women of Northern Sahyadri Range. It has a vibrant and attractive look using natural earthen colours. The *Warli* tribe lives in Thane district of Maharashtra stretching upto Gujarat border.

**INTACH Heritage Quiz**

INTACH Heritage Quiz Pune round was conducted on 22nd August with 100 students from 10 schools participating at the Kaveri Institute.

**At Pune Expat Club:** A Talk was held at Pune Expat Club on Festivals of India by Supriya Goturkar Mahabaleshwarukar on 17 Aug.

**Solapur**

The four years old Chapter has had a positive response from the public taking pride in heritage, but they have yet to raise their voices when developments like demolition of heritage takes place to pressurise elected representatives and the bureaucracy to take action. Convenor Bhogale and Chapter Members organized *the Media Workshop and Business Persons Meet* on 17th July to start a dialogue with entrepreneurs, industrialists, professionals and business community to seek community support for heritage conservation activities. Prof. Dhongde Jhamkandi; Dr. H.G. Daddi from Jamkhandi who is the author of *Glimpses of Adishabi and other Monuments of Bijapur District and Glimpses of Heritage Monuments of Bagalkot District*; and Gopalrao Deshmukh, author of *Medieval History of Solapur District* and of *Mangalwedha*, were invited to lend their voice. Solapur Shramik Patrakar Sangh and the Lokmangal Foundation came forth to provide hospitality and invite representatives of all media to make this event a purposeful success and generously provided the venue. It was an impressive participation by 26 newspapers, Solapur AIR and Television, along with journalism students from Solapur University.
Foundation representative Avinash Mahagaonkar, Head of the University’s Department of Journalism Ravindra Chincholkar, Sakal Editor Abhay Diwanji, and the President of Journalist Association Vikram Khelbude.

State Convenor Mukund Bhogale likened heritage to one’s face, name or family explaining how heritage of place similarly gives an identity to a place. Developments should not affect the character of a city without curtailing progress. Prof. Dhongde explained that there is no restriction on building activity outside the 100m and 200m earmarked zones, but proposals must be vetted by the authorities to ascertain there is no transgression of rules. Dr. H.G. Daddi called on journalists to do their duty as the Fourth Estate/Pillar of Society. Prof. Sharvey Dhongde suggested how the media can focus on heritage related issues in various interesting ways to involve its readers. Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar, Members Nitin Anvekar and Shveta Kothavale took part in the Clean Fort Campaign conducted by Sakal.

Solapur has a history of handlooms in varied forms - sarees, chaddars, towels, baskars (floor mats of different sizes) and wall- hangings. But the closing down of textile mills and advent of power-looms drastically cut down the number of handlooms from thousands to about 200 currently. To create awareness Chapter Members and Handloom Entrepreneurs Vinay Narkar and Govardhan Chatla conceptualized a Handloom Tour on Handloom Day, 7th August. The positive impact of the well publicized event was the visit of Subhash Deshmukh, the recently appointed Textiles Minister who the Chapter hopes will extend support to the revival and development of handloom industry of Solapur by the State the Government.

Ms. Vishalakshi Sulagadle is congratulated on winning a National Award for Endangered Art and Craft Workshop for her Monitor Report on Shubhray style of painting and Clean Monument Campaign.
Lokmangal Pratishthan is planning the *Millennium Celebrations* of the first Marathi stone inscription at Sangameshwar Temple, Hattarsang Kudal. Members Seemantini Chaphalkar, Pushpanjali Katikar and Shveta Kothavale met MLA Subhash Deshmukh and offered INTACH support for the event.

Marathi daily *Divya Marathi* reported on the restoration of the 200 year old *Garuda*, a papier-mâché processional idol facilitated by Solapur Chapter. Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar and Co- Convenor Shveta Kothavale visited Editors of prominent dailies *Divya Marathi* and *Sakal* to sensitize them on the importance of establishing Rippon Hall City Museum and were assured sustained coverage by both dailies. *Sakal* immediately published an article on Rippon Hall by Seemantini on its present condition.

The Chapter participated in #makeheritagefun, a GoUNESCO event by visiting the European Cemetery at Motibaug that dates from British times.

Young history enthusiast and INTACH Member Nitin Anvekar authored and published *Bhuikot Solapurcha* - a book on Solapur Fort. It will be very useful to tourists visiting important *shilalekbs* and points of interest in the Fort.

**Nagaland**

State Convenor Sentila Yanger informs that the INTACH Quiz Competition was held by the Chapter for the third consecutive year, with the State Finals held for the 7 winning District teams on 10th September at Dimapur. The earlier Quiz competitions had been held at Mokokchung and Dimapur. The final winners were Rohit Chhangani and Sungjemmenla L. Jamir from the Hollotoli School, Dimapur. The second position went to the same school with the team of Yolu Nuvocho and Jitesh Sethi also from the Hollotoli School. The third place was won by Jepenyula and Sunepienla of Ladybird School, Mokokchung.

Winners were presented with the book *Folktales of Nagaland* and prize certificates. Consolation prizes were given to all participants.

**ODISHA**

**Bhadrak**

Convenor Digamber Mohanty held a meeting presided by Prof. Dr. Sanatan Mohanty to discuss a proposed national seminar on *Bhadrak in National Movements*. It will compile information on the subject through papers published by historians, research scholars and senior citizens after discussions are held extensively.

Another proposed seminar will be held on *Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet - Consume with Care*. INTACH Members thereby hope to advocate social activities among public and students. The Chapter has several other programmes in view like a Heritage Run, and *Workshop on Skill and Capacity Building* for youth; and an Awareness Camp for senior citizens. An awareness programme had been earlier organised in collaboration with the *Bhadrak*.
Zilla Abasarappta Sarakari Karmachari Sangha at Nityananda Bhawan.

The Chapter also organized a Pada Yatra in memory of Mahatma Gandhi at the Sabeed Smriti Bhawan which attracted a large public gathering. A community lunch was organised for lepers on the occasion.

Ganjam

CONDOLENCES

Shri Prahallad Panda, former Professor of Economics at Behrampur University, passed away on 2nd August at 78 years of age. He was the Founder and major contributing Member of the Chapter, not only espousing the heritage of Ganjam but was also directing the listing work that was in progress. He was very active in promoting public awareness programmes of the Chapter. Chapter Members held a Condolence Meeting at Geeta Bhawan followed by a Sakahari Prasad Sebana - a measure of the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow Members.

Famous painter Dr. Dinanath Pathy who had dedicated his life work to art, culture and heritage of Odisha in particular also left the world unceremoniously. He was so well known that he needed no introduction to Odisha Chapter Members, though Ganjam was his home town.

Ganjam Chapter held a condolence meeting for these two versatile personalities in their midst who had selflessly devoted themselves to INTACH cause. INTACH joins them in sending heartfelt condolences to his family.

Jajpur

The Chapter observed the Raja Festival recently in collaboration with the Anany Sabitya Samsada, a premier literary organization. It was inaugurated by the Sub-Collector S. Panigrahi of Jajpur and presided by the President of the Anany Sabitya Samsada Santosh Kumar Nanda. Poet and novelist Suryamani Khuntia and Tehsildar L.N. Mishra graced the occasion. Convenor Jajpur and a senior Member of Bhadrak Chapter Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy stressed on the

An awareness programme was organised on 31st July at Solampur in collaboration with Bhadrak Chapter, as Solampur falls within the Bhadrak District but lies on the other side of the Vaitarani River within the periphery of Jajpur. Members of both Chapters were present along with over a hundred villagers, and the Sarpanch of the Solampur Grama Panchayat. A solemn discussion was presided by a senior Member Prafulla Chandra Samal as two weeks earlier two Buddhist images Avalokiteswara Vajrapani and the Dhyani Buddha had been stolen from the village. Convenor Jajpur and a senior Member of Bhadrak Chapter Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy stressed on the

Awareness programme for conservation of Heritage sites and artifacts at Salampure in collaboration with INTACH Bhadrak
protection of 50 Buddhist images that lie scattered at the site museum constructed by the State Archaeology. The villagers were explained the importance of their historical site and the need to protect them by Jajpur Chapter Advisor Dr. Ekadashi Padhi. The ASI allocated funds for the conservation of the *Shanteswari Gramadevati Temple* will be utilised with the cooperation and participation of the villagers. The presence of villagers and their sense of ownership made this a significant meeting. It concluded with a vote of thanks by Jajpur Co-Convenor Dr. Binod Chandra Nayak. Government of Odisha also needs to promote the site as a tourist destination.

On the same busy day the Chapter undertook a plantation drive on the premises of *Aurabinda Sksya Sadana*, Mala Anandapur on the Jajpur Panikoili highway with an awareness programme at the embankment of the Vaitarani River. Nearly 100 saplings were planted on the banks.

**Koraput**

INTACH Members Pratidhara Samal and Trinath Patra will follow up on the proposal to name a building after the late Gopinath Mohanty who had stayed there as a Settlement Officer in the 1950s. He was a renowned novelist known for research on tribals of the Koraput region which he beautifully portrayed in his novels *Paraja* and *Amrutara*. He was advised by the Odisha Tourism Ministry to request the Collector to send a report and to suggest an alternative site for the proposed plan of the Telephone Department. The Sub-Collector Md. Azfer Khan has agreed to fully support this matter.

INTACH Member Umakant Das has proposed that the eco-tourism site Gulmi in Jeypore Sub-Division, the historic place Nandapur, Jain monuments at Subai and Deo-Pottangi be enlisted for development as tourist spots. The Chapter will take up this matter with the District Administration. Member N. Panda suggested that the rich cultural heritage of the tribals could be better preserved by participating and extending support to their festivals.

B.K. Patnaik extended thanks to the Sub-Collector who was present at these discussions.

**Mayurbhanj**

The Chapter carried forward the heritage awareness programme with activities in three more prominent schools of the region - Sankhabhanga High School, Sankhabhanga, Kamala Nehru Girls High School, Baripada, LMP High School, Dhanpur. Nearly 1000 students in attendance expressed a keen interest in heritage and posed many questions. A tree plantation was organized at the venue.

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**PUNJAB**

**Patiala**

The Chapter organized a seminar on the *Rich Heritage of India: Preservation and Protection* on 27th August at the Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, Patiala. Many students and teachers participated, and it drew people from different strata of society. Convenor Sarabjit Singh Virk was joined by Principal of the School Tota Singh in welcoming Punjab University Professors Dr. Harpal Singh Pannu and Puja Sayal Grewal, Sub-
Divisional Magistrate Lalit Singh Sidhu, social activist and teacher Manjit Singh, Language Officer for Punjab, who spoke on different facets of heritage. The general thrust of their talk was on the importance of heritage as the sum total of qualities and achievements received from our past generations, and a gift to be secured for future generations. The importance of reading literature and history of Punjab was stressed, as an inspirational guide for all people. Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk asked the students in particular to join the heritage movement. He suggested they participate in the various walks, competitions and quiz programmes held by the INTACH Chapter. The Chief Guest Puja Sayal Grewal asked the audience to take the INTACH heritage oath to keep historical places clean and to preserve their environment.

Co-Convenor Ranjit Singh Bhinder, DIG (Retd.) thanked the Government Multipurpose School and Members of the Punja Eco Friendly Association for making this programme a great success. It was followed by the HECS Heritage Quiz, concluding with felicitations and certificates to the participants.

PUDUCHERRY

Co-Convenor Ashok Panda had a very fruitful meeting with the recently appointed Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi. Several issues pertaining to heritage and areas for preservation, urban development, and creation of more pedestrian space with efficient urban transportation, were discussed at length. The Lt. Governor offered several suggestions for crowd funding as well as possible Government funds for preservation of heritage buildings, apart from tapping private and corporate donors.

RAJASTHAN

Udaipur Chapter attention was drawn to an article on the State’s trove of billion-year old geological monuments, relics, and fossilised trees going back to a time when the world was "one large Jurassic Park teeming with dinosaurs". The writer Geetha Pillai laments that such old tree trunks are lying in wire cages under scattered tin roofs, which is hardly the best way to preserve 180 million year old treasures. Many such imprints of geological assets all over India suffer this kind of neglect. Rajasthan has 10 of the 26 national geological monuments (NGM). They are the most grossly neglected heritage, perhaps because understanding the scientific value of these land forms and features has been understood only recently. The Barr Conglomerate and the owl head rock at Sandra Granite Monument in Pali, 1200 million year old Nepheline Syenite monument at Kishangarh, the Bhujunda Stromatolite monument at Chittorgarh, the Great Boundary Fault monument at Satur in Bundi District, the Gossan Monument in Rajsamand District, the Jhamarkotra Stromatolite monument in Udaipur, are all much neglected and do not draw any tourists. The Akal Fossil Park in Jaisalmer, containing a dozen fossil wood logs from the Jurassic period (201-174 million years ago), is the only one maintained by the Desert National Park authorities.
Alwar

The Chapter held a meeting with the District Magistrate with State Co-Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar. She showed a report by Ithaka, an organization that has come up with an audio app. called Ithakatales that can be installed on any android smart phone. She gave a brief summary of the Chapter activities. The Chapter located ancient rock art paintings in Alwar dating back to pre-historic times. The DM asked several questions about the work of Architecture Division represented by Pratiti Joshi and about HECS represented by Purnima Dutt. The meeting was also attended by the proposed new Convenor Nirvana Boddhisattva.

Baran

Convenor Jitendra Kumar Sharma sent press clippings on Mandana art, which are drawings to be seen on the walls and floors of rural Rajasthan and even in Madhya Pradesh. Essentially they are tribal paintings in homes, on walls and sometimes even floors. It is a disappearing art form because of the rising number of concrete houses that are coming up even in rural areas. So it seems tribal arts have no place even though they were considered good luck charms. Convenor Jitendra Kumar Sharma writes about his mother Kaushalya Devi who knows at least 600 Mandana art forms, and has developed 40 new ones on the theme of rural culture of Rajasthan. She already had to her credit a hundred designs painted on boards in oil paint and seems to know of many more that could be drawn. This calls for a both an exhibition and documentation by the Chapter?

Barmer

The Chapter is reviving the world famous heritage site Keradu, which is famous for its sculptures. A puja was performed for the well being of the area and success of the project. Hotel Suryagarh is now collaborating with the Chapter in this initiative.

Bhilwara

The Chapter along with the Bhilwara Cycle Club organized a cycle rally as part of a heritage conservation awareness programme. The cyclists enthusiastically covered a distance of 30 kilometers.

Jodhpur

The Chapter organized the third leg of Clean Monument Campaign around Shitla Mata Temple, Kaga Kund, and the
ancient Chattris. Several NGOs from the area participated in the drive. Convenor Mahender Singh Tanwar informs that the Chapter is also documenting these sites.

The Chapter under the joint aegis of Marwar Rajput Sabha and Vir Durga Das Rathore Samiti commemorated the 475th birth anniversary of Virvar Rao Chandersen at a function presided by Rajasthan State Convenor Gaj Singh. The Guest of Honour was Chairman of Jodhpur Regional Development Authority Mahender Singh Rathore.

Sawai Madhopur

The Chapter received a letter of appreciation from the District Administration for work done under the Chief Minister's Water Conservation Programme on 15th August. A check dam was constructed by the Chapter in Surval Village which has been highly appreciated by the local administration.

Tamil Nadu

Chennai

The Chapter has been scheduling programmes like talks and walks, workshops for architects and engineers, screening documentary films, restoration of heritage structures and cleaning of temple tanks, etc. on a sustained basis through the year. Convenor Sujatha Shankar and Co-Convenor Tara Murali are commended for their initiative and particularly for the regularity with which such programmes are scheduled.

The Chapter conducted an Interactive Forum during the Madras Week celebrations on 5th August at the Measi Academy of Architecture, Royapettah for the faculty and students of different colleges. A series of lectures like HECS Initiatives by Shvaa Rawat; Temple Renovations by Additional Commissioner, Tiruppani Ms. Kavitha; Concept of Heritage Cities by Prof. A.G.K. Menon; and successful Case Studies of Puducherry by A. Arul received an overwhelming response from 150 odd participants. It resulted in lively discussions on strategies to promote heritage based urban development.

An exhibition of rare old Maps of Madras attracted considerable interest. The listing of Saidapet by students of the Dr. MGR Engineering College and panelled drawings were also on display. Senior members of the Madras Photographic Society judged and distributed prizes to the winners of the Hidden Heritage Photo Contest.

‘BROOMLESS’ SWACHH BHARAT

Rajasthan is one of India’s most popular tourist States of India. Beautifying railway stations started at Sawai Madhopur when tiger conservationist Valmik Thapar received a loan from World Wildlife Fund to paint its local station en route to Rathambore Tiger Reserve. The results of this initiative were so enchanting that the Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu gave permission to paint all major Rajasthan stations. Chief Minister Vasundara Raje is lauded for then launching a major scheme to paint key Railway Stations of her State which have now become great tourist attractions. Ten towns including Sawai Madhopur like Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Jodhpur, and Ajmer that are all major tourist destinations now have painted stations. Bikaner station is painted with floral texture prints of Badal Mahal; Jaipur has landscapes, puppets and Jogi tribal art; Bharatpur station is naturally painted with birds; Kota boasts the Bundi school of painting; Udaipur displays cows, horses, sand cities painted in the Nathdwara style; and Jaisalmer showcases the Great Indian Bustard.

Most importantly, apart from attracting tourists, this art has made people in general more conscious of their heritage sites to such an extent that there is no littering and defacing at these stations – not even paan stains – the bane of all stations and even Government office staircases! Swachh Bharat perhaps needs such initiatives rather than brooms to sweep people into making a conscious effort to keep their surroundings clean and to take pride in living in a beautiful environment.
The Essay Competition on *Icons of Chennai* in any field be it music, sports, social work, etc. was held for school children with prizes awarded, followed by *Role Play* with skits in English or Tamil. INTACH Heritage Clubs also made a presentation of their activities.

The week spilled into a whole month with several other programmes like *Heritage Walks* at the Madras High Court at Marundeswarar and at the Chennai Government Museum; talk on *Traditional Games in Temples*; and the screening of *The Story of Madras……Chennai, first City of Modern India* with a narration by Madras chronicler S. Muthiah were held drawing many interested people. It was an action packed amazing month of August.

In a joint program with INTACH, ABS (Association of British Scholars) and British Council, the Talk by Dr. Crispin Branfoot, an expert in South Asian Art & Archaeology from SOAS, University of London on *British Architectural Photographers and Heritage of Madras Presidency 1855–1905* at the British Council was packed with many architects and historians.

On 27th August a *Heritage Walk* was conducted by Pradeep Chakravarthy to Marundeswarar Temple, Thiruvanmiyur to understand how religion and politics mingled for mutual benefit in the 6th-9th centuries.

### Nagercoil

Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan filed a PIL under the banner of NGO Conservation of Nature Trust against the National Highway Authority of India for felling 1.5 lakh fully grown trees like tamarind, teak, coconut, mango, etc. for constructing the four-lane Kalaikkavilai to Kanyakumari Road. In actuality more than 3 lakhs will be felled by the time the project is completed. The Convener is of the view that NHAI obtained the approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests on misleading facts, and furthermore the sale was effected without calling either tender or valuations by the Forest Department. The proceeds worth crores of rupees timber have not gone into the public fund.

A heritage building *Ozhuginasery Chatram*, currently housing a Government Office, is in a dilapidated state requiring urgent intervention. It was built by the erstwhile king of Travancore Sreemoolam. During the time of Sir C.P. Ramasamy Iyer (1879) when he was Dewan of Travancore, the building was given to the Travancore Special Police. It was also used as a police outpost during the *Quit India* movement and even stoned by freedom fighters several of whom were later lodged there in punishment.

Chathram is perhaps the most outstanding building of the District. Today it houses the Finger Print Office of the Tamilnadu Police Department. It was declared a heritage building in 2013 by the then Collector S. Nagarajan. Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan informs that it is now being restored by INTACH with a contribution of Rs. 60,000/- towards the total expenditure of Rs. 1.8 lakhs for the renovation.

A Study of 60 Temple Tanks of Kanyakumari, a District famous for such tanks, was undertaken by the Chapter. Detailed notings have been done on their location, length,
breadth, bacterial counts, also of E.coli, *pseudomonas arginasona*, water quality, inlets and outlets, etc. and of course their service to the community. All the temple tanks have been photographed and given along with the Report to the Central Minister for Shipping and Surface Transport Pon Radhakrishnan with copies sent to the District Collector and the Asst. Commissioner Hindu Religious Endowment, Nagercoil. The project has attracted considerable interest among the common people of the District but it remains to be seen what action will be taken by the authorities?

Convenor Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan acknowledged the contribution of several INTACH Members of his Chapter – Dr. Sumithra Raghuvaran, T.S. Sundaram, Sam Pradeep, Ms. C. Sobha, R. Ponnambalam, S.R. Sree Ram, Sri Gothandarama, Sri Selvan, P. Chellaswamy, Sri Shahul, Sri Abilash and Ms. Rekha - without whose help this massive project could not have been undertaken so successfully.

**Nilgiris**

The Nilgiri Library and Nilgiris Chapter jointly held a function on 27th September at the Heritage Library, Ooty. INTACH Chairman L.K. Gupta visited the newly restored Heritage Library and to release the book *Nilgiris – A Guide to the Built Heritage of Coonoor* on 28th September and addressed the gathering lauding the sustained efforts of the Chapter to have consistently espoused the heritage cause through the multiple activities and the sustained efforts of Convenor Geeta Srinivasan.

**Salem**

The Chapter celebrated *Salem 150* at the Periyar University, commencing with the *Mangala Isai* and a *Veena* musical presentation. Vice Chancellor Dr. Swaminathan released a brochure and announced the forthcoming International Conference scheduled to be held in January 2017. He called for papers from academicians and other scholars. Convenor Babaji Rajah in his talk stressed on the importance of documentation for historical purposes. Suptd. of Prisons Senthil Kumar described the role of prisons in society.

**Thanjavur**

State Convenor S. Suresh’s book *The Tanjavur Marathas* extensively covers the art, culture and architecture of that period. The exhaustive research took him on exploratory visits not only in Tanjavur but also to Pune, Gwalior and Jhansi where he interacted with other scholars. He was sometimes accompanied by Chapter Member Muthukumar during his field visits. Shri Suresh was also a research scholar at the University of Mysore that gave him ample opportunities to have academic discussions with the faculty members of its Department of Studies in Ancient History and Archaeology, which he graciously acknowledges. He specially thanks Babaji Rajah Bhosale and other members of the erstwhile Tanjavur royal family who made old letters and personal records available for his book.

*The Tanjavur Marathas* is a good study on their rule in the southernmost part of India. It is well supported by archival research not only in India but in UK and USA, and combines theoretical insights with empirical data. Convenor Suresh hopes this publication will be of interest
not only to historians but also to architects, archaeologists, heritage lovers and serious tourists.

TELANGANA

Hyderabad

The Chapter in partnership with Aurora’s Design Institute organized *Atharva*. It was a get together, inviting the architects of the city to an informal platform to tap their views on various matters. It is proposed to hold such events regularly for students, so that they may have an opportunity to closely associate with professionals.

* Atharva group with Convenor Anuradha Reddy

It has been a long standing tradition for the *Air Warrior Musicians* of the Air Force to conduct concerts at various cities in celebration of *Independence Day*. The Chapter was delighted when Hyderabad was one of the chosen venues for their Band Concert. On 12th August 22 musicians stationed at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal performed at a Hyderabad Mall. The sound of brass percussion instruments, wood-wind, reed strings and the throb of electronic sound drew the crowds into the foyer and the overlooking corridors to the sound of music. It throbbed with harmony, ethos and dedication of warrior musicians symbolic of teamwork. They made it a point to interact with their audience which was greatly appreciated.

Convenor Anuradha Reddy guided a presentation on *The River in Between* hosted by Indian Concrete Institute’s Student Chapter. Musi River which literally cuts through the city of Hyderabad before joining the Krishna River in Nalgonda is today just a polluted drain due to indiscriminate urbanization and lack of planning.

The Indian Air Force Band has given scintillating concerts in other countries as well like the United Kingdom, and in Europe, South East Asia, and neighbouring Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They are the first Asian Member of the International Military Music Society headquartered in Norway and have made India proud.
The Convenor was invited as Chief Guest and speaker to a seminar on Heritage Buildings and its Precincts (Charminar) organized by School of Planning and Architecture (JNFAU). She said that “while Hyderabadis took pride in the city’s heritage buildings, there were numerous sites elsewhere in the state that needed attention”. The seminar comprehensively covered mapping of heritage, factors responsible for deterioration of heritage buildings, conservation and preservation techniques, status of heritage in Indian cities, heritage and legislation, and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings.

Governing Council Member M. Vedakumar located in Hyderabad has been participating in a number of programmes and heritage activities on behalf of INTACH. He sent an article by research scholar from Archaeology, Deccan College on the rock paintings of Chiittari Gundlu at Gundlachampally Village in Raanga Reddy District which are in need of preservation as a natural heritage site.

Shri M. Vedakumar has forwarded an in-depth study of the prehistoric rock paintings at Chittari Gundlu in Gundlachampally Village, Ranga District by a research scholar Sai Krishna and brought it to the attention of the State ASI.

Shortage of Epigraphists

The Telangana Department of Archaeology and Museums have discovered several rocks, pillars and copper plates with inscriptions of the past. The excavations were ongoing throughout the year. Lack of experts however is hampering the deciphering of inscriptions. The epigraphy branch started in 1964 and has a repository of 4000 estampages i.e. impressions of inscriptions made on inked paper. There are no epigraphists to decipher the texts since the only one on their staff retired earlier this year. There is an urgent need to recruit and train staff and groom young officers in deciphering Brahmi, Prakrit, Telugu-Kannada and Telugu. Epigraphy is not only a fascinating study but also an important tool to reconstruct culture of the past. As the local Press reported ‘Lack of experts may alienate us from our past’.

Warangal

Commissioner Greater Warangal Corporation inaugurated the College Volunteer Forum with the participation of 116 college students. He spoke of the importance of Warangal, a city chosen for development as one of the Smart Cities under the HRIDAY scheme of the Government. Convenor Prof. Pandu Ranga Rao explained the significance of Kakatiya Heritage, and urged the students to participate in conservation activities conducted by the district administration. Students visited the Thousand Pillar Temple to see the renovation of Kalyana Mandapam that is on-going at site.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh State Chapters Convenors Workshop, Lucknow

The UP State Convenors Workshop was held at Lucknow on 18th September, was presided by Chairman INTACH Maj. Gen. L.K. Gupta. He profusely thanked Members Jayant Krishna and Kanak Rekha Chauhan for organizing the workshop at short notice and all Convenors for their continued support to INTACH’s mission. He urged them to continue this shared journey with the same vigour and
the spirit of volunteerism. He also briefed them about various initiatives and the importance of placing heritage conservation centre-stage in development plans at all levels. He flagged the emphasis INTACH is now putting on documenting the bio-diversity and natural heritage of all our towns and cities. The documentation of geo-heritage sites is also a new area on which NH Division is working and two or three regional seminars are proposed to be held on their importance and development of such sites as major tourist attractions. Chairman suggested that Convenors should promote research and analysis by their Members or stakeholders by availing of INTACH grants/scholarships offered annually through IHA. Creating awareness about local heritage and involving younger generation in conservation activities should be a constant endeavour for every Chapter.

Chairman requested Convenors to increase and broaden base membership at Chapters by inducting and involving concerned citizens and the younger generation. His gravest concern was the general apathy and neglect towards heritage and related issues both by the larger society and even at the Government level.

There were several invitees to the Meeting, specially to mention Zafar Meer Abdullah who demonstrated the most courteous way of greeting guests à la Lucknowi style. Others specially invited to the meeting were UP Secretary Culture Dr. Hari Om, D.G. Vijay Kumar, Ali Ahmed Mahmudabad, Ms. Manzilat Fatima, Ms. Mehru Jaffar, and Padamshree Ms. Runa Banerjee.

All Convenors made a presentation on the activities at their Chapters, and broad plans for the coming year. After the interactive session, when various other issues were discussed, a workable framework was suggested:

- Statues and artefacts lying in the Maal – Khanas of Police Stations as contrabands may be listed and documented. The help of local administrations may be sought to complete this exercise to avoid any illegal trafficking and pilferage of these valuable assets.
- Land records of temple lands and attached water bodies should be collected through RTI as this would avert illegal encroachments; and facilitate conservation of these water bodies.
- Chapters may adopt a nearby village that have heritage potential, and involve common citizens in heritage-related activities programmes. The heightened awareness would lead to economic wellbeing of the immediate society. Local crafts/crafts persons may also be provided patronage by way of capacity building, etc.
- Natural heritage and bio-diversity in cities/towns is degrading fast due to developmental activities. The biodiversity and the natural heritage of each city/town are to be documented at the earliest, as they are fast degrading. Such documentation should lead to inclusion of this inventory in the larger town developmental plans. Local administration/municipalities can be approached and pressurised to notify such listings through government gazettes.
- Capacity building at all levels including PWD engineers, government officials/DMs/DCs, MLAs and MPs and other stakeholders can be conducted at local Chapters through INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA). Such workshops at Chennai, Raipur and Jaipur have yielded good dividends.
- Efforts can be made to develop Chitrakoot Open

The Chapters were well represented by UP State Convenor Jayant Krishna, State Co-Convenor Kanak Rekha Chauhan, Banda Convenor Haris Zaman, Gorakhpur Convenor M.P. Kandoi, Lalitpur Convenor Santosh Kumar Sharma, Lucknow Convenor Vipul B. Varshney, Mahoba Convenor Pramod Paliwal, Member Greater Noida P.N. Singh, Varanasi Convenor Ashok Kapoor, ICI Lucknow representative Ms. Mamta Mishra, and INTACH Director Chapters Gp. Capt. Rahul Pathak (retd.).
Museum to display archaeological and other heritage assets and develop it as a tourist attraction.

- The offer of AAI at Babatpur Airport at Varanasi may be followed-up. CCH division may assist, as a similar project has been implemented at Green Park Metro Station, New Delhi highlighting the - Medieval City of Siri (local/ vicinity heritage).

- Inter-Chapter cooperation and exchange can create synergy and achieve results. Varanasi for example can work together with Dharwad in the field of Hindustani classical music. Other similar initiatives may be considered among Chapters.

- Listing and documentation of built, natural, art and material heritage and ICH and their constant updating should remain the core activity of each Chapter. Listings which are complete must be taken up with local municipalities for notification.

- CSR potential need to be tapped and channelled to heritage related activities.

- A copy of the Government Order of January 2016 mandating formation of Heritage Committee in each district with participation of an INTACH Member was made available to Convenors. Chapters should get the status of the Heritage Committee of their area, and follow-up its effective implementation through RTI if required

- The offer of Airport Authorities to put up an exhibition at Babatpur Airport, on the lines similar to Green Park Metro Station in Delhi, should be followed up with the assistance of the Crafts & Community Division. Also, craft forms like calligraphy, bidri and terracotta work associated with artisans also need to be followed up by Chapters.

- CSR potential needs to be tapped and channelled into heritage activities.

The Chairman joined the State Convenor in conveying deep appreciation of all special invitees for sparing valuable time and making a great contribution to the proceedings and requested their continued support to the activities of INTACH Chapters in conserving precious heritage. Chairman also complimented in particular Shri Jayant Krishna and Ms. Kanak Rekha Chauhan for the successful organisation of this workshop, apart from all the participants.

**Special Invitees**

- Padamshree Runa Banerjee
- Ali Ahmed Mahmudabad
- Manzilat Fatima

**Meerut**

Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, A.K. Gandhi, Deepak Sharma accompanied by other Members visited the Shankar Tal located in the Nangla Mal Village near Meerut for a cleaning operation at site. They were able to enlist the help
of local villagers headed by the Gram Pradhan. Taking initiatives of this kind with hands-on work by Members is a persuasive example that ensures involvement of villagers and local people in conservation work. Especially when they are made to feel they are the actual guardians of their local heritage. It was all the more thrilling experience because the cleaning operation led to the recovery of artifacts that might be 2000-3000 years old as per the preliminary estimate of the State Archaeological Department.

Gorakhpur

The Chapter succeeded in getting an area of 20000 sq. feet earmarked in the Madan Mohan Malviya University of Technology Gorakhpur for INTACH Virasat Vatika. The Vatika was planted with trees of regional specially that are likely to become rare. The University has taken the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the Vatika.

Convenor M.P. Kandoi informs that a rare statue was seized at the railway station and the Chapter was asked to verify its authenticity and antiquity. It turned out to be a rare and old statue. Convenor Kandoi informed the Government Museum and arranged to transport the statue to the museum.

Lucknow

The Chapter conducted a heritage walk around the newly restored site of Hussainabad. The walk covered Hussainabad Talab, Clock Tower, Picture Gallery and Satkhanda. The tour imparted a rich and informative experience to all the participants, including students of Pearl Academy, Noida.

Orai

Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar held a function on Independence Day for students of BKD Aldridge Public School. The Chief Guest was District Collector Mala Srivastava. There was an exhibition displaying several coins of varied currencies, and both national and international stamps of different sizes including some from Cook Island. Of special interest was the stamp collection carrying pictures of veterans who lost their lives during India’s Independence struggle. The exhibition, with a series of pictures of all freedom fighters, is the result of the Convenor’s passionate commitment to his hobby. It drew many visitors through the months of July and August.

Rohilkhand

Co-Convenor Kashif Khan organized a tree plantation drive at Mankara Village. Over 175 varieties of trees were planted as part of a natural heritage protection outreach. He impressed upon the gathering, well attended by the
local dignitaries, the urgency of protecting environment which was well appreciated.

**Varanasi**

The Chapter collaborated with IIT BHU for a presentation of *Heritage Sites of Benaras* for the student induction programme. The presentation was made by Life Member Mudita, an architect and conservation expert.

**WEST BENGAL**

**Kolkata**

State Convenor G.M. Kapur spoke on the *Evolution of High Street Chowringhee* at a function held to mark the centenary year of Job Charnock’s arrival in India. He said “on 24th August 1690 Charnok set foot on the insalubrious mud flats on the banks of the River Hooghly to establish with time what was to become the second city of the British Empire. The history of the three villages of Sutanuti, Kolikata and Govindpur combines to form the metropolis of Calcutta”. He said the name Chowringhee has defied entymologists. There is a legend that Yogi Chourangi Giri discovered an image of Kali and built the first *Kalighat Temple*. Perhaps his name got linked to the place.

The East India Company took over the *zamaindari* of the three villages, and after clearing a jungle Fort Williams was established. It is now the General Post Office at BBD Bag. The *Tank Square*, because of easy availability of potable water, became the hub around which the city began to grow to be the first ‘capital’ of the British Raj much of it after clearing a jungle. State Convenor G.M. Kapur writes that on the evening of 6th July 1857 *Chowringhee* had been lit up with gas lights. It was only after the Mutiny that pavements were built for erection of more street gas lamps although traders objected because

**CONDOLENCES**

Varanasi Chapter is deeply grieved at the passing away of Life Member Anup Chand Choudhary, a devoted conservationist who was held in high regard by all Members. He was a direct descendant of the renowned poet and doyen of Hindi literature Bhartendu Harishchandra whose house he devotedly maintained. Its condition and most of the noted writer’s belonging remain well preserved by him.

Shri Anup Chand Choudhury was President of many cultural organization in Varanasi. He was known for his grand hospitality always attired in traditional clothes. INTACH extends its heartfelt condolences to Smt. Choudhury and their two sons who are all Life Members of INTACH also. We wish them strength and forbearance to face this grievous loss.
The newly excavated site of Moghalmari in West Midnapur District of West Bengal reinforces the account of Chinese pilgrim Huen-Tsang that many monasteries existed in Tamralipti region that was once inhabited by a thousand monks.

Today the NH-6 has cut the Buddhist site into two parts – Dantan (ancient Dandavukti) and Moghalmari. Recent excavations have unearthed the ruins of an even more ancient monastery named Vandak Mahavihara, perhaps a Vajrajana Buddhist seat of learning dating back to 6th century. There is evidence to show the co-existence of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist religious beliefs. Terracotta seals written in Brahmi have been excavated along with copper coins, pottery shards and earthen lamps from the cluster of Viharas. There is evidence of the living quarters of Buddhist monks and statues of Lord Buddha. Bodhisatwa suggests it was a place of learning. The terracotta nameplate written in Brahmi or Siddha Matrika script indicates the name of Sri Vandak Mahabihar Arya Bhikshu Sangha. Perhaps the biggest Buddhist Vihara is awaiting discovery in West Bengal?

Earlier this year INTACH WB Co-Convenor Kanchana was invited by the Indian Council of Cultural Affairs (ICCR), Sri Lanka to make a presentation on the above excavations at Moghalmari in Sri Lanka.
SALT GOLAH OF SALKI

Children are warned of ghosts and venomous snakes and poisonous creepies guarding this place called Bhulbhulaiya by the local people. The 181 year old Salt Golah of Salkia on the banks of the Hooghly is a massive maze of 244 godowns built by the British around 1835 to stack salt and now lies in abandoned ruins. It belongs to the Railway Protection Force who generally beat their lathis and gingerly go around avoiding dark corners. Now, INTACH Architects commissioned by the Eastern Railway have started to explore the ruins, examining and measuring every bit of the ruins from a cryptic vault to creeper-entwined thick pillars, crumbling ceilings and dark crevasses. They have even discovered the remains of a rail track under knee high shrubs that used to roll salt from Orissa and Bhuj in Gujarat. At a State Tourism Department and UNESCO Meeting a presentation was made on the Salt Gola ruins. State Convenor G.M. Kapur says “We were stunned to know about these ruins”. He will be coordinating the restoration project which will be innovatively designed to build new facilities. Virasat will be covering more of this exciting project in due course.

Santiniketan

Convenor Susmita Guha informs that once again the Palash Utsav as celebrated this year with great enthusiasm by the Chapter Members, with Pradip Bose planting the palash sapling. A Heritage Quiz Programme was organized on the occasion at the Bolpur Girls’ High School with book prizes and certificates awarded to participants.

NEWS FROM HERE AND OUT THERE

Looking at the sky one might think the stars are randomly scattered across the sky, but we now know they are gathered together in vast groups known as galaxies. According to The Atlantic there are around 170 billion such galaxies in the observable universe! NASA’s Osiris Rex travelled to the asteroid Bennu in September this year to bring back samples that may tell us how life began on Earth.

The Messenger orbited Mercury, solar system’s innermost planet, from 2011-15 to create the first global digital elevation revealing its stunning topography, and its highest and lowest points. It found past volcanic activity had buried a portion beneath extensive lava. As it is near Mercury’s north pole, with the sun always low, long shadows obscured the characteristic of rocks, and it is suspected that there are volcanic deposits at the lowest elevation of the plane.

Five years after leaving Earth, Juno aircraft will soon be reaching the furthest point in the Jupiter orbit to “get the science” of this giant planet. Jupiter is five times more distant from the Sun, and yet its upper atmosphere has temperatures comparable to that of Earth. Its ‘Great Red Spot’ may be the mysterious source of energy that heats its
upper atmosphere. It has just been discovered that daily the thin atmosphere of Jupiter’s volcanic moon Lo freezes and collapses in the shadow of the planet and then repairs itself. The JunoCam sent back the first images of Jupiter with 3 of its 4 largest moons after entering the orbit of this giant planet in July this year.

The rover Curiosity discovered unexpected minerals in a rock sample on Mars, that suggests the planet experienced volcanoes during its evolution. NASA collected powder drilled from rock at a location they named ‘Bucksin’ last year.

Kepler spacecraft discovered a new Jupiter-like planet orbiting a star 545 light years from Earth and 5000 exoplanets outside our solar system 3 years ago. The New Horizons went 3 billion miles away from Earth collecting unprecedented data from Pluto and its moons. And a further 300 million miles to create a stunning video to mark the spacecraft’s first anniversary.

The Kepler Space Telescope discovered the youngest fully formed ‘exoplanet’ ever detected – only 5-10 million years old that may help to better understand how planets are formed.

An international team of researchers announced the discovery of 104 new planets outside our solar system, including four that could have Earth-like, rocky surfaces. The latest trove of 21 are situated within their sun’s habitable zone – the distance from a star that could permit liquid water to exist and support life.

An image of the entire sky shared by astronomer Dustin Lang on Twitter uncovers strong evidence that an enormous X-shaped structure made of stars lies within the central bulge of the Milky Way galaxy.

Everyday the thin atmosphere of Jupiter’s volcanic moon IO freezes and collapses in the shadow of the giant planet and then repairs itself, a study found for the first time.

Scientists have discovered two new ‘worlds’ far outside the orbit of Neptune in the most in-depth survey ever conducted to search out distant solar system objects.

The Dawn spacecraft has been orbiting the dwarf planet Ceres for over a year. It has very few large craters, and scientists think it may have been hit by numerous large asteroids during its 4.5 billion year lifetime. There is
Evidence that the upper layers of its crust contain a large amount of ice which if mixed with salt would weaken its crust, and maybe even disappear.

Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves. Black holes form in the final stages of massive stars’ evolution. The space bodies are so dense that neither light nor matter can escape them. Sometimes the holes couple in a ‘dance’ around each other. As they lose energy in the form of gravitational waves, they merge into a single black hole. Spokesperson for LIGO Scientific Collaboration Gabriela Gonzales says it is a promising start to mapping the black hole population in our universe.

The reddish polar region on Pluto’s largest moon Charon, is an effect of methane gas escaping from the icy dwarf planet’s atmosphere, according to scientists.

The Moon Express is hoping to reach the lunar surface but may lose out on the Google Lunar X Prize Competition as a private company co-founded by an Indian-American Naveen Jain targets to land on the Moon in 2017 four years after it was last visited. It remains to be seen who will win the Google Lunar X Prize and the $20 million reward.

James Webb Space Telescope set to be launched in 2018 will observe not only faint objects across the universe, but all our neighbouring planets and their moons within our solar system. To date the furthest commercial venture has been 22,236 miles out of our World – to the ‘geosynchronous’ orbit – to place telecommunication satellites that fly above the Earth.

Man will continue to unlock our solar system to discover many more space revelations. The Hubble Space Telescope enabled astronomers to trace the first earth-sized planets beyond our solar system. They found two potentially habitable ‘exoplanets’ about 40 light years away! The OSIRIS-Rex is scheduled to soon travel to Bennu, a near Earth asteroid and bring back samples of surface material, which may just contain building blocks of life!

The Juno spacecraft is currently expected to reach the furthest point in its Jupiter orbit and “get the science” of the giant planet.

Even India’s Mars Orbiter launched by ISRO completed two years around the red planet in different seasons imaging two moons – Phobos and Deimos, with data released in the public domain to mark its second anniversary.

Once upon a time man could never dream of flying in the air like the birds, but the Wright Brothers exploded that idea. When Round the World in Eighty Days was conceived, it became a major film production, now we travel long distances in a few hours. As many as 195 spacewalks have taken place to date, the latest being a seven hour one to tackle maintenance of a spacecraft. Hope floats after the above series of Space Odyssey. Saturn’s moon Titan is the only celestial body other than Earth to have seas and liquid bodies on its surface, and plans are underway to scour their depth for signs of life by sending a submarine! Astronomers have also detected another earth like planet Proxima B alternately moving towards and away from our solar system on the basis of data collected over 16 year, but whether it is potentially life-bearing is a key question yet to be answered. When we have depleted the abundant natural resources of our Earth, it is not inconceivable that Man might actually set up house Out There on another planet some day in the distant future. The sky is not the limit anymore!

Acknowledgment:

Pictures from a series, Hindustan Times
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 enable them to avail of 2% tax exemption while execution of corporate social responsibilities.

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