SMOGGED!
New Year does not promise change........
You promise change to the New Year!

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At present it is only the ‘Tale of Delhi’ set in early November 2016, creeping into December and threatening to spill into the New Year. Of a city canopied often in thick smog and bare visibility. Even before the last lights of Diwali flickered in the loud burst of crackers, a thick hazy smog blanketed the capital. The city was even described as a gas chamber. It can be the tale of many other cities in the future.

The historic capital of India had already capped the list of most polluted cities in the world, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing the 500 danger level. In November it nearly touched a hazardous 1000 AQI, averaging 600 micrograms per cubic metre - nearly 60 times the level WHO considers safe. Even the 1952 Great Smog of London that claimed death of a few thousand people, had not recorded this level. The Global Burden of Disease Report released at a workshop organized jointly by the Centre for Science and Environment, India; Indian Council of Medical Research and the US based Health Effects Institute concluded that “air pollution is the fifth largest killer in India”. It is a ‘Wake Up Call’ for India!

Early morning risers were advised to forsake their morning walks as they would be breathing toxic air. Travellers flying into Delhi sailed through clear blue skies and fleecy clouds, before plunging through the smog without a glimpse of city lights. Participants in the Delhi Marathon were warned to seek medical advice before participating in the race. A photograph from Eastern India showed a clearly visible Himalayas, but in the snapshot from North India the mighty mountains disappeared behind a heavy curtain of smog. Evacuating Delhi, or for that matter any heavily populated city, is an impossible solution. It can never even be an option. A year ago a study was commissioned from IIT Kanpur, but like all such studies it has remained an academic exercise.

Expressing deep concern over the capital’s rising pollution level, the Supreme Court questioned the Central Pollution Board and other authorities on being clueless, not even having a Central Control Room or adequate control centres to monitor the air and take timely action in the most affected areas of the city. "You want to wait till people start dying.....the capital of the country cannot be left to be poisoned?" Nor can any city for that matter.

A slew of ‘quick fix’ measures were announced. Thousands of Delhi schools closed down. Construction work was halted. People rushed to buy air purifiers. Citizens wore masks till the shops ran out of stock. Old people were advised to stay indoors. A medical check was recommended for participants of the Half Marathon held in Delhi. For a few days there was watering and vacuum cleaning of dusty roads, but only in Lutyens Delhi. Tenders were floated for mechanical sweepers but failed to get any response; firms
that had them were not interested in lending them to Government. However these are just short-time measures. Industries allotted land outside Delhi failed to shift. Some diesel vehicles belching poisonous emissions were diverted, and a crackdown on 15 years old diesel vehicles began, others continued to ply. Scooter were identified as major culprits, but they are everyman’s transport. Less polluting cars might get back to odd/even numbered days driving - to make a statement.

Smoke from burning fields in neighbouring States will continue to waft into other States. It was reported that a staggering 32 million tonnes of leftover grains were burnt in Punjab alone. 70% of the winds blow into Delhi from Pakistan, Punjab and Haryana from one side; and Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from the other direction, to make Delhi prone to more pollution now that the winter has arrived. “After burning biomass the oxidized organic carbon is only 9%, it rises to 35% on foggy days – says a study conducted by IIT scientists.”

**Swachh Bharat** remains grounded in photo opportunities. It must become a **People’s Movement** if it has to succeed. And garbage dumps must be stopped from growing into hillocks hissing fumes. The reported 73% of all fecal sludge in India that is left untreated in the environment needs to be tackled. What are needed in fact are not bandaids but permanent systems in place as may be seen in some cities of the western world, infused with a sense of social responsibility at all levels. One sliver of good news is that Delhi will soon get its biggest waste-to-energy (WTE) plant that processes 2500 metric tonnes of garbage and can produce 25 megawatts of electricity.

There are lessons here to be learnt before this state of affairs becomes the ‘Tale of Many Cities’ of India. Perhaps the Media should help in creating a ‘sanitation platform’ instead of endless rancorous debates for TRP that politicise most issues.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the **Fundamental Right** to live i.e. the right to clean air, clean water and a clean environment that can be imposed by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Concurrently, citizens are reminded that Environmental Protection is one of their **Fundamental Duties**, as laid down in the Constitution. Both have been widely abused in the frantic race for development. The attention of the **Green Tribunal** has to be very seriously and actively engaged to avert
another pollution crisis.

These serious issues are already getting demonetised and nudged out of sight with new Headlines every day. And all’s well with our capital city gearing up for the tourist season! However it remains to be seen how many tourists plan to visit “Incredible India” this year.

For Nations to make true on the global pact, average warming must be limited to 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial revolution levels, and emissions must do more than level off. The global warning bells are ringing louder each year. What is needed is a world-wide responsible relationship with environment. It remains to be seen if the global efforts will be ‘trumped’ or garner world-wide support?

Meanwhile UNICEF warned “unless decisive actions are taken to reduce air pollution, the events witnessed in Delhi the past week are likely to be common.” According to UN, 2016 was the hottest year setting a new high for the third year in a row. Its brief scan of extreme weather phenomena recorded there were devastating fires in Canada, second lowest ice cover recorded in the Arctic Sea that can result in altered climatic patterns as far away as Asia, major flooding in Niger River basin, flooding in China with a mud rain in Yinongzhen due to chemical dispersal; typhoons in Korea and Japan with snow in Tokyo this winter in November after 50 years; hurricane in the Caribbean; heat waves in Southern Africa; snow in the Sahara for the first time in 37 years; record temperatures in Thailand; landslides in Sri Lanka, 400 lives in Tehran claimed by smog, and closer home Shimla in November was hotter than Ahmednagar etc. etc. etc. What next? What will happen in 2017 – “Airocalypse”? Let us just hope and pray!

**Pollution Kills**

Editor-in-Chief Hindustan Times, Shashi Shekar writes authoritatively that as per statistics pollution kills more people than terrorism, civil wars and accidents put together. Close to 6,00,000 children aged 5 or below die of diseases where pollution is one of the primary causes. The question is “why maintain this suicidal silence. Are we waiting for the world to turn into a gas chamber?” he asks.

*Hindustan Times, 28th November 2016*

**Deadliest Worry**

Particulate matter with a diameter of 1 micron (PM1) or less is the tiniest of dust pollutants that can easily penetrate deep into the lungs and enter blood circulation. Inner walls of the heart can be affected, causing cardio-vascular problems. While PM10 is due to dust, PM1 is entirely because of combustion. It is the new “fear factor” that needs urgent attention, according to scientists. Meters to measure PM1 concentration need to be installed in all urban areas, as is generally mooted but awaits action in all metropolitan city planning schemes in anticipation of future requirement.

**Silent Spring**

Best selling author Rachel Carson begins with a “fable for tomorrow” – a true story drawing examples from many communities using DDT that caused damage to wildlife, domestic pets and human beings. She identifies human hubris and financial self interest as the crux of the problem. She questions what various authorities allow to be put in the environment in liberal societies instead of acting as stewards of the living earth.
The air we breathe has become a deadly mix of toxic gases. It also contains harmful particulate matter such as PM 10 and the even finer PM 2.5. Air pollution is worsening by the year. The culprits have been identified by various scientific studies:

- Vehicular emissions.
- Construction activity.
- Industrial emissions.
- Thermal power plant emissions.
- Burning of municipal wastes and leaf litter.
- Burning of crop stubble in the hinterlands.
- Miscellaneous roadside dust.
- Other factors are cooking fuels such as dung cakes, kerosene lamps, DG sets, transport of construction material with significant leakages.

Several ideas have been floated to reduce air pollution and many of them are proven elsewhere. At the same time most of them have a long term horizon. Measures such as upgrading to Bharat VI emission standards for vehicles are not in the hands of individuals or local Governments. They require both engine and fuel improvements. So what is required is a mix of measures both short and long term.

- Increasing green cover wherever possible. The green cover is a carbon sink which absorbs carbon dioxide and emits oxygen through photosynthesis while also trapping dust. In addition, occasional washing of the green cover is important as with the passage of time dust layers diminish the photo synthesis process. For the roadside plantation, the deployment of fire tenders for this purpose can be effective. Preventing any form of unregulated burning – thus leaf litter needs to be composted and not burnt. Municipal solid waste fires should also not be allowed by the authorities.
- Cooking fuel – whilst many households are having LPG there are many in smaller towns which still use cow dung cakes and kerosene stoves. Provision of smokeless chulahs and even biogas in cylinders can curb pollution from this source.
- Planting urban forests can help set up wind currents which disperse the smog.
- Curtaining of construction sites and water spraying around them can curtail particulate matter spread from these sites.
- Transport of construction material such as sand, bricks or cement also deposits loose material especially on bumpy roads. Trucks carrying such material would need to be regulated to prevent such deposition.
- Banning the use of generators within the urban area.
- Shifting to renewable energy [solar] through policy and incentive models.
- Smoothening traffic movement [one way streets where possible], redesigning traffic junction geometry to enable smooth turnings and avoiding pile ups.
- Planning for the pedestrian, bicycles and rickshaws.
- Opposing thermal power plants in the air shed and improving emission cleaning equipment.
- Improving indoor air quality through the use of specific indoor plants which perform photosynthesis even in low light conditions.

The visible deterioration of the air quality evidenced by the overhanging haze also affects plant productivity as well as the solar energy production. With thick layers of dust and particulates coating leaves and other green matter the photosynthesis process is reduced in efficiency. It is in the interest of urbanites to wash foliage and other green matter at least once a month in summers and twice a month in winters, to maintain efficient photosynthesis. The authorities can deploy fire tenders to wash the canopies of the roadside trees. On the INTACH Central Office rooftop the solar photovoltaic panels were generating 25% less energy as compared to a rare clearer day when winds dispersed the smog. On checking up with a similar sized installation in Bikaner Rajasthan) of similar latitude, the output over a month was higher by 15% average. This was due to the curtain of haze and dust smothering of the solar panels themselves.

**INTACH Central Office Roof Top**

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POTTED PLANTS FOR CLEAN AIR

Indoor plants are natural air purifiers as they generate more oxygen than other plants, and are easy to maintain. Certain plants combined with the micro-organisms in their soil kill indoor air pollutants. Money plants wrapped around moss stick can work best inside the house even in ambient light and no sunlight. Areca Palms and Peace Lily need a little air circulation and ambient light, and watering once or twice a week to keep homes air fresh. Sprayed with lemon grass, neem or essential oils keeps insects and bugs away.

A housewife Aanchal Oswal in Delhi placed 36 indoor plants in different corners of her house as she found the air purifier did not protect the entire area of her house. She planted Areca Palm plants that filter indoor air pollutants like toluene and xylene. Snake Plants in bathrooms to remove carbon monoxide, monoxide, chloroform, etc. Ivy Plants in rooms as a natural way of removing toxic agents from the air. Aloe Vera, Spider and other species help to generally cleanse the air in homes, she says. Terracotta or clay pots stain floors. Ceramic, fibre and even plastic pots work equally well with indoor plants.

From Delhi to Faraway Tawang no Respite from Smoke and Dust

A smogged city is not only all about Delhi. The world’s first real time pollution map is the brain child of Air-Visual created by a French tech entrepreneur Yann Boquillod, who is based in Beijing. His start up helps to forecast air quality and pollution levels so that young families can take preventive measures ahead of bad air alerts. He says it enables us to “understand the status of health of the earth.....by visualizing it on a 3D map so that people can actually see the amount of emissions being spread to the world”. Not surprisingly the US Embassy in Beijing now puts out daily tweets measuring the PM 2.5 data. When the readings crossed 500 in 2011, the Chinese Government closed down 4 power plants.

According to a local Greenpeace campaigner, the Chinese Government have succeeded in reducing the overall PM 2.5 by more than 10% when he compared it to 189 other cities. Apart from the odd and even numbered car limit, time restrictions were imposed on construction sites and coal mines. The younger generation wereenthused to clean their country’s skies and rivers. Soon their environmentally friendly e-bikes and bicycles were parked over three floor office space populated by eager young Chinese doing their bit. The larger trend shows China is moving away from coal, with emissions falling year on year. Their 2020 target is 62% and likely to be met 3 years ahead of schedule. China is also powering ahead with expanding wind and solar power, and building capacities bigger than anywhere else in the world. It is adding 46GW of wind and solar energy every year. A new environment law raised fines on polluters. Nine out of ten plants in China are equipped with scrubbers used to clean up industrial emissions. They also have real time third party monitors that alert the authorities when any plant reaches its emission cap for the year, and fined. Beijing is a good case study, for Indian environmentalists.

Ack: Beijing Diary, Ananth Krishnan, Daily Mail, 23rd Dec 2016
Dear Members,

In recent years Geoscience is widely acknowledged as a subject of serious studies. The 1851 Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified various sites valued as National Geological Monuments. The creation and management of such Parks and Monuments is now receiving long due attention, and are recognized as important components of the national heritage. The GSI envisages management of such Monuments and Park, to draw public attention and popularise them on the tourist circuits.

Geoscience is increasingly also a subject of interest for students, and research studies are on-going on geological features like rocks, fossils, minerals, soils and landscapes. The 2000 years old zinc mining and smelting site of Zawar in Rajasthan has received international recognition. However there is not a single designated Geoheritage Site in India to date, universally recognized as a precious component of natural heritage. It remains a neglected feature of the conservation landscape of India.

It is now acknowledged that “preserving the rocks beneath our feet is necessary for earth science and for education; and a vital part of nature conservation. Geoparks and Geosites can become our modern earth science clubs if maintained and manned with urgent top priority dedication”.

Rajasthan authorities are availing the Swades Darshan Scheme floated by the State Government to promote theme based tourism. A monograph was recently brought out by the Architectural Division, a purposeful compilation on the subject.

Chapters are requested to explore and identify Geo-Heritage Sites in their region, in addition to National Geological Monuments and bring them to the attention of Central Office and of the local authorities.

CONDOLENCES

INTACH Founder Member Padma Vibhushan Professor M.G.K. Menon passed away on 22nd November.

Professor Menon served as Director of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research at the young age of 35, and was one of the few Indians to be Fellow of the Royal Society of London. During a career spanning 50 years devoted to science, he was Advisor to the Department of Space/Indian Space Research (ISRO) during its critical period in 1972.

Professor Menon was Life Trustee of the India International Centre, and its former President for two terms. A Memorial Meeting was held on 30th November at the IIC Fountain Lawns attended by people from many walks of life who held some dear memories of him. Devotional songs were rendered by Radhika Chopra and by Dr. Shruti Sadolikar.

INTACH sent its condolences to Smt. Menon and their daughter and son with our heartfelt sympathies and good wishes for the future.
MEETING OF INTACH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTACH Executive Committee met on 5th December in a smaller number this time, as several Members had taken leave of absence due to other personal commitments.

Chairman L.K. Gupta welcomed the Members present and updated them on some of the recent developments in INTACH Chapters. INTACH made its presence felt in Mithila, Bihar by opening the new Chapter at Darbhanga. It has 700 years old record of marriages available which is a unique reference for people trying to trace their ancestry. INTACH Central Office has offered to initially conserve these records on the understanding that further funds would have to be mobilized locally by the Chapter.

The Darbhanga Chapter was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Darbhanga, who announced that the University would like to become an Institutional Member of INTACH. The University Library has many books in a bad condition, and hoped that INTACH would extend technical assistance for conserving them. The erstwhile Maharani of Darbhanga also has some amazing historical records, but there is no proper access to them and needs to be looked into.

Darbhanga also has a classical music tradition. It was suggested that the Chapter could join hands with the Dharwad and Varanasi Chapters to share their music traditions.

The Executive Committee was updated on other such information from Chapters. Like the Geo-Heritage Seminar held in Udaipur; the 2500 years old Zawar industrial heritage site where zinc used to be melted. INTACH proposes to send a team for preparing a holistic plan for presentation of the Industrial Heritage of India, along with other heritage assets of the region.

The Committee was also informed that the Jogi community in Rajasthan has records of 40 generations. They shifted from Jaisalmer to Bhilwara, so the latter Chapter will undertake conservation of this community’s records.

EC Committee Member Lalit Surjan drew attention to the Odian temples that he visited during his visit to Jodhpur. He brought their utter neglect to the attention of Convenors S.K. Verma and Dharmendra Kanwar, and hoped the state of this 1000-1200 years old Jain Temple would be taken up with the Chief Minister, and a protective wall can be constructed around the temple cluster.

Member Secretary briefed the EC Members on the Audit Report submitted to the CAG Office. It was satisfactory and there would be follow up on some of the suggestions regarding tender purchase, installation of Porta Cabins on the terrace, and purchase of travel tickets. The Members were also briefed about the INTACH-APSARA MOU signed with Cambodia, and IHA Programmes being held in consultation with INTACH Divisions so that training programmes are targeted specifically for conservation and restoration undertakings.

EC Members were also informed that the Collector of Porbunder requested INTACH to prepare a DPR for conservation works in connection with the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi in the year 2019 for which INTACH will prepare a probono DPR. The poster/maps prepared for Varanasi showing important temples, ghats and intangible heritage components was appreciated by the Committee. Member Secretary elaborated on the peer review of AHD projects and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Heritage Tourism. Similar reviews will be undertaken for the Architecture and Natural Heritage Divisions. The Committee was updated on some of the administrative decisions and renovation of INTACH premises.

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 6th December. The briefing given to the GC Members was on the same lines as the Executive Committee Meeting.
INTACH Heritage Tourism Division initiated a four-day Capacity Building Workshop for Government-Approved Tour Guides in South India, covering the regions of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. It was the first ever INTACH sponsored workshop specifically for Tour Guides in the South. Hosted by Tamil Nadu, it was coordinated by Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh on 18th-21st October at Chennai. One of the sessions on 20th October however was held at the well known heritage town of Mammalapuram located 55 kms from Chennai. There were some local field visits as well followed by informal discussions. This was the first ever INTACH sponsored workshop of its kind in Tamil Nadu held exclusively for Tour Guides.

The Workshop was inaugurated by a well known artist and writer Manohar Devadass. He stressed on the importance of such workshops, especially for professional Tour Guides who could make tours an exciting experience for the visitor. They are in fact the “living link” he said between India’s natural and built heritage and the foreign tourists who come seeking to experience and enjoy another’s heritage. He commended INTACH on initiating this unique refresher programme-like Workshop. He also suggested that such workshops should be held in other parts of Tamil Nadu.

The Workshop Faculty consisted of internationally known scholars and some celebrity speakers like Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam who is both a dancer and an art historian. Most of the Resource Persons and Speakers were doctorates in their subject. Agenda for the Workshop was drawn up in consultation with the officials and members of the Approved Tour Guides Association (ATGA) and specifically tailored for Tour Guides in and around Tamil Nadu. The Course comprised a heady mix of seven Academic/Technical Sessions of special interest for all participating States. Several Group Discussions and Field Visits were also scheduled. The range of subjects covered in the Academic Sessions included Art and Architectural Heritage of South India, the Role of Museums in Tourism, INTACH and its Role in Tourism Development; Tourism Related Problems in Mammalapuram and its neighbourhood.

The participants included several Tour Guides attending all the sessions. A few representatives from the travel trade and local tour companies also attended as Observers. Officials from the local Archaeology Department and the Government Museum at Egmore, Chennai were in attendance at some of the sessions.

The Workshop concluded with participation Certificates awarded to all Tour Guides by the Tamil Nadu former Commissioner of Archaeology, Dr. S. Vasanthi.
The Egyptian tourism industry suffered a setback since the uprisings that toppled Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The recent discovery of a 7000 years old city has given a boost to their tourism industry according to the Egyptian Antiquities Ministry. The 7000 years old city and cemetery dates back to its First Dynasty in the southern province of Sohag. It was located just 400 metres from the Set Temple, a new kingdom period memorial across the Nile from recent day Luxor. The Ministry feels this discovery may also yield some new insights on Abydos, one of the oldest cities of Ancient Egypt. What is known about such ancient kingdoms is perhaps only the tip of many such historic icebergs frozen in time.

A few months ago dozens of footprints were discovered in the Chuquisaca area of Bolivia accidentally by a guide. There were also some footprints of a kind in size and quality never seen before. And some that appeared to be scaling the wall of a cliff. Fossils were also discovered of what might have been the world’s last *glyptodon*, an enormous armadillo-like creature that lived 2.6 million years ago. Bolivia already has many tourists visiting its well known *Cal Orcko Park*, one of the largest site of fossilized footprints supposedly belonging to 300 species! A Bolivian palaeontologist Omar Medina hopes to turn this remote south corner of the country into a “magnet of palaeontology” to attract visitors from all around the world.

Residency Kothi in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, built in the early 19th century, was the first resident of Gerald Velsli during 1818 - 1831. Owned initially by the British, the building passed into private hands, and eventually became the office of the PWD.

The building was constructed as a large bungalow with spacious verandas. Architecturally, the Residency is an imposing and symmetric double storey building exhibiting a cross plan built in two phases. It has imposing doric columns defining the architectural vocabulary of the building, along with other elements like windows with awnings, wood in paneling on walls, ornate moulding among other features.
The building is structurally stable with minor alterations and repairs done mainly in the interiors of the building. However there are certain problems like dampness, damaged flooring, corrosion of metal members, settling of floor, peeling of paint and plaster, efflorescence and discoloration of stone facade and masonry loosening.

MP PWD, Indore approached INTACH to prepare a conservation plan and proposal for up-gradation of the building. A AHD team visited the site for a detailed assessment of the building, identifying the issues and giving proposals for their resolution and up-gradation of the building interiors, as per the requirement furnished by PWD.

CONSERVATION OF RAMADEVARAYA PALACE, ANEGUNDI

The palace is located in Anegundi Village (part of the World Heritage Site of Hampi), and located on the banks of Tungabhadra River in Karnataka. The Palace dating back to late 18th century is now the residence of Sri Ramadevaraya. Formerly the palace was a much bigger complex but only a part survives today. It is located at the centre of the village in close proximity to the Chariot and the river.

The house has a traditional courtyard planning layout, with the entrance gateway opening onto a large courtyard leading to different residential quarters. The construction system is a combination of traditional wooden beam columns and load bearing walls with sloping terracotta roofs. The ornate columns in the courtyards exhibit the architectural richness that was prevalent in the area.

Today the building is in a much dilapidated condition with only few areas of the residence in use. Some parts of the house collapsed due to heavy rains, and it seems to be structurally unstable due to missing roofs in many parts of the building. A team from AH Division visited the site as part of INTACH’s initiative of extending technical assistance to heritage house owners. After a preliminary inspection, AHD will prepare a conservation plan for the Residence. Also a reuse plan for the building as a learning centre to promote dance, music, theatre and storytelling is proposed along with an amphitheatre as a performance area in the backyard of the house. As part of the reuse conservation plan, the floors and sections of the building will be developed as a learning centre to promote music, dance, theatre and storytelling.

REVIVAL OF LOHGarH FORT, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA

Lohgarh, located 40km from district headquarter Yamuna Nagar, in Haryana was the first Khalsa Raj capital of the Sikh Empire established by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in 1710. The Fort of Lohgarh signified the struggle and the revolt of the Sikhs against the Mughals but was destroyed
completely in 1715. INTACH signed an MoU with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Heritage Development Foundation for the revival of the Fort, initially starting with the preparation of a Preliminary Project Report. Three site visits were conducted by the AHD team, including a general inspection of the area, detailed Site Analysis and Archaeological Inspection undertaken by a team of senior archaeologists. Only a few tangible remains of the Fort were found by way of masonry remains of plinth, and other habitat remains such as pottery and Nanakshahi bricks.

A Preliminary Project Report comprising a concept design for the Gurudwara, memorial, recreational centre, with a tourism development plan and a proposal for undertaking comprehensive archaeological exploration has been prepared.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF INDIA

A.H Division embarked on identification of Industrial Heritage in India for which collating of secondary data collection from various sources has been initiated:

• The typologies of buildings and sites including Railway Stations/ Power Stations/ Ports/ Aqueducts, Bridges,
• Mills: Place where raw materials are ground for making different substances e.g. food products/ chemicals/ textiles/ wind & water mills/ paper/ cotton.
• Factories: Place with big machines or plants for producing machinery or goods e.g. printing/ manufacturing firecrackers/ matchboxes/ shipbuilding/ electronic goods.
• Mines: Iron Ore/ Zinc/ Coal/ Gold/ Diamond/etc.
• Warehouses and Stores: for apparels/ footwear/ accessories/ cold storage, etc.
Information on above mentioned typologies will be classified in three periods: Ancient, Medieval and Modern.

**CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, AGRA**

A Cultural Impact Assessment (HIA) Report was prepared for a multi-storey residential group housing project in Agra proposed by Awas Vikas, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. Part of the project site falls within the regulated area of two ASI protected monuments - Itibari Khan's Mosque and the Statue of Akbar's Horse at Sikandara Road. The objective of the HIA included archaeological impact assessment to identify the sensitivity of heritage resources in the regulated area for any potential impact, and recommend mitigation measures. In this context, the existing flyover and the railway line separate the site from the monuments and there is no substantial impact of the proposed development on the monuments.

The HIA report recommends Awas Vikas to have an overall master plan for the entire site so as to facilitate a wholesome development. This would help in an integrated development around the monuments since the existing character of the area with low height buildings is gradually transforming into high rise.

**STATE OF BUILT HERITAGE OF INDIA (SOBHI)**

The status report of *State of Built Heritage of India: The case of ‘unprotected’ buildings comprises information on the plight and issues concerning built heritage, collated State-wise as well as under ten thematic sections. It is being processed for publication.

Cases have been shortlisted and circulated from the *Heritage at Risk Register of SoBHI*, for garnering support from CSRs. A consultative workshop is proposed for bringing *SoBHI* findings and learnings to the attention of Government bodies. A short film is in the offing to highlight these matters.

An initiative from the recommendations of *SoBHI*, Mission Municipalika, i.e. communication with Municipal Commissioners and INTACH Convenors has commenced in selected cities. The objective is to set out the notification process for built heritage in the cities.

Technical assistance has been offered for a built and natural heritage site, *Jambusar Kund* and for structures in Bharuch, Gujarat. these are followed up periodically.

*Demolition in Leh Old Town*

*Decaying Khair Darwaza, Meerut*
PARTY OF THE YEAR AT INTACH

On the eve of Diwali, Architecture Heritage Division lit up its office premises with lights, flowers and welcoming smiles. It was party time with invitations extended to all fellow Divisions and colleagues to partake of a delectable spread that lit up the eyes in celebration of Diwali at INTACH Central Office. This has become a AHD traditional party with one difference this year. The names of the ‘owners of the dishes’ who had contributed to the multi-cuisine repast accompanied the dishes. The hidden hands behind the spread of delicacies were not revealed though some recipes were exchanged. We suspect there were many unseen chefs tucked away at home whose ‘labour of love’ gave the men folks a fair chance to compete with their lady colleagues! No one cared to find out about the hands that stirred the pot as they were too busy with second helpings!

And it was one time when too many cooks did not spoil the broth!

2100 YEARS MUMMY

The ‘Lady of Dal’ identified as Xin Zhui who died over 2000 years ago was the wife of the Marquis of Dal belonging to the Han dynasty. She is the best preserved Mummy to have been discovered to date with her skin still soft, all her hair and eyelashes intact, and hands and legs that can be bent! Her tomb was discovered inside a hillside in Hunan, China when workers were trying to find an air raid shelter. She is believed to have been over weight and suffering from high blood pressure, a damaged heart and diabetes – one does not know how this diagnosis was arrived at by the authorities. There is however so much mystery surrounding this recent discovery that a musical on her is playing in China!

VIRTUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Researcher at the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang, Laos discovered several stone vessels that lie scattered around the ground. Archaeologists have tried to access the jar site, but many of the jars are yet to be cleared of unexploded bombs dropped during the Vietnam War. These jars are of sandstone and granite of varying sizes, and thought to be over 2000 years old. Early last year they uncovered ancient human remains and various burial practices at site. The jars could be grave markers or burial jars containing bone fragments, etc. But due to unexploded ordinance they have not been fully explored. An Australian archaeologists announced plans to recreate Laos’ mysterious Plain of Jars as a three dimensional virtual reality experience, which could one day see museum visitors walking through remote dig sites.

Ack : Hindustan Times

OLDEST GOLD

Bulgarian archaeologists have discovered what they believe to be the oldest gold artifact - a tiny gold bead - at a pre-historic settlement just outside the modern city of Pazardzhik. They say it is at least 200 years older than the jewellery from the Copper Age necropolis of Varna, a Baltic Sea city. Professor of the Belgian Academy of Science Yavor Boyadzhiev believes it was made on site which was perhaps the first ‘urban’ settlement in Europe inhabited by a highly cultured society that moved from Anatolia in today’s Turkey around 6000 BC. More than 150 ceramic figurines of birds were also found at this site, indicating they might have been worshipped or treasured by the people.

The gold bead measures four millimetres (0.16 inches) in diameter and weighs just 15 centigrams (0.005 ounces)
WORLD TOILET DAY, 19TH NOVEMBER

On World Toilet Day, a UK based NGO working in the field of safe water and sanitation reported that the majority of Indian urban dwellers do not have access to a safe private toilet. It was an annual analysis on ‘Overflowing Cities : The State of the World’ Toilets 2016’. It said the problem is so big in India that the daily waste generated by the streets of Delhi would fill 8 Olympic-sized swimming pools and 16 jumbo planes. It is no consolation that across the world, 100 million out of 700 million urban dweller live without decent sanitation and resort to using roadsides, railway tracks and plastic bags!

Water Aid Director Avinash Kumar advises that it is imperative to adopt an integrated approach towards urban planning with priority linked to basic services like clean water, safe sanitation and sustainable fecal sludge management and ensuring people’s participation.

INTACH LISTING CELL /DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Many INTACH Chapters have actively taken up heritage listings:

• Nagore and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu by the State Chapter in collaboration with the Prime College of Architecture in Kilvelur (near Nagapattinam).
• Ranchi District 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.
• Puruliya District in West Bengal by the State Chapter, wherein 359 heritage sites have been identified.
• Jhalawar, Chittorgarh and Bhilwara Districts in Rajasthan by a conservation architect (consultant).
• 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 was recently completed comprising 91 sites and the Phase II proposes to list about 150 sites out of which 110 sites have been identified so far.
• Listing of old bridges of Uttarakhand is also being undertaken by the Dehradun Chapter. Four districts (Dehradun, Pauri, Tehri and Nainital) will be covered in the listing.

Final Reports on the listing of Balasore (5th Vol) in Odisha, comprising of 13 heritage sites; listing of Shimla District (2nd Vol) comprising 50 heritage sites; and that of Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh comprising 33 heritage sites have been received by the Listing cell.

The Listing Cell presented the Guidelines of Listing at the Heritage and Good Citizenship Workshop, conducted by the Heritage Education and Communication Service Division in Jaipur on 6th December 2016.

INTACH DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (IDC)

Digitization of Listings and Project Reports

INTACH has been working on listings and conservation
projects since 1984. This work resulted in creation of numerous volumes of unpublished listings and project reports. INTACH Documentation Centre was set up in 2003 to protect, maintain and make these documents available to internal staff, scholars, researchers, students and the public. These listings and project reports in the possession of IDC are growing in size and importance. For preservation of these valuable documents for future use, digitization project was undertaken by IDC from November 2015 to August 2016 in collaboration with IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts).

**Listings and Project Reports Collection in IDC**

Listings and project reports are rare, valuable, unique and unpublished collection of IDC. Some of them are very old, fragile and handwritten with original photographs. IDC has around 550 volumes of listings of architectural value and over 1098 volumes of project reports covering diverse subjects like arts, architecture, archaeology, conservation, environment, tangible and intangible heritage, etc. of our country.

**Digitization Initiative**

The process of converting materials or analog media (books, journals articles, micro-form photos, etc.) to the digital/electronic format for creating a digital collection has been undertaken by the Documentation Centre. It is also a process of converting non-digital documents into digital format.

To preserve its collection of cultural and heritage value, the digitization project was started by IDC. Under this project, 1,335 volumes of listings and project reports have been digitized and stored in external hard disks. Digitization will also help:

- To make these documents easily accessible
- To virtually bring together all these resources
- To improve the search efficiency
- To maximize users’ satisfaction by providing multiple copies.
- To facilitate resource sharing and networking.

During digitization project following was undertaken:

**Selecting:** Due to its rare, valuable and unique nature with heritage and cultural value, IDC selected listings and project reports for digitization project to preserve them for future. Some of the listings and project reports were very old and fragile, and needed conservation. IDC converted them through digitization so that the document would retain its original form and would be provided to users without damaging them.

**Registering:** Before providing documents for scanning, all these documents were registered according to call numbers and kept in systematic manner to keep track.

**Scanning:** Scanning was done by IGNCA staff. The following equipments were used for scanning during the project:

Documents were scanned at the selected settings, resolution and colour using Bookeye® 3 book scanner with glass plate and BCS-2® software. They were saved using IDC file naming procedure in TIFF format. Final scanned documents were further converted in R-TIFF, PDF and R-PDF formats using Adobe Photoshop CS6 software.

**Metadata:** Metadata is information that describes digital objects and enables users to find, manage and use digital object. It represents the total historic record of the digital object and information. It helps users to find, manage and use digital objects. Over 1, 335 metadata sheets were prepared and provided by IDC staff, covering the information about title, author, year, number of pages, call number, additional access point, number of volumes, keywords, accession number, subject, area, remarks (if any) and copyright.

**(Dot)Quality Check/Images Inspection**

All the scanned volumes were checked with original copies and provided to IGNCA staff for corrections i.e. for rescanning (if any). While inspecting the scanned documents, following points were kept in mind by staff:

- Verify delivery of 100 percent of files.
- Inspect 100 percent of file contents.
- Ensure meeting of technical requirements.
- Provide feedback to contractor/digitization staff.
- Review any re-work.
**NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (NHD)**

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE**

Modern agriculture practices have increased reliance on chemical inputs while pushing up the demand for water and degrading our natural resources. NHD conducted pilot projects in Bharatpur and Khajuraho through sustainable farming practices which help in decreasing the demand for water, improve soil health while maintaining the productivity.

NHD is now reaching out to villages in these areas to empower farmers through capacity buildings. In October, NHD reached out to villages in Rajnagar district (Khajuraho). Village level meetings were carried out for sensitizing farmers and promoting the concept of sustainable farming. These promotional meetings help to sensitize villagers on issues regarding conventional farming methods and promote the concept of sustainable farming.

A two days training program was conducted from 23-24 October in collaboration with *Gandhi Smarak Nidhi* at Gandhi Smarak Bhavan, Chattarpur (Madhya Pradesh). Twenty five villagers from Kundarpura, Gararpura, Achnar, Diviya Purva, Ranipura and Chuabar of Rajnagar District (Khajuraho), Madhya Pradesh were trained. This capacity building programme covered basics of sustainable farming.

![Sustainable Farming Training, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh](image)
with the interactive sessions and hands on experiences. It also enlightened the participants on various agendas such as input costs and labour for conventional farming in comparison with sustainable farming system, introduction to Bundelkhand farming system, practical demonstrations of fertilizers (Matka Khad, Jeeva Amrut and Panchgavya), Liquid pesticide (Agniastra), Seed Treatment techniques (Bheej Shodan and Bheej Upchaar) and hands on training on SRI (System of Crop Intensification) for Mustard and Wheat.

NHD will be taking up more awareness training in nearby villages of Rajnagar (Khajuraho) and Bharatpur(Rajasthan) and Jagmmanpur Village(UP). It also proposes to facilitate the procurement of indigenous seed, information on minor farm equipments and certification.

**INDIA’S RIVER WEEK**

INTACH, WWF, SANDRP, Toxic Links, Peace Institute and Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan joined hands to conserve India’s rivers since the last 3 years. This year India Rivers Week was organized around the theme of ‘State of India’s Rivers’. Academics and activists from the various States reported on the status of rivers in their States. An evolving River Health Methodology was drawn up on the basis of several parameters to classify India’s rivers or river stretches red (critical), pink (threatened), and blue (pristine/safe). The parameters provide a holistic assessment in terms of flow, water quality, biodiversity assessment, floodplains, interventions such as dams/barrages, groundwater, catchment characteristics, cultural aspects, livelihoods. As against this the official agencies only provide some data on water quality which is woefully inadequate to assess river health.

The massive exercise was carried out by dedicated river activists and academicians making a tremendous efforts in a short span of 4 months. The reports are based on their work, secondary data and field observations. It has been a great educative process that created an all India perspective on the state of Indian rivers, applying the freshly crafted RHI methodology constituting a holistic approach to River Health Assessment. In due course these reports will be regularly updated.

Officially, India has 14 major rivers, 42 medium rivers and 55 minor rivers; with the first and second order streams, whether perennial, seasonal or ephemeral, running into thousands. It is clear that India’s arteries and lifelines – its riverscapes – are being flogged almost to death by ‘development’. There are a few ‘blue’ stretches mostly confined to remote areas and head water stretches. This is due to flow obstructions affecting longitudinal connectivity; excessive abstraction; pollution inflows; diminished base flows; bed and catchment area mining; and floodplain embankment and encroachments affecting lateral and vertical connectivity. The adverse impacts are submergence of fertile lands and forests; loss of livelihoods; destruction of biodiversity in coastal areas, mangroves and salt water intrusion in deltas; and decline in groundwater, agro-productivity, power generation, etc. resulting in climate change as well. Similarly little work has been done on river biodiversity and ecology preventing the impact of these aspects on the river debate or in factoring in climate change impacts. It has led to even intra state conflicts such as in Andhra, Telengana and Maharashtra.

NHD proposed several Emergent Recommendations such as
dams on the main–stem and the tributaries be mandated to ensure environmental flow into the respective channels; re-vegetation in the catchment; removal of anicuts on the main–stem as well as tributaries; polluting influences (industries, mining, cities) to be brought under control; better riverine research in particular their biodiversity; safeguarding the integrity of wildlife areas; setting up pollution control boards; River Basin Authorities/organizations for better management; vegetative regeneration of river banks; no mechanisation permitted in sand removal and Sand Mining Holidays in selected degraded river stretches; regular monitoring of the health of the rivers catchment vegetation as well as its faunal biodiversity by the Department of Environment / Forests / Fisheries; to mention a few urgent measures that need to be instituted. MHD compiled a number of illustrative highlights gleaned from major reports on seasonal small rivers like Sahibi in Rajasthan; Yamuna–Rajasthan Link Project for Rajasthan – Sabarmati Link; Ramgarh Jamwa at Jaipur, controversial Polavaram Dam in AP; Musi River in Hyderabad; Amravati Capital City Project proposed on the fertile floodplain of Krishna which constitute the food bowl; to mention a few that need more than careful consideration by the authorities for safeguarding India’s water resources.

Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar points out that during the last four decades the engineering juggernaut has single-mindedly manipulated our rivers solely for construction benefits while harming rivers, environment, sustainability and more. “If we do not change course immediately and set about conserving our rivers then soon perennial rivers will become seasonal, seasonal rivers will become ephemeral whilst ephemeral ones will simply disappear from the map”.

**VEGETABLES SANS SOIL**

A Class IX 17 year old, Shantanu Singhal, succeeded in growing vegetables using Hydroponics i.e. growing plants without soil. He was invited to speak about it at TEDx Pasadena, California about this much cheaper technique. He created a composition using micro-nutrients, seeds and bio-pesticides among others as a substitute for soil. His bio-technologist father guided his experiment. Firstly he grew vegetables like fenugreek, spinach, coriander and tomato at home. He hopes everyone in cities get to grow their own vegetables indoors at home.

**AIR POLLUTION EFFECTS**

It is by now well known that the impact of toxic gases and suspended particulate matter in the atmosphere affects human health adversely. The media will continue to highlight the severe air quality index while it lasts before moving on to some other crisis until next winter.

This article, however, brings to notice the fact that the visible deterioration of the air quality evidenced by the overhanging haze also affects plant productivity as well as the solar energy production.

With thick layers of dust and particulates coating leaves and other green matter the photosynthesis process is reduced in efficiency simultaneously decreasing the absorption of CO2 as well as the production of oxygen. This further contributes to the poor air quality index. The health of plants and trees and their vital processes, in the absence of sunlight, can only face inhibition. It would be in the interest of urbanites to wash foliage and other green matter at least once a month in summers and twice a month in winters, to maintain the efficiency of the photosynthesis process. While individuals can do so wherever they can, the authorities can deploy fire tenders to wash the canopies of the roadside trees.

Another area of concern is the resultant under-performance of the solar energy systems. On the INTACH Rooftop at Delhi, the solar photovoltaic panels were generating 25% less energy as compared to a rare clearer day (when winds had dispersed smog). On checking up with a similar sized installation in Bikaner (north Rajasthan), i.e. similar latitude, the output over a month was higher, on an average by 15%. This was not only due to weak sunlight incidence due to the curtain of haze but also because of dust smothering of the solar panels themselves.

Thus, while human health is critical, there are other side effects of air pollution.

*Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director NHD*
**MOST TRAFFICKED**

The reclusive Pangolin is perhaps one of the most trafficked mammal in high demand in Asian black markets, with its meat a delicacy and its keratin laden scales used for medicines. Over a million have been poached in the past decade as they are easy to catch. They dig long burrows, eat ants and termites, can swim and even climb trees.

But they are at one of the highest risk of extinction. Dozens of pangolins are being nursed back to health by conservationists in Vietnam. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has banned all international trade in pangolins.

**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)**

**INDIA CONNECT: BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS CULTURES**

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division planned a series of events to work proactively in the sphere of building bridges between people - ‘East West North South’ - through living cultures and cultural programming, by promoting awareness of the varied yet syncretic cultures across the country.

This year the focus of events has been on the heritage of Northeast India to create awareness and understanding across the country of this culturally rich region. The enabling activity conducted in Delhi, Pune and Bengaluru served as an outreach programme for young people, to sensitise and instill in them a sense of pride and appreciation of the diverse cultures of India States commencing with the rich heritage of the Northeast. It entailed hosting events at University venues in each city to ensure maximum participation of young people. They featured a written round of Quiz questions, a stage lecture-demonstration/cultural programme by student groups from the North East who were active in each city, and a Final Quiz where the 6 best teams (from the written round) compete in a multimedia round. It is proposed to take the winning team in each of these cities (total 6 winners) on a study tour to the North East.
The first event of this series was held successfully in Pune at the Ness Wadia College of Commerce, with an enthusiastic participation from over 50 teams from different educational institutions of Pune. The Final Round teams were from AFMC, IIT Bombay, Law College, Deccan College and others, with the team from AFMC winning the first position.

KANNAURAS: CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT

The cultural mapping of the Kannaura Tribe was undertaken by ICHD in collaboration with the Tribal Fund. Kannauras are one of the tribal communities inhabiting Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh, often referred to as the ‘land of gods’. They are proficient in handicraft making, with a number of artisans in the region following this traditional means of livelihood. The garments worn by the people are locally woven, and the clothing style has remained unchanged down the years. Their beautiful weaving represents the various religious symbols of Lamaism.

Silver is used extensively by the community for making their ornaments. During marriage and other festivities one can find Kannaura women heavily decked up with approximately 3 kgs. of silver jewellery. The statues of their deity are often made up of silver, and this art of making statues of deities is widely prevalent in Kinnaur. The Kannaura people have maintained their identity to date. Though many of their religious practices remain intact, changes have started taking place in the traditions and cultural practices of the community.

KHIAMNIUNGAN NAGA: CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT

The Nagaland Chapter submitted an interim report on the ongoing Cultural Mapping of the Khiamniungan Naga. It provides details on the origin, geography and the social composition of this community. The language, clanship
system, customary laws and practices, marriage systems, birth and death rituals, social etiquette, and the tattoo traditions (Koplao) followed by the Khiamniungan Nagas were documented. It also provides information on the bio-diversity, the sacred and natural sites as well as the livelihood, sustenance and art-craft related occupations (such as basketry, weaponry and blacksmithy undertaken by community members. The traditional dresses and ornaments of the Khiamniungan, and the distinctive features of female and male garments have also been documented in the Report.

LISTING OF ICH LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Chapter undertook a project on Intangible Heritage of Lucknow with a detailed interim report. The project mentions the myriad intangible aspects of Lucknow with its historical background, variations in style, material and aesthetics, gender differences, costume and cuisine among others. The report also provides intricate details about clothing worn during the time of the Nawabs such as chogas, angarkha, white dastar, pagri, shaluka worn by men. Chunnis, sidhapaijarnas, latbor ka lehenga, brocade work, zardozi work, odhni worn by women are also documented in detail.

The project follows the unique rituals of Lucknow, which includes Muharram, its history, belief, evolution, and differences between the Shia and Shunni sects. The procession of Juloos-e-Mehndi has been described in detail. Aspects like music have also been covered with mention of Gharanas; and traditions like Qawwal Bachcha Gharana, Tabla Gharana, Sitar and Qawwali Gharana of Lucknow. Folk music including tribal and folk with musical instruments like ektar, dotar, rabab have been described.

BOVINE CONUNDRUM

Jallikattu has been a traditional sport during Pongal and a part of Tamil culture for centuries. Unlike Spain where the bull is killed, here a bull is tied to a 50-foot rope to be tamed within specific time and win the bundle of notes tied to the horns. Supreme Court Justices questioned the permission given in January 2016 for continuing Jallikattu “How can a bull be a source of entertainment for human beings. If we go by the Constitutional principles of compassion, it is not permissible. You better play computer games for entertainment.” A senior lawyer points out “In a marathon race, you participate on your own will, but in jallikattu, bulls are forced to participate against their will as slaves were treated in 16th century. Agitation on the subject continues. Is it cows are more sacred than bulls?

YOGA ON UNESCO LIST

A United Nations inter-governmental committee has inscribed Yoga on the UNESCO Representative List as an “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity”. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the news describing it as ‘Human Treasure’ that had received the unanimous support of a 24 member Inter-governmental Committee, which overturned the decision of an evaluation committee seeking to defer it to next year. The MEA communiqué stated : “The tag emphasizes Yoga’s role as a social practice, an oral tradition and a system of ancient and scientific knowledge, facilitating an enhanced harmony and peace across caste, creed, gender, age and nationality”. The UNESCO inscription has brought immense recognition to this ancient practice as it underwent a rigorous criteria for selection, with UNESCO being the only body mandated by UN to inscribe intangible aspects of culture.
A PASTORAL EXHIBITION PAR EXCELLENCE

Living Lightly was how this exquisite exhibition was titled. Held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts from 2nd-18th December, it took one on a delightful journey through many pastoral lives. Curator Sushma Iyengar says it was the powerful simplicity of what Jaisingkaka said to her some years ago that carried the seed for this exhibition. He “herded his animals for more than 45 years, walking more than 3000 kms each year, across India’s belly from the western tip of India to the edges of Orissa. Like him, millions of pastoralists roam the ever shrinking pastures of India, even as they continue to tread lightly on this land. And they carry with them compelling tales of living and herding, even as everything seems to be working against them!”

On display were 300 exquisite photographs frames shot by six national and international photographers. The exhibition was a non-stop celebration of pastoral cultures of many tribes, their earth friendly living with displays, on-going film, artworks, handicrafts, live performances, games, dastangoi and healthy food for visitors. It presented a whole world of pastoral life and living, without a roof overhead for the many tribes in India like the Gaddis of Himachal, the Gujjars of Uttarakhand, Dhangars of Maharashtra, Changpa of Kashmir, Maldhari of Kutch, to mention a few. In the Curator’s poetic and impassioned description:

A roti if you don’t turn, will burn
Horse tied to a place will lose its pace
A leaf stuck to the soil will rot
Knowledge that does not travel will shrivel
So we stay moving with our herds.

Unlike Spain where pastoralism is deeply rooted and animals get their own highway, the pastoral tribes in India manage to cope with all kinds of difficulties with sheer native ingenuity. Imagine a migratory kitchen with sacks strung between trees to hold their potatoes, onions and garlic. In buffalo country tribals consume at least two dairy products with each meal for good health. Or butter churned in a dead goat’s stomach to make a delicious cheese! En route tribals even bury a wolf that dies, and if an infectious disease hits they leave a lamb in the wilderness to the wolves in the belief that it prevents further spread of the disease! There are endless such narratives mostly unknown to urban dwellers who only complain about bad roads, heavy traffic, grey smog and many accidents.

CULTURAL HERITAGE CELL

WORLD TOURISM DAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

INTACH’s sustained endeavor is to holistically promote Indian Heritage. World Tourism Day was celebrated with a talk on leveraging India’s spiritualism and traditional wellness practices as potential tourist attractions. The talk by Mala Barua was organized at INTACH Multipurpose Hall. She tries to bring ancient wisdom of spiritual knowledge on an easy- to-understand platform to people through simple every day language. She curates retreats, where masters of various traditions are carefully chosen to deliver ancient wisdom like Yoga, Ayurveda or Vedanta. The Q/A session at this well attended programme elicited several questions from a very interested audience.
WORLD HERITAGE WEEK

Curated Walk of the National Museum, 16th November

The curated walk at Harappan Gallery and the Decorative Arts Gallery of the National Museum, Delhi was an awareness programme hosted by INTACH Cultural Cell, coordinated by Manisha Singh.

The collections in the Harappan Gallery grew out of the discoveries made through pioneering excavations during early 20th century, and after India's Independence in 1947. Objects in this gallery remain the richest and most important of their kind in the world. Most of these exhibits came from important centres of Harappan Civilization and ancient towns like Harappa, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Lothal, Nal and Rakhigarhi, and from Mohenjodaro (now in Pakistan). The walk led by Dr. Sudeshna Guha, Professor Archaeology, offered an insight into the wealth and variety of the exhibits. The Decorative Arts Gallery walk led by Dr. Anamika Pathak provided interesting information on the artefacts crafted for daily, ceremonial and religious uses with a variety of materials like ivory, jade, ceramic, textile, wood, metal, glass, paper, leather and bone. An array of intricate techniques such as engraving, casting, carving, inlaying, embossing, weaving, printing, dyeing and embroidering used by the skilled craftsmen to create beautiful works of art and utility were on display.

Lecture Demonstration on Tabla by Pandita Anuradha Pal, 18th November

Pandita Anuradha Pal gave a riveting Tabla Lec-Dem captivating the audience. She played in the comparative styles of the different Gharanas. She explained the subtle nuances of each. Tabla was derived in the 1700s from the
Pakhawaj the long barreled percussion instrument used for accompanying Dhrupad–Dhamar, the older style of Hindustani classical music, following the growing popularity of Khayal. Since Khayal was the new, more imaginative Hindustani form, the Tabla, gained centre stage due to its superior dynamic range, sound variety, complexity and versatility.

**Lecture by Dr. G.N. Devy, 21st November**

Padmashree Dr. G.N. Devy, INTACH Member and Chair, People’s Linguistic Survey of India delivered a lecture on Heritage, Diversity and Future touching upon the historical context of de-notified tribes in India, and their present social and economic difficulties arising from the de-notification. He drew an analogy with the nomadic population of Europe and UK to explain the commonalities in the mobile population across the world. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session.

**HERITAGE CRAFT & COMMUNITY DIVISION (HCCD)**

**DIRECTORY OF TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFTS**

HCCD Division is compiling a Directory of Building Crafts to serve as a Documentation of the Crafts that have been traditionally used in India’s architecture, including the various techniques and materials. The Directory will contain examples and illustrations of buildings and structures using these crafts; and will also document artisans and craftsmen still engaged in these craft forms.

The listing and documentation of traditional and vernacular building crafts of Saurashtra region in Gujarat and Chettinad region in Tamilnadu has been completed.

The documentation report of Saurashtra region covers history and culture, building craft communities, resource mapping and the building craft of the region such as Patu-Pidiya roof, stone masonry, carving, metal casting, adobe brick construction, structural wood work, wood carving, oxide flooring and terrazzo flooring technique.

Saurashtra, a very unique region holds together a diverse vocabulary of crafts, art, history, communities, cultures and customs imbibed as one goes into the hinterlands of this part of Gujarat. The region is diverse in its geography, with inland Saurashtra being distinctly different from the coastal regions of Saurashtra; be it in climate, communities, cultural and social configurations, customs or its enterprising people. This region holds huge possibilities in these building
crafts for contemporary applications. These diversities have evolved over the centuries giving a specific flavour to its architecture, aesthetics and building materials and systems.

Coastal Saurashtra's living heritage integrating several influences of various faiths into living building traditions and the inland Saurashtra's unique approach to architectural details, have created a huge repertoire of amazing architectural traditions spread across regions of Saurashtra. Its spontaneous ways of imbibing best of traditions and influences from across the globe, as well as localizing the art of building, gives its own flavor to the local architectural vocabulary. It celebrates diversity of the human endeavor in enriching our lives with beauty, aesthetics and a cultural identity.

Similarly, documentation on the Chettinad region covers the history of Chettiar community, urban planning, architecture and building crafts in Chettinad which are Athangudi tiles, Chettinad lime plaster, wood and stone crafts, and clay roof tiles.

Chettinad region, a small area in Tamil Nadu, is known for its rich architectural heritage and the crafts applied, during the 18th-20th centuries. It flourished due to the international trade of some of the local families.

The Building Crafts Heritage of Chettinad is both diverse and difficult to keep alive due to the pressures of modern mass production. There are some distinctive and unique crafts that makes Chettinad unique. The application of these crafts to the palatial houses of local wealthy families has turned this small region into a museum of architectural jewels.

There are different architectural elements, local and imported, that are characteristic of Chettiar mansions: the flooring tiles made in Athangudi area; the terracotta roof tiles to send the rainwater to the courtyards; the exclusive
lime plaster (made out of sea shell, nutmeg, egg white, etc.) for covering the walls; the wood and granite columns; door frames, brackets and beams with rich and elegant carvings; the stucco and stone figures on the façade of houses; the rich ornamented balustrades, cornices and frescoes resembling Thanjavur paintings.

**MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION / ICI**

**ICI DELHI**

*Lime Testing Unit:* The Unit was set up for an ongoing project to find best solutions for conservation of different buildings and wall paintings, structures made with Lime, eg.

*Water vapour permeability test:* Measures passage of water vapour through the material (WVTR) or moisture vapour transmission rate (MVTR). Movement of water and water vapour into the material pores affect their material in wet/dry periods.

*Artificial weathering test:* All samples are subjected to artificial weathering test using 14% solution of sodium sulphate in water dipped for 24 hours and dried for next 24 hrs, thereafter kept in hot air oven for completing one of many cycles. Ageing of porous building materials due to the crystallization of soluble salts is a well-known problem that generates pressures and eventually lead to damage to building materials. The best composition of plaster travel up to 21 cycles of the test.

*Natural weathering of lime plaster:* After rainy season 52 samples were examined in which erosion on the surface were noted, and have been kept for further study in winter season.

*Preparation of new plaster:* New plaster samples were prepared using lime, multani mitti and coarse sand as well as natural organic additives like *urad dal*, *methi*, *bel pulp*, molasses and linseed oil.
The Lime Testing Unit also analysed plaster samples from Shahi Masjid, Lucknow.

**Wall Painting Directory**: Wall Paintings are an integral part of architectural decoration, but a substantial part of such heritage paintings are prey to the vagaries of nature and suffered loss due to human use or abuse. Creation of a Wall Painting Directory raises awareness of stakeholders to preserve them by documenting the monuments adorned with paintings. The Directory Teams is working in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gurugram, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and have documented more than 1.5 lakh sq mts of wall paintings.

**Wall paintings in Ranganathaswamy Temple, Tumkur District, Karnataka**

The paintings at this Temple are unusual in colour schemes, almost monochromatic unlike the vibrant colours usually seen in this area. The Mukha Mantapa ceiling has inscription on a bronze wall plaque and indicates it was built in the 10th century. According to literary sources, most paintings are of 19th century and executed in traditional Mysore style using tempera technique. The floral patterns are Girijakalyana, Seetakalyana, Dashavathara, Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in the Darbar with his ministers, sepoys and attendants.

The Sang Snag Chosling Gonpa (Bodh Kharbu) in Kargil District of Ladakh was constructed by Yogis Tashi Temphed and Tashi Wangdan in 1878 AD. The legend goes “the local community wanted to build a monastery but there was no sufficient water and stone available for the construction in the region. Suddenly two birds flew, one sat on left side of the valley and the other sat on the east side of the valley. Soon, the valley was filled with water and stones appeared for construction”. The birds are believed to be local deities that had come to help in the construction of monastery. Again as prophesized by Saragyapo (local deity) sufficient colors were available locally for the work and the artists Tsering and Ldanjor completed the wall paintings.

The paintings suffered extensively due to percolation of water and mud from the roof, resulting in powdering, flaking, with plaster layer losing adhesion deposition of
soot. The structural cracks in the gonpa structure resulted in cracks marring the aesthetics.

The ICI team visited the site for initial documentation and emergency conservation in 2015, and collected pigment samples for analysis. The second phase in 2016 involved detailed documentation, cleaning of removal of unscientific interventions and filling lost plaster areas. Suitable plaster mixtures were prepared to fill losses in plaster layer. INTACH team is monitoring microclimate within and outside the structure as there are major fluctuations in environmental factors. The work will be completed in 2017.
Conservation of polychrome wood sculptures in the Cathedral Church of Redemption, New Delhi

ICI Delhi recently completed the restoration of three polychrome wooden sculptures dating to the early 20th century at the Cathedral Church of Redemption. Built in 1927 it traces its origin to Lutyen’s Delhi, as part of the city’s British design in line with the grand Viceregal Palace (Rashtrapati Bhavan) and the Secretariat. It met the spiritual needs of British officers in the newly established Capital. The foundation stone was laid by the Viceroy, Lord Irwin. Wooden polychrome sculptures of Mother Mary, Saint John and crucified Jesus adorn the main altar of the church and are positioned on either side of the crucified Jesus. The saints John and Mother Mary are dressed in long gilded robes.

These sculptures, composed of several pieces of wood, with time suffered loose joints, with varnish coating severely darkened. A temporary lab was set up for the documentation and scientific examination to establish safest conservation procedures. The conserved sculptures are now adorning the main altar of the Church.
ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation Tagore Library, Lucknow University

Sixty paintings were received with fungus, stains, abrasions and old repairs. Conservation included documentation, consolidation of paint layer, lining, mounting, etc.

Conservation of printed books of Maharani Lal Kunwari Post Graduate Library, Balrampur, U.P.

From September to November this year, 59 printed books having 11089 folios were conserved at site.

During the month of October – November several manuscripts were conserved at libraries.

At Meherjirana Library, Navsari, Gujarat

At Tagore Library, Lucknow University
ICI BHUBANESWAR

Conservation of Pattachitras

Six important and rare Pattachitras, (17th Century) of a private collector, were received in a very deteriorated condition. The Pattachitras, traditionally made up with mineral colours in typical Puri painting style, had a number of creases and flaked areas due to poor storage. The conservation work is currently under progress at the Bhubaneswar ICI Centre.

Conservation Work of Ranimahal, Sambalpur

The Centre is also carrying out conservation work of Rani Mahal at Sambalpur, supported by the Odisha Department of Tourism, under guidance of the AH Division. The 16th century royal palace is in a dilapidated condition. The lime plaster application is being carried out in a traditional manner after collecting natural ingredients for preparing traditional lime mortar.

Documentation and Restoration of Wall Paintings, Sambalpur

The wall paintings in the old Raja Bakhri Palace at Sambalpur were documented for art and architectural conservation of the monument and of first floor roof, with wall paintings under emergency repair and restoration by the ICI Centre supported by Central Office.
ICI KOLKATA

Restoration of Paper Painting
The Kolkata Centre restored a 5 cm X 18 cm discoloured water colour painting pasted on a paperboard.

ICI JODHPUR

A decorative Chinese porcelain jar with figures and flowers painted all around was received at the Mehrangarh Art Conservation Centre, Jodhpur. It suffered fine cracks with loss of painted surface. The pieces were reinforced with appropriate resin, and losses filled and a micro grinder used to smoothen the filled areas before retouching.

ICI MUMBAI

Conservation of Lacquered Brass Box
The late 19th century Jaipur box from the collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum was restored by the Mumbai Centre. It suffered from previously applied darkened local varnish and a few thumb impressions.
ICI BENGALURU

String Puppets

The Centre conserved several interesting works of art, the important being two masterpieces characteristic to South India like the String Puppets (Rukmini, Krishna and Radha) made in traditional style. Strings are attached at various joints for manipulating movement. It was highly challenging for the conservator to devise a protocol that retains the intrinsic value of the Papier mache and light wood used for making these puppets. They were gifted to the Chitra Kala Parishath by a family of traditional puppeteers from Vijayanagara. Puppetry or Gombeyatta is a popular form of theatre in Karnataka and most of them are modelled on characters from folklore and mythology.

Before conservation

String puppets after conservation

The puppets had holes due to insect infestation all over the surface, paint layer flaked and fabrics severely torn, with string used for the joints disintegrated. As the puppets had to go on display the following week, emergency treatment was executed. Currently, they are at Chitra Kala Parishath in a traditional display called Gombe Habba, an integral part of Dussehra festival.

NEW DG, NGMA

Well known sculptor Adwaita Gadanayak is appointed DG National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), after submitting a vision and mission statement. He is best known for his stone carvings and received the Lalit Kala Akademi National Award in 1993. He says his first lessons in art came from observing his mother design clay artefacts for her puj; many years later he went for further study to the Slade College of Arts, London. He now hopes “to make Delhi a global art hub and showcase indigenous art abroad to make a mark on the international art scene”.

OUR CARLESS LOSS – ONE OF MANY

One of the most exquisite exhibitions Divine Pleasures : Paintings from India’s Rajput Courts were on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) in New York last quarter. They were categorized in three sections - Early Rajput and Rajasthan, early Pahari (Punjab Hills) and later Pahari that project distinct stylistic expressions under the patronage of Rajput principalities of different regions from 16th onwards stretching into Mughal times. Like so much else of Indian art, it was first bought by one of curators of the Met and later donated to it.
**ARPANA CAUR**

The reclusive Arpana Caur’s exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru opened with a large collection of 94 works in November, drawing rave reviews. In an interview she revealed that her colours reflect her life’s experiences, the interactions with people and family – especially her mother, the renowned Punjabi writer Ajeet Caur. They also mirror cultural influences like literature, folk art, miniature paintings religious inspirations. She said “I painted to purge myself of the angst and pain”, for example her earlier works were a series on women confined to small paces like the widows of Vrindavan, or the 1984 Sikh riots, but women are the central theme of her art works. Art critic and curator Gayatri Sinha describes a typical woman in her works as “Large and strong….like an androgynous bahubali; earth-like, her contours are akin to those of undulating land”.

**INDIAN DESIGN FORUM**

The Indian Design Forum represented India at the recent London Design Biennial on the theme “Utopia of Design”, that celebrated the 500th anniversary of Thomas Moore’s Utopia. Curated by Delhi-based scenographer Raajshree Pathy who worked with graphic designer Hanif Kureshi, the installation was called “Chakraview”. They believe that in India one would find not one but many Utopias. “At this global platform, we want to say we have arrived. From being a agricultural-supported country we have grown to become a strong economic force. The installation reflects what young India has to offer. Even when we inaugurate a nuclear plant, we invoke the gods”. The sound track of the installation recreated sounds of the Indian street and marketplace, with electronic music thrown in and quotes from leaders and design thinkers of India. From portraying craft communities to experimental music, “Chakraview” was a mélange that emoted the spiritual yet progressive future of India.

**GODS MUST RETURN HOME**

A pantheon of antique Gods disappeared from India over the last three decades on an alarming scale – stolen, bought, hidden, and sold in the antique subterfuge market. They were stolen from temples everywhere in India, even from protected monuments like Jain idols from Mt. Abu or the Sun Temple in Odisha. It is estimated that 2900 seized antiquities are lying in USA alone of which 200 were returned to Prime Minister during his visit to the USA.

Sanjeev Sanyal (who authored Churning of the Indian Ocean) has raised a pertinent question. Should the retrieved antiquities be displayed in museums, where many end up in warehouses? Sanyal is firmly of the view that the gods must return home to places of their origin. He says “Their creators did not see them as isolated pieces of art but as part of a broader cultural ecosystem”. Most importantly, there should be a publicly accessible and well documented National Antiquities Register that can severely hit the international black market for antiquities, otherwise they will be stolen again!
INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY (IHA)

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in collaboration with IHA and National Museum initiated a one-year diploma course on *Heritage Sites Management and Scientific Conservation*. It runs over weekends for architects, archaeologists, heritage managers, geologists, conservation architects, art historians, architectural historians, archaeological scientists, engineers (civil and structural), conservators and related fields. The course curriculum was prepared by IHA in consultation with Deccan College. It includes the following themes:

- Introduction to Heritage; History, Theory and Concepts of Conservation
- Heritage Legislation and Policy; Cultural Heritage Management; Documentation and Condition Assessment; and Art and Material Conservation.
- The hands-on practical sessions are conducted on Research Methodology in Conservation; Community Archaeology and Sustainability; and Dissertation.

In the current academic year, 28 students have been admitted to this Course. It is among the largest of any post graduate conservation course in the country.

TRAINING COURSES/WORKSHOPS

A 3-day *Capacity Building Workshop – III* for INTACH Members was organized in collaboration with Chapters Division during 17 – 19 October. The Workshop introduced aspects related to understanding Listing, Documenting and Conserving different kinds of heritage – natural, architectural, material, intangible heritage and all related issues. Twenty one INTACH Members attended the Workshop from Gulbarga, Jammu, Varanasi, Bangalore, Santiniketan, East Godavari, Karauli, Belagavi, Nagercoil, Jodhpur, Alwar and Jaisalmer Chapters selected by their Convenors.

ADAPTIVE REUSE OF HISTORIC SPACES

This course, attended by about 100 students, was organized for two batches on 20th–22nd and 26th –27th October for the students of *Pearl Academy*, Naraina and Noida. It was an introduction to various aspects of *Heritage, Conservation,*
Historic Interiors and Adaptive Reuse with case studies and projects. Special field visits were conducted to showcase examples in reuse of historic buildings and special heritage interior spaces of monuments, havelis, etc.

Interactive session with INTACH Chairman

Expert Aman Nath (Co-founder Neemrana Hotels), at workshop

Site lecture at Mumtaz Mahal, Red Fort

PD IHA Navin Piplani, at site lecture at Diwan-i-Am, Red Fort

Participants of the workshop (the Second Batch - students of Pearl Academy, Noida)
STUDY, USE AND CONSERVATION OF BRICK

The two-day hands on practical workshop was organized in collaboration with Sri Venkateshwara College of Architecture, Hyderabad on 21 – 22 November for 123 students. They were introduced to key heritage issues and practical challenges arising in the use of brick and conservation in historic buildings.

The Chief Guest was Director Archaeology and Museums, Telengana, N.R. Visalatchy who inaugurated the workshop. Convenor Anuradha Reddy and grand-daughter of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao S. Vani Devi who is the owner of the Institute, along with senior State Government Officials were present.

CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE

PD IHA Navin Piplani was invited as Guest of Honour to participate in the 2-day Consultative Dialogue on Cultural Landscape, Mixed and Transboundary Heritage Sites. It was organized by the UNESCO Category 2 Centre on Natural World Heritage Management and Training (NWHMT) for Asia Pacific Region and Wild Institute of India, Dehradun on 24th– 25th November. It explored opportunities for current and potential World Heritage Sites in various categories to enhance capacity of stakeholders for effective conservation. Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture Ravindra Singh was the Chief Guest.

PD, IHA was nominated as a member of the Expert Visit Committee of AICTE for inspection of institutes that apply for Skill Knowledge Provider under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) Scheme. He made his first visit to Jaipur on 14th November for inspection of one such Design Institute.

INTACH Scholarships - 2017

Sixty eight applications have been received for the three categories INTACH (UK) Scholarships, Research Grants and Capacity Building.

MONSOON AND CIVILISATION

Professor Vansant Shinde, Vice Chancellor of Deccan College, Pune presented the book Monsoon and Civilisation to INTACH, edited by Yoshinori Yasuda of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. It has an introduction on Discovery of Riverine Civilisations on Monsoon Asia. Climatologists across the world have studiedly tried to reconstruct past climates and their impact on human civilization from the early Stone Age. This book is about the results of interdisciplinary and integrated research carried out extensively by environmentalists, with inputs from other specialists like historians, archaeologists, geologists and other scientists. The book deals with fundamental issues of how environment and climate change have had an impact on mankind. It may act as a guide for our fast developing world.

INTACH thanks the Vice Chancellor Deccan College for this valuable addition to INTACH Library.
JAGO – A HERITAGE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

HECS has launched a new programme JAGO, with the first workshop conducted with the support of the Jaipur Chapter. Good citizenship is not only about obeying laws, paying taxes, etc. It is also about protecting environment and imbuing heritage values in future generations on par with other constitutional duties which is quintessentially the focus of this new programme. In the first phase, it covered the Western Zone with as many as 41 Convenors, Co-Convenors and Members attending the Citizenship Programme. The four sessions held on 6th-7th December at Jaipur was attended by Dr. Neeta Gulati, Skill Development Officer from the office of Rajasthan Chief Minister.

PD HECS Purnima Datt elaborated on the objectives of the training through an interactive presentation and action plan for the future. Expert resource persons Rima Hooda highlighted environmental protection in the context of good citizenship. Conservation expert P.K. Jain and Director Srishti Foundation Vivek Sharma elaborated on the best initiatives taken by civil society. Listing was explained by Nikita Kumar and Nimmi Namrata from INTACH Listing Cell in simplified terms. The Chapters received a heritage and citizenship handbook ‘Jago’ along with other HECS resource material.

On the concluding day a Heritage Walk to Jai Garh Forest, accompanied by Jaipur Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar, with the focus on traditional water management system and visionary planning was an insightful experience for the participants of this new HECS programme.

JAGO – HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP

This book highlights active citizenship through engagement with heritage, exploring the inter-linkages between heritage and citizens; the key stakeholders in the field, suggesting exercises for constructive civic engagement. The handbook is intended for school teachers, educational trainers and young learners.
TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TTW)

This is an on-going programme that HECS has been organising at different locations to maximize the training of teachers, to impart heritage education as part of their regular curricular activities. It is programmed to cover at least one school in the State, and in due course different locations in all States will be covered in collaboration and the participation of the local Chapters. PD HECS Purnima Datt conducts most of the Teacher Training Workshops to introduce the subject, and elaborates on the importance of heritage education at an early school level so that Teachers can impart the importance of heritage to the younger generation from an early stage of schooling.

Belagavi, 26th September

Co-Convenor Vinod welcomed the programme specially as it was a great leap forward for a recently inaugurated Chapter. TTW is of educational importance in a city that has a glorious ancient history of regional dynasties – the Satvahanas, Kadambas and Chalukyas and the younger generation must be made aware about this heritage. Karnataka was a major centre for growth of Jainism in the South. The Kamal Basandi, a 10th century Jain Temple, is located in Belagavi Fort. The temple is shaped like a lotus, with a Jain Tirthankar statue resting on 72 petals of the lotus. It also has a statue of Lord Neminath and brightly polished pillars of architectural value.

Lalitpur, 14th-15th October

The TTW had several local resource persons speaking on issues that have been crippling Lalitpur and the necessary steps required to overcome these problem. Resource persons Shiva Rawat and Abhishek Das from HECS Delhi made the presentation on teachers training. It concluded with a visit to Deogarh, a famous heritage site on the banks of Betwa River. There are numerous Jain temples, the Dashavatara Temple and caves with rock art around the exquisite Deogarh Fort premises.

Nagapattinam, 10th-11th November

In collaboration with the Tamil Nadu State Chapter, the TTW was held at the Prime College of Architecture and Planning, Kilvelur. Its Assistant Professor A. Gavaskar spoke on the relevance of heritage education in a curriculum with the teachers brainstorming on the subject. There was also a cultural performance by the students. INTACH team availed the opportunity to visit the Tsunami Monument erected in memory of lives lost during the 2004 tsunami when Nagapattinam was the worst hit coastal town.
**Santiniketan, 21st November**

The TTW was held at the Patha Bhavana, Visvabharati University attended by several teachers from schools and colleges. Convenor Sushmita Roy addressed the gathering, while HECS team Abhishek Das and Bashobi Banerjee conducted the technical sessions with a presentation on the *Heritage of India*, and on Heritage Clubs and innovative plans for teaching modules.

**NPSC, Delhi, 23rd November**

HECS was invited to participate in the National Progressive Schools Conference at Army Public School. PD Purnima Datt gave a purview of various areas of work within INTACH and in particular HECS Division. The various educational programmes launched across the country at Chapter locations has attracted considerable interest and participation.

**Karauli, 29th November**

Convenor Shivraj Pal Singh Rao made a presentation on the homogenous local culture, one of the hidden gems of Rajasthan, to a large group of teachers from local schools. HECS technical team Shivaa Rawat and Bashobi Banerjee from Delhi highlighted some valuable and innovative lesson plans for both teachers and students. A heritage walk was organized to the Circuit House in Karauli built during British times.

**COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (CHVP)**

This is another successful on-going HECS programme to sensitise college youth in a nationwide movement to protect national heritage, held at Chapters jointly with HECS.

**Gangtok, 4th October**

Organised jointly by the Sikkim Chapter and HECS, Madhya Pradesh Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari inaugurated the programme at the Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School. Both students and their faculty members from six colleges attended in large numbers.

**Varanasi, 21st October**

The Chapter held the programme at the Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha. Heritage conservationist cum architect Mudita Agrawal outlined the heritage of Varanasi, with its ghats, river front palaces, temples, mosques, tombs and kunds; its private and public architecture. The Ganga River has in fact defined and determined the heritage of Varanasi. The concluding musical programme by Associate Professor of the Department of Music Dr.
Meenu Swarvandana Sharma captivated the audience.

**Gwalior, 22nd November**

MP Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari inaugurated the CHVP Workshop at the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) attended by a large number of faculty and students. IITTM Asst. Professor cum INTACH Heritage Tourism Committee Member Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari and PD HECS addressed the gathering, followed by nodal officer Saurabh Dixit who also spoke on volunteerism as an important youth contribution to the nation.

**Jammu, 14th December**

A College Volunteer Workshop was organised on 14th December at Central University, Jammu with nearly 100 students from various Departments participating along with some School Students. The introductory talk by Convenor Saleem Beg and Prof. Aima was on heritage values and how students could become guardians of their heritage and society. Dr. Sudhir Singh also gave a brief talk on Dogra art and culture.

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP, 18TH NOVEMBER**

HECS hosted the *My City My Heritage* at Central Office. A competition was held for Middle School students of 43 public and private Delhi schools. HECS proposes to promote this successful programme across the country in over 100 cities given the popular interest it has drawn, in collaboration with the local INTACH Chapters.

**THEATRE AND DASTANGOI WORKSHOP, 24TH NOVEMBER**

The Workshop was held as part of the *Heritage Week* celebrations. PD Purnima Datt initiated a discussion on what heritage meant to the young people, that led to a discussion on INTACH logo and its symbolism. Resource persons Feisal Alkazi and Fouzia from the Theatre and *Dastangi* respectively interacted with the students who had already participated in both Theatre and *Dastangoi* Workshops and they shared their respective experiences. In the final session both groups came together to present their compositions and showcase their workshop experience and their versatile talent. It was an extraordinary experience for the students to discover the ‘classic flavour’ of Delhi.

**CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP, 25TH NOVEMBER**

HECS organized this workshop at Delhi with a large participation from Delhi schools, and an introduction to the art of calligraphy. Delhi Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle, who has extensively researched history of 19th century Delhi,
took the students to some monuments that have fine examples of Arabic and Persian calligraphy. Professional calligraphist Mohammad Zubair and his team supervised the first hand experience of the students in learning Urdu calligraphy.

NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2016, STATE FINALS

This is a very popular on-going all-India HECS programme that has garnered great interest of students everywhere.

Jamnagar, Gujarat, 11th September

Jagrutibai Rana conducted the Quiz at the local Parsi Agiary, overseen by Convenor Suren Tyagi and Members Nishita Anjaria and Yashi Kumari Jadeja. Co-Convenor Nilesh Dave spoke on heritage conservation and turning kitchen waste into compost. Participants received the Gujarati Virasat Apna Haath Ma and other HECS material and the Jamnagar Chapter mug. They were also taken on heritage tour.

Amritsar, Punjab, 3rd October

Punjab Chapter organized the State level Heritage Quiz at the Sri Guru Harikrishan Public School for the participating teams selected through a series of city level rounds in Punjab. It commenced with a recitation of the ‘shabad’ by the students of the host school.

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 4th October

The Chapter hosted the State Final Round at the Sankara Vidyashramam School, presided by State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh. Sachin Vinayak and S. Bharat of Chinmaya Vidhyalaya Senior Secondary School were declared the winners.

Gurugram, Haryana, 4th October

Media professional Kiran Mohan conducted the State Level Heritage Quiz. She is a senior news coordinator and photo editor who has also worked as picture researcher. Aarti Bansal and Nimit Shrivastva from DAV Public School were declared the winners, while Anna Raj and Vikas Kumar Vikrant from Gurukul School Kurukshetra were the runners up.

Jodhpur, Rajasthan, 22, October

The Chapter organized the State Final at the Mehrangarh
Fort with winning teams from the city rounds from Jaipur, Barmer, Udaipur, Karauli and Jodhpur participating. The Karauli team won the final round judged by Dr. Aidan Singh Bhati and Manohar Singh Rathore.

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, 16th November

Convenor Ashok Kapoor and the Director of Little Flower House Nalin Gulati addressed the students. Quiz master Nirmal Joshi adjudged the host school team as the winners of the State round.

City Round, Kolkata, 9th December

Chapter Member Ayan Ghosh conducted this city round at the Asutosh Birth Centenary Hall of the Indian Museum, with Anubhab Sarkar from the APJ Public School and Farhan Ali Jafri from South City International School winning the first and second places respectively.

MY CITY, MY HERITAGE – AN ESSAY AND PAINTING COMPETITION

This is another on-going outreach programme held by HECS in schools across the country. To date 103 Chapters have sent HECS the Posters collected from their respective areas. They are a documentation of architecture, places of worship, flora, fauna, crafts, customs, living legends, etc. captured by children in paintings and collages. Some that were converted into posters have been sent to 2500 INTACH Heritage Clubs. During the current quarter this heritage awareness programme was held at Delhi on 18th November; at Warangal on 25th November and at Mumbai on 24th November with a sizable number of students and schools participating.

Delhi, 18th November

The competition in Delhi was organised during the World Heritage Week on 18th November at INTACH Office. 119 students from 43 schools across the city participated in the competition making it a huge success.

Warangal, 25th November:

The Warangal Chapter organised the My City My Heritage Competition for 281 students from 25 schools of the city as part of Heritage Week Celebrations.

Mumbai, 24th November

Seven schools with a total of 58 students participated in the programme organised by the Mumbai Chapter at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum. An expert in architecture, literature, Indian aesthetics and cultural studies Kaiwan Mehta was the Guest Speaker.

Principal Director Purnima Datt has warmly thanked all the Chapters who have participated in making these various INTACH programmes both successful and in great demand at other locations. HECS Newsletter is now published in several regional languages, the latest being the Tamil and Telugu editions.
The Annual Workshop of all State Convenors usually held to coincide with INTACH Foundation Day is scheduled this year on 9th-10th Feb. 2017. State Convenors are requested to forward their suggestion for the Workshop and suggest topics, names of expert/resource persons for the interactive session. They are also requested to confirm their attendance and intimate the arrival/departure details at the earliest to facilitate arrangements for their accommodation.

ANIRUDH BHARGAVA AWARD

INTACH announces that the tri-annual Anirudh Bhargava – INTACH Environment Award will now be given annually. It is awarded for exemplary contribution to the protection of environment/natural heritage comprising a cash grant of Rs.50,000/- with a citation and memento. It may please be noted that the last date for nominations to be received at INTACH is 28th February 2017.

The 32nd Annual General Body Meeting will be held on 18th March 2017 at INTACH Central Office

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

A non-competitive Documentary, Short and Animal Film Festival ‘MIFF in Andamans’ was inaugurated on 22nd December by the Deputy Commissioner Udit Prakash Rai as Chief Guest. Padmashree Naresh Chandra Lal, Manager Films Division Sumay Mukherjee, and veteran theatre artiste Geetanjali Acharya who is also member of the Andaman Island Films Society (AIFS) graced the occasion. A Press Conference was held at Megapode Nest heralding the 20 award winning films that were screened over the three days festival. Films from Romania, UK, Australia, Bangladesh and India, in addition to award winning documentary, short and animation films from the Mumbai Festival were exhibited. Convenor Samitha Acharya briefed the audience about the films as she is also a AIFS member. She made special mention of Little Terrorist, a 15 minutes film directed by Ashvin Kumar which was nominated for the 2005 Oscar Awards in the short film category. It was a wonderful opportunity for the islanders and youth in particular to see these rare films.

ANDHRA PRADESH

State Convenor Andhra Pradesh and Telengana M. Gopalakrishna was awarded the Dean Paul H Appleby Award, for distinguished services. The presentation by Governor of Karnataka and President of IIPA T.N. Chaturvedi was held on 21st October. INTACH heartily congratulates him on this honour.

East Godavari

CONDOLENCES

Former Convenor and senior most Kakinada Chapter Member Dr. T. Rajya Lakshmi Garu passed away on 24th November at the age of eighty-five years old. A graduate of Madras Presidency College, Life Member Dr. Rajya Lakshmi was the first researcher at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. She received her doctorate on Marine Life from an American University. She retired as a well known senior scientist and Director CIBA. She was Director of Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture. Her indefatigable energy drove her to establish a NGO Society for the Development of Integrated Coastal Areas Management (SDICAM) that conducted case studies on marine life. She also fought for the Koringa Wildlife Sanctuary near Kakinada, and for protection...
of the Eastern Ghats.

Dr. Rajya Lakshmi was the grand-daughter of the first Vice Chancellor of Madras University Raghupati Venkata Ratnam Naidu who led the Brahmo Samaj movement in Kakinada. After his death she continued to lead the movement, besides running the monthly magazine Dharma Jyoti. She was indeed a lady of many parts, who left us after even donating her body to the Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada. Dr. Lakshmi will be deeply mourned by the Chapter and all who came in contact with her.

Machilipatnam

Shri Udatu Srinivasa Rao is appointed Convenor of the Chapter. INTACH warmly welcomes him into our fold. We extend our congratulations and many good wishes for his success.

Srikakulam

World Tourism Day was celebrated in collaboration with District Tourism Promotion Council and the NGO Sampradayam. Convenor Dharmarao Dusi gave the keynote address inaugurating the cultural performances.

The Chapter hopes to preserve and revitalize the traditional dance form - Thoorpu Bhagavatam (Bhamakalapam). Presently there are only two known dancers of this performing art. INTACH wrote to the Central University, Hyderabad to introduce it in their curriculum. A proposal was also sent to the Sangeet Naatak Academy for funds to establish a dance academy to preserve the tradition of Thoorpu Bhagavatam.

The Convenor’s enduring works are ‘Srikakulam: A Story on Stone; History and Culture of Kalinga Andhra; Rasa Tarangini, among other works in addition to several travelogues as an intrepid globetrotter. He has unfailingly promoted INTACH mission and vision through multifarious activities as INTACH Convenor making heritage his mission in life. The Hindu recently reported that the “writings of Dursi Dharmarao – a prolific writer, essayist, lyricist and social worker, belong to that rare category. This septuagenarian has been a tireless chronicler of the cultural history of North Coastal Andhra and Srikakulm District in particular.” He also has many interesting publications on heritage subjects, including music, theatre and dance to his credit.

The Convenor was instrumental in the restoration of Upnishmandiram, a library of ancient works in Srikakulam. Many decades ago when he discovered an elementary school at Matham Sariapalli Village catering to 34 surrounding villages, he upgraded it to High School collecting funds by knocking on every door in the villages. With the same indefatigable spirit he is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Telugu Literature on classical poets of northern coastal Andhra!

He has drawn INTACH attention to Folk Arts of Uttarandhara that are rich and colourful strands in the cultural tapestry of Andhra Pradesh and need to be protected and preserved.

Artistes felicitated by District Magistrate and Convenor Dharmarao

Chenchu Bhagotham

Dr. Rajya Lakshmi was the grand-daughter of the first Vice Chancellor of Madras University Raghupati Venkata Ratnam Naidu who led the Brahmo Samaj movement in Kakinada. After his death she continued to lead the movement, besides running the monthly magazine Dharma Jyoti. She was indeed a lady of many parts, who left us after even donating her body to the Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada. Dr. Lakshmi will be deeply mourned by the Chapter and all who came in contact with her.
**Visakhapatnam**

Shri P.V. Prasad is appointed Convenor of the Visakhapatnam Chapter. INTACH wishes him every success in his new assignment with all good wishes.

**ASSAM**

INTACH welcomes Dr. Aradhana Kataki as the new Convenor of the Dibrugarh Chapter. She will be supported by Prof. Himadri Burman as the Co-Convenor. We warmly welcome them to INTACH and wish them every success in their assignments.

**BIHAR**

INTACH is pleased that the Patna Metropolitan Planning Committee has been set up. It appeals to the Minister for Urban Development to convene a meeting of the PMPC at the earliest with regard to setting up a Bihar State Urban Arts and Heritage Commission. A request had also been made for updating the District Gazetteers of Bihar. It also been appealed to the Human Rights Commission emphasizing greater attention to the cultural, social and economic rights. INTACH welcomes the declaration of the Nalanda University as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

**Darbhanga**

Dr. Nawin Kumar Agrawal is appointed the new Convenor of the Chapter. He will be assisted by Dr. Muneshwar Yadav as the Co-Convenor of the Chapter. We wish them both a very successful stint with INTACH. And every success in the heavy responsibilities of serving and promoting cultural heritage.

The historical Mithila Region is home to several historic landmarks. Many had to be rebuilt after the devastating 1934 earthquake. Some of the most prominent buildings are the Anand Bagh Palace that now houses a Sanskrit University. The Raj Palace is now the Lalit Narayan Mithila University. The Narrgouna Palace is converted into the Jilla School and Hospital, etc. Darbhanga is a historic city associated with the legendary royal Darbhanga Raj that built fabulous forts and palaces adding a deep layer to the history of Bihar. Darbhanga is all set to get a boost with INTACH having formally opened a Chapter on 25th November by Chairman L.K. Gupta.

**DELHI**

Ms. Swapna Liddle is well known for the heritage walks she has been conducting for INTACH as its Co-Convenor. We now welcome her as the new Convenor of Delhi Chapter and wish her further success in her added responsibilities.

INTACH also welcomes Ms. Anita Singh as the Co-Convenor of the Delhi Chapter. She has been long associated with INTACH, and is well known for her assignments at INTACH. She is a Member of the Governing Council with a formidable reputation for her many contributions to the Patiala Music festivals and musical soires in Delhi in particular.

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH is greatly saddened by the passing away of Lt. General (Retd) S.K. Sinha, PVSM. He was one of our Founder Members and greatly respected by all who came in contact with him after his career in the armed forces. A Prayer Meeting was held on 20th November at the United Services Institute (USIS) attended by many friends and officers. INTACH sent its condolences to Smt. Premini Sinha and other members of his family. We wish them strength and forbearance in this time of sorrow. With our good wishes.

Delhi suffered another major loss in the passing away of our eminent Founder Member Professor M.G.K. Menon. He was also Life Trustee of the India International Centre and its President for two terms. A Memorial Meeting with devotional songs by Radhika Chopra and Dr. Shruti Sadolikar was held at IIC Fountain Lawns that was thronged by so many of his friends and admirers. INTACH extends condolences to the Menon Family members and our good wishes for the future.
Heritage Cover for Delhi

The capital city has been described as “the most polluted city in the world”, hopefully one of the most polluted to take a kinder view. The Delhi authorities are now giving natural heritage its long overdue importance. Some tree species native to the Aravalli and National Capital Region like the peepal, jamun, semal, pilkhan, shahoot, amaltas, neem, banyan, ashoka, mango, arjuna, khirni, ailanthus, etc. have been identified by the Environment Department. They will be shortly notified as “protected” on par with Delhi’s legacy of forts and tombs. Officials gave credit to the work of a tree scientist based in Tasmania (Australia) and Delhi’s Pradeep Krishen who wrote the book *Trees of Delhi: A Field Guide* that gives ready descriptions of trees. Hope sways!

Gujarat

Jamnagar

Shri Nilesh Dave is appointed as the Additional Co-Convenor of the Jamnagar Chapter. We wish him every success and a long and happy association with INTACH.

Mehsana

Convenor Javahar Mehta informs that lakhs of pedestrians visit the Ambaji Temple for darshan every year. Usually they come here from BK District, Mehsana, Patan and Aravalli. This year 7 lakh pedestrians passed through Mehsana District alone. The Chapter as usual fixed banners on the road making an appeal to save water, protect trees, and leave the place clean. The 10 banners also carried messages about conservation of monuments and saving heritage.

Haryana

Ambala

Co-Convenor Colonel R.D. Singh enthused his fellow Chapter Members to keep up the Indian tradition of serving the people. They all chipped in to help senior citizens lined up outside Banks, including women and the common man, to fill forms during the monetization crunch. They must be congratulated for this exemplary ‘volunteerism’. Col. R.D. Singh also ‘recruited’ two students from the Heritage Club of his adopted Convenor Javahar Mehta
Government School Kallarheri to serve tea prepared by his wife to the people in wait! It cheered up the bank staff who were literally burning the midnight oil to serve the queues. He and Chapter Members are congratulated for this thoughtful initiative and caring for others.

Gurugram

Convenor Atul Dev was formerly from the elite Parachute Regiment of the Army, and a recipient of the President’s Silver Medal, the Governor’s Gold Medal for services rendered in the North East. He is a veteran soldier who has seen active service in three wars fought by the Indian Army as an officer of the Regiment of Artillery. Post army service he worked as a journalist and technocrat with many interests and added many more honours to his credit. INTACH is proud to have him as our Convenor.

One more feather to his cap is his recent appointment as President of the Aero Club of India (ACI). This is a prestigious assignment as the Aero Club is the National Sports Federation for all Indian air sports including aeromodeling, ballooning, gliding, hang gliding, paragliding, parachuting and rotorcraft. INTACH heartily congratulate him on his latest appointment.

The Convenor reports that the last batch of participants of the Heritage Club Teachers Training Programme completed the first part of the training. It concluded with a Heritage Walk to Farrukhnagar on 10th December after a preliminary briefing held at the GD Goenka Public School, as a second part of the training. Members of the Gurugram Chapter were also invited to participate in this programme.

Palwal

Chairman L.K. Gupta visited the newly established Palwal Chapter on 6th November. It was originally a sub-Chapter of Faridabad, but attained the status of an independent Chapter earlier this year.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

State Convenor Maalvika Pathania attended a Conference at Vienna, Austria on Crossing Borders - Recent Developments in Research and Conservation in India. She presented a paper on the work of INTACH in the field of conservation in Himachal Pradesh. It was inaugurated by the head of the Indian Embassy in Vienna and attended by many notable researchers and Gabriela Christ who heads the University at Vienna.

Kangra

Convenor L.N. Aggarwal organized a Painting Competition for students at the Industrial Training Institute. He motivated the students and inspired the faculty as well to join INTACH and serve the cause of heritage conservation. It received a good coverage in the local media. The Convenor honoured Principal Kireat Singh of the Industrial Training Institute, Dharamshala where a painting competition was organized for its students. The Convenor motivated the participating students to join INTACH to spread heritage awareness across the well endowed Himachal Pradesh. The Chapter awarded three students who had participated in INTACH programme that was well covered by the local media, and much appreciated by the Principal.
Mandi

The Chapter is instrumental in reviving the traditional practice of Deep Daan at the ghats of Beas River as part of Panch Bhikhi Ekadasi celebrations. There was an overwhelming response to the event with more than 500 people participating this year. Keeping environmental concerns in mind, diyas made out of wheat flour were used which later serve as fish feed. Hope floats for environmental care!

Diyas floated by the devotees

In collaboration with the Chapter, the Department of Tourism and Travel management, Central University of Jammu organized a Orientation Programme on Heritage Awareness for Student Volunteers. It was presided by Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu Prof. Ashok Aima who emphasized on the need for heritage conservation in the State. State Convenor Salim Beg informed that delegates from across Departments of Central University of Jammu and Schools were participating in this programme. Environmentalist Prof. Sudhir Singh, historian Dr. Lalit Gupta, Convenor S.M. Sahni and PD HECS also addressed the gathering. Resource persons J.B. Altaf Hussain, Satwant Singh Rissan and Dr. Suresh Abrol addressed the six technical sessions covering the State's built, living and natural heritage. The entire proceedings were conducted by Dr. Bharti Gupta, Dr. Poonam Gupta and coordinated by Manjeet Singh.

The Kashmir Chapter restored the papier mache ceiling of the Diwan-i-Khas at Shalimar Bagh, which opened to the public in time for the tourist season. The project was funded by the Embassy of Germany and inaugurated by

JAMMU & KASHMIR

State Convenor Saleem Beg forwarded the first e-Newsletter of the Chapter which was published in November. It analyses the problems and suggests solutions faced by human settlements in areas like the artificial glaciers of Ladakh; the shrinking and negligence of the Khushhal Sar that stretches from Zoonimar to Aali Masjid; and the demarcation of 200 meter zone periphery from Dal and Nigeen Lakes.
its Ambassador Dr. Martin Ney. The conservators of this project had been trained at ICI Delhi earlier. The documentation of the work was also undertaken simultaneously.

This pleasure garden, laid out during the time of Mughal Emperor Jehangir, was a gift to his beloved queen Nur Jehan. It has been on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2010. Much work however remains to be done on other ceilings and the naqashi work before it makes the mark. The Chapter hopes for more such international cooperation in restoration of Kashmir’s rich heritage in terms of both the man-made and natural heritage of the State.

**SRINAGAR LAKES**

The J&K High Court has sought periodic reports on the demarcation of 200 meters zone from the periphery of the Dal and Nigeen Lakes on the basis of a PIL filed. Notices are being issued to trespassers and violators against whom cases are registered in various police stations. Several vehicles carrying illegal construction material have been impounded and action will be taken on any illegal carrying of construction material. A Scientific Advisory Commission has been constituted as well. The University of Kashmir compiled a research paper on the Dal Lake which will be published in *Limnologica* (Elsevier) that analyses the long-term bio-physical and demographic changes in Dal Lake which is situated in the heart of Srinagar. Strategies need to be evolved for restoring the ecological and hydrological health of the lake. The Khushal Sar Lake is also in need of urgent attention. Once its pristine water stretched from Zoonimar to Aali Masjid, but today it stinks due to garbage dumped by unauthorized constructions that have played havoc with its ecosystem.

In collaboration with the Chapter, the Department of Tourism and Travel Management, Central University of Jammu organized a Orientation Programme on Heritage Awareness for Student Volunteers. It was presided by Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu Prof. Ashok Aima who emphasized on the need for heritage conservation in the State. State Convenor Salim Beg informed that delegates from across Departments of Central University of Jammu and Schools were participating in this programme. Environmentalist Prof. Sudhir Singh, historian Dr. Lalit Gupta, Convenor SM Sahni and PD HECS also addressed the gathering. Resource persons Altaf Hussain, Satwant Singh Rissan and Dr. Suresh Abrol addressed the six technical sessions covering the State’s built, living and natural heritage. The entire proceedings were conducted by Dr. Bharti Gupta, Dr. Poonam Gupta and coordinated by Manjeet Singh.

**ICONIC BUDDHA IN PAKISTAN**

The J&K Newsletter reports on the 7th century Buddha statue in Pakistan’s Khyber-Pakhtukhwa Province which was defaced by the Taliban 9 years ago in 2007. It was the Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan which took upon itself its restoration with the help of the locals of Jahanabad in Swat District. The Mission said “it is our professional and moral obligation toward the people and heritage of Swat and Pakistan which forced us to restore the Buddha”. But for their five missions sustained over 2012-2016 the Buddha might have languished with damaged parts and holes drilled into the structure that sparked worldwide ire. And pained the Buddhist communities everywhere.
JHARKHAND

State Convenor Ricky Surie and Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh inform that students of Std IV-VII of the Motilal Public School, Jamshedpur were taken on a visit to Seraikela as part of heritage activities. They attended a Workshop on Saraikela Chhau Dance, and mask making. 

Hazaribagh

Convenor Bulu Imam exhibited once again this year the Khovar and Sohrai 3-dimensional paintings at an overseas gallery La Espace Callot (from 6th Oct - 26th November) photographed by Paris based Deidi Von Schaewen. She is a photographic collaborator with Taschen Publishing and has to her credit a series of important books and photographs having visited Hazaribagh tribal villages four times. The exhibition was an amalgamation of age old tribal art and modern photography highlighting mud houses of Sanskriti and remote villages in real scale.

Didi von Schaewen’s article was also published in an international interior design magazine The World of Interiors earlier, and resulted in New York based entrepreneur Laura Aviva collaborating with the Tribal Women Artists Cooperative (TWAC) to transform tribal murals into wallpaper and textiles. A unique example of Indian art applied to contemporary usages.

KARNATAKA

Dr. A. Ravindra is appointed the State Convenor of Karnataka. We warmly welcome him to the INTACH family and extend our heartiest good wishes for success in this new assignment and major responsibilities.

Bagalkot

The Chapter released the Young INTACH newsletter during a function held at the SRN Arts and MBS Commerce College, History and Archaeology P.G. Department. Chairman S.B. Satta Yanaryana did the inaugural honours, calling upon youth to actively participate in protecting the rich heritage of their country. Hon. Secretary of Vidya Prasaraka Mandal, Shrinath Malugi stressed on national patriotism, and the need to instill such sentiments from early childhood. He suggested educating rural people about the importance of heritage, and how they can also make a contribution to this national endeavour.

Convenor Dr. D.G. Kulkarni, College Principal, Dr. G.B. Kulkarni, several Chapter Members and students participated in the programme.
**Bengaluru**

Ms. Sobha Nambisan is congratulated with many good wishes on her assignment as the new Convenor of the Bengaluru Chapter.

**Dharwad**

The Chapter has received a donation of Rs.10 lakhs for the maintenance of the INTACH Museum over the next 5 years. INTACH thanks Smt. Sudha Murthy for her generous contribution and hopefully it will set an example for others to extend a helping hand for building up the Museum of this heritage town.

**DISINHERITING HERITAGE**

It is not enough to anoint a heritage house in memory of a great person. Gangubai Hangal’s House at Dharwad renovated by INTACH and Nirmithi Kendra, had been inaugurated with much fanfare in a city famous for its many musicians. Today, it is again collapsing. There is grass growing not only on the roof but under the feet of its supposed caretakers in the local administration. A dismal birth anniversary was nevertheless celebrated outside the closed house, not inside for fear of the roof collapsing! President of the Gangubai Hangal Music Foundation Manoj Hangal, her grandson, says they maintained it for three years and conducted music classes, but it was handed back to the Kannada & Culture Department along with all its musical instruments when Government funding was not forthcoming. The Rs.25 lakhs spent 7 years ago ‘has gone for a song’ alas!

**Kalaburgai**

Convenor Dr. Shambuling Wani conducted an awareness programme for school children and teachers at Kalaburgai (formerly Gulbarga) Fort, explaining the historical importance of places within the Fort. The response to this informative walk was overwhelming, with participants expressing gratitude for what was perhaps their first experience of a heritage walk. The Convenor conducted a similar walk for German tourists in October.

World Tourism Day was marked on 27th September with Dr. Wani introducing the invited guests to INTACH objectives and its multiple heritage activities. The Chief Guest Prof. B.P. Hagar spoke on the historical and cultural assets of Karnataka, with special reference to the Rashtrakuta Chalukyas and the Bahamani dynasties who ruled the region. Guest of Honour Shivarajam Satyampet, a senior reporter of the Vijaya Karnataka Kannada daily, emphasised on issues relating to tourism promotion and role of media. The historical importance of the Jama Masjid located in Kalaburgai Fort was highlighted.
Dr. Vasant Kustagi in his presidential address to Chapter Members recalled Gandhiji’s visit to Gulbarga. Teachers and students of various colleges participated in the programme anchored by Mahesh B. Dr. Shashishekar Reddy proposed the vote of thanks, and along with Dr. Wani conducted the Later Kote Dharsarna programme.

KERALA

Thrissur

Co-Convenors M.M. Vinod Kumar and P. Prem Manasvi thank coordinator Archana Vinod for the successful Heritage Walk organised on 10th December. They are heartened that INTACH efforts attracted a large number of youngsters who are aspiring to professional careers ahead. After an introductory meeting at the Railway Station, the young group proceeded to Vanchikulam, the freshwater lake in Trissur and the oldest transportation node in the city but deserted for the last 50 years. Other sites visited were the Maharaja’s Guest House, the 100 years old Arecanut Market and a historical well.

The Shri Vadakunnathan Temple Conservation Project, coordinated by Co-Convenor M.M. Vinodkumar was among the 28 chosen projects to be published in the Best Heritage Projects of Influence, Zagreb 2016. It features among the well balanced variety of public quality projects across the world striving for excellence from diverse cultures and social circumstances, and judged by an eminent jury. INTACH congratulates M.M. Vinodkumar and the Chapter for this singular success.

PULIKALI

Pulikali is a flamboyant folk art described as a tiger play in which participants are painted in black and yellow stripes of a tiger and as hunters. Together they entertain a large crowd marking the end of Onam celebrations. Usually it is staged by men, but this year three women joined 50 odd men from Viyur region, which is one of ten regions that send teams for this pageant. The Women Integration and Growth Through Sports took the initiative to field them – a fashion designer Sakkana, school teacher Divya and for good measure a sub-inspector Vinaya! The organization wants to ensure that women are present in all arenas of life and hopes many more will follow next year.

MADHYA PRADESH

Chandrapur

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur was honoured for his many contributions to heritage conservation by Union Minister of State Home Affairs Hansraj Ahir at a programme organized by the Loksewa Aani Vikas Sanstha on 20th November. INTACH heartily congratulates Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur for the singular recognition he has received for his dedicated work.

Shri Hansraj Ahir in turn was honoured by former Union Minister of State for Finance Shantaram Potdukhe. Former Minister Dr. H.V. Kalyankar, Vice Chancellor of
The Chandrapur Chapter participated in the *East Vidarbha Heritage Photography Exhibition* on 21st-23rd November held at the Chitnavis Centre, Rangayan Art Gallery in Nagpur. It was inaugurated by Shrimant Raje Mudhoji Bhosale with Divisional Commissioner Anupkumar and the President of East Vidarbha Heritage Committee Pradyumn Sahasrabhojani present. Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur informs that the exhibits portrayed the rich cultural heritage from the 1st century Satvahana dynasty to the Wakatak, Gond and Bhonsale dynasties. Several other dignitaries graced the occasion like Deputy Collector Aman Mittal, Dy. Commissioner Police Shailesh Balakwade, Director State Archaeology Virag Sontakke, among others. It was an impressive array of photographs on Chandrapur heritage – the Arpit, Pandav and Vijasan Caves, Siddheshwar and Mahakali Temples, Jal Mahal in Junona, Veershah Tomb, Bhonda Mahadev, to mention some that grabbed the attention of all visitors. Some of the photographs were taken by Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur and other Chapter Members like Pravin Nikhare, Vivek Khadse, Sangita Mahajan, and Rohit Singh Thakur. They are lauded for the popular success of this exhibition.

**Gondwana University and MLA Nana Shamkule** were present on the occasion.

Gwalior

A workshop on *Vedic Mathematics* was conducted by the Chapter with an inter-school mime competition on *International Tiger’s Day*. A *Heritage Olympiad* was also organized among several other activities. It included mental calculations without pen or paper. Additional Co-Convenor turned trainer Vikas Singh had some eager under 15 years old children participating with great interest in the evening classes. They even scored well in the surprise test the last day, which resulted in the Chapter planning to start certificate courses on Vedic Mathematics. Chapter Co-Convenor Vikas Singh was assisted by a team of Members in conducting a *Heritage Olympiad*. Interesting programmes are the best ways to educate children on heritage subjects and makes them take a lively interest.

**Dhar**

*Gandhi Jayanti* was celebrated by the Chapter with a *Clean Monument* campaign at the *Kila Parisar Fort*.

**Kila Parisar before and after cleaning drive**

Celebrating International Tiger’s Day
An inter-school mime competition had team names like Indonesian, Javan, Bengal, Siberian Tigers for their performances. State Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari participated along with wildlife photographer Sanjat Dutt Sharma. DFO Gwalior N.S. Parihar spoke about operations on the rescue of tigers by his Department.

**Jabalpur**

The Chapter organised the National Seminar and the writings of *Rai Babadur Heeralal* on 14th–15th October on the theme *Modern Context of the Writings* at the Rani Durgavati Museum. The Chief Guest RDU Vice Chancellor Kapil Dev Mishra said the late R.B. Heeralal is widely acknowledged as a scholar in a vast range of studies covering Ancient Indian History, Culture, Archaeology, Ethnology and Linguistics in Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbh and Chhattisgarh. Guest of Honour Prof. Gargi Sharan Mishra highlighted his contributions also in the field of Hindi, Manuscripts and Linguistics. Vice Chancellor of the Rani Durgavati University Prof. Kapil Dev Mishra lauded him and evaluated his writings in the modern context. A reprinted edition of his four-volume rare work on *The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces of India*, written in collaboration with RV Russell a century ago in 1915, was released. The *Jabalpur Ateet Darshan* written by former Jabalpur Convenor the late Dr. M.C. Choubey jointly with former Commissioner M.M. Upadhyay, was also released on the occasion. In conclusion of the Seminar, a Resolution was passed that a research institute devoted to Indological Studies be established in memory of the late Rai Bahadur Hiralal at Jabalpur by the Madhya Pradesh Government, similar to the *Wakankar Shodh Saamstan* at Bhopal. The event was widely covered by the local media and Press.

An impressive number of papers by eminent scholars from Nagpur, Bhopal, Raipur, Sagar, Khairagarh, Gwalior, Indore, Mandla and Ujjain were presented at the Seminar and will be published as a monograph shortly. An exhibition of Copper Age tools and other antiquities preserved by Member Dr. Ajay Jaiswal was exhibited at the venue. Member K.P. Pandey also had his collection...
of coins and antiquities found in Tripuri on display at another location.

**Rewa**

A meeting to enlighten the Dhabawalas of Govindgarh, town near to the world’s first White Tiger Safari, for keeping the hygiene levels up was taken by Maharaja Pushpraj Singh on 26th Dec 2016.

It evoked a very good response as about 10 owners of Dhabas attended.

They were told mainly about how to keep the fronts of their Dhaba protected from dust, garbage management using garbage pits, waste disposal etc.

**World Heritage Week 2016**

Mumbai Chapter celebrated *World Heritage Week* on 19th-25th November with a variety of events organised for INTACH Members and supporters to encourage the preservation of cultural heritage and monuments in the city. It organised a Walk of the Vasai Fort on 19th November led by Pascal R. Lopes who is a local resident of Vasai and covered the salient areas in two hours time.

Mumbai Conservation Lab hosted a very interesting workshop on ‘Conserving Everyday Objects’ on 20th November. It covered the basics of conserving everyday objects like clothes, photographs, books and paintings. It included presentations on ‘Handling and Storage’ and ‘Preventive Conservation’ of Indian miniature paintings and ‘Care of Rare Books’ led by Kirti Joshi and Pranjula Singh. They explained the steps taken when handling and storing these objects. The participants also tried their hands at techniques in preventive conservation. The session concluded with an active discussion with participants.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**Mumbai**

On October 23rd, 25 participants explored Indian legal history with a *Walk of the Mumbai High Court* with Rajan Jayakar engaging with his tales of real incidents. They visited the High Court Museum and Room No. 46 that has an actual set up of the existent historic Court. Co-Convenor Rajan Jayakar is a solicitor by profession, and one of the foremost collectors of memorabilia in India today. Among other accomplishments, he is the man behind setting up the Museum at the Bombay High Court and the Madras High Court.

**Members Program**

A program – *For the Member, By the Member* was held on 21st November with Member Ramchandran Venkatesh sharing his observation on the heritage structures in the city through a presentation.

The Chapter hopes to hold such programmes regularly, whereby Members are encouraged to share their
presentations through talks and short films on heritage structures, traditions and areas of the city sharing common interests.

Heritage Walk of the Old Financial District and Monetary Museum

The Chapter hosted 19 participants for a Heritage Walk of the Old Financial District on November 23rd, before the office goers hit their respective offices. It was organised in collaboration with Sifra Lentin, Adjunct Fellow, Mumbai History (Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations) and the Curator of Mumbai RBI Monetary Museum P.V. Radhakrishnan. It was the first group to be allowed inside the Museum of the Central Bank of India, Mumbai.

A Curator for a Day

The Chapter concluded World Heritage Week with a collaborative event with Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum on 25th November. Three BMC schools, Motishah Secondary School (Marathi Medium) participated with 18 bright students. Curatorial Associate Ruta Waghmare explained the curatorial process at the Museum, followed by a hands-on activity reflecting the workshop theme Become a Curator for a Day. The children were explained the basics of curation through the Museum showcases. They drew a selection of object they would like to put in a Museum.

Fossil Making

The INTACH Mumbai Chapter conducted a Puppet Making Workshop with 50 students from Fazlani Academic Globale as part of their curriculum including civilisations.
and societies, connections between the past and the present line of enquiry. And a series of programmes were held during the festive season like Children's Film Festival, and workshops for adults as well.

**Solapur**

Life Member Kishoreji Chandak held an exhibition related to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary on 2nd October. The Chapter is in constant dialogue with Smart City CEO and his team for the restoration and reuse of heritage structures of the core city identified for urban retrofitting.

The Chapter took part in a lifestyle exhibition *Anuriya* on products made of traditional materials and local craft on 14th-20th October which received a good public response. Heritage Week was marked by Convenor’s travelogue presentation on World Heritage Sites Macchu Picchu, Galapagos Islands and Christ the Redeemer at Rio de Janeiro that he had recently visited. On 18th November Dr. Shrikant Patankar made a similar presentation on Tokyo and Kyoto at the Rotary Clubs of Solapur.
Convenor Vanita Jadhav forwarded an exquisitely brought out catalogue on Wai titled *Soul in Stone*, with its many temples and sculptures beautifully capturing the rich heritage of the place. It is a catalogue of the exhibition held by J.S. Jadhav. It was inaugurated by renowned Marathi film actress Mashura Velankar-Satam on 16th - 22nd November at the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai.

**ODISHA**

During INTACH Chairman’s visit on 7th–10th December for the Orissa State Chapter Meeting, he reviewed the work of all Chapters in the State, with each of them making a presentation of their Chapter’s work. Convenors from Balasore, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sonepat presented their work. Most of them are engaged in documentation of neglected monuments. The *Municipalika* initiative covers Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri. Chairman was pleased to know that some Chapters like Cuttack and Sambalpur took the initiative in getting conservation projects. He was also impressed with the conservation work of the ICI Centre in Bhubaneswar which he visited. It is engaged in executing several projects for the State Government.

Convenor Bijendra Narayan welcomed Prof. Dr. Priyambada Mahanty, the first Odissi dancer to present its classical form overseas and the Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University graced the occasion. Chairman released the book *My Odiya Kitchen* written in English jointly by Usharani Tripathy and Dr. Mohanty. There was a presentation on the documentary *Bondas of Koraput*, a DVD of which was presented to Chairman. State Convenor A.B. Tripathy made a presentation on INTACH activities in the State. Chairman in response emphasized the importance of public participation in preserving heritage, citing the example of Dharwad Chapter that succeeded in getting a building allotted for a Museum collection that has now become a public attraction. Co-Convenor Ramhari Jena gave the vote of thanks concluding the meeting.

Chairman L.K. Gupta also held informal discussions with State Convenor A.B. Tripathy, Bhubaneswar Convenor S.K. Bijayendra Narayan and State Advisory Council member Anant Mahapatra. The following day the formal meeting with Odisha Convenors was held at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Chairman inaugurated a photograph exhibition on the conservation achievements of the local branch of INTACH ICI conducted by its Director Mallika Mitra.

Chairman availed of this tour to visit the Konarak and Jaganath Temples, Chilka Lake and the Buddhist sites in Jajpur District. He is of the view that the 7th–13th century Ratnagiri deserves to be a *World Heritage Site* after it is fully excavated. INTACH will be putting up a proposal to first develop it as a major tourist site in Odisha.

Chairman welcomed Prof. Dr. Priyambada Mahanty, the first Odissi dancer to present its classical form overseas and the Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University graced the occasion. Chairman released the book *My Odiya Kitchen* written in English jointly by Usharani Tripathy and Dr. Mohanty. There was a presentation on the documentary *Bondas of Koraput*, a DVD of which was presented to Chairman. State Convenor A.B. Tripathy made a presentation on INTACH activities in the State. Chairman in response emphasized the importance of public participation in preserving heritage, citing the example of Dharwad Chapter that succeeded in getting a building allotted for a Museum collection that has now become a public attraction. Co-Convenor Ramhari Jena gave the vote of thanks concluding the meeting.

Chairman L.K. Gupta also held informal discussions with State Convenor A.B. Tripathy, Bhubaneswar Convenor S.K. Bijayendra Narayan and State Advisory Council member Anant Mahapatra. The following day the formal meeting with Odisha Convenors was held at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Chairman inaugurated a photograph exhibition on the conservation achievements of the local branch of INTACH ICI conducted by its Director Mallika Mitra.

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Berhampur

On 2nd November thirty persons attended a meeting convened by Convenor Dr. Sudhanshu Pati at Behrampur in preparation for Chaper’s Annual Day. The fast disappearing state of heritage sites was the main focus of the discussions. In particular the sad state of Pottagada was discussed at length. It was decided to resume the listing work on priority that had been started under the late Prof. Prahllad Panda. Dr. Karatik Rout, former History Professor and an eminent writer would be assisted by Alka Tripathy in the listing work. It is proposed to hold an interactive session on Orissa Municipal Act, Orissa Development Act, and the National Monument Act and Heritage Sites as reported by Co-Convenor S.K. Padhi.

It is interesting to know that the first cinema hall in Orissa was located in Berhampur way back in 1927. Founder Member Ranjit Patnaik, and others Members Natybit Raju Padhy, A.K. Mohanty, Dr. Sharma and Alka Tripathy have voluntarily taken on the task of spreading the INTACH message in schools and among local people.

Bhubaneswar

The Chapter celebrated Annual Day. A series of meetings preceded the event to discuss programmes and activities to be taken up in 2017. The focus will be on the state of “fading heritage sites”. Former Prof. Kartik Rout, who is also an eminent writer with vast knowledge of the history and heritage of these places, will take up listing assisted by Alka Tripathy. The work of disseminating INTACH message and work, and visits to heritage will be assigned to other Members. Pertinent subjects like Orissa Municipal Act, Orissa Development Act and National Monument Act and Heritage Sites, will be the focus of special attention.

CONDOLENCES

Bhubaneswar Chapter lost two of its prominent Members, and their sad demise in quick succession during the month of August has been a great loss to the Chapter. The Chapter held condoleance meetings in their memory and deeply mourned their dual loss.

Founder Member Prof. Prahallad Panda passed away on 2nd August sadly after a prolonged illness. He had taken the responsibility for listing of Ganjam District which remains to be completed. A few days later the Chapter lost another valuable Chapter Member. Ganjam’s noted artist cum painter Dr. Deenanath Pathi passed away unexpectedly.

INTACH extends its deepest sympathies to the two family members on their bereavement, and extends our condolences and good wishes for the future.

Jajpur

The Chapter marked World Tourism Day with Principal Director DRD Maheswar Panigrahi as the Chief Guest and the Sub-Collector as their Guest of Honour. Chapter Senior Advisor Prafulla Chandra presided the meeting, with Advisor Dr. Ekadashi Padhi as the Chief Speaker.
They both elaborated on the importance of tourism for their local economy. Chapter Member Dr. Rajkishore Panda offered some valuable suggestions to activate some programmes in this sector that was appreciated by the Chapter Members.

On the occasion of 15th October Gopabandhu Jyoti, the Chapter played a prominent role in organizing a rally to welcome the Jyoti from the Viraja Temple covering two-and-half kms. distance, culminating at the district headquarter Goutam Buddha Samskruti Bhavan. The District Magistrate was the Chief Guest for the event. Prof. Radharaman Das, Suresh Ch. Mantri, Dr. Pravas Acharaya and Manoj Kumar Jena were some of the local luminaries who also addressed the gathering. Convenor Balaram Mohanty thanks Ananda Sahoo, the correspondent of the Odia Daily, a paper that has consistently espoused the heritage cause and organized this event. The occasion provided an opportunity for Chapter Members to have meaningful interactions with the special invitees.

The Boita Bandana Utsava, an important Odisha festival was also observed on 8th-14th November. It is held in commemoration of hardy Odia seafarers who once upon a time braved the sea on vessels driven by wind power during the full moon month of Kartika only to return before Diwali the next year! It is now observed by floating paper canoes, but with much pomp and ceremony! Recitations
security concerns. There is an urgent need for Government intervention to bring the tourist potential of the region to public attention. It is regrettable that a private party rather than the Tourism Office is the contact point for tourists which needs remedial action.

In his keynote address journalist Paresh Rath touched on the natural assets of the region, tribal festivals, Jeypore Palace and the historical temples and places with an audio visual presentation. He narrated how travel played an important part during Ramayana and Mahabharat days, and also in pre-British times. Former Principal Narayan Panda presided the session with presentations on Eco-Tourism in Koraput Region by Professor of Tribal Studies Jagabandhu and of researcher Sriranga Nayak of Bissam Cuttack on Places of Historical Tourism in Koraput Region.

The Chapter celebrated a Cultural Heritage Week in November encouraged by the interest sparked by the Conference.

Koraput

The workshop on Potentialities of Tourism in Koraput was held at Jypore with Co-Convenor Shantakar welcoming the eminent guests at the inauguration. In his presidential address Convenor P.C. Mohapatro drew attention to Kechala as an important tourism destination that needs attention of the authorities. Sub-Collector Md. Azfar concurred that Korapur region has natural resources and historical places that need promotion by the Government. Former Collector Godadhar Parida was of the same view. During his tenure he took the risk of enabling some Ambassadors to attend the PARAB Festival despite

of Bhagavad Gita, Dharmastra, etc. are held and bhajans are sung. The functions on all seven days was attended by Chapter Members and local dignitaries.

Mayurbhanj

A heritage tour was planned by the Chapter to the 18th century temple in Merumatha. The temple architecture is predominantly lime and sand mixture and is very popular with the tourists. 30 students participated in the event and were a part of the heritage quiz held at the premises.

Sambalpur

In follow up of the Chapter’s persistent efforts, the district administration took up eviction and clearance
of the surrounding of Rani Mahal which was heavily encroached. In the first phase restoration work has commenced on this 17th century monument. The District Administration have initiated fund allocation from the State Government. The royal palace of Raja Bakri, larger in size than the 17th century Rani Mahal, is heavily encroached. The District Administration has allocated funds for its restoration. The royal Palace of Raja Bakri has a number of rampart watch towers and have been vandalised. At the initiative of the Chapter the Rani Mahal a neglected structure, was cleared of vegetation with the participation of the civic authorities, cultural enthusiasts, and voluntary citizenry. There are a series of rampart watch towers that have been vandalised and encroached. At the initiative of the Chapter a few of these have been restored. The paintings within the Mahal are also in dire need of restoration. Sambalpur has many other tourist attractions like the Veer Surendra Town Hall (earlier called Victoria Town Hall), and the European Cemetery. The Chapter has organized various events to bring about public awareness of their heritage and proposes to seek the advice of Central Office to further the conservation work that is presently on-going.

PUNJAB

Amritsar

The iconic street running from Bharawan Das Dhaba to the Golden Temple used to be cluttered by rickshaw-pullers, hawkers and vendors of Amritsar specialties, that had visitors straggling to the Harmandir Temple. Today this one kilometer stretch feels like a stroll down heritage street, starting from the old Town Hall that now houses the Partition Museum, going towards the historic Jallianwala Bagh, and ending at the most golden Golden Temple.

Three years ago an architectural competition was held by
Convenor Nirvana Bodhisattva informs that Guards from Police and Nagar Parishad participated in the Shraamdan and the Quiz organized by the Chapter. Teams of the Slumboys Cricket Tournament and other children from Advaita Garden School also participated in the event held on 6th November at the historic Moosi Maharani ki Chhatri, a historical monument near Sagar and the City Palace surrounded by hills and forest. The youngsters also participated in the quiz competition.

The details of this renovation work sent by the Chapter is a lesson for all who harbor any doubts on the subject, especially government funded organisations. In the long run heritage conservation pays for itself. One hears that Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi hopes for a similar transformation.

**Jalandhar**

Major General Balwinder Singh is appointed the Convenor of the new Chapter. Shri Ajit Pal Singh is appointed as the Co-Convenor of this new Jalandhar Chapter. INTACH wishes them every success in promoting heritage conservation and breaking new grounds with a recently set up Chapter.

**RAJASTHAN**

**Alwar**

Shri Nirvana Bodhisattva is appointed the Convenor of the Alwar Chapter. He will be assisted by Ms. Sunita Goyal as the new Co-Convenor of the Chapter. INTACH welcomes them whole heartedly with all good wishes for their success in serving the cause of heritage conservation of a richly endowed State.

District Collector Muktanand Agarwal was the Chief Guest at a picnic organised by the Chapter for abandoned children in Government Homes. Held at a small town of Raini 60 kms from Alwar, it was conceptualised by the teachers of Advaita Garden School. Both children and guests participated in Shraamdan picking up polythene bags from the site, including a large number of villagers with their Sarpanch and Patwari. There were songs, dance, games and prizes awarded. The Chapter appealed to the
villagers to protect Raini, a small town with its ancient baori and temples, and a magnificent banyan tree 6 kms away in the neighbouring village of Bahadurpur.

**Barmer**

**CONDOLENCES**

Life Member of the Chapter Shri Jitendra Agrawal passed away recently, as informed by Barmer Convenor Y. Sharma. INTACH condoles with his family on their grievous loss. We request our Convenor to convey our sympathies to the Agrawal Family with our prayers and good wishes for the future.

**Bundi**

The Chapter celebrated the birthday of poet laureate Mahakavi Suramall Mishra on 19th October. Convenor Vijay Raj Singh writes that it has been a long standing tradition to mark the day over four days in a traditional way by the people of Bundi.

The Chapter sent details of the Bundi Heritage detailing the antiquity and other historic details to the Jodhpur Chapter for their consolidated publication. The monuments covered are the 84 pillared cenotaph (1681-95); Bhashadi Bawari (1651-81); Haveli Surya Mall Misran (1818-68); Bhabhai ji ka Kund (1645-1658); Nagar Sagar Kund (1871-75); Chowgan Gate and Door (1615-39); Raniji Bawari Baori (1681-95); Naval Sagar Lake that was widened and developed by several rulers over long interrupted periods between 1585-1773; Sukh Mahal (1771-1821); Jait Sagar (1554-85); Shikar Burj-Ban Ganga that also underwent periodic development over a long period of time (1741-1940). The historic details will be published in the consolidated heritage listing under preparation by the Jodhpur Chapter.

**Jaipur**

INTACH Convenors and Co-Convenors from 19 Chapters of the Western Zone (Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) participated in a Workshop held at Jaipur on 6th-7th December. It was held under the aegis of the Jaipur Chapter. The Workshop was a ‘good citizenship’ initiative to impart the importance of heritage awareness to local communities, teachers, colleges, and school in their respective regions. The participants were provided with heritage and citizenship handbooks and other resource material developed by HECS. There were group discussions following site visits and heritage walks.

Eminent resource persons had been invited to interact with the participants of this Workshop. To mention a few: Dr. Rima Hooja from the National Monuments Authority; Shri PK Jain Architectural Heritage Consultant; Shri Vivek Sharma Managing who is the Founder of the Shrishti Foundation for Environment Awareness; and INTACH Convenor Shri S.K. Verma.
Jhalawar

INTACH welcomes Shri Rajya Pal Sharma as our new Convenor of Jhalawar Chapter. We wish him a long and happy association with INTACH, with all good wishes for success in his assignment.

Udaipur

The Chapter hosted the Regional Seminar on National Geological Monuments & Geoheritage Sites of Rajasthan on 12th-13th November.

Convenor S.K. Verma welcomed the special guests, with Prof. P.S. Ranawat elaborating on the theme of the Seminar. Chairman Faculty of Earth Sciences, MLSU also addressed the gathering. Additional Director, GSI A. Thiruvengadam spoke on the National Geological Monuments of Rajasthan-GSI Perspective. The Presidential Address by Chairman L.K. Gupta extended INTACH welcome to the Chief Guests, and to geo-heritage enthusiasts and INTACH Members gathered at the event.

Rajasthan State is indeed blessed with geological marvels identified as National Geological Monuments. Going back in time, as early as 646 CE, a seminar had been held in which earth specialists of the time gathered to exchange knowledge of metal mining and smelting techniques that proves agriculture and animal husbandry were not the only preoccupation of those times. The East India Company set up the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 1851 at their capital Calcutta. The unique rocks, metals and minerals of Rajasthan promoted trade links that actively enriched the material and intellectual wealth of the region. Ever since the GSI has mapped in detail the geology of the entire subcontinent, and recorded them in special publications, journals, etc. The GSI was restructured in 2009. It brought out a special publication to mark its 150th anniversary in 2001.

Currently the emphasis has shifted to the “advancement of the cause of geosciences by documentation, propagation, archiving and education, including the creation and management of Monuments and Parks” to bring it to wider knowledge of the general public. Currently each State of India has its own Ministries to identify geo-resources and geo-marvels that will be protected as National Geological Monuments. Recent visits to 10 Geological Parks of Rajasthan showed that greater efforts are being made to develop them as Geo-Heritage Sites and find a place on the UNESCO Gopark List of international significance.

Though an official announcement is awaited, the GSI has accepted two major sites as indicated by AG GSI A. Thiruvengadam. One is the Ramgarh Meteorite Impact Crater at Bara, with a 12th century Shiv Temple that is thronged by a large number of devotees, but does not find mention even in a tourist brochure. The other is Zawar in Udaipur that produced zinc by a distillation process 2500 years ago and was recognized in 1988 by the American Society of Metals.

Udaipur Chapter Meeting was convened by State Convenor S.K. Verma on 23rd December. It was presided by former Vice Chancellor Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar who spoke on Inspiring Youth on Heritage Conservation. The Guests of Honour were Chairman Urban Improvement Trust Udaipur Ravindra Shrimal and the former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Arvind Dave. Convenor S.K. Verma gave an account of the organizational set up and major Chapter events. Various organization matters were discussed. Subject
matter specialists also addressed the meeting. A cultural programme concluded the day’s agenda on a lighter vein.

**SAJJANGARH PALACE**

‘Believe It or Not’, ropes hold together a dilapidated heritage popularly known as the Monsoon Palace in Jaipur, a major tourist city! This picturesque 1884 Palace with high turrets developed cracks during the last rainy season. The Forest Department came to its rescue as best as they could to ensure that its marble pillars stayed in place without which the palace would have crumbled. Police equipment lie scattered all over, and some are even drilled into the Fort walls. The grand central court and staircase to several rooms are all chipped. The Fort even has an indigenous rain water harvesting system which is the only water source for the people living there. Even in this miserable condition the Fort has attracted over 2 lakh visitors just for the vantage view offered of Udaipur city; and earns Rs.3 crore plus annually. Surely some of it could be spent on restoration of this 132 year old heritage asset of the State?

**Kumbhalgarh Fort**

The 15th century Kumbhalgarh Fort was built by Rana Kumbha, an ancestor of the more famous Maharana Pratap. It is a well preserved spectacular Fort, set in a beautiful landscape high up in the hills. It is 80 kms day’s trip from Udaipur through the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, well hidden till one is almost at its gate. Then you are taken aback by its 36 km wall that is the longest in India, and ranks second after the Great Wall of China. A place to be forever remembered, a place to visit!

**TAMIL NADU**

**Madurai**

Co-Convenor P. Rajesh Kanna welcomed a gathering held at the Thiagarajar College, Madurai on 5th October. Chapter Secretary Dr. Nalin, a ICSSR Senior Fellow and retired Professor of Sociology of Madurai Kamaraj University addressed an intercollegiate audience on a very special subject - the Value of Kinship and Relationships. In former days, she said, relations were maintained by empathy during moments of sadness and happiness, through joint worship of the family deity, and other get-togethers like festivals. Such participation ensured continuity of kinship and traditional values. She strongly felt that “the revival of that old custom was a must for bridging the generation gap and for
cherishing the past in the present”. In fact she is of the firm view that “kinship is a part of intangible culture and a unique legacy that we pass on to the next generation”.

Tamilnadu State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh and State Co-Convenor Sharmila Ganesan both attended the State-level Heritage Quiz held at Madurai. Questions covered a staggering range of subjects and identification of pictures, paintings, shawls, trees, saris and crafts!

The Chapter took up Project Clean at the Thiruvappudaiyar Temple Tank on 14th December, an event that garnered considerable press publicity. The Chapter proposes to mark its 10th anniversary by renovating this 1000 years old tank and taking up other similar projects. Thirty years ago this 75x75 feet tank held considerable water fed by the Vaigai River but became redundant over a period of time. In the first phase considerable vegetation will be removed and damaged steps, etc. restored. The Chapter intends to focus on natural heritage sites.

A Cultural Awareness Programme was also held on 14th December as an exposure experience for 50 members of various international Round Tables from Germany, Holland, Belgium, UK, Finland and New Zealand who had come to experience the culture and heritage of the region. Executive Committee Member MD Vel and his son Amudhan Vel who is a member of the local Round Table made all the arrangements to visit the Meenakshi temple, a cultural show, and a traditional south Indian meal while Convenor Uma Kannan, Chapter Member Bhavani Vel and Senior Advisor Prof. Venkatraman interacted with them.

Nagercoil

Convenor R.S. Lal Mohan enlisted over 30 volunteers from Bharavi Foundation, Aam Admi Party and Consumer Protection Centre to help in cleaning the Pazhayar River. It is a source of irrigation for farmers of the Kanyakumari District that has become polluted due to draining of sewage and dumping of garbage. In certain areas it has resulted in growth of Hyacinth and other weeds blocking the free flow of water. The cleaning process is now being carried out every Sunday between 9am-3pm. People’s participation is the only way to go! Nagercoil in fact has about 60 such temple tanks attached to temple premises.
like the Vadasey Kasi Viswanathar, Vadiveeswaram Azhagamman, Krishnankoil, Kothairamam Kasi Viswanathar and Pavathiputam Venugopalaswamy Temples. They were well maintained by the local royalty till 1947. Today they need to be revived as Nagercoil faces an acute water shortage. Dr. R.S.L. Lal Mohan has recently released a book on the subject suggesting remedial actions that hopefully will draw serious attention of the State Government.

**Nilgiris**

The book *Nilgiris – A Guide to the Built Heritage of Ooty -Coonoor*, is first of its kind on the architecture of the Nilgiris. It features many photographs published for the first time. No wonder it registered a record sale of a 100 books within an hour of its release.

The book is the first comprehensive compiling of photographs based mainly on the Architectural Listing undertaken by State Convenor Dr. Suresh Sethraman on behalf of the Nilgiri Chapter in 1992-93. Later in 2012-13 it was updated with over 75 high resolution computerised digital photographs in colour taken by B. Ramanakumar, a practicing lawyer at Madras High Court and a serious hobbyist with the camera. He is a life member of one of the oldest Photographic Societies in the world. It is an effective Guidebook for tourists visiting the Nilgiris on self guided walking tours of both Ooty and Coonoor.

**Salem**

Ms. Lakshmi Siddharthan is the new Convenor of the Salem Chapter. INTACH wishes her the very best for a long and productive association with the organisation and with Chapter Members. With a warm welcome and many good wishes to her.

**TELEGANANA**

**Hyderabad**

The century old 1888 Hyderabad Secretariat built by the sixth Nizam Mahabub Ali Khan is in a pathetic state. It was last occupied by the late Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao and remained vacant ever since. It has several unique features like a teakwood lift and a vintage staircase, grand semi-circular arches in the European style, Corinthian columns and an imposing arched portico and interiors. It survived several recommendations to demolish the building for which the permission of the Governor is mandatory. The High Court directed the then Government to take the views of the Heritage Conservation Committee and the HMDA, both of which recommended its notification as a heritage property. Telengana Chief Minister is now keen on its conservation and restoration. It has however not been allotted to either Telengana State or Andhra Pradesh to date after their bifurcation, though all other blocks in the city were divided between the two States. Proposals are however underway to engage heritage architects and structural engineers to retain the buildings heritage value. Telengana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is keen not only to conserve and restore it, but also to function from the G Block of this more than a century old Secretariat. The Governor’s permission is mandatory and the “file is in process”.

State Convenor M. Gopalkrishna is delighted that the Telaga, Kapu and Balija Sangham, Malkagiri is providing
social services, scholarships, medical and legal assistance as well as educational support to people. The Sangham has created a sense of camaraderie among the people by establishing an effective communication network. Their work seems to live up to their motto: *Love All and Help All – Hurt Never Serve Ever*. It organised a Vanabojanalu on 13th November at Keesara, attended by State Convenor M. Gopalakrishna. A Directory of Telaga, Kapu, Balija Sangham residents is under preparation, and will no doubt enhance the fellow-feeling in Malkagiri.

**Visit of CPA UK Delegation**

M.P. Virendra Sharma, leader of the CPA UK Delegation to Andhra Pradesh and Telengana complimented Convenor Anuradha Reddy for organizing the remembrance service at Chaferghat. The delegation greatly appreciated the opportunity to pay their respects to all the soldiers of Britain and India who lost their lives during the last Great War. They were happy that the relations between UK and India are so warm and assured they would do their part in strengthening the cordial relations.

The delegation also met parliamentarians, entrepreneurs, business people and civil society that gave them the opportunity to interact with a cross section of local civil society of both States. In particular they made special mention of Andhra Pradesh and the opportunities, priorities and challenges in the proposed development of a new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Superintending Archaeologist N. Taher presided over a meeting in Hyderabad to introduce techniques of documentation to the staff from various regions of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana. Convenor P. Anuradha Reddy showed a few projects mentored and undertaken by architecture colleges of Hyderabad. The *Saidanamma Tomb, Moti Mahal* and *Mebood Mansion* documentation were discussed in greater detail to understand the process of architectural and photo documentation, as well as conditional analysis of the buildings. In the discussions that followed on bringing awareness between various Government Departments, officers concerned made a note of the bottlenecks that are usually faced from Departments when dealing with protected monuments.

On 18th November students and teachers from the local Delhi Public School accompanied by three teachers took up the cleaning of the Saidanima Tomb. Equipped with masks, brooms and garbage bags the environmentally conscious group pledged to save the cultural heritage of their colony. They stuck colourful posters and handed out pamphlets to passers by to spread the heritage message.

In stark contrast is the “monstrosity of a golf course” built on the premises of the Naya Qila, an extension of the Golconda Fort at the cost of the Persian gardens! What is more there is flooding in the remainder of the garden due to the changed elevation of the golf course and waste waters from neighbouring areas. Officials from the Archaeological Survey of India and some representatives from heritage conservation institutes met on 19th November to discuss its deteriorating condition.

On 27th November a group of students from IIT Hyderabad presented their research on the history and the engineering of the Osman Sagar Dam located at Gandipet. It covered not only the historicity and importance of the dam to the city’s water supply but also its current problems suggesting measure for resolving the issues. It was part of their newly introduced Heritage Programme at the IIT. Convenor Anuradha Reddy also took them on a tour of the Osman Sagar.

Governing Council Member M. Vedakumar has been very active as usual with his participation in a number of events to establish INTACH presence. He was the Guest
INTACH Governing Council Member M. Gopalakrishna is currently INTACH State Convenor for Andhra Pradesh and Telengana. During his long tenure in the Indian Administrative Services, he served in many senior posts in the Government of India. He was also former Chairman of SCOPE, an apex body for 246 Public Sector Undertakings of the Government.

We heartily congratulate M. Gopalkrishna on the Dean Paul H. Appleby Award presented to him on 21st October by the IIPA President T.N. Chaturvedi, former Governor of Karnataka for his services as Chairman, IIPA Telengana Regional Office. INTACH is greatly benefited from his experience in good governance, institutional building and human resource development.

Warangal

The Chapter marked Gandhi Jayanthi on 2nd October with a Cycle Rally from the Public Gardens, Hanamkonda to the Thousand Pillar Temple. Convenor Pandu Ranga Rao talked to the students about planning and development of a Smart City, and the role of students in their local capacity.
to enhance and help in achieving the objectives. At the seminar held, Chief Guest MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar impressed on the attending delegates the need to preserve the heritage of the region. The local HECS Convenor Sridhar Rao elaborated on the different components planned for revitalization of linked urban infrastructure for the development of Warangal as one of the chosen Smart Cities.

**WANTED : EPIGRAPHS**

It was reported that newly discovered rocks, pillars or copper plates in Telangana remain a neglected heritage from lack of interpretation. Although an Epigraphy Branch was started in the State in 1999, many posts remained unfilled that results in alienation of past heritage. While excavations continue and discoveries continue to be made. The Epigraphy Branch moreover has 4000 estampages (inscriptions on inked paper), and manuscripts on paper and palm leaf dating back from 1st century BC to the 17th century AD Vijayanagara period in Brahmi, Prakrit, Telugu-Kannada and Telugu. Shri Brahmachary, the only expert in deciphering such material, retired earlier this year. Volumes of inscription found from many locations in the State have been printed, but are awaiting interpretation by epigraphists.

**TRIPURA**

Tripura Convenor Pradya Dev Burman has activated heritage activities considerably and hopefully she will have every success.

The Chapter celebrated the 178th Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Birchandra Manikya Bahadur of Tripura, one of the great rulers of the State. His contributions to the State and country are significant and well known since he effected several reforms for modernising the government. He introduced an independent legislature, and democracy; and banned any form of slavery, untouchability and Sati in Tripura many decades ago. All this and more was highlighted in a Light and Sound Show.

The Maharaja was not only a reformer but also a scientist - an amazing man of many parts. He introduced photography, specially Daguerreotype and glass plate photos into Eastern India. He promoted Rabindranath Tagore and his literature. All this information by way of commentary was presented to the audience of nearly 280 persons gathered to mark the anniversary, followed by classical music and a dance performance Pradya Dev Burman has activated the chapter presence in the State.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**Banda**

Dr. Shabana Rafique is appointed the new Co-Convenor of the Banda Chapter. We extend all good wishes for a successful assignment with INTACH. And extend our warmest good wishes to her.
Gorakhpur

A heritage awareness programme was organized in the Government AD Girls Inter College with the collaboration of the Tourism Department. Convenor Kandoi in his address spoke about the heritage of Gorakhpur. Co-Convenor P.K. Lahiri gave a presentation on the heritage sites of the city as potential tourist attractions.

Convenor Kandoi and Co-Convenor P.K Lahiri

Kanpur

Shri Charu Manglick is appointed Additional Co-Convenor of the Kanpur Chapter. INTACH extends a warm welcome to him and wishes him all success in his work and support to Chapter activities.

Lucknow

Swaad-e-Lucknow, a Culinary Walk held on 5th December elicited a tremendous response from people of Lucknow at large. Only to be expected in a city well known for its gastronomic Awadhi cuisine. Nawab Mir Jafar Abdullah was at hand to share his expert knowledge on the fare offered. Surprisingly it was the first food walk of its kind in the city, and surely not the last judging from the response it elicited and the regrets of those who missed it. It was widely covered by the local Press. Convenor Vipul Varshney and other INTACH Members involved are congratulated on this initiative. It may inspire a similar INTACH culinary walk down Chandni Chowk in Delhi?

Lalitpur

The Chapter in collaboration with the Forest Department organized a painting competition on protection of environment. The event attracted a large participation and received wide coverage. The Chief Guest CDO Praveen Lakshar spoke on the urgent need for heritage protection and conservation. The Chapter took many initiatives to involve youth in INTACH activities.
Mahoba

The Chapter participated and presented a programme on Aalha Sangeet at the historic Kajli Fair that has been a tradition in the area for the last 835 years. A public lecture on conservation and preservation of heritage was also organized which was well received by the audience.

Varanasi

The Chapter prepared a Heritage Site Map under supervision of Professor Kalyan Krishna. It was displayed on two public hoardings during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Varanasi on 22nd December. The idea was floated by Member Secretary C.T. Misra to good effect.

WEST BENGAL

Kolkata

World Heritage Week was marked by the Kolkata Chapter

INTACH Heritage Quiz 2016 was held at the Asutosh Birth Centenary Hall Auditorium of the Indian Museum on 9th December, ably conducted by Ayan Gosh. The Apeejay School Park Street topped among participants from eight schools.
The Meeting of the WB and Kolkata Regional Chapter was held on 20th December. With regard to the CSR proposal made at the last meeting, Member Ayan Ghosh suggested that a committee be formed at the Kolkata Chapter level to take up CSR issues with local corporate houses. The Convenor suggested considering a KMC-INTACH heritage tag for commercial institutions such as the Oxford Bookstore that is shortly celebrating its centenary year. It is proposed to draw up a criteria for such a label.

Ms. Anita Kar was invited to the Chapter Meeting. She relocated to Oxford but was visiting Kolkata and spoke about adult education classes she was attending. She spoke about Hiroshi Yoshida, a 20th century visionary Japanese painter and woodblock printmaker. Members suggested that her article be printed in Virasat, excerpted below.

**INDIAN TRYST OF YOSHIWA HIROSHI**

Hiroshi Yoshida (1876-1950) was a 20th century visionary Japanese artist who travelled throughout North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. He is regarded as one of the greatest artists of the Shin-Hanga style of which he is the prime mover. He is specially noted for his excellent landscape prints, images of non-Japanese subjects done in traditional Japanese woodblock style including the Taj Mahal, Kanchenjunga from Tiger Hill, Swiss Alps, Grand Canyon and other National Parks. He came to India with his son in 1930 and is one of the few artists from the east to embark on such a journey. The outcome was 32 wood block prints that have the perfection and appeal of the finest water colours. In Calcutta, he chose the Victoria Memorial, in Benaras it was the Bhonsale Ghat for depicting the gently rippling Ganga, and scenes of meditating *sadhus*, colourfully attired people drying clothes on its banks, and other scenes filled with tender moments. Some of his paintings were exhibited in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford last year. It was a selection from the family collection of Dr. Bratati and Prof. Avijit Lahiri. They are imbued with a magical quality for the masterful treatment of light and shadows. It would indeed be wonderful if such an exhibition is brought to India. By one of our Museums?

**Santiniketan**

Chapter Convenor Susmita Guharoy organized the Teachers Training Workshop for HECS Division at the Patha Bhavana, Visva Bharati on 21st November. The Convenor was assured by the participating Teachers that they would start Nature Clubs in their respective schools.
NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

QUARTER FULL OF FESTIVALS

This festival-filled quarterly year of 2016 was a joyous time on the whole with the end of fasting before Id, extravagant pandals of Dashara, the loud bursting of Diwali crackers, and exchange of greeting card with friends across the world for Xmas leading up to welcoming the New Year. 2016 closed with a slight tightening of purse strings due to what sooner or later will come to be known as the great monetisation. New Year’s Day dawned unlike many preceding ones with endless bank queues in sight but a lot of cheer for good things ahead! We celebrate the coming of the New Year 2017, with great expectations of what it might bring to each of us. Meanwhile here are some quaint and interesting tales of the joyous festivals gone by for another twelve months.

**Eid-ul-Fitr**

*Eid-ul-Fitr*, a festival of breaking fast after a month of dawn-to-dusk fasting without a sip of water, originated with the last prophet Mohammed of Islam and is commanded in the *Quran*. It is celebrated worldwide. It has a particular *Salat* (Islamic prayer) generally offered in congregation in an open field or large hall; the perfect symmetry with which it is performed is best seen outside *Jama Masjid* in Delhi. The tradition was initiated in Medina after Prophet Mohammad migrated from Mecca. Strict fasting is followed by sumptuous feasting till the wee hours of the morning. Significantly, it is also an occasion for remembering the plight of the poor and giving alms to them, with greetings of *Eid Mubarak* embracing people of all sects.

**Dashara**

*Dashara* has its origin in Sanskrit – and is variously called *Vijaya Dashmi, Dassera* and *Navratri*. *Sha* is the short name for Dashanan Ravan, while *bara* means defeat. Joined together the word *Dashara* signifies the defeat of Ravana, who was a great *veena* musician. In Sanskrit *Dasha* is ten and *Ahaha* is victory. Making it a ten day festival that concludes with a huge bonfire that consigns Ravana to ashes. The preceding period of *Navaratri* (nine days) is celebrated all over India in different local ways, and also in Sri Lanka, Nepal and parts of Bangladesh. In some regions like Karnataka and Punjab a cereal is sown in a pot and harvested on the tenth day. But there are several temples in India where Ravana is worshipped like Tavana Mandir Bisrakh; Koteshwar Temple in Gujarat; Ravangram Temple in Madhya Pradesh, Kakinada Ravana Temple in Andhra Pradesh, Murudeshwara Temple, and the Koneswaram Temple of Sri Lanka which is among the most famous. Ravana is much maligned by people without knowing that even Ram asked his brother Lakshman to sit beside the dying Ravana and imbibe some important lessons on statecraft. While we take pleasure in burning him!

**Diwali**

Abul Fazl in his *Ain-i-Akbari* wrote that *Diwali*, celebrated from time immemorial, became a state festival in Akbar’s time. He started the *Jashn-e-Chiraghan*. The royal palace at Agra would be aglow with lighted *diyas,*
and the tradition was established of distributing sweets among people. His successor Shah Jahan also illuminated his chandeliered palace and added *akash diya*s, along with a public display of fireworks. Illuminated *Chiraghdaans* and *fiaanoos* made their appearance in the skies to the delight of the people. Chefs prepared a gala feast. It is said that his *chhappan thali* had sweets from 56 kingdoms on the platter, some made with ingredients from Persia.

The first factory to manufacture crackers was set up in 1940. Over the years *Diwali* got ‘institutionalised’ on a grand scale as a national festival for all Indians. *Lakshmi Pooja* is the only completely Hindu element in this festival of lamps and lights lit on public buildings, private houses, temples, streets and even gas stations.

It is also gambling time and thereby hangs a piece of mythology among several others! Popular legend has Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva playing dice on *Diwali*. After Parvati won she proclaimed that gambling on *Diwali* brings prosperity. Another old saying got created – its origin unknown – that you invite danger of re-birth as a donkey by not gambling. Never mind if in this life some reckless gamblers get ruined in the bargain!

**Christmas**

Christmas marks the birthday of Christ, celebrated with a holiday all over India and the world. It has evolved into a secular celebration for family and friends everywhere, with greetings cards exchanged that include good wishes for the coming Happy New Year to one and all. Xmas incorporates some pagan traditions. In the year 800, Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor during Xmas time. Ever since, there is something best described as the Christmas spirit. It even inspired seven famous truces after bitter wars like the peace agreement of 1812 between US and Britain after British forces had burned down the White House and the US Capitol! The Christmas spirit also prevailed when President Andrew pardoned the Confederate soldiers that abolished slavery in USA. Again it was a Christmas Truce that ended the First World War in which thousands of Indian soldiers also sacrificed their lives. Christianity is third largest religion in India comprising a relatively small 2.3% of India’s population. But it is party time for everyone that lazily stretches into New Year. Most city dwellers love to enjoy plum cake, mulled wine and the entertainment galore on offer New Year’s Eve. INTACH wishes all its readers a Happy New Year 2017 – with “many miles to go and promises to keep” on the road to heritage conservation!

*Indian secularism is a wide-open, vibrant and all-embracing concept….. Indian secularism is a special place, where communist parties hold Durga *pujas*, mainstream parties host Eid dinners. The smells of incense and kebabs, the sounds of *bhajans*, *bells*, *sufi qawwalis* and *Holi geet*, all mingle with ideas of social equality, justice and dignity for all. Here’s to more celebrations!*  

*Ack.: Hindustan Times excerpt*
INTACH invites you to write about an interesting and unique heritage feature of your city. The essay can be written about a monument or building, place of worship, natural feature, festival, art or craft of your city or region.

- The essay should be up to 750 words.
- The medium of your essay can be English, Hindi or any major Indian language.
- You must support your essay with a painting or illustration of your selected topic on A3 size paper.

The competition is for students of classes 6 to 9 only. All entries will receive participation certificates.

- There will be 100 regional winners.
- There will be 10 national winners, who will be part of an educational trip to Delhi.
- All entries must have the student’s full name, class, school’s name and address in block letters. The signature of the principal/headmaster and school stamp on the entry is mandatory.

Submit your entries to MY CITY MY HERITAGE COMPETITION
Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH, 71 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110003

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS MARCH 15th, 2017

INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE