INTACH Founders’ Day, 27th January is always the best of times at INTACH. A time when all its employees come together with a great sense of camaraderie; and belonging to an institution that matters more and more with each passing year. The spirit of New Year too lingered in the air, inviting one and all to participate in the festivities. It was a day carefully packed with enjoyable activities. Underlying the revelry, it remained a day for revalidation of INTACH values which triggers a serious commitment to conservation by its staff and officers. The day’s proceedings commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by Chairman LK Gupta, Member Secretary CT Misra, Founder Member Dr. Narayani Gupta, ASI Delhi Circle Suptd. KK Muhammad, and on behalf of the staff Anuradha Nayal, amidst a throng of happy faces.

Maj. Gen. LK Gupta reiterated the importance of working together as an INTACH team, and that its strength lies in numbers making an impact on heritage conservation across the country. Shri KK Muhammad admitted the financial constraints that imposed limitations on work of his organisation, and therefore the importance of INTACH as a sister concern which is making significant contributions to heritage conservation. Dr. Narayani Gupta gave a lucid historian’s perspective on INTACH work.

Smt. CT Misra administered the INTACH Pledge that was taken by all present at the gathering:

The challenges faced by built heritage when I joined INTACH more than 15 years ago, remain more or less the same. Heritage is still seriously threatened, even when it has become a part of our ‘mainstream’. Today, we continue to lose monuments, heritage buildings, sites, arts, crafts or natural sites to various development pressures, or to lack of awareness, policies or incentives. Heritage thus continues to remain seriously threatened. Today there are many more efforts made towards conservation of our ‘unprotected heritage’ no doubt, but they are still not comprehensive.

When Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) was established by INTACH in 1984 there was a huge lacuna in the field of conservation. There was no conservation expertise available outside of ASI and India’s vast unprotected heritage remained unattended falling prey.

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I care for the wonders of Nature that are mine to protect
I care for the richness of the Culture that I promise to respect
I care for the Heritage of India that is ours to protect

The solemnities soon dissolved into gaiety with Suresh Kalkal and his comic act “Heritage – with you, for you, always......”. It set the tone for the rest of the day. Another professional was roped in for the Let’s go fly a Kite that took everyone outdoors to enjoy the winter sun and recall their childhood days. To also admire the three rangoli that was a joint effort of INTACH staff adding a splash of colour to the vibrant celebrations.

Soon it was time for a sumptuous lunch at the food court specially set up within private parking lot of INTACH Office. Besides wafting aromas, the place was abuzz with several interactive art and craft stalls, dancing in sync to encroachments, uninformed restoration attempts, or simply demolition to make way for new construction. AHD mandate was clearly to identify the entire range of unprotected heritage mainly through listing, to create trained conservation experts, and to advocate guidelines and regulations for the preservation, conservation and promotion of our heritage. As the first step, AHD began by establishing some systems for conservation of built heritage by implementing pilot conservation projects in different parts of the country.

Over the past twenty years the situation has changed radically – today there are over 150 conservation architects across the country carrying out major conservation projects including listing. INTACH provided the training ground for many of them. Having laid the ground for architectural conservation discipline, AHD now proposes to strengthen these foundations by facilitating conservation process and promoting best practices in the discipline.

The AHD is now set to consolidate its achievements by bringing greater order and accountability to its work. The passion of the early years still remains intact, with the added component of professionalism of today. With the new AMSAR Act 2010, the role of AHD has been redefined particularly in the context of monuments protected by the ASI. In this regard AHD has identified 13 typologies of monuments / sites based on the diversity of their context. Special model bye laws are now being framed on the basis of the 14 parameters mentioned in the 2nd Schedule of the Act.

The AHD also proposes to promote the concept of declaring National Heritage Sites for India like Allahabad, Braj, Leh, Nalanda, Chettinad, etc, considering their unique context and our indigenous conservation and management systems.

Another AHD initiative will be to highlight and report heritage at risk in the country through undertaking the State of Conservation in India, in order to develop a comprehensive database and an understanding of challenges faced by our cultural heritage, especially the built heritage - an essential step for the long term preservation and conservation of our precious heritage. For this project INTACH proposes to develop a Register of Heritage @ Risk with the help of its wide network of Chapters.

In the coming years, AHD also wishes to revisit the concept of Urban Conservation. INTACH has been promoting the concept of Heritage Zone & Heritage Development Plans since 1984, but it is only recently that the concept has gained wider acceptability. AHD hopes to make this a tool to link heritage conservation to development needs and the Planning Process.

One of the other major gaps in the conservation scenario in India is inadequate scientific research to inform the conservation process due to limited access to research laboratories, lack of expertise in analyzing data and R&D on building materials. AHD hopes to bridge this gap through publications and manuals generated from the wealth of information accumulated over the past 25 years that will help to generate better guidelines for conservation of historic buildings.

In the coming years AHD will further strengthen the following key activities:

- Undertake Listing & Documentation of unprotected heritage in coordination with the Chapters.
- Get Heritage Regulations in place.
- Develop sustainable and suitable management systems for heritage sites in India.
- Encourage public consultation and participation in heritage conservation.
- Launch joint Pilot Projects for local capacity building.
- Institute awards of excellence for conservation works in India.

Divay Gupta
Principal Director
email: pdahintach@gmail.com.
puppets, a spinning potter’s wheel, musical instruments on display, glass jewelry, tie and dye, hand-made paper and recycled products on sale. It reminded everyone that heritage conservation is not only about saving historic monuments and natural sites, but also about the vast repository of intangible heritage that enriches our lives and the Indian cultural panorama.

Some food for thought was also next on the menu. Three teams - Sanskriti, Darohar and Virasat – were formed comprising both INTACH employees and invitees from the JK International School, Gurgaon. They participated in the Heritage Quiz organised by the Heritage Education and Communication Services Division. Prizes and certificates were awarded to participants, and to the rangoli artists.

All good things must come to an end. INTACH Founder’s Day concluded at sundown with a scintillating Qawwali recital by Yousuf Khan Nizami which brought the curtain down on a day to remember, which is still cherished long afterwards.
Minister for Culture Visits INTACH

Minister for Culture Kumari Selja visited INTACH Central Office on 8th February at the invitation of Chairman LK Gupta, and was welcomed with flowers and a shawl at the much anticipated occasion. Member Secretary CT Misra said it was a privilege to have her in our midst, and to acquaint her with the profile and the gamut of INTACH activities. This was further detailed by audio visual presentations made by the various Divisional Heads.

INTACH already has the support of four Central Government Ministries represented in the Governing Council, and from two Government agencies like the National Museum and the ASI which was represented by DG Gautam Sengupta at this event. Chairman LK Gupta in his address brought up two policy issues which needed the urgent attention of the Ministry of Culture. He said there are thousands of unprotected sites and monuments in the 800 odd cities and towns of India, but documentation of their heritage assets has been done in only 152 cities to date, which is like the tip of an iceberg. Unless more sites are notified and heritage regulations put in place, most of these precious sites are bound to disappear over time. He requested the Minister to consider making it obligatory for every State to list its heritage properties and involve local communities in their management effectively. Protection of heritage - not for the people, but with the people – he emphasized could be a new policy approach to managing India’s vast heritage repository more effectively.

Conservation and Heritage Management Institute

During Minister’s visit, Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta announced the establishment of the Conservation and Heritage Management Institute proposed to be set up at New Delhi. It will train a cadre of skilled professionals to address the current national knowledge and skills deficit which are negating the sustainable development of our cultural resources. The Centre will boost INTACH efforts to sensitize and involve a larger national audience in conserving, protecting and documenting our precious heritage. An NGO like INTACH, with its extended network of Chapters across States, is well positioned to reach out to the people more effectively than Government bodies which function under several systemic constraints. She also pointed out the many gaps that need to be filled like absence of heritage management professionals in most 2-3 tier-cities, the lack of Master Management Plan even for the majority of India’s 28 World Heritage Sites. The bulk of 65,000 heritage sites listed by INTACH remain unprotected except for 3675 monuments and 41 museums looked after by ASI, and an additional 3500 administered by State Governments. Most States do not even have urban heritage protection laws, nor are they governed by any heritage regulations. That includes even the capital city Delhi where flood plains are being ravaged by the land lobby.

The proposed INTACH Training Centre will collaborate with the University of York and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden Museum. It is planning to offer short term courses, field work, research and internships under a faculty comprising national scholars and visiting international teachers, to create a pool of trained professionals in the field of heritage conservation. The courses will cover preparation of management plans, analysis of cultural landscapes, display of art objects and museum management, inter-disciplinary studies, documentation methodologies, intangible cultural heritage, etc. thus filling up a major existing lacuna in the educational system and facilitating creation of new job streams.

The Minister for Culture Ms. Selja Kumari was most receptive to all that she saw and heard at INTACH. She said “the more you discover the more you realize how much remains to be done in the heritage field”. She reiterated her full support for INTACH activities, and indicated that her Ministry would consider enhanced budgetary support to INTACH. The Minister also released four INTACH publications including a Haryana Guide, prior to her tour of ICCI laboratories and the Documentation Centre.

Director ICHD Nirupama Modwell warmly thanked the Minister for her many encouraging words.

Convenors’ Orientation Conference

The Convenors Orientation Conference held on 14th-15 March was the first of its kind specifically designed to familiarize newly inducted Convenors with the aims and objectives of INTACH, and the ethos of heritage. The Convenors of the North East were invited to the Conference as they get fewer opportunities to visit Central Office.

Chairman LK Gupta thanked the old hands among Convenors and Co-Convenors for the leadership role and responsibilities they have taken upon themselves on voluntary basis. Briefing the new comers about the origins of the Trust, he went a step back and said the colonial government had taken responsibility to manage heritage for the people, but the same bureaucratic mind set persists unfortunately despite the fact that
organizations like INTACH are trying to bring about changes. INTACH operates at two levels “We are a family of more than 170 Chapters and keep on getting requests for adding more….the second level is 71 Lodhi Estate which consist of bureaucracy. So how this bureaucracy and voluntary workers come together is a big challenge. That is why we are holding this meeting today so that volunteers, the foot soldiers in the field and the life blood of INTACH, understand the expertise of the bureaucracy and bring energy to each other”.

The Chairman proceeded to share his thoughts on the major issues that he had come across during his past 16-17 years association with Chapters like inadequate involvement of Members and communities in Chapter discussions and activities. He pointed out that traditional sources of funding are getting shrunk while expenses and overheads are increasing day by day. “The options are clearly first to seek Government funds or secondly to cut our coat according to the cloth”. Seeking Government funds entails enormous time to educate and influence them, which is why bringing people together to discuss heritage importance and creating public pressure assumes critical importance. He complimented some Chapters for becoming strong and raising funds for their own projects.

Chairman stressed on the basic work that all new
Chapters must undertake i.e. listing and documentation of built and natural heritage utilising local volunteers and architectural college students; protecting intangible heritage that promotes arts and crafts, tourism, and rejuvenates local economy; and being the eyes and ears of INTACH to report heritage at risk. He concluded by advising Convenors not to lose sight of the basic objectives, and try to do not more than one thing at a time in order to do it well. The Guideline for Chapter, recently revised and updated, details the functioning of Chapters in all respects. Various proforma have been provided in the book to tackle the constant process of change and to manage procedural matters including reports on heritage at risk in a correct format.

Member Secretary CT Misra added that a Chapter is not an “independent republic”, there is a symbiotic relationship between them and the Central Office. It is this sense of belonging and interaction with each other that contributes to excellence. She therefore urged Chapters to constantly tap the expertise of INTACH Divisions in executing their projects, to leverage the credibility of INTACH, to network with each other, and above all maintain a high standard of personal and professional integrity in matters concerning INTACH.

Vice Chairman briefed the Convenors on the proposed Centre for Conservation Training & Capacity Building in greater detail. The Centre would impart hands on training for target groups like professionals, builders, consultants, government agencies, INTACH staff, etc. She concluded by saying “only the day you stop trying, you’ll lose the battle”.

The Annual General Meeting on 16th March was held in the stepped courtyard of Central Office. Apart from a large number of Members who regularly attend this annual meet, this year there were 35 additional participants who were invited to stay over after attending the Convenors’ Orientation Conference held on 14th-15th March.

Chairman LK Gupta gave a summary of the major developments at INTACH, the regulations effected for greater clarity and accountability of the Chapters for ensuring effective functioning without detracting from their existing autonomy, and steps taken to strengthen the financial position of INTACH. He also shared the policy suggestions brought to the notice of the Minister for Culture Kumari Selja (detailed above) requesting regulations and interventions to control the willful destruction of heritage assets both by the States and private individuals.

Another important issue, Chairman said, was the alienation of the people from their lands due to the demands of urbanization. Dispossessing people from land meant destruction of culture in one swoop of a generation. It deprived the future generations of the right to their cultural inheritance. This is already impacting the stability of our society, besides fuelling energy consumption which is estimated to have contributed to 50% of global warming.

Chairman gave a summary of the MOUs signed to strengthen INTACH activities. At the request of ASI, work is underway on formulation of bye-laws for monuments owned by them. INTACH is now represented on the five member Approvals and Review Committee set up by the Ministry of Culture for projects to be implemented by State Governments with funds allocated by the Thirteenth Finance Commission.
Financial Controller Jagdish Chandra announced the results of the Elections by postal ballot for filling the vacancies in the Governing Council. They were counted on 15th March in the presence of Shri KS Kutty, Ms. Amrita Mondal and Shri Akhilesh Jha. The following persons were declared elected:

**Founder Members Category**
(2 Vacancies / Unopposed)
Francis Wacziarg
Dr. Sarayu V. Doshi

**Life Members Category**
(4 Vacancies/14 Candidates)
Dr. H.B. Maheshwari Jaisal
Ms. Tara Murali
Shri Arun Kumar Gupta
Dr. Krishna Kolharkulkarni

**Institutional Members**
Takshila Education Society
Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University

**Donor Members Category**
(2 Vacancies/2 Nominations)
Shri Sanjay Narayen
Ms. Anita Singh

**Corporate Members Category**
(2 Vacancies/1 Nomination)
Tourism Corporation of Gujarat

Chairman warmly thanked the entire INTACH team led by Dr. CT Misra for their devotion and efficiency in contributing to the sizeable increase in INTACH corpus. Also Advisor Ashish Banerjee for his contribution to policy making; and Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta for being an invaluable colleague. She has been the prime advocate of the Training Centre to be set up at Delhi for a more holistic “management of heritage business”.

Chairman also thanked the Governing Council and the Executive Committee for their continuous guidance and voluntary contributions to making INTACH an organization to be reckoned with in heritage matters. He congratulated Haryana State Convenor on her appointment as Member Secretary of the Advisory Committee on World Heritage constituted by the Ministry of Culture; and mentioned Governing Council Member Kamakshi Maheshwari figuring in Limca Book of Records for third year in a row for her involvements in environmental work.

Member Secretary CT Misra invoked a 2 minute silence in memory of Members lost to the INTACH family during the past year.

On a less solemn note, she touched upon the remarkable changes and new initiatives launched during the past months that had brought about a sense of fraternity and community linking Central Office and Chapters. She extended an “open invitation” to all INTACH Members saying they do not need a formal invite to participate in the annual celebrations of INTACH Founders’ Day. She announced that INTACH has succeeded in raising its corpus from Rs. 5.90 to Rs. 6.65 crore during the year 2011-2112 through a judicious management of its funds with the support of all Divisions.

Invited to Join Governing Council

Noted Indian economist and academician, Shri Vijay L. Kelkar, who is currently Chairman of the Forum of Federations, Ottawa and of the India Development Foundation at Delhi, has kindly agreed to become a Member of INTACH Governing Council. He has had a distinguished career in the Government, and was Chairman of the Finance Commission until 2010. Earlier he was Advisor to the Ministry of Finance (2002-2004) and played an active role in the economic reforms effected by the Ministry. Prior to this he served as Finance Secretary, and subsequently in 2009 was nominated as Executive Director of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka on the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

INTACH warmly welcomes Shri Vijay Kelkar into the family fold. His is a voice that matters in many circles, and he will no doubt contribute to the greater good of heritage conservation in India.
**Andhra Pradesh**

**East Godavari**

Smt. Padmavati Chandra, wife of INTACH Patron and District Magistrate inaugurated the workshop organized by the Chapter. Two prominent speakers, Emeritus Vakulabharanam Ramakrishna from the Hyderabad Central University and Dy. Director ASI Dr. D. Kanna Babu addressed the gathering of more than 150 local school and college students. The former spoke on *Our Culture & Heritage* and the latter elaborated on the *Role of ASI in Preserving and Conserving Heritage Sites*. The students were divided into groups for the discussions that followed on *The Role of Students in Preserving and Conserving our Culture & Heritage*. The vibrant interactive exercise added a significant value to this initiative.

Convenor Seshkumari Lkkaraju also reports that recent excavations for the Polavaram Canal revealed 3rd century BC relics of Buddhist Stupas along the banks of the Thandava River at Kummarilova in the East Godavari District. INTACH Members were able to visit the site thanks to the good offices of the Chapter Patron, who was receptive to the suggestion that a piece of land and Museum should be earmarked to house this precious heritage. It could be linked with good roads and tourist facilities to the 6-7 Buddhist sites already existing in the District to attract Buddhist tourists who visit India regularly.

**Hyderabad**

The Chapter joined hands with the Salar Jung Museum and the Goethe-Zentrum for a seminar *Hyderabad Heritage*, with an exhibition of the photographic documentation of the city. There is a palpable fear among the citizens that the burgeoning urban population and the Metro which is affecting 60 heritage sites are going to be the death of the city’s 400 years heritage. A Grade I house, the first to be built on Banjara Hills by Nawab Mehdi collapsed last year and has altogether disappeared. Convenor Anuradha Reddy echoes the sentiments of many citizens when she says *The Government lacks political will. And the real estate boom is crushing heritage structures. History has been demolished for money..... The Government must learn from other countries, where they come forward and ask people and institutions to help in preservation of heritage*.
structures and restructure of cities, for example Warsaw”. As far back as 1874, the then Director Goether Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan was consulted by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. He proposed a photographic project with the help of a Munich based photographer. The pictures on display of ‘Crumbling Heritage’ were shot in 1975, 1996 and 2011. It pointedly depicts that legislation is not enough, the Government has to take action and enforce the law.

Kadapa

On 27th December Convenor S. Sitharamaiah presided over the centenary commemoration of our national anthem Jana Gana Mana, written by Viswakavi Rabindranath Tagore. Appropriately held at the Sri Shantiniketan School, students sang patriotic songs, beginning and ending with the Jana Gana Mana. Present on the dais were special invitees like former MLC P. Subba Reddy, A.L. Members JV Ramana, Dr. A. Ramanjula Reddy, Dr.P. Venugopal and senior Life Member Elias Reddy who conducted the proceedings.

A similar function was celebrated at the Govt. Junior College for Girls, ZION High School and other institutions where Life Members Rajaratnam Isaac, Kripakar Isaac and C. Ramamohan Rao participated along with senior INTACH Members of the Chapter.

The students responded with great emotion that the National Anthem unfailingly arouses in every patriotic heart. They took the pledge to love and to protect heritage sites and folk arts of their localities.

Machilipatnam

It came to the notice of the Chapter that the Noble High School which later became the famous Noble College, the second oldest college to be set up in the former Madras Presidency, is currently under demolition. INTACH office bearers visited the building with its spacious verandah and rooms, including a wooden staircase, and found them in good condition though covered in wild vegetation that can be easily tackled. Neither the management or school authorities were receptive to the suggestion of preserving this building by simply weeding out the rooted overgrowth.

Convenor Tikkisetty Ramamohana Rao has written to the Collector who is also INTACH Patron to take remedial action. He has been requested to call for an explanation as to why a historic building in good condition is being demolished in parts. Only a notification by the Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Hyderabad can save such buildings from thoughtless development plans with no regard for their heritage value.

It is most creditable that the Chapter has taken up Eye Donation, and collected 48 pairs of eyes to date, such humanitarism is part of our cultural heritage. Another event to be specially mentioned is the birthday celebrations of Pingali Venkaiah, designer of our national flag, who hailed from Machilipatnam.

Several drama artistes were felicitated with shawls on 12th January. The following day the book Bandaru Muchatlu authored by the Convenor was released at a mega event, and will be released on AIR in 16 weekly installments. Seven Members of the Chapter attended the workshop conducted at Vishakhapatnam (see under Vishakhapatnam).

Srikakulam

Convenor Dharma Rao Dusi informs that the proposal to document the oral traditions of intangible heritage of Srikakulam District in the archives of All India Radio submitted last year has been approved. A session by artistes was held on 28th–29th February with permission from the Collector to use a Government guest house as the venue. The recording of Erakala Pata, Jamuku Pata, Thoorpu Bhagotham, Chenchu Bhagotham, Chekka

Shri Subba Reddy, Convenor, and Life Members at the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana Centenary Celebration

Convenor Dharma Rao Dusi with Members
Bhajana, Burra Katha, Udupula Patalu, Siva Bhagotham, Savarapatalu, etc. – all tribal art forms – is an initiative that as been hailed by the authorities.

Visakhapatnam

The Chapter joined hands with the Faculty of Geology A.U. to organize a two day national workshop on the Quarternary Red Sand Dunes at the Convention Hall of Andhra University. The dunes extending over 700 acres on the east coast of India are locally known as the famous Erra Matti Dibbalu and attract many visitors.

The Minister of State Human Resource Development was invited as the Chief Guest for this workshop held on 15th-16th February, and presided by the Head of the Geology Department Prof. C. Kasipathi. The Convenor of the Workshop Prof. Rajasekhara Reddy invited a number of Guests of Honour like the Mayor Visakhapatnam Pulusu Janardhana Rao, Commissioner B. Ramanjaneyulu, Vice Chairman VUDA K.Sasidhar Rao, lietary scholar Gollapudi Maruthi Rao, Rector of Andhra University Prof. Prasad Reddy PVGD, and Principal of the College of Science & Technology Prof. V. Veeraiah to participate in the proceedings, indicative of the importance attached to this workshop. Various Departments of Andhra University like the Geology, Anthropology, Law and Environment Sciences participated in the deliberations. Various scientific institutions like Geological Society of India, Bangalore; Indian Association of Sedimentologists, Aligarh; South Asian Association of Economic Geologists, Raipur; Indian Academy of Geo Scientists, Hyderabad; and SEPM, USA represented by Prof. Santanu Banerjee, IIT Bombay were co-organisers of the event.

Convenor Rani Sarma described it as a brainstorming session, and thanks Central Office for supporting the efforts to protect this rare geological heritage site. It contains a network of natural water courses that drain the monsoon rain waters into the sea, thus any construction on the beach site would have an adverse ecological impact. The general consensus of the National Workshop was such geological formations are precious natural sites that need to be protected just like forests, environment and wildlife.

Apart from viewing it as a tourist site, the general public needs to be made aware of the scientific significance of these Red Sand Dunes. The Chapter has been able to persuade the authorities to abandon the plan for setting up cement concrete structures in these fragile formations that would erode their heritage value. An assurance has also been obtained from the Vishakhapatnam Urban Development Authority that it will look after their maintenance and upkeep. The next step would be to have the Dunes declared as a National Park, says Rani Sarma.

Tourism Fair

Several organizations at Vishakha- patnam are planning tourism fairs and trying to enlist the help of INTACH Chapter. Member Sohan Hatangad is wary enough to be inspired to write a poem! Some of the stanzas are reproduced below:

“This city is so beautiful” the wise men said
“The news of its charms, we must spread”

So they held a tourist fair
And officials came from everywhere.....
The hotels showed great occupancy
The politicians basked in sycophancy
They wined and dined
And resolutions were signed.....
Soon the circus left our town
The elephants, the band and the last clown
And as they swept up the panchyderm dung

Hope filled the gullible and the young......
Vizagites with experience were worried
Their beaches would soon be buried
Under the litter and the rubbish
And visitors quite boorish......
Soon Vizag’s beauty was lost
And the locals paid a heavy cost
With every stinking choking breath
Vizag was finally developed to death.
**Bihar**

**Patna**

Convenor Prem Sharan in the New Year issue of *Pataliputra* gives a resume of the Patna Chapter activities over the preceding year. The Chapter is very encouraged by the success of last quarterly activities like Dr. Paula Gonzaga de Sa’s talk on the role of Museum and her interactive session with students, heritage walks and visits in close coordination with Patna Circle ASI. The Chapter now proposes to establish more Heritage Clubs, and organize regular programmes of Heritage Awareness and Management specifically targeting academicians, students and elite citizens during the course of the coming months.

INTACH Founders Day organized at the Patna Club focused on creating heritage awareness among school students of the Shaheed Devi Pada Choudhary Memorial Higher Secondary School. Director of Field Publicity, I&B Ministry was the Chief Guest at the function. Convenor Prem Sharan who presided over the function stated that INTACH has emerged as a major player in the field. It has been active in creating awareness amongst the community, academicians, policy makers and the media. Former Chief Town Planner, Bihar SK Sinha dwelt on the various categories of heritage, and mentioned existing important legislation including those related to excavations.

The young people participated in an essay competition on the Role of students in preservation of our rich heritage: with focus on the ancient city of Pataliputra, with the first three best entries receiving prizes.

**Kummari Lova**

A small potters’ village Kumamaro Lova exists south of the Tandava Riverines from Vishakapuram. It came to the notice of the authorities when an enterprising village school master Narayan Rao reported to the Press that ancient bricks and good pottery are often found whenever villagers dig the land. In fact a local *sarpanch* found one in his backyard 50 years ago which served as a jar for storing the family’s pickles! When he heard that it might well be the relics of a Buddhist site, he had the pot emptied, washed and stored away! It shows how even villagers have come to understand the value of prehistoric heritage, and take pride in its ownership.

The ancient name of the village as per the local *kaifiyats* is Kummari Arama, indicating Buddhist association. It is very common to find names shortened in north coastal Andhra where a village called Sangha Arama became Sankaram, or Arama Thirthan became Ramathirthan. Significantly, earlier excavations have revealed Buddhist settlements in northern cities of Andhra, and pottery found in Peda Uppalam Gopalapatnam and now Kummari Lova exhibit a similar texture and firing techniques.

**Old & New Heritage**

Pottery dating back to 1900 BC was recovered during recent excavations conducted by ASI after a gap of 56 years at Ropar, now called Rupanagar. The fragments of geometrical design were identified as belonging to the Harappan era which thrived till about 2000 BC according to archaeologists.

A Rs. 1000 crore temple, replicating Cambodia’s 12th century Angkor Wat, is set to come up near Hajipur about 25 kms north of Patna. The launch was timed to coincide with the centenary celebrations of foundation of Bihar. The proposed 222 ft. high temple on a 15 acre site will be called *Virat Angkor Wat Ram Mandir*, comprising 5 storeys and 5 shikars, is expected to take 5 years to build.

**Chhattisgarh**

State Convenor Lalit Surjan visited Jagdalpur on 10th-11th February to explore the potential for opening a Chapter in the Bastar region. He met a number of eminent citizens like the Vice Chancellor of Bastar University Jayalaxmi Thakur, and a scion of the erstwhile ruling family Kamal...
Chandra Bhanjdeo. The response was positive as people of the region are concerned about the drying up of Indravati River, and INTACH support has been assured to spearhead its conservation. Life Member Dr. Ramchandra Singhdeo, a former Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh and now a development activist, also visited Bastar in February for an on the spot study. Next step is to draw the attention of elected representatives and the Chief Minister to the urgency of saving this endangered lifeline of Bastar.

Kawardha

Convenor Rajmata Shashi Prabha Devi presided over the meeting of the Chapter on 27th February. State Convenor Lalit Surjan who specially attended congratulated her for the publication of the tourist map of Chhattisgarh, enlarged copies of which were distributed to various offices and key personnel of the town. Bilaspur Chapter Member Saini Mitra made a presentation on the listing of heritage sites of Kawardha town and Kabirdham District. Conservation regulations have been blatantly flouted in the precincts of the 12th century Bhoamdeo Temple, a matter that will be taken up with the District authorities on priority. The road map for some other activities to be taken up was discussed, concluding with the vote of thanks by Co-Convenor Mahendra Singh Khanuja.

Raipur

Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandak informs that the Nagar Darshan for students is a regular programme instituted by the Chapter since the last 12 years. Well known specialists accompany the students as guides. The last programme was conducted by archaeologist GL Raikwar who accompanied 13-14 year old students of the Rahul Uday High School Vidya Mandir on a visit to 30 heritage sites.

Goa

The Chief Minister Goa visited the Reis Magos Fort and greatly appreciated the good progress on the conservation work undertaken by INTACH.

Its architect Gerard da Cunha announced on 13th January
that work would be complete in all detail and the Fort opened to the public from 21st February.

An Exhibition & Retrospective on the late INTACH Convenor Mario da Miranda attracted many visitors, as was to be expected at this tribute to one of Goa’s most famous citizens.

**Gujarat**

Shri Sanjeev A Joshi is appointed State Co-Convenor of the Gujarat Chapter.

The Chapter reports a day long heritage walk organized for 250 school children on the occasion of Ahmedabad’s 61st anniversary organized by the local Municipal Corporation. Closely following them was a delegation from Nepal’s Town Development Fund Department, presumably because Ahmedabad has established a solid reputation for conducting heritage walks for the last 15 years.

The Chapter maintains close association with the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority, and has sent some interesting information. To mention a few, the restored gates of the heritage town of the Mahemadabad are now open to the public; a portrait of the first President of Ahmedabad Municipality Rai Bahadur Ranchodlal Chotalal by Raja Ravi Varma is under restoration; and heritage sites in a number of Gujarat towns have been identified for conservation work. The team of experts from the Ahmedabad Heritage Cell are using traditional materials to rebuild the 600 year old city bastion near Khanpur. The past mistakes of concrete and cement are being substituted with the age old practice of crushed *methi* leaves, *jaggery* and natural glue called *gogal* mixed with lime mortar for binding in the restoration work now being undertaken.

**Haryana**

Faridabad & Palwal

**Condolences**

Senior Life Member Shri J.D. Arora passed away in February. Convenor Anand Mehta informed that he was an active participant in the activities of the Chapter. INTACH send its condolences to the bereaved family. We send our good wishes to the family, and hope they find the strength to overcome this time of grief and loss.

**Gurgaon**

Associate Life Member Navin Piplani received the *Glory of India Award* in recognition of his “meritorious services, outstanding performance and remarkable role” in the field of Archaeology and Conservation. He is the Director, Centre for Conservation Studies, and Hamlyn-Feilden Fellow in the University of York, UK.

The award was presented by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Rajeev Shukla. Former Governor Tamil Nadu Bhishma Narain Singh also graced the occasion.

Convenor Atul Dev reports that it has taken a year to reorganize the Chapter, but during this time there has been a remarkable growth in membership thanks to the drive shown by Co-Convenor Sarabjit Kaur. Together they have drawn up an elaborate Plan for Action on many fronts, with designated Members for each Committee. *Virasat* will cover the progress of each of their ambitious projects.

**Himachal Pradesh**

The 400 years old Bhadrakali Temple at Sarah village, 10 kms from Dharamsala that was heavily leaning to a side after the 1905 earthquake, was restored by INTACH with a grant obtained by its State Convenor Malvika Pathania from Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal. It has attracted considerable media attention to INTACH’s heritage credentials. The services of artisans from Odisha were hired to painstakingly dismantle and number each stone, and reassemble the temple stone by stone. To maintain the originality of the temple, after dismantling the upper

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**Banswara Festival**

Tribals from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra gathered together on 15th-16th January for the *Banswara Tribal Festival* at Mangarh Dham, on the border of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in Banswara District. They commemorate the massacre of 1913 which claimed the lives of hundreds of Bhil tribals who revolted against the British colonial government and raised the banner for *Bhill Rajya*. The place is now regarded as a pilgrim centre where tribals gather to pay homage to the martyrs. They raised slogans for tribal unity, and pledged to pursue issues of development in the tribal belt of their respective States, in keeping with the aspirations of our times.
structure the foundation of the temple was dug up to 6 feet, and material from a local mine near Baijnath was used in the reconstruction. The original Shikhar style of architecture however was faithfully maintained. The locals now treat the temple as their Kuldev, where religious ceremonies are performed regularly.

The Temple was handed over by the Chief Minister PK Dhumal to the public at a grand ceremonial on 3rd March. Present on the occasion were Industry Minister Krishen Kapoor, Social Welfare Minister Women Empowerment Sarina Choudhary, IPS Minister Arvind Ravil, State Convenor Malvika Pathania, Dy. Commissioner Gupta, and all Members of the Kangra Chapter. INTACH was represented by Payal Joshi of Chapters Division. This restoration is a testimonial for the Chapter to undertake new initiatives. State Convenor is already in talks with the ASI regarding conservation of the submerged temples of Govind Sagar. She was advised that stones could be retrieved and re-used, and any additional requirements of the same quality stones can be procured from mines around Bilaspur. A new project will be shortly submitted for restoration of 7-8 temples submerged in the man made Govind Sagar and Maharana Pratap Sagar after construction of the Pong and Bhakra Dams.

**Kangra**

The Kangra Chapter Members expressed their appreciation of the revival of the Bhadrakali Temple in their meeting held on 3rd January. A three member committee was constituted to identify other heritage properties in the Kangra District. There are also several geo-historic sites in the region that could be developed into tourist circuits.

Convenor L N Aggarwal and Secretaty Ramesh Chander attended the workshop on Impact of Rural Tourism Project Work at Pragpur organized by the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management. Apart from tourist circuits, the Convenor drew the attention of the participants to the old drainage system of the village, well planned by the old rulers of the region that should be preserved as part of the natural heritage of Kangra. During their visit, the Convenor visited the museum building restored by INTACH in 2006, but found the premises much neglected and a breeding place for pigeons.

It is important that any restoration plan submitted by INTACH and its Chapters should henceforward integrate a long term management plan in proposals submitted to prevent such instances of deterioration and wasteful conservation.

**Shimla**

Convenor Ved Sud along with two Members had participated in the inaugural celebrations of World Heritage Week at the Shiv Mandir, Baijnath, organised by the Archaeological Survey of India, Shimla Region. The Chapter is now focused on the importance of geo-heritage sites which could be developed to include in the tourist circuit of Shimla.

**Jammu & Kashmir**

**Jammu**

The Jammu Chapter in coordination with the Centre for Studies in Museology, University of Jammu organized a one day workshop to document the built heritage along the historical Mughal Route of the Jammu region. The welcome address was presented by Convenor S.M. Sahni. The power point presentation by Prof. Poonam
Chaudhary highlighted the important heritage sites along the traditional Mughal Route and the initial work done by the Center. The objective was the preservation of the Mughal Sarais and the development of Eco-Museum / Tourists Villages along the route. The Chief Guest Dr. S.S. Baloeria, Vice-Chancellor of Jammu Central University pointed out that a part of the route from Thanamandi to Bahram Gala through Ratnapir should be developed in the first phase. Valuable inputs were also contributed by Divisional Commissioner Pawan Kotwal, former Vice-Chancellor Masood Chaudhary, Dy. Director Archives Baba Peerazad Ashraf, Chief Engineer PMGSY.D.L Sharma, faculty members from the University and Chapter Members. Dr. Baloeria from Gulam Badshah University, Rajouri; Chief Engineer PWD Vimal Tikoo; Chief Executive Officer Poornch Development Authority Ayaj Bandey; and Chief. Executive Officer, Rajouri S. C. Sharma, Prof. & Director CHTM, University of Jammu, Deepak Raj gave the Vote of Thanks.

**Jharkhand**

The Governor Dr. Syed Ahmed presented the Dainik Jagran Award to Convenor Bulu Imam on 12th February for his contributions to the art and culture of the State, at a function held at Ranchi. He has regularly promoted Jharkhand heritage and artistes in countries overseas through art exhibitions and attendance at international conferences.

Bulu Imam also received the District Administration Award for his extensive work in the field of environment and culture at another function in February held at Hazaribagh.

**Karnataka**

**Anegundi-Hampi**

Shri K.S. Abdul Samad is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Anegundi-Hampi Chapter.

**Bagalkot**

The Bagalkot Sub Chapter was inaugurated on 18th February with a musical invocation rendered by students of the Basaveshwar Arts College, Bagalkot, with Dr. HF
Yogappanavar as its Co-Convenor, and a renowned historian Dr. BK Hiremath as its honorary President. Director UGC Academic Staff College of Karnataka University at Dharwad, Dr. Meena Chanawarkar gave the inaugural address. Karnataka State Convenor Ashwathanarayan and Shri Anil Gokak were specially thanked for their contributions to the opening of this new Sub Chapter. Bijapur Convenor Dr. K.K. Kulkarni and Dr. Sheelakant Pattar made vivid presentations of INTACH profile and objectives to the new Members of the Chapter.

Bagalkot has a unique place because of the World Heritage Site of Pattadakal and Ahihole village near by which are considered the cradle of South Indian temple architecture. Encompassing these two sites is Badami, the ancient capital of the Chalukkya kings and famous for its rock cut temples.

A Seminar on Architectural Styles of North Karnataka Region was scheduled immediately after the inauguration. Dr. Shambhu Baligar, Principal SVM Arts, Science & Commerce College, Ilakal delivered the inaugural address. The subsequent sessions touched on the entire range of architecture prevalent in the region from early Chalukyan era to the subsequent Rashtrakuta, Kalyana, Vijayanagar and Indo-Sarasenic periods by eminent speakers like Dr. MN Kadapatti and Dr. VP Tankasali. The sessions covered 1000 years of architectural activities of Karnataka spanning 6th-17 centuries. Convenor KK Kulkarni also drew attention to the recent architectural findings at Bijapur through a slide presentation.

Dharwad

Convenor NP Bhat and Co-Convenor Brigadier SG Bhagwatt consider 4th February’12 a red letter day in the annals of the Dharwad Chapter. The Soopashastra of the medieval king Mangarashi III, a 16th century book on culinary traditions of medieval Karnataka, was released on that day by the Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Jagdish Shettar at Mandar Residency, a popular hotel that soon became packed with the city’s notable people eager to participate in this special event. Also present was the publisher of the book from Delhi, Praveen Mittal and his wife.

The Hotel organized a Food Fair offering a variety of dishes and desserts selected from the Soopashastra recipes, assisted by 8 lady volunteers in preparing the dishes. The rural ambience created for this occasion was equally unique, with a hut, bullock cart and farm implements around a stage heavily decked with flowers and lights. The men and women at hand were dressed as villagers. Some food for thought was also provided by Prof. Shalini Raghunath, Head of the Department of Folklore Studies who pointed out some significant features of the Soopashastra. Some of her students lighted up the stage with their melodious singing of popular songs.

The Soopashastra treatise, originally a poetic work in the vardhak shatpadi meter, was transcribed into prose by SN Krishna Jois in the mid-20th century. It was at the initiative of Convenor NP Bhatt that Madhukar Konantambigi undertook its translation into English, and Director ICHD Nerupama Modwell its publication. The recipes may or may not be epicurean today when we are spoilt for choices, but such ancient treatises are not only about tickling palates. They are rooted in history, nurtured by tradition, and recommended as good health food with a different ‘satvik’ menu for each season. The Dharwad Chapter just went a step further to demonstrate that the proof of old recipes was in the eating!

Another interesting publication released on the occasion was Delhi – A City of Echoes, a collection of poems by Yashoda Bhat. She needs no introduction as the wife of our Convenor, as she is equally active in all matters
concerning INTACH and the cultural forum Avani Rasikar Ranga. The sights and sounds of Delhi have much changed since the decades they departed this city for far away Dharwad. The “Echoes of Delhi” have now become raucous noises of an oversized city that is fast losing its graceful contours – and present a challenge to her beautiful poems of long ago. They remind us of all what we are in the process of continually losing for ever more.

The third publication to be released was a book on Early Chalukyan Art at Mahakootam, authored by INTACH Member of the Dharwad Chapter – Dr. Meena Mohite.

Gulbarga

The Chapter organized a Jatha (rally) in association with the Government SC/ST Girls Residential High School on the eve of Heritage Week, flagged off by Life Member Dr. BC Gulshetty. Accompanying the students were several INTACH Members, along with Dr. Shashishekar Reddy and Dr. Indumati Patil who narrated historical details to add to the glimpses of past glory at the Government Museum. For some of the rural area students, it was their first visit to a Museum and discovery that many of the sculptures had been recovered from Buddhist sites of Gulbarga District.

Convenor Dr. Shambhuling S. Wani gave a lecture on the Bahami rulers contribution to art and architecture, in particular the seven tombs Haft Gumaz and other major monuments of the region. Prof. Vasant Kushtagi highlighted the importance of historical monuments and the role students can play in the protection of their heritage.

Chandranatha Temple

The Chandranatha Temple or ‘thousand pillar’ temple in the southwestern town of Moolbidri, Karnataka needs to be widely discovered. The temple is held up by gorgeous pillars carved with incredible precision and patience; and has a 50ft. stone column at the entrance with three long hallways in the temple behind. The beauty of this Temple is enhanced by the immediate setting of grass and trees within a stone wall that has weathered several hundred monsoons. Author Ramchandra Guha who reported his ‘discovery’ also writes about its young and erudite Charu keerthi Swami, whose Hindi and English is as fluent as his Kannada and is deeply sensible of the depth and sophistication of the spiritual tradition of this Jain Mutt. There is a lot to save or a lot to lose, if no heritage regulations are imposed for ancient temple towns like Moolbidri.

MOU with Yunan Province

The State Tourism Ministry, Government of Karnataka signed a MOU with the Yunan Province of China in a bid to tap Chinese tourism. The State has many temples of both Jain and Buddhist origins. It is banking on the direct air connectivity between Bangalore and Yunan to tap the increasing number of Chinese now traveling overseas, some of whom might well be interested in seeing Buddhist relics.
Kerala

Calicut
The Chapter had written about the Sacrifice Rock, a natural rock situated about 10 kms from the shore north of the city which was used as a landing place during the 14th-16th centuries by the Zamorin kings. There is also the remains of a British man-of-war *Morning Star* that got stuck in laterite stone and sunk in 1793. Their exploration has not interested the State authorities to date.

Ladakh

The Chapter published its first bi-annual newsletter *Shesrig Melong* on the endangered Petroglyphs of Ladakh, dotting a 60 km stretch along the Indus River that date back to the Bronze and Iron Ages. They comprise images etched by the earliest inhabitants of Ladakh after removing part of the rock surface and provide rare glimpses of prehistoric man, his symbols and animals. Easily comparable to the World Heritage Site of Bhimteka in Madhya Pradesh, these lesser known rock carvings also shed light on the ancient cultural links between India and Central Asia predating the Silk Route. These links are evident from the inscriptions carved in Chinese, Sogdian and even 1st AD millennium Tocharian, and later the Brahmi inscriptions.

A short inscription engraved in Brahmi characters has been discovered in the Edakal Cave on the Ambukthi hill in Wayanad district of Kerala. It is the fifth such discovery, but the first inscription to be attached to an anthropomorphic figure. Epigraphist Mahadevan termed it an important discovery estimating its date as 3rd-4th century BC. While previous records, some dating back to 1901 by F. Fawcett in *Indian Antiquary* recorded names of rulers and heroes, this latest discovery refers to the name of a deity, featuring visibly the god of fertility. The text also denotes a merger of the Sanskrit and Dravidian languages and their scripts.

Convenor Tsering Angchok and Executive Committee Member Thupstan Norboo met CEC LAHDC Rigzen Spalbar regarding working together with local communities in preserving the disappearing petroglyphs due to development activities and quarrying. Discussions held with BRO in the past resulted in a small pamphlet issued to agencies involved in road construction. The long term solution however is recognized as moving the boulders to a specifically created petroglyphs precinct, and heritage regulations to protect Ladakh’s natural and cultural heritage. Fortunately a Ladakh scholar Tashi Dawa has been documenting the petroglyphs for the past 15 years, and will serve the long term programme to be undertaken by LAHDC.

The *Shesrig Melong* also covered a wide spectrum of subjects like an interview with Master Craftsman Gelong Paldan, the training workshop held under him for *Chorten* restoration conducted under the Community Conservation Grant funded by Ford Foundation. Seven masons including 5 women were trained in the tradition of Dharamabhatta. Another such programme was held at Chiktan for young masons to learn about rammed earth and mud brick production which was traditionally used as building material in Ladakh.

The Chapter has drawn up a conservation plan for Chiktsan Khar, an impressive 17th century citadel for developing it as a documentation and design studio for adaptive reuse. As part of this intiative, students from the International Programme in Design and Architecture from the Chulalingkorn University, Thailand spent a week documenting the fort. Co-Convenor Kacho Mumtaz Ali Khan and Member Murtaza Khalili facilitated this workshop.

The *Ladakh Newsletter* is an impressive publication that covers several other conservation programmes, pilgrimage centres and the *Losar* Festival held annually at Gaya. The fact that this compilation has been done in the short space of under two years is all the more creditable. There is no doubt that the State occupies an important place in the cultural identity of India, as the Convenor states in his message. Ladakh has become one of the top tourist destinations of the country, it is all the more important to protect and conserve the tangible and intangible heritage of this unique place.

Madhya Pradesh

Dr. HB Maheshwari ‘Jaisal’ is appointed the new State Convenor. Dr. RK Sharma is the appointed Co-Convenor.

Chanderi

Co-Convenor Neeraj Kumar Jain informs that listing has been taken up in great earnest having surveyed 100 sites, following the visit of Dr. HB Maheshwari on 26th January.

Meeting on 26th January, Chanderi
The latter explained in detail the listing process at a meeting arranged by Convenor Raj Kumar Sikarvar and Member Neeraj Jain at the Hotel Bana, citing the Jaisalmer listing. Another Member Kallabhai arranged a tour of historical sites of Chanderi.

**Datia**

Convenor HB Maheshwari assisted by Vinod Mishra and Members escorted Belgian Chapter Convenor Geert Robberechts on a tour of major historic gardens of the city like the Mughal period **Raj Mahal Bagh** which the team felt could be converted into a multi-purpose community centre; and others like **Jhirka Bagh** and **Hardolji courtyard**.

**Gwalior**

Shri Love Khandewal is appointed the new Convenor of the Gwalior Chapter.

On 27th January, old and new Members of the Gwalior Regional Chapter met together to celebrate 27 glorious years of INTACH. Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari presented a summary of various activities undertaken by the Gwalior Chapter during the last one year. A cake was cut wishing INTACH many more years of active participation in conservation and preservation. The oldest and eldest Members Bhaskar Kher and MK Jain were presented mementos out of respect for their commitment.

**Datia**

Convenor HB Maheshwari assisted by Vinod Mishra and Members escorted Belgian Chapter Convenor Geert Robberechts on a tour of major historic gardens of the city like the Mughal period **Raj Mahal Bagh** which the team felt could be converted into a multi-purpose community centre; and others like **Jhirka Bagh** and **Hardolji courtyard**.

**Jhansi**

Founders’ Day was celebrated at Orcha with an audio-visual presentation on work and progress of INTACH in multiple disciplines. Chief Guest HB Maheshwari talked about future activities. The Chapter passed a resolution to publish the listing completed to date, and hold a seminar for promoting greater awareness of Orcha heritage.

**Mandla**

Convenor Girja Shankar Agarwal and Co-Convenor Ramesh Chander Pathak of the recently established Mandala Chapter organized a 20 kms heritage walk for teachers and students of the Senior Secondary School. En route they visited some of the famous ancient temples and palaces of Ramnagar, famous for the legends of valour and courage displayed by their noble princes and princesses in times gone by. The school team also visited the Tribal Learning Centre, Karia Pahar, and the Rani Durgawah Memorial.

A study team of Chapter Members visited Dindori district archaeological places Kikrakund, Hathdol Cave, Ghughva.
Fossil Park and Kalchuri period temple of Binjhola on 14th February. There is a 100 ft. natural pond on Dandana stream about 40 ft from the waterfall that flows into the Narmada River. In 1998, under the supervision of present Convenor, Deccan University biologist Dr. G.L. Badam, and Shri D.K. Jain of Gandhi Human Museum, Bhopal, a twenty member team explored pre-historic period habitation just 100 ft away from this beautiful waterfall and collected a number of tools but no further excavations have been done here.

There are number of heritage sites like the tribal village Hathdol; Ghoramar cave known as Jambanti during Mahabharata times; Gupta period Shivlinga temple; Kalchuri period idols in Binjholi village with the main one being Vishnu, and the famous Ghughva Fossil Park in Dindori District which is one of its kind in the world.

**Maharashtra**

**Aurangabad**

INTACH Aurangabad Chapter in association with the Belgium Chapter and Archeological Survey of India (ASI), Aurangabad Circle conducted a special two day international workshop on Conservation Approach to the Mughal Gardens with special reference to Bibi Ka Maqbara on 17th-18th February at the ASI Office. The event also commemorated 150 glorious years of the founding of Archaeological Survey of India. It was inaugurated by the MD Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Dr. Jagdish Patil who congratulated the Chapter on their excellent work, specially mentioning the documentation and conservation of the city’s historic gates. He assured full support and co-operation in future conservation work initiated by the Aurangabad Chapter.

The workshop brought together the governing bodies of ASI, INTACH, scientific institutions and field experts on a common platform to share the state of the art knowledge, with specific reference to the conservation of Mughal Gardens and the Bibi Ka Maqbara. The participants included professionals from various archaeological departments (State Archaeology and ASI), conservation architects, art historians, academicians, architects, as well as students from various institutes. It commenced with Convenor Mukund Bhogale making the introductory remarks and Belgium Convener Geert Robberechts explaining the objectives of the workshop.

A number of eminent speakers gave valuable inputs on diverse topics:

- **Dr. Nalini Thakur, SPA, New Delhi: The Archaeological Park as a Tool for the Conservation of a Mughal Garden.**
- **Shri Ratish Nanda, Aga Khan Foundation, New Delhi** (the presentation made by Geert Robberechts in his absence): The Restoration of the Humayun’s Tomb: the Garden.
- **Convener J&K Chapter Saleem Beg:** “Safeguarding the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir”
- **Co Convener Pune Sharvey Dongde:** A Late Example of a Mughal Tomb Garden: Bani Begum Bagh
- **Superintendent Archaeologist ASI, Aurangabad Dr. D. Dayalan:** Gardens and Water Management Systems of the Mughals.
- **President - Gomukh Trust, Pune Dr. Vijay Paranjape:** Water Systems and Waterworks in the Gardens of the Bibi ka Maqbara.

In addition to the above speakers, senior officers of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) Aurangabad Circle, INTACH Members from Aurangabad, Pune and Belgium Chapters and various experts in the field shared information during the two day workshop. A discussion session was held to understand the problems and issues related to the conservation of Bibi ka Maqbara –
Mughal Garden, followed on the second day with a visit to the site to understand on ground various practical issues involved in its conservation, with Dr. D. Dayalan addressing various queries raised by the participants.

The workshop was organized with the sponsorships received from various companies – M/s. Endurance Technology Pvt. Ltd, M/s. C.T.R. Manufacturing Industries Limited, M/s. Rucha Engineers Pvt. Ltd and M/s. Vinodrai Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Convenor Mukund Bhogale thanked the participants and sponsors for their enthusiasm and active participation.

The Workshop was widely covered by the print and electronic media.

**Chandrapur**

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur forwarded an attractive booklet on the *Megalithic Structure in Chandrapur District* to Central Office. Megaliths are memorials comprising very large stones of prehistoric times dating from 1200 BC-200 BC, to be found across the vast terrain of Vidharbha from Nagpur in the north to the Tamraparni river in the south. The stone structures were built for performing rituals of the dead, and underneath the structures human bones and other articles have been found buried in the ground. Megalithic structures of this region are of three types, *Dolmens* in Hirapur and Kelzar villages; *Menhirs* in Bhadravati and Nagbhid Talukas; and stone circles in Saori village.

The Chapter organized a Heritage Workshop on 21st January. Over 520 children of 9th-11th standard class from various schools were taken on a visit to the graveyard complex built in the 15th century by the Gond dynasty and other monuments situated in the vicinity like the Anchaleshwar Temple complex along the Zarpat river. The question and answer session created greater awareness of the importance of preserving heritage.

The 85th *Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Samelan* held from 3rd-5th February under the aegis of the Chapter was a proud time for the whole city. It was inaugurated by the President of the Sahitya Sammelan Prof. Vasant Dahake at the Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering & Technology. The Convenor also organized a Photo and Coin Exhibition on the occasion. Of special interest were about 100 old photographs, a study contrasting old pictures with current ones. The Cultural Minister Sanjay Deotale felicitated Ashok Singh Thakur on the success of the celebrations that commemorated 500 years of Chandrapur City.
Convenor Dr. RK Ranjan Singh reported the World Wetlands Day 2012 organised by the All Manipur Thanga Peoples Welfare Organisation and the All Loktak Areas Fishermen’s Union in coordination with the Manipur Chapter and IBCN Manipur State. Loktak Lake figures in the top five threatened wetlands, and among the 48 most polluted lakes in the world; and was enlisted by the Ramsar Convention as far back as 1990. The World Wetlands Day is being marked since 1996 to remind all countries of the impending danger posed to human kind as a consequence of diminishing water bodies. President Fishermen Union Haobijam Kulla presented the keynote address representing major stakeholders. Convenor Dr. Ranjan Singh, as resource person, urged that the protection of the Loktak Lake was serious enough for people settled in the periphery of the fresh water body to shoulder equal responsibility through traditional practices than merely relying on Government schemes and funds. He also drew attention to the social-economic benefits of promoting wetland tourism as a great experience. He said eviction of fishermen was a short sighted approach, the construction of Ithai Barrage which disrupted the natural course of the water body, etc. What needed to be tackled was the root cause of pollution or eutrophication, reforestation and respect for community rights.

Mumbai

The Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust organized a series of interesting programmes during this quarter:

Lectures & Workshops

On 17th January 2012, at the Teacher’s Training Workshop Shri Vikas Dilawari, an expert conservation architect and INTACH Mumbai Executive Committee Member enlightened the audience about the stylistic nuances of Mumbai’s urban architectural heritage, culminating in a tour of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum where teachers had the opportunity to experience first hand INTACH’s revitalization programme. All the participants received heritage resource kits, to help them conceptualize and organize related activities in heritage clubs.

The Modern and Contemporary Indian Art History (MCIAH) Post-Graduate Diploma Course successfully began on the weekend of 13th January. Twenty-five full and part-time students attended 24 lectures, discussions and site visit sessions. Some of the faculty included Shri Abhay Sardesai, Dr. Kavit Singh, Dr. Saryu Doshi and Dr. Jyotindra Jain.

Education Workshops

Education workshops for private school students and NGOs were held from January – March at the Museum, covering traditional Indian Ragamala art techniques and universal ideas of city and urban landscapes. A group of 38 Spanish high-school IB exchange students and their Mumbai counterparts participated in an education workshop on 3rd March at the Museum, introducing them to the various historic migrant communities of Mumbai.

Exhibitions

‘Sightseeing Trip – Eberhard Havekost in India’, the exhibition of paintings and prints by the German artist Eberhard Havekost inaugurated by German Consul General in Mumbai on 18th February was part of the Indo-German Friendship Year. The artist and Dr. Marla Stuckenberg, Director Goethe Institute were the Guests of Honour at the opening ceremony. Eberhard Havekost is one of Germany’s most recognised artists, his works draw upon the cacophony of urban imagery, and have been acquired by many international museums and collectors. They had resonance for Mumbaikars with their own personal experiences of living in a burgeoning megacity.

Presentations at Conferences

Convenor Tasneem Mehta made presentations at a number of conferences and events throughout January-March. To mention a few, the first meeting on “Environmental
Concerns of Mumbai; a Round Table meeting on “Design Education and Innovation” in conversation with Rosemary Mathewson, Senior Vice President of Parsons The New School of Design; an exhibition Quintessential of artist L.N. Tallur in collaboration with the Asia Society; as Jury Chairperson at the Skoda Art Prize 2011; a roundtable conference on Cultural Relations Mapping held by the British Council in Mumbai; and the India Design Forum at Delhi’s India Habitat Centre.

Visitors

The Bhau Daji Lad Museum has become a buzz word for overseas visitors. During the months January-March, Convenor Tasneem Mehta received Amy Poster, Independent Curator & Art Consultant at the Brooklyn Museum along with 15 delegates; Martin Roth, Director of the V&A Museum, London along with 12 of their Museum patrons; Elise Foster Vander Elst, Director of Asian Art Projects; Massimiliano Gioni, Associate Director of the New Museum, New York with 15 patrons; the Global Couples Forum patrons; Dr. Jack Rasmussen, Director and Curator of the American University Museum, in Washington; and Professor Tim Barringer from Yale University with 10 PhD students.

Pune

The Chapter organized the Constro 2012 in a joint endeavour with Design Directions, Parisar, CEE and the PVP College of Architecture at Pune on 12th-15th January at the college grounds. Conservation architect Vikas Dilawari gave a talk on Conservation of Built Heritage Mumbai Experience, based on his experience of two decades in the conservation field in urban architecture. Another talk “June Pune” (Old Pune) was delivered by historian Mandar Lawate who has authored many books on Pune’s history, apart from being a teacher and a prolific writer of newspaper articles on his city.

An exhibition entitled Pune’s Historic Core – Conserving the Past Imagining the Future was mounted on the occasion.

Convenor Arti Kirloskar informs the Chapter has been working with the Tambat (copper) artisans of the city for revival of this traditional craft of the region for the last 14 years. Recently a project exhibiting copper products with a new makeover at the Taj Pune was launched with the support of Forbes Foundation to give greater sustenance to artisans livelihood. A spokesman of the coppersmiths Kishore Karda interviewed by the Press said “The intervention of INTACH has helped us to learn the need of a dynamic market……. Now we have a much better understanding of customers’ needs. INTACH has shaped us as better individuals and as craftsmen”. INTACH Executive Member Rashmi Ranade who designed the contemporary range says that they are good options for corporate gifting and tourist takeaways. Her perception is noteworthy: “Having worked with them closely, the biggest challenge for me was to encourage them to sell their art, not merely their labour”. An enriching experience for both parties!

Tribute to Sharada Dwivedi

Sharada Dwivedi, author of Bombay : The Cities Within, knew her city and its transformation decade by decade like few other ‘conservation historians’. Her historiography amalgamating social and architectural heritage are rarely to be found in any other books on the maximum city. In an article in caravan, Chaitraganda Choudhury writes : “A daughter of a civil servant who had served as Chief Secretary of the Maharashtra Government, Sharada reserved her greatest anger for the current generation officials. Their lack of spine and scruples, she thought, were playing a special role in Bombay’s destruction. When she served on the civic Mumbai Heritage Committee (MHCC), her frustration at the body’s powerlessness demonstrated the difficulty of elevating conservation concerns in urban planning…….”. It is the tale of many cities, and conservation is still to find a high spot in the scheme of governance. At least public awareness is growing and hopefully will engulf government agenda in due course.

Sharada Dwivedi passed recently, but will always be remembered by many Mumbaikars.
Manipur

State Convenor Dr. RK Ranjan Singh reports the 15th annual celebration of International Day of Action for River organized by the Chapter at Nungba Keithel on 14th March at the hill station of Tamenglong. A large number of organizations AZSU, ZB (MO), ZYF, ZSUM, CCDD, ACTIP, NEDE, COLNER & SHIOPRO collaborated which only highlights the importance attached to the riverine ecosystem and the civilization along the Barak river. The rally resounded with the cries of “Land, Water, Forests are Our Life”, “Stop Tipaimukh Dam”, Honour Indigenous Rights of Peace Loving People”, etc.

Shri Wahengbam Rajesh Singh is appointed Co-Convenor of the Manipur Chapter.

Odisha

Bhadrak

A General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held on 19th February in the chamber of Advocate Chitaranjan Baral at Surya Sika Club, presided by Advisor Dr. Sanatan Mohanty. Member Janab MA Bari was congratulated by unanimous resolution for the Sadhabana Puruskar awarded by the Government of India for his work in community amity. Guru Gopal Panda was also congratulated on his award from the Kendriya Sangeet Natak Academy for life time contribution towards music and culture.

Convenor Digambar Mohanty invited the Collector to the Foundation Day of Bhadrak Chapter marked on 18th March. A lively programme of Ek Tara, Kendara, Mahury and Khanjiri was organized on the occasion A prominent Member Dr. Sadananda Dixit will be bringing out a publication on the Intangible Heritage of Odisha. She offered to organize basic level workshops on manuscriptology and paleography.

Mayurbhanj

Shri Raseswar Sahu was nominated as the second Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

Convenor Dr. Prabodh Kumar Mishra presided the Annual Meeting of the Chapter held on 4th February at which State Convenor AB Tripathy was the Chief Guest. He compared the cultural heritage of Odisha to that of ancient Greece, and emphasized the importance of completing its documentation and publication at the earliest. Shri Nabin Chandra Mandhata (erstwhile Raja of Kaptipada) was invited as the Guest of Honour. He spoke about the legacy of the erstwhile royal rulers of Mayurbhanj and the monuments constructed during that period, and the need for their protection as sentinels of history.

Co-Convenor PK Mohanty presented the Annual Report.

The young members of INTACH have been actively involved in rallies, tree plantation and awareness campaign, and in particular the protection of the Simlipal Tiger Reserve

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) pointed out an “alarmingly low prey base” in the Simlipal Tiger Reserve due to hunting by tribals living on the fringes of this Reserve spanning 2750 sq.km in Mayurbhanj District. There is the recurring problem of akhand shikar, a mass hunting operation conducted by tribals and for sustenance hunting of ungulates during mid Jan-mid April The NTCA advises building up of prey population like boars and deers on which tigers prey, on the model of the Kanha Tiger Reserve. The wildlife authorities admit to deficiencies in managing the Reserve and money released but not put to use. Apart from poaching by Maoists, the motion-sensitive pictures taken by cameras set up by the Wildlife Institute of India showed several poachers with bows and arrows having a free run in the core area of Simlipal. It calls for urgent attention of the State Government.
biosphere reserve. Various prizes were awarded at the Annual Meeting to students who had participated in quiz and debating competitions held earlier.

A cultural programme concluded the day’s proceedings. It was presented by the students of the Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Baripada and by the noted Jhumar singer Dr. Snehalata Behera. Member JN Basa gave the vote of thanks.

**Sambalpur**

Convenor Dr. BB Mishra chaired the inaugural session of the Seminar on Stellate Temples in Odisha sponsored by the UGC. It was held on 21st January at the OPS Mahavidyalaya, Dhenkanal District. He made a substantial presentation to the participants on the 7th-9th centuries Stellate Temples that comprise a special group of heritage monuments of the State. They merit the attention of the Odisha ASI, and the Chapter proposes to pursue the conservation and protection effort to be initiated.

The keynote address at the Seminar was delivered by senior INTACH Member Professor Dr. Sadashiv Pradhan. He explained the finer details of the temple’s architectural and sculptural significance enhanced through a slide projection.

Late last year on 23 December, the Governor’s Trophy for the district level Prativa Anwesana competition was held and could not be covered in the last Virasat.

**Rajasthan**

**Ajmer**

The Chapter met at a the Shri Rangnath Venugopal Temple complex, Pushkar chaired by Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh. INTACH Member Meera Das talked about temple restoration work done in Ujjain with funds from Central Government. Dr. KT Narasimhan from Chennai talked about temple architecture. There was an exhibition of UNESCO recognized heritage sites by photographer Yash Mehta. At a subsequent meeting convened at the Ajmer Government Museum, Mohammed Yakub, Sher Mohammed, and Faraq Ahmed from J&K talked about their State’s heritage.

The Chapter decided to celebrate the 900th Foundation Day of Ajmer on 23rd March in collaboration with the District Administration.

**Kota**

Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya informs that the Chapter has embarked on an ambitious project of documenting the Natural Heritage of Kota District located on the eastern banks of the Chambal River, after having completed the listing of Built Heritage. The INTACH student team Krishnendra Nama, Kiran Choudhary, Girish Gupta and Deepankar Nirmal among others have already done a commendable job of covering 550 plant, 220 bird and 13 animal species found in their survey of natural forests, historic gardens and natural water bodies around Kota. During their several field visits, two seasonal plants unreported to date, were discovered and sent to the Botanical Survey of India for identification. The team also reported that only a few plants of the rare Gloriosa Superba are to be seen, and require immediate protection for their future survival.

The Chapter has sent a sample of the kind of documentation of fauna and flora that is being undertaken, which has been forwarded to the NH Division for their comments.

**Marwar-Jodhpur**

A popular event organized by the Chapter was the Rathambore Sangeet Mahotsav sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tourism Department of Rajasthan. The festival acquainted visitors with the continuity and antiquity of Rajasthani music tradition that has withstood thousands
of years to this day. The amalgam of different cultures in music, dance, architecture, festivities, customs, language and cuisine were also brought to peoples’ attention. A number of handicrafts like carpet weaving, sculpture, leather jooties, etc for which Rajasthan is known were also on display.

Convenor Dr. Mahendra Suingh Naggar secured the help of the Jodhpur administration and the Mehrangarh Museum Trust in removing extensive encroachment around the fortification wall of Singodia Wadi upto Bhagipur area. Disregarding the regulated 100 metre ban, people had started building houses. After protests and women’s dharna, the support of the Police greatly helped in clearing the encroachment for tree plantations that will be undertaken in the area. The Convenor also drew attention of the authorities to the Dahi Garh Chhatri which are in an endangered state and are in need of restoration.

Pali

Convenor Arjun Singh Shekhawat is proud of the Chapter’s consistent efforts in establishing the Gorwar Tourist Circuit. The Rajasthan State Government has approved of the proposal with an initial grant of Rs. 8 crore. The popular tourist destinations of Pali, Jalore and Sirhohi which have many historic palaces, forts and temples will be linked to this circuit. This initiative will no doubt make the people of Marwar equally proud of their heritage and bring prosperity to the region.

The Convenor has also written a thought provoking article covering the large number of heritage monuments in the Pali area lying neglected and derelict which was published in the local Press. A wake up call for the authorities as well?

Udaipur

Co-Convenor Munish Goyal reported the status of artisans of living heritage by INTACH Study Team, analyzing the problems and assistance required to revive and improve their skills.

A meeting was held on 29th February at Panchayat Bhawan in Molela village, Rajsamand district. The Sarpanch Gram Panchayat and 22 terracotta artisans, some of whom are prize winners including the 2012 Padma Shree awardee, participated in the dialogue. Convenor SK Verma spelt out the salient objective of this meeting convened to study the ground realities and find solutions to difficulties faced by artisans. He announced that about 15 crafts people from Molela would be invited to the proposed Regional Seminar to be held at Udaipur for evolving strategies to conserve the living heritage of Mewar that would benefit craftspersons living in Udaipur district.

The Workshop on Integrating Heritage Resources in Master Plan of Udaipur was another crucial meeting held on 19th-23rd March, organized jointly with the Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation and the City of Stasbourg, and in association with the
Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation. Smt. Rathi Vinay Jha, IHCN-Fit delivered the presidential address. The objective of the workshop were preparation of the terms of reference for heritage projects of the city; recommendations to integrate heritage resources into the master plan; and provide knowledge of heritage based planning to urban planners of Rajasthan. The target audience was principally urban planners and town planning related officials of the State committed to protect Udaipur, a 16th century city of international fame on the tourist circuit.

**Tamilnadu**

**Chennai**

Shri Sriram V. is appointed Convenor of the Chennai.

The office of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu State acknowledged the letter of State Convenor Suresh Sethuraman, sent in consultation with senior Chapter Members Tara Murli and Sujata Shankar. It drew attention to the representation made with regard to the major accidental fire at the heritage site of the State owned Kalas Mahal which requires reparation of the resultant damages. It was suggested that an archaeologist or preferably a conservation architect from INTACH be included in the Committee constituted by the Chief Minister to plan the future course of action.

The State Convenor held meetings with the Convenors of Madurai, Tanjavur, Nagercoil and Coimbatore to coordinate INTACH activities in the State.

Dr. Suresh Sethuraman has a doctorate from the Jawaharlal University, New Delhi. It is indeed laudable that he will be honoured with a second doctorate by the Mysore University at their forthcoming convocation, in recognition of his research on the history and art of Tanjavur region. INTACH extends its heartiest congratulations to our learned State Convenor.

**Kodaikanal**

The SITAR (Shivanjali INTACH Teach A Raga) Initiative at present covers twenty-five students from rural schools, and the Chapter is reaching out to more and more children in the upper Palani Hills. The musicians from the Temple of Fine Arts - Shivanjali, Coimbatore, have been coming to Kodaikanal for two days every six weeks to train the children who have been gifted guitars, violins, tablas and a keyboard for their practice in time for the next round of classes. These children will be sent to Coimbatore for a week’s training as was done last year, to ensure that Kodaikanal does not lose its heritage values. The Chapter proposes to bring out a coffee-table book on the Built-up & Natural Heritage of Kodaikanal. Architecture students have been making drawings of the important buildings, and INTACH Members are also helping the author with information regarding these buildings, flora and fauna, waterways, etc. to let people know ‘what is’ and ‘what was’ so that some parts of this beautiful hill station can be salvaged and protected.

**Nagercoil**

The Chapter conducted a review of the temple tanks at various temples like the Parvathi puram Venu Gopalswamy, Kasi Viswanathar, Thazhuviya Mahadevar, Azaagamman koil, Nagarajakoil and found them to be highly polluted with e-coli content of more than 3000 unit per 100 ml when the permissible international standard is only 10 unit per 100 ml of water. Even taking a bath in such polluted water can cause skin diseases and intestinal disorders. INTACH Head Office has therefore sponsored an Anoxic Bioremediation Project under the supervision of specialists Ms. Ritu Singh and Shri Sekar from the JM Environment Technology Pvt. Ltd. The process has been successfully tried out at Delhi and other places. The project was inaugurated at Suchdrum tank by Sub Collector Shri Venkatesh, and was attended by representatives of the Panchayat Union, engineers and many special invitees. It will be coordinated by Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan.

The Convenor is enthused by the success of the PIL filed to remove a building inside the Andarkulam Tank, Theroor village in Kanyakumari District by a court order. Another successful PIL was the writ of Mandamus to prevent conversion of paddy fields in heritage wetlands into housing plots. The Convenor now proposes to take up another issue asking the Tamil Nadu Government to sanction funds for re-roofing the heritage church (built...
by French General Delennoy in 1765) which is threatened with demolition as ASI inspection records it as a roofless structure. Chairman LK Gupta however cautioned that a preliminary effort should be made to create public awareness mentioning the role of Delannoy as the architect of the Venad kingdom under the Travancore banner before PIL is filed.

**Nilgiris**

Convenor Geetha Srinivasan will surely step up the efforts to ban the use of plastic after a recent personal experience. A bird was found heavily trapped in plastic rope in a the bush on her property. It was soon set free by her staff who are well sensitized to their mistress’s concern. Geetha Srinivasan identified the winged visitor as a *Blue Rock Thrush*, which according to Salim Ali’s book immigrates to the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka, the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Srinivasan property with its rich foliage and flowering shrubs is a winter haven for birds flying in from the frozen foothills of the Himalayas. The Convenor has made considerable headway with the district authorities to make the Nilgiris a plastic free district, but plastic strings also need to be banned.

The Nilgiri Library is called the *Saraswathi Mahal Library*, and is one of the oldest heritage libraries in the country.

**Salem**

Reports on the landmark building *Manigoondu* has been covered earlier in the Virasat, and also the representation made to the State Government backed by thousands of local people who signed the petition to withdraw the second order for it demolition. Another disquieting news now received is about the Salem Government Museum which houses some priceless collections like the 12th century stone statue of Theethanagar Parsuvanatha, 14th century ‘Hero Stones’ of the former Vijaynagar dynasty, massive cannons of the East India Company days, and other such valuables that are lying scattered in the open exposed to the elements. Many more such pieces of great anthropological and archaeological value are jostling for space after this huge storehouse of history shifted to the cramped premises (just 3600 sq.ft.) on Saradha College Road. The Salem Chapter submitted a memorandum to the Secretary Culture, the District Collector, and to the Commissioner of Museum suggesting relocation of the Museum to the Nattamai Kazhaga building opposite the Collectorate. It remains to be seen just how sensitive is the response of the concerned authorities.

**On the positive side, it goes to the credit of Chapter Members that they contributed Rs.23,000 to clean up the Chemmankulam Tank with the permission of the Collector.**

It had not been desilted for the last 50 years and was eutrophied with aquatic weeds. Convenor Meenakshi Sethu and Co-Convenor S. Shravan were rightly concerned about flex banners made of poly-vinyl chloride sheets used during the birthday celebrations of the Chief Minister because they have a serious impact on the environment and pose a health hazard. They are widely used on all occasion even in the villages, being non-bio-degradable they emit toxic fumes and cause environmental degradation when they are burnt after usage.

**The Chapter makes a very valid suggestion, that cloth banners should be used on celebratory occasions instead of poly-vinyl banners, or even better still why not mark important occasions by planting trees. “This would be great compliment to Mother Nature” they say, a message that needs to be infiltrated to people at all levels. Other Chapters might also like to propagate this idea with good effect.**

**Thanjavur**

**Events of March**

**Uttar Pradesh**

Co-Convenor RN Bhargava has forwarded the first issue of the State Chapter newsletter *Dharohar Darpan, a bilingual publication* with Architect Vipul Varshney as the Editor. Convenor Alok Ranjan in a forward message states the
objective is not only to spread the conservation message but also to appeal to citizens to make heritage a people’s movement. *Dharohar Darpan* hopes to create a platform that brings together various individuals, both known and unknown people in various institutions and places, and give voice to their information and experience. A wide range of both tangible and intangible heritage subjects and events have been covered.

As the Editor elaborates, conservation needs a motivational strategy – and this initiative is a good a way to start a campaign.

**Allahabad**

Convenor Dr. Sunil Gupta jointly with the State Bank of India, Allahabad Branch organized an *Illustrated Talk on Heritage Buildings of Allahabad* by Sushree Pragya Mehrotra on 27th February, presided by DGM, SBI Varanasi PK Agrawal. A *Heritage Walk* through the SBI Old Building was part of the event. Commissioner Rajesh Purohit was invited as the Chief Guest and Director Allahabad Museum as Guest of Honour to grace the event.

**Gorakhpur/Poorvanchal**

Dr. D.D. Tewari is appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Gorakhpur/Poorvanchal Chapter.

**Jhansi**

Convenor Brigadier JK Bohre informs that 83 trees more than a 1000 years old have been identified by the Chapter. With the suggestions of Dr. Maheshwari, the Convenor and Dr. SL Agarwal have also listed 180 heritage houses representative of Bundela, Gossai, Maratha and Mughal architectural style. The materials used are also being identified as the information would be useful in undertaking restoration work.

**Lucknow**

Chairman LK Gupta attended the *UP Convenors’ Meet* held on 24th March at the Hotel Golden Orchid, Lucknow, organized by UP State Convenor Alok Ranjan and State Co-Convenor RN Bhargava at the Lucknow Club.

Chairman welcomed Secretary Culture Manoj Kumar Singh invited as Chief Guest, and gave a brief resume of INTACH activities undertaken at Delhi. Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, also belonging to Indian Administrative Service, attended the meeting. Chairman wanted to understand from the assembled Convenors from Agra, Banda, Kanpur, Brij Bhoomi, Lakhimpur, Lalitpur, Allahabad apart from Lucknow, the constraints faced by them and any guidance required from Central Office. Each Chapter made presentations extensively detailing their activities. Lucknow Convenor made a presentation on the status of listing of heritage monuments and action taken on Unprotected Heritage Sites and Monuments of the city. He also spoke about the membership drive undertaken by Chapter Members. The proposed activities for 2012 like development of Kudia Chat Complex where a cultural function had been hosted by the Chapter on the previous evening, interaction with student population, seeking of corporate funding and sponsorships, etc. are some of the issues that would be tackled during the course of the year, he said.

**Chairman reminded the Convenors about the communication sent last year regarding tapping funds available under different Government schemes which would boost Chapter activities to a large extent.**

On an earlier occasion, Convenor Alok Ranjan had expressed appreciation of the biannual *Dharohar Darpan* brought out by the UP State Chapter. State Co-Convenor RN Bhargava compiled a concise resume of the Chapter profile, detailing activities undertaken by the Chapter during 2011 to date, with pictures of the major events. He also forwarded a report on the seminar *Unprotected Heritage Monuments and Sites and Strategies for the Conservation and Protection* held last November. Convenors interested in obtaining a copy may please write to him as it contains useful pointers with regard to conservation strategies.

**Another major event at Lucknow was the Heritage Vintage Car Drive from Bada Imambara to the La Martinere Boys School.** It was a rare opportunity for the 40 students of different schools to be given joyrides by the drivers of the 27 vintage cars that took part in the Drive. It was not only the first ever event of this kind, but made doubly interesting with a commentary by historian Ravi Bhatt. Shri RN Bhargava and Rev. Carlyle McFarland presented prizes to the three toppers of the race.

**Orai**

The Chapter organized a number of interesting events during the past few months to create greater heritage awareness among the people. On a heritage walk from...
Orai to Rampusa and Virasati, participants paid homage to leaders and martyrs who lost their lives during the 1857 struggle for India’s Independence. A book on Bundali Lok Geet was released by Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar, with participants singing a large number of old folk songs of the region. Another interesting event was the exhibition of 250 conch shells (shankhs traditionally blown during prayers). Principal DV College Dr. Anil Kumar Srivastava spoke about the scientific importance attached to the shankhs. It is believed they emerged from the sea during the Kahera Sagara Samudra Manthan, and that each shankh had a specific name. A seminar on the preservation and upkeep of ancient manuscripts was also held at the DV College which was attended by a large number of scholars in the field.

**West Bengal**

**Darjeeling**

Shri Siddarth Pradhan is appointed the Additional Co-Convenor of the Darjeeling Chapter.

**Kolkata**

Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri is appointed Co-Convenor of the West Bengal Chapter. Convenor GM Kapur reports that the Art Conservation Centre, Kolkata received three oil paintings from the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. (See under ICCI News).

There is an excellent report on Bishnupur located in the Bunkura District of West Bengal, brought out in 2006 by the Kolkata Chapter. Bishnupur is well known for its rich array of artistic and crafts traditions. It also boasts of a unique fusion of Bengali, Orissan and Islamic architecture strikingly manifested in the style of local temples and shrines. Chapters interested in obtaining more details may write to Convenor GM Kapur.

**Santiniketan**

The Story of Itonda, by Life Member Hita Brata Roy has been published in a beautifully brought out booklet by the Shantiniketan Chapter. Photographs of the restoration work in progress have been well documented. The search for resources to complete the restoration took more than a decade. While the combined support of Secretary Culture Jawhar Sircar and Chairman INTACH LK Gupta helped to resolve some of the impasse, due credit must be given to Convenor Subir Adhikari who relentlessly pursued the fruition of this project over the years. It has been ‘such a long journey’ from the time when in the Nineties Co-Convenor Urmila Ganguly first spotted the broken down temple to the glorious completion of the restoration work by 2012.

**News from Overseas Chapter**

**Belgium**

The International Young Open Farmers’ University at Banda is the newest initiative of the Chapter. End January Johan D’Hulster accompanied by a small group of six enthusiastic farmers visited Chairman LK Gupta and other officials at Central Office. One of them was Mr. Louis, senior lecturer in organic farming and seed selection, who has rich experience and innovative ideas that closely connect with Indian farming tradition. Also on hand were the young team of Jarno, Christel, Heidi and Simona who were well oriented to the subject as they have worked on farms. They proceeded to Khajuraho and Banda to attend the first session of the University for a cultural exchange with local Indian farmers. Lectures, site visits, yoga and music also featured in the schedule of activities.

Madhya Pradesh Government has a policy intent to make the whole state ‘organic’ in the coming years. Belgian Chapter intends to invite the 100 farmers living around the Lost Gardens for an interchange of ideas on soil fertility, seed autonomy and cultivation, composting, containment of pests, vegetable cultivation and mixed practices. Many farmers still think on two tracks, on the one hand traditional practice and on the other hand influenced by government programs with improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. The promotion of a ‘Humane Agrarian Centre’ is all about showing “the pearl of heritage of Indian farmers wisdom”.

**INTACH Convenors would no doubt be interested in knowing more details on the results of farmers interchange which are awaited from the Belgian Chapter, as it has an umbilical link to conservation of rural heritage**

Convenor Geert Robberechts circulates information on the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho to his Chapter Members regularly. Since 2009 this project has been supported by De Pajottenlander, producers of exotic multi-fruit juices, with five Eurocents on every bottle going to the Khajuraho project.
Art Conservation Centre, Delhi

The Delhi Centre undertook the conservation of a colonial-style outdoor marble garden sculpture (monolith with arm pieces joined) mounted on a brick and cement pedestal. It had deteriorated due to severe fluctuations in temperature, atmospheric pollution, biological activity and other external factors. Cracks, breaking at joints, pitting in stone and faulty repair work were evident, with two fingers on right hand and the left hand broken.

An innovative steam cleaning method was used on the faulty repair, and pieces were re-aligned using the dowel method with losses filled using inert homogenous material.

The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), a memorial to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is located in the majestic Teen Murti House. With its historic ambience, it is today a popular venue for a variety of programmes and national events. In store are variety of art objects comprising photographs, paintings in mixed media, wooden and metal objects, textiles, etc. mostly gifted to Nehru by various dignitaries from around the world.

The on-going ‘Modernization and Up-gradation of NMML Project’ envisages creation of state-of-the-art facilities at the institution to widen both visibility and public interface. ICCI, Delhi was approached to offer consultation on display and storage of the NMML collection. In the first phase, conservation work of 106 objects and condition evaluation of about 1500 gift items in the Museum’s collection is currently being undertaken.

ICCI Bhubaneswar

The restoration of the Odisha State Maritime Museum-Jobra, a project sponsored of the State Department of Water Resources, is the nation’s first and much needed Maritime Museum. Once lying in a sad state of disrepair, the restoration work executed by INTACH conservationists was greatly appreciated by the Chief Minister during his visit on 2nd March. The establishment of the Museum at the old Jobra Workshop, a 1874 heritage building of the British regime, provides a focus to the city of Cuttack and the traditional maritime activities of India, and particularly that of Odisha.

The building and other auxiliary units like machine room, saw mill refrigerator workshop, lock channel and gate, steam engine road roller, old model vehicles were all in dilapidated condition needing upgradation. The Museum will now have several thematic galleries like Maritime History of Odisha, Boat Building, Machines, Maritime Rituals, Navigation, Coastal Architecture, etc. It will also house a Library, Open Air Auditorium, Research Center, Restaurant, Souvenir Shops, Children Activity Room, Multimedia Hall and an exhibition space. The Museum work is likely to be completed this year with additional funds readily sanctioned by the Chief Minister.

ICKPAC, Bengaluru

A programme was organized by the Bengaluru Chapter in collaboration with the local ICCI Centre to create public awareness about heritage preservation titled ‘Parichay. Led by Director Madhu Rani, around 25 people from all walks attended the interactive event.
**Mother Teresa Painting**

A charcoal painting on paper measuring 75cms x 53cms by Artist: P. Hart was received in an extremely fragile state due to damages caused by water seepage, wrong storage, bad handling and pasting on a ply board with fevicol. The separation of the drawing from the board was done mechanically by removing the mdf board cautiously layer by layer, a consuming and difficult process. It was then cleaned, flattened and re-lined using Japanese technique with Japanese paper and starch paste with extreme care as the medium was charcoal (which was fugitive), and finally mounted on an archival acid free mount board.

**ICI Lucknow**

A four day workshop on “Prevention & Control of Bio-deterioration in Manuscripts” was organized by the National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi, INTACH Indian Conservation Institute, Lucknow and International Council for Biodeterioration of Cultural Property (ICBCP) at Lucknow. It was inaugurated by Prof. Dipti Tripathi, Director, National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi. Padamshri Dr. O. P. Agarwal presided over the inaugural session. The program director was Dr. Shashi Dhawan (former project officer and Head of Bio-deterioration Division, NRLC and former INTACH Fellow) and coordinator was Director, INTACH ICI, Lucknow Mamta Mishra. There were 27 participants from different States - Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Haryana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

It was the first workshop of its kind on bio-deterioration in which fungus and insects are the main reason for deterioration. The participants were able to familiarize themselves with various biological organisms, causes and effects of specific bio-deterioration, their prevention and control, role of environmental conditions and measurement of environmental parameters. There were demonstrations and practicals on microscopic studies for examination of fungi and insects.

The ICCI Centre and Manuscripts Conservation Center jointly organized a one month intensive training on “Curative Conservation of Manuscripts” under the National Mission for Manuscripts at ICI, Lucknow from 18th- January-17th February. It was inaugurated by Prof. K.K. Thapliyal (Retd.), Head of Department and Dean of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology Department, Lucknow University, and Dr. O.P. Agarwal who is Emeritus Advisor of INTACH presided over the inaugural session. It was attended by 11 participants from various institutions located in different States – Ladakh, Uttrakhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. They were made conversant with various topics through illustrated presentation by experts and eminent personalities on subjects like history, material and technology of Palm Leaf, Birch Bark and Paper; type of ink and colour; factors and effects of deterioration; documentation and conservation of palm leaf, birch bark and paper manuscripts; recent developments in conservation of manuscripts, etc. Practical exercises and group discussions were included in the training.

Dr. Veena Vidyarthi, Secretary, State Lalit Kala Academy distributed the certificates at the Valedictory.

The ICCI Lucknow also organized a three day workshop on “Preventive Conservation of Art Objects” jointly with and Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery, at Vadodara.
from 7th–9th February under the Micro Inks Project. It was inaugurated by the Director, State Archaeology, Y. S. Rawat. An insight into the activities of INTACH ICCI was given by Principal Director MHD Nilabh Sinha. The faculty of the workshop included him, K.K. Gupta, Smt. Mamta Mishra, Subroto Sen, and Vinod Tiwari. 47 participants from various institutions in India attended the workshop to learn about preventive measures and how to prolong the life of art objects by controlling the factors causing degradation. The topics covered included museum materials; effect of temperature and humidity; care and handling of museum objects; effect of light and pollution; recording of RH and Light levels; ideal storage; technical examination of oil painting and related conservation issues.

Director, Department of Museum, M.M. Pathan distributed certificates to the participants at the valedictory session.

ICCI Kolkata

A painting by Harold Speed (1872-1957) and two other paintings by Henry Tanworth Wells (1828-1903) and the unknown “W.M. Beresford” of Sir William MacPherson were received from the Royal Calcutta Turf for restoration by the INTACH Art Conservation Centre, Kolkata. On examination it was found that the paintings were previously lined on another canvas and lost portions had been filled unscientifically, with the flaking, abrasions and warping now prominently visible. Conservation treatment involved a laborious process of removing the previously lined canvas mechanically, cleaning the dry adhesive with a Wishab sponge and use of appropriate...
solvents. The most critical part was removal of varnish that was highly discoloured with the help of lens tissue strips to reveal the brilliant colours underneath. Losses and torn portions were mended with patches of chamfered muslin cloth, ensuring that the warp and weft threads of the painting matched those of the patches. The lacunae in the paintings and ground layer were filled by Kaolin powder and French chalk powder, and subsequently cooled with 2% Paraloid B-72 solution to give an isolation layer. The 19th century paintings were reinforced by lining them onto newly stretched canvas using cold lining technique. The final touching was done with acrylic colour and finished with a coat of Dammer varnish. Details of the treatment described indicates the laborious work and time involved in conservation of each such painting.

**NEWS FROM AHD**

**Bassian Kothi, Ludhiana, Punjab**

Basin Kothi or the Canal Rest House located fifty kms from Ludhiana was constructed during colonial period. It is associated with the last Maharaja of Punjab, Duleep Singh who was kept as a captive in the Kothi in 1850 before being exiled to England, never to return to his homeland. After him five Namdhari's who participated in the Kuka Movement were held prisoners in Kothi. It was later used as Session Court for several years and converted into a rest house for the State Irrigation Department after Independence.

Due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance by government offices located in the Kothi after Independence, this heritage complex was reduced to a most dilapidated state. INTACH prepared a detailed project report for its conservation and adaptive reuse at the request of the Punjab Government. Work started in June 2011 to develop the site as an interactive and lively tourist destination with heritage museum dedicated to Maharaj Duleep Singh, interpretation centre and other facilities. Presently, the conservation of the main building is in progress and the civil work is nearing completion. The building was previously covered in cement plaster which is being removed and replaced with traditional lime plaster. The cement flooring has been replaced with Dholpur stone flooring. All later additions and alterations have been replaced with open corridors lined with twin

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**Portrait of Will Beresford by McPhorson Before and After**

**Portrait of Sir William Macphorson by HT Wells Before and After**
columns. The collapsed roof in one of the halls has been reconstructed and the arch openings reconstructed following the original design. Blocked door and window openings have been restored to its original shape and size displayed inside other halls. Sculpture of Maharaja on a horse is to be placed in front of the main building.

Work on the memorial for the Maharaja is also in progress. It will display the life of the Maharaja in India and in England, his family, friends and last days. Replicas of the Maharaja’s throne, furniture, dresses, sword, the famous Kohinoor diamond armlet, jewelry, coins and portraits will be displayed in other halls.

**The Old Secretariat, Faridkot, Punjab**

The Old Secretariat is one of the most important heritage buildings of Faridkot District and a classical example of a fusion between Colonial and Indian architectural styles. It was inaugurated in 1934 by Raja Harindar Singh Brar Bans Bahadur; and currently houses District & Session Court, Subordinate Judicial courts, Consumer Court and Commissioner’s Office.

The execution of work on the Old Secretariat Building at Faridkot commenced in February 2011 on the basis of a Detailed Project Report submitted by AHD. The court complex has been divided into three sections, with the central portion being double storied with a mezzanine floor in-between. Majority of the conservation work in the central portion is almost complete while work in the other two sections are ongoing.

**Bateshwar Temple Complex, Agra, UP**

The historic Bateshwar temple complex located along the bank of River Yamuna is renowned for its Hindu temples, primarily devoted to Lord Shiva and one large Jain temple. These temples were built by King Badan Singh of Bhadawar dynasty in 17th century. They retain their beautiful original frescoes painted with traditional vegetable paints. Earlier there were 101 temples out of which only 42 temples survive presently.

At the request of Convenor Agra Chapter, a AHD team visited Bateshwar Temple Complex for preparing a preliminary conservation report and three main temples, i.e. Bhameshwar, Narmadeshwar and Rameshwar temples were documented. The report includes important issues related to their condition, broad recommendations and estimates for conservation.

**NEWS FROM NHD**

Under the Environmental Protection Act [1986] there exists a provision for declaration of ecologically sensitive areas, which though not so strictly protected as designated protected areas, still enjoy a measure of protection. Chapters would be interested to know that even major campuses can qualify as ecologically sensitive areas and gain protection for their natural features under the Act. Shantiniketan is one such campus in West Bengal where the identification of the various species and their habitats resulted in it being accorded the protected status. **Our Chapters across the country could similarly identify ecologically rich campuses in their regions which serve the cause of biodiversity conservation, and**
The following highly abridged extract from “The Pranab Sen Committee Report of 2000 on Identifying Parameters for Designating Ecologically Sensitive Areas In India” is instructive in conceptual clarity, as well as a primer for naturalists using the INTACH platform.

Ecological sensitivity or fragility is but one of the elements in the broader area of environmental concern. Thus viewed, ecological sensitivity becomes inextricably linked to the concept of biological diversity.

Ecological sensitivity is defined as the imminent possibility of:

(a) permanent and irreparable loss of extant life forms from the world; or
(b) significant damage to the natural processes of evolution and speciation.

In this context, the Committee identified thirteen principal parameters of ecological sensitivity falling into three broad categories of ecological significance. The first of these categories is species related, and defines the characteristics of species which are or may become threatened with extinction. The second category relates to eco-systems. Some of these derive their importance from being essential to the survival of the first category, while the rest are critical for maintaining the range and pace of evolution and speciation. The third category includes geo-morphological conditions which are known to have a substantial effect on eco-systems at large. The list of these primary parameters or criteria is given below:

**Primary Criteria**

*Species based*
- Endemism
- Rarity
- Endangered species
- Centres of evolution of domesticated species

*Ecosystem based*
- Wildlife Corridors
- Specialised ecosystems
- Special breeding site/area
- Areas with intrinsically low resilience
- Sacred groves
- Frontier Forests

*Geo-morphological features based*
- Uninhabited Islands in the sea
- Steep Slopes
- Origins of Rivers

In the opinion of the Committee, areas which meet even one of the above primary criteria deserve to be protected without any additional factor or considerations being brought in.

In addition to these primary criteria, the Committee has also identified seven auxiliary criteria, which though less compelling than the primary criteria, nevertheless require consideration in view of our insufficient state of knowledge and ecological understanding. The definitions and importance of these auxiliary criteria are listed below:

**Auxiliary Criteria**

*Species based*
- Areas or centres of less known food plants
- Ecosystem based
- Wetlands
- Grasslands

*Geo-morphological features based*
- Upper Catchment areas
- Not so Steep Slopes
- High Rainfall Areas
- Other uninhabited Islands

Although some of the above areas are already under some form of protection, the Committee was of the view that additional protection under the EPA should nevertheless be accorded to either the whole or part of the above areas which fulfill the criteria of ecological sensitivity as defined in this report. Such multiple protection is both feasible under law and desirable under ecological considerations. This would still, however, leave vast areas of the country uncovered in so far as assessment of their ecological sensitivity is concerned. Given the size of the country, it is very unlikely that at the present rate of progress complete ecological mapping would be feasible within any reasonable span of time. Reliance would, therefore, have to be placed on research and investigation that are being carried out by a wide range of people from academics to environmental activists.

Even with such information, the technical expertise available to the Government at present for evaluating ecological sensitivity or fragility and demarcating the area concerned is extremely limited. Although there are a large number of agencies working in various areas of bio-diversity, ecology, wild life and genetic resources, each has a very specific focus and none at present are focused on mapping of ecologically sensitive areas. These organisations are also inadequately networked, even the combined resources of all of these agencies are grossly inadequate given the size of the country and its extent of bio-diversity, to make a collective impact.

**Recommendations and Suggestions**

In light of the above, and of the assessment methodologies suggested in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Report the Committee recommends the following measures:
• In accordance with the mandate enshrined in Articles 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution, areas identified as ecologically sensitive/fragile should be accorded special protection under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
• The criteria described in this Report relate only to ecological sensitivity, which is a subset of the wider environmental concerns. Therefore, protection under the EPA should not be restricted only to areas satisfying one or more of these criteria, and other environmental concerns should be appropriately addressed.
• This Report, at various places, recommends that the Ministry of Environment and Forests notify different lists of species which need protection. Although many of them are included in other existing lists, such recommended lists need to be brought out separately, notified and kept updated as the level of knowledge and information increases.
• Along with the notification of species, the areas of occupancy or occurrence also need to be identified. A methodology, therefore, should be evolved whereby identification of the areas concerned is taken up immediately on notification of such lists and/or on any updated list. Active participation of non-governmental and civil society organisations should be encouraged in these tasks.
• Demarcating the areas which need protection is a highly complex and technical job which requires considerable expertise since it would vary for each criterion. The Ministry of Environment and Forests should identify institutions which are capable of undertaking such work, strengthen their capability and grant them due accreditation for doing so.
• The nature and extent of human activity that can be permitted in designated ecologically sensitive areas will vary from criterion to criterion. These must therefore be worked out with due regard to the nature of the criterion and its implications.
• In order to ensure that deliberate destruction of species or eco-systems does not occur, once an area has been declared ecologically sensitive, and accordingly notified for protection, it should be made perfectly clear that the area shall not be de-notified even if the criteria is not satisfied at any time in the future.

There is no comprehensive programme for generating base-line data on different aspects relating to biogeographical regions in India. Measures need to be taken to systematically map and record such information on ecological characteristics.
• The expertise available on Conservation Biology, including ecology and wildlife, in the country is extremely limited, especially in so far as field investigation is concerned. Measures need to be taken to encourage and expand such capabilities in the country, both at the institutional and individual levels.
• A comprehensive monitoring programme and network must immediately be designed and operationalised, which would involve not only Government agencies but also other institutions, universities, NGOs, and even individuals, particularly those living in and around these areas.

NEWS FROM HECS

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) has notched an impressive array of activities during this quarter.

Teacher Training Workshops

**Mumbai, 17th January**

Ms. Tasneem Mehta, Vice Chairman, INTACH and Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum welcomed 25 enthusiastic teachers from 16 prestigious schools of Mumbai to the workshop. Conservation Architect Vikas Dilawari made a presentation on the architectural conservation of significant heritage buildings and structures of Mumbai. Director, HECS, Purnima Datt began the session with presentations on Heritage Education and on HECS and its functions. Post lunch the teachers were taken on a walk through the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, conducted by Varsha Reshamwala, Curatorial Associate of the Museum, explaining objects belonging to colonial and contemporary period. The Museum contains objects, pottery, silver and bronze idols, old maps, models of local people in their traditional dress and also displays works of contemporary artists. The walk concluded at the library which contains many valuable books on the History of Bombay.

**Ambala, 28th - 29th February**

A two day Teacher Training Workshop on heritage awareness was held at Ambala with the participation...
of 45 teachers from 23 schools. The methodology adopted was practical and interactive with slide shows by resource persons, talks, discussions and group activities. The workshop commenced with a welcome note by Convener Ambala Chapter Brig Lamba, who urged the teachers to protect and preserve the heritage of Ambala, emphasizing listing being of utmost importance. Lt. Gen. Ranjit Singh gave an enriching presentation on heritage of Ambala, followed by Prof. Anuradha Jindal’s presentation on Sadar Bazaar of Ambala, and a talk by Director HECS. The workshop included a heritage walk to the Navrang Rai Sarovar, Ambika Devi Mandir, St. Paul Church and Raja and Rani ka Talab conducted by Brig. Lamba and Dr Eva Parasher.

Filmit India Festival

The Filmit India Film Festival was held at several cities - Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa.

Kolkata, 2nd February

A total 80 students and 10 teachers from 6 schools - Loreto Day School, Sealdah; Modern High School for Girls; Lakshmipat Singhania Academy; DPS Megacity, Heritage School, Birla High School attended the Filmit festival at the Birla High School for Boys, presided by Convener West Bengal Chapter GM Kapur. The Chief Guest was Suman Mukherjee, a well known theatre and film personality from Calcutta along with his wife, Mallika Jalan who is a film maker and environmental activist in her own right. The Chief Guest inspired the students to continue making films and spoke of the effects of good visuals, editing and crisp music scores for the making of good films. Ms Jalan spoke about the unique experience of making films and the thought process which needed to go into making short films and advertisements.

Chennai, 6th February

Organised in collaboration with the Chennai Chapter, the Filmit Festival at Vidya Mandir School was attended by 8 prestigious schools with a total of 100 students and 10 teachers. The Chief Guest Dr S. Krishnaswamy, a well-known film maker and a Padma Shri awardee, has made a number of documentary films including the well known film Indus Valley to Indira Gandhi. Dr S. Suresh Convener, Tamil Nadu Chapter, presided over the event. The schools put up a song performance and poetry recitation. Along with screening the films made by the children, snippets of their experiences while making the films were depicted.

Delhi, 10th February

About 20 prestigious schools in Delhi, with a total of 300 students and 30 teachers, participated in the Festival at the India Islamic Cultural Centre Auditorium. The introduction by Director, HECS was followed by an address by Ms. Kavya Nirman from HECS who welcomed the Chief Guest, Deputy Editor CNN IBN, Sagarika Ghose and Guests of Honour Lady Helen Hamlyn from UK, eminent theatre personality Sanjana Kapoor, and CEO National Culture Fund Dr Shobita Punja. Students of participating schools shared their experiences about the film making, and the best selected films made by Delhi schools were screened.

INTACH Chairman L.K Gupta addressed the students. Dr. Shobita Punja congratulated them for the efforts. Chief guests Sagarika Ghose and Sanjana Kapoor shared the experience of meeting the young film makers. Lady Helen Hamlyn encouraged the students for pursuing their interest. The festival concluded with the award ceremony conducted by Moby Sara Zachariah and Abhishek Das from HECS.

Hyderabad, 13th February

Filmit India organized in collaboration with Hyderabad Chapter at Bharatiya Vidyabavana’s Public School was attended by 5 renowned schools totalling 70 students and 10 teachers. Ms. Nandini Reddy a well-known film director of Telugu films was the Chief Guest. She said that making films was like a game of squash as it was you who had to hone your skills. Convener
The painting and essay competitions, enhanced with the screening of Films on Tagore specially obtained from Shantiniketan, were organized by a number of INTACH Chapters:

Ajmer, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Balaosore, Brajbhoomi, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Cuttack, Dahanu, Darjeeling, Dharward, Delhi, Gurgaon, Gwalior, Hazardibagh, Jabalpur, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Kadapa, Kodaq, Ladakh, Machlipatnam, Marwar-Jodhpur, Mayurbhanj, Mandla, Mehsana, Mizoram, Mohendragarh, Nagpur, Patiala, Pune, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Rajpipla, Ranchi, Rohilkhand, Salem, Santiniketan, Sawai Madhopur, Shekawati, Shivpuri, Sirohi, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Warangal, Entries also from Gangtok, Dehra Dun, Mumbai, Jammu, Ahmedabad, East Godavari and Vishakapatnam.

The events elicited a warm response from students who enthusiastically took part in the proceedings, and the event captured wide media attention at all places.

HECS has received to date more than 6000 entries, and is in the process of selecting the prize winners.

Jabalpur, 20th December

Held at Joy Senior Secondary School, Vijay Nagar 97 students participated.
A lecture was delivered by artist cum author Dr. Amritlal Begad, Retd. Director, Government School of Art and Painting, Jabalpur, and more importantly a former student of Shantiniketan.

Rajpipla, 21st December

It was held at Rajmata Uday Kunwerba Hall, Shri Maharaja Rajendra Singh Vidhyalay.

Marwar-Jodhpur, 3rd January

The painting and essay competition on Tagore was held at Chokelao Palace, Mehrangarh Fort in collaboration with Mehrangarh Museum Trust with 100 students from 10 schools.

Thanjavur, 6th January

A documentary film on Tagore by Satyajit Ray was screened at the Little Scholars Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur. Apart from the prizes, books on Rabindranath Tagore were distributed.

Anuradha Reddy presided over the programme attended by eminent journalists and media experts including Indian Express, ETV and Telugu media.

Goa, 15th February

Filmit India at Panjim in collaboration with the Goa Chapter at the Sunaparanta Centre for the Arts was attended by 7 well known schools totaling 80 students and 10 teachers. The Chief Guest Israel Sarvistha is a theatre expert who also trained teachers in theatre therapy in Kabul, Afghanistan. She has also made a film Secret Box and folk theatre Yakshangana. The schools put up interesting performances with song, mime and poetry recitation, apart from screening films snippets made by the children. Ms Sarvistha lauded the students for their efforts and the pro-activism shown in saving snakes.

With camera, a pad and computer we worked,
It seemed at every corner a problem lurked.
Videos to be filmed, scripts to be written,
Music to be composed, with qualms we were ridden.
But through sheer perseverance we prevailed
Movies about mehendi, coffee and Pongal we unveiled.

Harsh Sankar Vidya Mandir Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

We wanna thank INTACH
We wanna come back
Again and again
We’re on the right track
We’ll not go back
We take a pledge
To save the heritage.

Pinnacle School, Delhi

Tagore at 150 - Power of the Pen

INTACH with the support of INTACH UK Trust organized an all India Essay and a Painting Competition on Rabindranath Tagore entitled Tagore at 150 – Power of the Pen for school students from mid 2011 concluding March 2012 to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.
Raiipur, 7th January
At the painting and essay competition at Mayaram Surjan Smriti Lokayan, Rajbandha Maidan, noted musician Dr. Kalyan Sen was invited as the Chief Guest.

Chandrapur, 8th January
An essay competition at Hindi City High School, was held.

Sawai Madhopur, 10th January
A total of 8 schools participated in the event.

Mizoram
The competition was held at two different places (Aizawl and Serkawn); the main one organized at Aizawl was chaired by Pu Thanseia. An educative talk on Tagore was delivered by Ms. Margaret L. Pachuau, Asst. Prof. Mizoram University, enumerating the times of Tagore, his legacy and his relevance in the present times.

Bhubaneshwar, 14th January
Held at Mother’s Public School, 5 schools participated in the event. State Convenor A.B. Tripathy was the guest speaker on Rabindranath Tagore’s life and work.

Cuttack, 15th January
Dr. Manoranjan Mohapatra President of Cuttack Clubformer Professor of English Sahadev Patra, and a well known artist Mahendra Mohapatra addressed the participants on the life of Tagore.

Aurangabad, 19th January
An essay and painting competition was organized, with two eminent speakers - Principal River Dale School Dhruba Das, who studied in Shantinektan, has 26 books to his credit; and President Bengal Association, Aurangabad, Gautam Ganguly, addressed the students.

Delhi, 20th January
HECS organized the essay and painting competitions for students of 24 prestigious schools, including some of the leading public and government schools with notable success.

The Chief Guest Prof Shirshendu Chakraborty spoke about the famous works of Tagore as well as his travels across India and the world. He emphasized the importance of remembering Tagore and celebrating his genius. The students were encouraged to participate in the competitions by the Chairman of INTACH, Lt. Gen. L.K. Gupta who spoke on the purpose of celebrating Tagore at 150.

Gwallor, 20th January
Held at the sprawling campus of Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya 12 schools participated.

Brij Bhoomi, 24th January
A painting and essay competition on Rabindra Nath Tagore was held at Sacre Heart Convent Hr. Sec. School, Dholi Piau, Mathura with the participation of 10 schools.

Gurgaon, 25th January
11 schools participated at Delhi Public School, Sec – 45, with noted dancer Shovana Narayan as the Chief Guest for the event eliciting much appreciation from all present.

Nagpur, 29th January
Held at Dharampeth Boys Highschool, 79 students participated.

Dharwad, 3rd January
The competition was held at RCS High School with the participation of 52 children.

Shivpuri, 31st January
Convenor Harsh Mittal delivered a talk on Rabindranath Tagore at Happy Days School.

Chandigarh
Held at the Strawberry Field School, more than 200 children took part in the Tagore competition. Smt Prearna Puri, Muncipal Corporation, Chandigarh was the Chief Guest.

Best Heritage Club Awarded
The Heritage Club of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad received the Best Heritage Club Award 2011. The work and efforts of teachers, parents and students are outstanding. The activities ranged from - site visits, heritage walks, heritage week celebrations, awareness programmes, art workshops, eco-friendly works and many other activities. D. Sreeja of VIIIth standard writes “I can now proudly say that I shall respect and preserve my heritage, the nation’s
heritage and all thanks to our school’s heritage club and of course INTACH.”

**First Runners Up**

The first runner ups have also shown remarkable efforts. Bluebells International School Delhi showed enthusiasm for heritage walks all over Delhi together with workshops and events. Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matric Higher Secondary School, Chennai was active throughout the year, and celebrated many days on monthly basis, ranging from Road Safety Week in January 2011 to National Disability Day in December 2011. Oxford Grammar School, Hyderabad organized a unique Heritage Exhibition of old prized possessions which were visited by parents, teachers, students and others.

**Second Runners Up**

They too were not far behind. G.D Salwan School, Delhi undertook many activities; specially noteworthy is adoption and care of the 14th century monument ‘Bhatiyari ka Mahal’. One of the students even dedicated a poem to it. Sri Sankara Sr. Secondary School, Chennai had a colourful year with festive celebrations and a food mela. The heritage club at Govt. Higher Sec. School, Pervallur Malappuram, Kerala did some unique work on a house called Edathola in Malappuram District, a best specimen of Kerala’s architectural style. The club members visited this site and collected the names of rare documents preserved in the home.

Heritage Clubs all over India have made a difference. To inspire more creative and quality work, HECS has given 14 schools special prizes: Springdale School, Amritsar; Delhi Public School, Sec-45, Gurgaon; Bhavan’s SL Public School, Amritsar; GKD Matriculation Higher Sec. School, Coimbatore; Govt. High School, Hirebadawadgi, Bagalkot, Karnataka; Akshara School, Kakinada; St. Mary’s School, Delhi; Govt. High School, Dharwad, Karnataka; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Periyakalapet, Puducherry; Delhi Public School, Bopal and Ahmedabad; Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior; Baptist Higher Secondary School, Serkawn, Lunglei, Mizoram; Ryan International School, Sec-40, Gurgaon and Delhi Public School, East Ahmedabad. 4 schools were recognized as “new achievers”: Taheri English High School, Jamnagar Gujarat; Little Scholars Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thanjavur; and Lilavatibai Podar School, Mumbai.

**NEWS FROM ICHD**

The Intangible Heritage Cultural Division (ICHD) is pursuing the preservation and promotion of all art forms, old and new, in keeping with INTACH’s mission of preserving India’s diverse cultural traditions and various cultural forms, like endangered languages, dying crafts, oral traditions, performing arts, folk art, sacred groves, and traditional medicine.

INTACH hosted the *Jharkhand Mahotsav* in collaboration with the Jharkhand Department of Tourism, the Jharkhand Mahotsav in collaboration with the Jharkhand Department of Tourism, the Kalamandir, Jamshedpur; and Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi. Jharkhand is particularly renowned for its rich cultural traditions and tribal festivals, music, dance, crafts, etc. Folk music and dance form an integral part of its culture landscape, showcasing the vibrant life of the tribal people. Tribal craft forms including paintings are also essential to the tribal way of life. The *Mahotsav* was an attempt to promote Jharkhand’s many splendid folk traditions and generate interest in the beauty of its cultural diversity.
Jharkhand Mahotsav was inaugurated on 23rd February at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre with a performance of a Tribal Music Conference, and recital of Manbhum Chhau and Seraikela Chhau. The following two days the venue shifted to INTACH Central Office on 24th-26th February. Workshops on the craft of mask making, on Sarfa and Seraikela Chhau dance, and on Pytar and Sohrai painting were held. Other programmes included screening of films on craft and tourism. At the conclusion of both days’ programmes, there were recitals of Sarfa dance, Firkaal (of the Bhumi Tribe), Paika dance (of the Munda Tribe) and Seraikela Chhau performed by renowned artiste in the evenings.

The Mahotsav also showcased the diverse crafts of Jharkhand through stalls that were put up within INTACH premises including paintings, Dokra, Papier Mache, grass mats, and Kantha stitchwork.

**International Women’s Day**

The ICHD invited Arpana Caur for inaugurating the International Women’s Day on 5th March at INTACH Central Office. Senior artist Surjit Akre was also present. Paintings and porcelain by a group of 13 women artists from Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana were showcased at INTACH with a week long exhibition entitled *Yet God Wanted More* that attracted many visitors.

**The Heritage Tourism Division**

The SATTE-INTACH Heritage Awards ceremony was held at the Ashoka Hotel on 10th February this year, at the conclusion of the prestigious SAATE travel mart. INTACH was represented by Chairman LK Gupta and senior officials of the Chapter Division. The following five achievers were honoured for their outstanding work in the established categories given below:

**Innovative, Adaptive Re-Use of Heritage Concepts and Properties for Tourism Purposes:**

**Conservation Architect Prof. N Ramaswamy.**

For restoration and reuse of 1920 Vallakadavu Boat House belonging to the erstwhile Travancore rulers; now handed over to Tourism Department. The reconstruction was carried out retaining the exterior and boat mooring, with interior changes made to accommodate a museum and a restaurant.

**Unexplored Heritage Sites designed for Heritage Trails, Walks and Tours – Its Marketing and Promotion:**

**Convenor Agra Chapter, Ram Pratap Singh.**

For tirelessly promoting responsible tourism initiatives, as co-founder of the Chambal Conservation Foundation, in the Chambal Valley which is home to diverse historical, cultural and natural attractions.

**Documentation and Promotion of Intangible and Living Heritage involved with Craft Tradition and Community Based Heritage Tourism:**

**Shekhawati Chapter Convenor Ramesh C. S Jangid.**

For working with Apani Dhani Ecolodge located in Shekhawati, Rajasthan, an area known for its wall paintings. He opened the first “Home Stay” of Shekhawati at his ancestral home in Nawalgarh in 1985 to launch Alternative Travel-India for “promoting sustainable tours”; and created Apani Dhani Eco Lodge in 1990.

**Quality Work on Education, Dissemination and Outreach of Heritage:**

**Mehsana Chapter Convenor Javahar C. Mehta.**

For his contribution to INTACH’s heritage education programmes in the local language that enthused students, teachers and the community in Mehsana. He also writes...
stories, articles and poems; trains teachers; promotes heritage walks; and conducts heritage campaigns

Exemplary Work Done for Preservation and Promotion of Historic Towns:

Gujarat State Convenor Ms. Manvati Baradi.

For comprehensive documentation of 3000 heritage properties in Surat, and categorization for provisions of technical assistance for their conservation. An architect and town planner, she is Founder Director of Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad. Surat Municipal Corporation is now finalizing a heritage management policy for the city on the basis of this work, jointly with co-partner Meghana Malhitra of the Centre.

Chairman with SAATE Heritage Tourism Awardees

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

Sacred Sites

The Eastern Himalayas has many sacred sites like Mount Kailash (Tibet), Lumbini and Gosaikunda in Nepal, Taksang in Bhutan, and the Gurudongmar Lake in Sikkim, all having religious and spiritual significance to the people of the region. They are also regions of great biodiversity value—but now threatened by the land use change, industrialization, not to mention sale of liquor and meat that has led to the dilution of sacred practices. There is a new threat looming over the horizon of this region by way of climate change, as even minor change of temperatures can impact this sensitive region in a major way. The Punakha Dzong temple in Bhutan for example was damaged by glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF) three times during the last 60 years. The World Wildlife Fund is working on the Living Himalayas Initiative in a bid to highlight the future threats posed to the Eastern Himalayan sites.

30,000 Year Plant

Russian scientists discovered a burrow containing fruit and seeds stuck in the Siberian permafrost, and in a pioneering experiment managed to resurrect an entire plant. The Silene Stenophylla ferreted out of a burrow, what might have been a squirrels treasure house, is the oldest plant to be brought to life. What is more it is fertile producing white flowers and seeds. The findings were published in the US Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences which stated: “We consider it essential to continue permafrost studies in search of an ancient genetic pool, that of pre-existing life, which hypothetically has long since vanished from the earth’s surface”. Is it then possible to resurrect Ice Age animals? On the other hand do we really want dinosaurs around?

Red Deer Cave Men

Another stunning recovery is bone fragments found in two Chinese caves having an extraordinary mix of primitive and familiar anatomical features, named the Red Deer Cave people after the cave where they were found. Dated 14,000 and 11,5000 years old, they are remains that do not closely resemble the modern human. Darren Curnoe who led the research team of the Australian University of South Wales said “They could be a new evolution line or previously unknown modern human population that arrived early from Africa and failed to contribute genetically to living east Asians”.

Black Ivory

It is reported that one of the largest hauls 24 tons of illegally harvested ivory was seized in 2011, wildlife watchdogs reckoned that 2500 elephants must have been slaughtered for this trade. This year more than 200 elephants were killed in a single state of Cameroon, and how many more in other places still unknown. The ivory trade ban of 1989 had temporarily collapsed the demand for ivory. China remains the biggest recipient of poached African ivory where sale has upped by 50% since 2004. Iain Douglas-Hamilton, founder of Save the Elephants, says educating Chinese shoppers abut the bloody origins of their purchase would help. Currently some Chinese celebrities are participating in advertising campaigns that say “When the buying stops, the killing can too”.

The Wilderness People

Renowned wildlife photographer Jonathan Scott says “Buffaloes and hippos are what I fear the most; the big cats are way below in the list of animals to be scared of” after 40 years experience of the wilderness. He is the
Summer Musings

Filtered water will not pose a problem if there are too many power cuts this summer. A small localized innovation like *matka* can provide clean cool water to quench the thirst. By putting brickbats, sand and charcoal in the pot, one can get rid of impurities like iron, arsenic and bacteria in the water. Hand pump water categorized as “safe” is not really so and locals often suffer health problems. For a long time rain water was considered unfit for consumption, but it has taken NGOs like the *Arghyam* to convince people that it is in fact more hygienic than pump water to drink. If the *matka* is tied in a muslin cloth and hung upside down, the water flows like a tap when poked with one finger.

Golden Chariot

There is another luxury train on the travel market, the *Golden Chariot*. It offers a super summer package on the heritage trail in South India. The itinerary covers Hampi by Night, the magnificent Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel at the foothills of Chamundi, elephant reaction at Kabini, the biggest sloth bear sanctuary Karadidham; and moreover complimentary spa services on board. Passengers will also be taken to tourist destinations and heritage sites like Belur, Halebid, Shravanabelagola, Pattadakal, Badami, Srirangapatnam, etc. and end up in Goa. The price is a bit unaffordable of course, but the visit to www.goldenchariot.org/offer is free!

More Affordable

This railway however runs only at one station, the Mysore Railway Museum. It’s a miniature train imported from USA with a digital command control system along a 600 metres track that takes one on a visit to replicas of all major sites of Mysore over foot bridges and through tunnels and on to the top of the Chamundi Hill. The brass pole lamps light up the entire model with a welcoming glow and enhance the architectural beauty of the city. Only Chicago and Hamburg can boast of such a cheap run for your money.

Commonest Bird

Another website to visit is www.citizensparrow.in launched by the BNHS seeking information about sparrows or rather the lack of them. This commonest of birds always lived side by side people, and their absence should be a matter of particular concern. “The house sparrow can become an example species of conservation problems faced by other species”, says BNHS Director who is trying to generate information at all-India level and involve citizens from everywhere.