The Silver Jubilee Year celebrations came to a close on 27th-28th January 2010. It was an occasion to cherish for INTACH, bringing over 140 Chapter Convenors to Delhi in a spirit of great togetherness, for rededicating INTACH to the primary concerns of heritage conservation in a vastly expanded orbit than envisaged in 1984. Convenors were warmly welcomed; and a minutes silence observed in memory of Convenors who had passed on during this landmark year.

Chief Guest Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi, one of the most steadfast supporters of INTACH, was warmly welcomed and invited to inaugurate the proceedings. Chairman SK Misra also thanked the many special invitees for gracing the occasion. It included the distinguished recipients of the first Indira Gandhi Lifetime Awards instituted by INTACH. The Guest of Honour, the new Secretary Culture Jawahar Sircar, is well known for his out of box approach to all cultural issues. He assured that his support would be forthcoming to INTACH to further its heritage conservation priorities.

Smt. Sheila Dikshit in her inaugural address said INTACH had become a household word synonymous with heritage conservation. The MOU signed...
Continued from page 1

we do not channelise their energies, and draw upon their talent.

We in INTACH often refer to ourselves as the INTACH family. We must be able to reflect that spirit in our practice. Perhaps we should use a more powerful metaphor – the INTACH Community or even the INTACH Tribe. That is the kind of loyalty we need to inculcate in our Members towards the organization. I have noticed that not all our Convenors are equally willing to involve their Members, we must try to reorient such attitudes so that a maximum number of Members get a chance to be involved with the activities of INTACH.

As Chairman INTACH, I see as my primary responsibility, the task of striking a balance between various aspects of our functioning – our technical Divisions, their projects, the management of events, awareness campaigns, the membership, sustaining partnerships with like minded organizations, and with Government at all levels. Our country has a great deal of energy in the corporate world that is renewing itself. We must learn from their success stories and draw into partnerships such among them that have an empathy towards conservation of our invaluable heritage.

I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity by you to lead one of India’s largest voluntary organizations. I realize the enormous responsibility on my shoulders, but I am aware that I will get good guidance from the Governing Council elected by you, the experienced staff, and the Convenors of INTACH. May I thank you again for your support. Together let us all look ahead to happy times, where we will work together as a family, as friends, as a tribe of heritage volunteers. I am sure that you will agree this is what is expected of an organization like INTACH.

Lastly, on behalf of all of us present here, I would like to place on record our thanks to the outgoing Chairman SK Misra and the outgoing Executive Council Members, and recognize their contribution over the years.

by the Delhi Government with INTACH will result in presenting Delhi in its true colours as a great historical city, with newly developed heritage routes and informative signages in place, before the Commonwealth Games in October this year. She mentioned that as many as 325 water bodies had vanished in the capital region, but 170 of them have been earmarked for rejuvenation. Three biodiversity parks, a bird sanctuary on the UP border, and plantation of trees indigenous to Delhi are on the agenda of the Delhi Government. She said that one could count on her continued support for the extraordinary work being done by INTACH. Her remark that State Governments and ASI should be mandated to assist INTACH in its efforts was much cheered and appreciated by the Convenors.

In his address, Chairman SK Misra stated that Convenor Meetings are the backbone of our activities, and efforts had been periodically made to organise both national and regional meetings to strengthen the INTACH network, to bridge communication gaps, and to ensure a constant inter-flow of ideas, practices and solutions. It was with this objective that Convenors are represented in the Governing Council and Advisory Committee, and were consulted before Vision 2020 was drawn up as a guideline for the organization. Shri Misra said INTACH today is regarded as one of the ‘big three’ among conservation organizations of the world. As a permanent member of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) it now has a voice in major international meetings on heritage issues. Its enhanced stature in the eyes of the Government, enables INTACH to overcome one of its greatest challenges of raising funds at home and from overseas for conservation projects.

The presentation of saplings to the special Guests, was followed by a delightful interlude Youth Speak on Delhi and Climate Change, presented by students selected from Delhi Schools. They were inspirational. With children in the forefront of the conservation movement, can the success of conservation efforts linger far behind?

Smt. Sheila Dikshit released three INTACH publications on the occasion: The Historic Building Conservation and Sustainability is a ready reckoner for responsible living. It offers a checklist of simple, innovative conservation strategies to meet the challenges of climate change, with guiding principles for landscape and water management, for building activities, and for general heat reduction by
Out of the Mouth of Babes:
Vaibhav Bhagee, Delhi Public School,
Climate Change:

“Hari Hari Vasundhara Pe Neela Neela Yeh Ghat”…..This could have been the face of the earth a few years ago. But now the situation has changed. Once, all climate changes occurred naturally……it may seem hard to believe that people can actually change the Earth’s climate….. There are many little things most of us can do to make a difference to our environment like: by turning off the lights, the television, and the computer when we are through with them, by sometimes taking public transport, by buying products which can be recycled and by purchasing products with Energy Star® labels, by planting trees to reduce carbon dioxide from the air and by using ample solar energy to heat homes, buildings, water, and to make electricity…… The Government has announced a National Bio Fuel Policy, by which bio fuels can be grown on non-agricultural land, using the plant jatropha, so that agricultural production is not harmed in any way. Besides, our country, is the fourth largest producer of electricity by wind energy in the world and the Government offers concessions to companies who establish wind farms…….Nearly 80 years ago, a diminutive old man set out from Ahmedabad on a 380 kilometre march to the sea. His Salt March revealed the incredible power of peaceful citizen activism. “We must be the change we wish to see in the world”, he said and I do agree with the same, if we want to prevent climate change. We can do it! I would like to conclude with the following lines from a beautiful poem:

I don’t want emissions to stay in the air
To fill our lungs and to spread everywhere
To cause global warming, submerging the land
To stop all this mess we should lend our hand….
Nature is dying together with us…
In case it is dying, we’re dying as well!

Meghana Goswami,
St. Mary’s School, Delhi Today:

Delhi – that stood lush and green,
With sparkling rivers and glorious sheen
Lakes and ponds dotted the landscape
A princely paradise, a royal estate...
Yesterday’s Delhi is changed and gone
Water logged streets and sewage adorn...
‘Dilwali Dilli’ is now mechanical
There’s only pollution of sound and chemicals
Vehicles running on roads crash
Killing themselves in road rash
Hazardous and short is its lifetime
As there are a number of crimes
Delhi’s drunken nightlife awakens
As soon as midnight clock has struck
Crisp and short, nuclear families
Stay in here, in posh colonies
The hungry poor have no place here
The heart of Delhi is in the rear!

adherence to eco principles. Delhi’s Natural Heritage gives an overview of the country’s National Action Plan on Climate Change. It highlights the fact that investment in nature generates very high returns not only for environment but also for the economy and for the sustainable livelihood of communities. The third publication INTACH Silver Jubilee Souvenir gives glimpses of INTACH’s work at many levels, in many spheres, by its Divisions at Head Office and by those Chapters who sent contributions requested. It offers a bird’s eye view of various initiatives taken on the ground and in the field in different regions of the country; the landmarks of the organization; the MOUs signed; and a Directory of its Chapters so that they can keep in touch with one another like one big family.

Secretary Jawahar Sircar, a INTACH Member since its inception, launched the INTACH website. He spoke about some of the path breaking initiatives of the Ministry of Culture like a common entry ticket for visiting 160 places in India, soon to be made available on internet. Collaborative efforts with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will result in a number of new schemes like Visiting Fellowships with honorariums to research scholars to delve into little explored subjects of Indian cultural wealth; bringing 40,000 photographs of Indian heritage into the public domain; evolving a communication strategy so that people can better connect with heritage, etc. He said a reality check is being undertaken to demarcate protective circles and flexible borders around heritage sites to accommodate pressures of urbanization.

The Silver Jubilee Convenors Meeting concluded with the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Lifetime Awards by Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit:

The Awardees:

**Padma Bhushan Shri Ebrahim Alkazi**: For his extraordinary contribution to fine arts, theatre, exhibitions, etc. that have served perceptive connoisseurs, art historians, and students of art; for over five decades in close association with the contemporary art movement in Mumbai and Delhi.

**Lalit Kala Ratna Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan**: For her scholarship and contributions as author, dancer, linguist, ethnographer, educationist, policy maker, institution builder and above all as an art historian and cultural diplomat, for nearly half a century.

**Padma Bhushan Shri Martand Singh**: For his contribution to arts and crafts, at the helm of textile design and development projects; and as curator of a series of prestigious exhibitions.

Smt Sheila Dikshit with Ms. Kapila Vatsyayan
and collections over the last 25 years; and his work for the welfare of Indian weavers for more than 37 years.

**Padma Bhushan Shri Rajiv Sethi**: For his innovative contribution to preserving and celebrating South Asia’s rich cultural heritage; for his work in design and architecture, performances and festivals, exhibitions and publications, bringing contemporary relevance to traditional skills and to vulnerable artisan communities, for more than 35 years.

**Padma Shri O. P. Jain**: For his many contributions to the civic, social and cultural life of Delhi; for his direct initiatives and active participation in many pace-setting and key policy-making forums and institutions as a zealous conservationists; and for establishment of an international residency programme for creative persons at the Sanskriti Pratishthan established by him.

**ICCROM Awardee Dr. O.P. Agrawal**: For conservation and preservation of heritage wealth of different cultural groups in India and overseas, like paintings, sculptures, images, scriptures, manuscripts of Hindus, Jains, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis and others, traversing the entire fabric of India; and for his heritage conservation training programmes under the aegis of the Indian Council of Conservation Institutes.

It was followed by a presentation of **Staff Awards** to two of the oldest employees of INTCH: Smt. Annie Ouseph of the Chapters Division since 1986; and staff member Shri Saravjeet Singh who has faithfully served INTACH since its inception in 1984.

With the ceremonial proceedings over, attention turned to the main theme of the Convenors’ Meeting – **Global Warming and Climate Change**. While the children had struck an emotional chord; the lead speakers turned to the more somber aspects of a subject that has become a matter of pressing concern world wide. The *Dublin Declaration on Climate Change, 2009* was a collective call to all nations for an action plan; but the failed *Copenhagen Conference* leaves the door wide open for much to be discussed at many capitals and conferences, in the future.

Shri Bhaskar Rao, Chairman, Centre for Media Studies, declared that climate is not amenable to cosmetic change. It required informed and rational debate as a matter of enlightened self interest. Unless humanity adopted a Gandhian need-based rather than greed-based approach, it would spell economic disaster - with far greater consequences to developing countries like India. The Government focus has been on smokeless *choola*, use of biogas and solar non-conventional energy, offering subsidies, and now escalated to low carbon emissions, etc. other than demand-creating projects, he felt its mode should shift to creating a national awareness programme that triggers a people’s movement. Despite the fact that Media plays a major role in impacting public thinking, there has been no sustained pursuit of the subject in the newspapers, or on 24x7 TV channels, on how climate change occurs at community, industrial, agricultural and national levels. Shri Rao admitted that Media today is in a consumerist model, and driven by economic considerations, with politics and scandals taking up 95% of the print. These are societal contradictions that need to be resolved by behavioural change if the complex linkage between ecological security and climate change is to be adequately addressed.
There is a clear and present danger that short term gains might result in long term losses.

Shri Anoop Poonia, President of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) however sounded a loud gong of hope. He said Youth acts fast, and 70% of India’s population today is under 35 years old. Most will still be around after 50 years. They are thus the largest stakeholders in the future of the planet. A major change can be effected rapidly by harnessing youth power. He suggested Government should tap into this passionate energy force, even giving academic credits for conservation work. The IYCN has been reaching out to the youth, even holding workshops for drop out kids to learn about recycling and waste management, introducing solar lamps in villages for children who work all day and study by night. Its young representatives also went to the Copenhagen Conference to be seen and heard.

As one of the participants in the open house discussions remarked, perhaps we have become a nation of observers. What is most needed is “leadership by example” – in every walk of life, if we want to protect the bounty of Nature, ensure ecological security, and safeguard the future of our children.

In short, be the change to make the change!

After a Lunch hosted by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation, the Convenors formed groups to discuss Youth Programmes, Rural Chapters, Listing, Community Involvement and Capacity Building, Heritage Legislation, and Natural Heritage – all of which would help to forge a green youth brigade in future. Chairman Chapters Advisory Committee, Dr. Ishwar Das and Panel Group Leaders summarized recommendations of the panel discussions under various heads.

**Recommendations**

**A. Youth Programmes**:

- Expand Youth Programmes substantively by involving them in ‘hands on’ experience in the field that makes action oriented.
- Enroll a critical mass of students and youth as INTACH Members.
- Network with formal institutions and groups such as Schools, Colleges, NCC, NSS, SPICMACAY, Nehru Yuva Kendras, Teachers Training Institutes, Panchayats, associations for performing, theatre and other arts, etc.
- Form Heritage Clubs/Eco-Clubs in schools, colleges and in neighborhoods including alum areas to create greater awareness of cultural heritage, climate change and issues related to the environment.
- Develop a team of youth volunteers with a Mentor identified for the team to identify unprotected monuments / heritage precincts which they ‘adopt’ for sustained activities like heritage walks, nature trails, traditional youth sports, etc.
- Chalk out a calendar of events under the guidance of the Mentor
- INTACH Head Office to formulate guidelines and develop programmes for implementation by Chapters; facilitate implementation by way of support in terms of personnel and materials resources, including AVs, print material, etc.
- Communication should be in the local language/dialect for all activities, for which the Head Office WILL provide financial assistance for translation.

**Listing**:

- Concerned INTACH Divisions should finalise templates (formats) for the listing of built heritage (AHD), natural heritage (NHD), material heritage (MHD) and intangible heritage (IHD) to be provided to all Chapters including Rural Chapters. Listing should be taken up on priority with Head Office bearing 50% of the cost, and balance raised by Chapters through sponsorships, donations, etc.
- Listing should be based not only on secondary sources but primary information collected by survey.
- Training to locals undertaking listing will be provided by Head Office or through a Chapter that has the expertise.
- Spot listing may be considered for notification under the legislation/regulations.
- The inventory should be exhaustive for purposes of publication, distribution and dissemination.
- Head Office should assist in funding through the Ministries of tourism, urban development, rural development, etc. as listing is the basic requirement for any protection or conservation.
- Success stories should be covered by Virasat, and also put on INTACH web site, to attract more sponsorship.
- The credibility and quality of listing must be ensured so that it gets incorporated in the Master Plans/Development Plans, as has happened in the case of Delhi’s Master Plan 2021.

**Rural Chapters**:

- It was felt the issue of setting up Rural Chapters requires more deliberation as there are administrative, funding and support related issues that need to be examined and resolved.
- The establishment of Rural Chapters should not be prescriptive but evolved through workshops and involvement of the concerned rural people.
- Chapters that are currently mostly urban
based should start by involving rural people in their activities and have an outreach programme wherever possible.

- A village or a cluster of villages that has considerable cultural heritage in terms of rural crafts, traditions, intangible heritage may be selected for attachment to the neighboring Chapter, with a joint Convener from the village/cluster for coordination and implementation.

- INTACH may institute awards for encouraging formation and strengthening of Rural Chapters.

- Community Involvement & Capacity Building:
  - To identify a local community for mobilization and implementation of programmes/activities is crucial to the success of this initiative.
  - Capacity building programmes may be developed by Head Office for implementation at the Chapter/local level. This includes training of language guides/escorts for heritage walks/nature trails, etc.

**B. Heritage Legislation/Regulations:**

- The newly set up Heritage Legal Division (HLD) to support/guide/advice Chapters in matters regarding statutory protection of heritage.
- The HLD to collect and compile the equivalent Town and Country Planning Acts from Chapters.
- Case histories/court judgements to be compiled and circulated to Chapters through the INTACH website.
- Chairman, Member Secretary and Shyam Chainani to set up a working group to formulate a Draft National Bill for statutory protection of physical heritage.
- INTACH to pursue the formulation of a Notification (similar to CRZ) for protection of water bodies such as rivers, lakes, streams, wet lands, etc.
- It should be mandatory to enact heritage regulations prior to release of funds under JNNURM and USIDMT schemes.
- Role of State Convenors:
  - Should assist in setting up a Heritage Cell/Committee in State departments/also at the State level.
  - Must provide capacity building training programmes in the area of statutory protection.
  - Should set up a State task force to review and formulate statutory protection, and undertake a quarterly review of work done in this area.
- Role of Chapters:
  - To complete listing for purposes of initiating heritage regulations.
  - To initiate heritage regulations at municipal, rural and state level.
  - To set up district level Heritage Protection Committees with support from State Chapter and
  - Head Office.
  - To use notifications under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 also to protect physical heritage.
  - 62 Cantonment towns should be protected by regulations framed under The Cantonments Act, 2006.
  - Coastline, tidal rivers, backwaters, estuaries, and other water bodies affected by tidal action and especially heritage sites can be protected under CRZ regulations.
  - To use more than one enactment to give adequately protect heritage.
  - To file a PIL when necessary. Chapters need legal support for this purpose from State/Central level.

**C. Heritage Education:**

**Target groups:**

(a) **Public at large:**
  - Regular Press releases and conferences
  - Chapters to coordinate with concerned depts.
  - To develop brown signage, brochures, maps on heritage sites for visitors.
  - Central Office to develop models for signage for heritage sites. To be shared through INTACH website.
  - For unprotected heritage sites INTACH boards may be placed in association with Trusts.
  - INTACH chapters to take up with authorities the provision of disability access to heritage sites.

(b) **Professionals:**
  - Media, Architects, Engineers, Builders, Lawyers,
  - Chambers of Commerce, NGO’s, Corporate Heads, Vendors.
  - Town planners, PWD and CPWD, Forest Dept, urban development Depts,
  - Armed forces
  - Local bodies such as Municipal / district and blocks councils, religious bodies, LPA.
  - To send Virasat to all District Collectors/ Members of the Legislative Assembly/ Members of Parliament.
  - Head Office to collate and analyze the provision of disability access to heritage sites.
  - CENTRAL OFFICE TO DEVELOP MODELS FOR SIGNAGE FOR HERITAGE SITES. TO BE SHARED THROUGH INTACH WEBSITE.
  - INTACH chapters to take up with authorities the provision of disability access to heritage sites.
  - INTACH to develop heritage programmes - walks and tours, site and museum visits, exhibitions, competition at Chapter and State level.
  - Chapters to provide sustained support to Heritage Clubs/societies.

**D. Natural Heritage:**

- All Chapters need to give great importance to listing and documentation of natural heritage.
- District-wise approach should be adopted.
- There should be a separate listing of urban areas.
- Some Chapters have done useful work in this respect that needs to be shared with others.
- Head Office to collate and analyze the listing; and constitute Working Groups.
- Scientific expertise has to be mobilized for such work.
- Natural Heritage being a vast subject area, prioritization is required to be done at local level.
- Special attention to be given to coastal areas, rivers, water bodies and mountains.
- When listing built heritage, natural features should be covered.
- Ministry of Urban Development should be requested to make listing a pre-requisite for assistance under JNNURM.
- National Highway Authorities should be requested to avoid ponds and water bodies.
- Cases of serious violation of Forest Conservation Act need to be identified and taken up under PIL.
- Financial assistance is needed by Chapters for undertaking listing and documentation.
- Tourism and Mountaineering in Himalayan region should be regulated.
- To continue publications under Natural Heritage Series as they are useful resource material.

The recommendations were presented at the Valedictory Session. Shri SK Misra read out the messages and good wishes received from Chairman INTO, Mr. Simon Molesworth and from Prince Charles for the Silver Jubilee of INTACH. He said INTACH had acquired an enviable reputation.
and international recognition, but much work remains to be done at home.

The Minister of State External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. She congratulated INTACH for having created a niche for itself in the national framework. She said some judicious decisions have to be made in conserving heritage as not everything can be necessarily preserved. Referring to the Copenhagen Conference that ended without tangible results, she said the conflict between heritage and development existed in some form throughout history; but what is most required today is a sustainable development that does not destroy but secures the future.

Shri Gaj Singh of Jodhpur in his keynote address welcomed new thrust areas of INTACH, but observed there was a big gap to be bridged between discussions in air conditioned conference halls, and the dialogue with rural folks and artisans. Recalling the early years of INTACH, he said it was driven by motivation and inspiration of some of its founding members like Pupul Jayakar, LK Jha, BK Thapar, Dadachandji and many others. He recalled the first Ganga Project that was launched. Today the Ganga has been declared a national river, but continues to be a murky river because of industrial exploitation. The ground realities have changed since 1984, but we cannot be deterred as heritage belongs to each one of us. He cited Pupul Jayakar words: “We are all responsible for what is happening in the world”.

Chairman SK Misra, Vice Chairman Asha Seth, and Member Secretary Yogendra Narain specially thanked the Convenors for their presence, and for contributing to the success of what will be forever remembered as another INTACH milestone.

**Young Eco-Ambassadors**

Carbon trading inspired a young college student Ambica Ghuge to undertake the mapping of carbon footprint on her college premise. At the initiative of Hindustan Times Brightest Young Climate Leaders., hers was one of the 52 entries received indicative of the interest young people are taking in a ‘greener’ planet. Hers is an ambitious task, as it even includes carbon emissions from indirect sources like transportation used by inmates of Miranda House.

Another 16 year old Raoul Mehra is doing his bit by promoting vermin-composting. On the terrace of his house, he carries out Vermicomposting or organic decomposition with the help of worms in boxes and flower pots. He fills the box with dried leaves, a little manure and earthworms. The rest of the box is layered with leftover raw fruit, vegetables, tea leaves and eggshells – no meat or cooked food – and in about 6-8 weeks he gets manure and sells it to friends and neighbours! He says “Everyday each household roughly produces 1.5 kg of waste which would amount to 1.5 tonnes of waste per household per year…..People are not even aware about the simple ways in which they can make a difference”.

There must be something about sweet sixteen, as another youngster from DPS Noida Ahaan Ahaan Mohan conducted an energy audit in his school with the help of 11 other students. They collected data such as the number of tubelights, fans, computers, ACs in use and their duration The school spent Rs.2 lakhs on their suggestions regarding maintenance, and immediately brought down the electricity bill for January!

Another sterling example of new age leadership of the “sunshine sector” is 22 year old Rajat Sethi and his team who are bridging the vital link between energy, environment and finance. They are generating solar power as part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. An example of their work is going to light up all the street lights of the entire town of Ludhiana with energy efficient light emitting diode (LED). As students of the IIT Kharagpur, they have devised a workable finance solution for companies, and training electrical engineers to go to their respective villages and initiate change.

Dr. Srinivasan Padmanabhan, Director of SARI/Energy, USAID/India described “Conserve My Campus” as a novel movement to build community sensitive towards energy and environment. It was an initiative taken by Schneider Conserv India Pvt. Ltd. At the city championship at organized by them at the Sadhu Wasvani School for Girls, Delhi participating schools showed remarkable knowledge and showcased their talent with skits performed before a large gathering. A final round to select a national Green Ambassador will be scheduled in the near future.

Another noteworthy initiative is Green the Gap, an unassuming little shop tucked away in Malviya Nagar of Delhi. Founder and Director of the NGO Swechha. 30-year old Vimlendu Jha started this outlet for all eco-friendly items, processes and ideas. Swechha’s Green Dreams is to offer ecologically viable and socially relevant alternatives to several commodities and products sourced from craftsmen.

Shiv Parekh, 17 year old creator of Ecopal programme to complement the Environmental Science curriculum in schools, supported by the Indian Chapter of Al Gore’s NGO. It includes essays, quizzes and research assignments for Class VIII-X students.

With this growing band of Green Brigades in the forefront of global awareness, there is every hope for the future of our Mother Earth!
NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

Redoubtable SK Misra

There comes a tide in the affairs of men and organizations, when change takes over. It is the time to bid farewell, but remember the legacy they leave behind. And to build on that edifice, in order to move forward in new directions and heights.

Shri SK Misra’s iconic two terms as Chairman will be long valued, much like the contribution of his fellow Founder Member Pupul Jayakar who personified INTACH. During his tenure INTACH enlarged the scope of its activities, setting up new Divisions to keep pace with the expanding horizon of heritage conservation. MOUs were signed for strategic partnership with State Governments and overseas organizations that funded specific projects. Most recently, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Bill 2010 passed in Parliament on 15th March, is the first time that a NGO is mentioned in an Act of Parliament, and envisages working in close coordination with the ASI and Union Government.

The International Conference of National Trusts (ICNT) at New Delhi was sponsored by corporate and funding agencies, and the International National Trusts Organisations (INTO) was set up with INTACH as a permanent member. INTACH thus established itself as a major player in the national and international fields acquiring a global voice on heritage issues at many fora, where deliberations are a ongoing process with climate change looming over our earth’s security. INTACH’s growing stature is widely recognized within the country and overseas, paving the way for future fund raising, largely due to SK Misra relentless efforts.

While INTACH bids adieu to Shri SK Misra with many good wishes, his contributions are integral to its future development. It imposes many onerous responsibilities to be discharged by the new team being set up at INTACH.

Annual General Meeting

The results of the election for Chairman’s post on termination of the three year tenure, and for the vacancies in the Governing Council, were announced by Returning Officer Shri Jagdish Chander at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 27th March.

Major General LK Gupta (Retd) AVSM was declared as elected Chairman.

For the two vacancies in the Founder Member category, the only two nominations Smt. Asha V. Seth and Shri Shyam Chainani, were elected without any contest.

For the two vacancies in the Life Member Category, 13 nominations were received. Smt Sonal Mansingh was elected. For the remaining vacancy, Shri SK Verma and Smt. Neena Ranjan polled an equal number of votes. (The resolution of this tie up will be put up to the Governing Council).

In the Institutional Member Category, Mira Model School, Delhi was elected to fill the single vacancy.

For the two vacancies in the Donor Members Category, the only nomination DCM Shriram Industries Ltd. was declared elected.

For the two vacancies in the Corporate Members Category, the only nomination Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. was declared elected uncontested.

For the one vacancy in the Ordinary Members Category, Dr. Sukhdev Singh was declared elected.

The Returning Officer thanked the independent observers Shri Mohammad Naushherawan from the India Islamic Cultural Centre and Shri Amod Kumar Dalela from India International Centre, for their assistance in completing the counting process.

Meeting with Gujarat Chief Minister

On 3rd February, Chairman SK Misra met the Chief Minister of Gujarat at Gandhinagar, in connection with the Golden Year of Gujarat and the 600th anniversary of Ahmedabad. Shri Narendra Modi was very responsive to the need for heritage legislation/regulations in the State, and requested INTACH to draw up a draft proposal, including the setting up of heritage committees in Gujarat cities, with cells in each PWD/Municipal Committee.

Shri SK Misra highlighted some of the architectural restoration initiatives taken to date, and offered to organize training programmes for PWD engineers. The Chief Minister was specially interested in reshaping the entire area of Somnath and suggested it be followed up with the GEER Foundation. He suggested that the satellite education system set up by the State Government could also be utilized. Director CN Pandey of the GEER Foundation runs programmes similar to those of INTACH Heritage Clubs. Two immediate follow-ups could be translation of Hands on Heritage into Gujarati, and a teachers’ training programme for Eco-Clubs.
MOUs Signed
A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between INTACH and the Malta Government on 7th January attended by all senior INTACH officials.

A MOU was also signed between INTACH and the Mongolian Government on 11th January, The INTACH film was screened, as is the usual practice during such meetings, with Divisional Heads making power point presentations.

From BACSA with Love
Virasat (July-September 2009 requested readers to bring little known heritage relics/monuments of Delhi to INTACH’s attention. Recently one response came from across the seas! The Honorary Secretary of the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA), and author of untold stories of the The Great Uprising in India 1857-58, Rosie Llewellyn-Jones sent a picture of the bronze statue of General Sir John Nicholson that once stood near Kashmere Gate. The photograph appeared in the BACSA publication Chowkidar (Vol.8 No 3, 1998). It was traced in 1997 to the Dungannon Royal School in Northern Ireland where Nicholson was a pupil during 1834-38. The Old Boys Association had sought transfer of the statue stored behind the walls of the British High Commission after it was removed by the Indian Government in 1957, before the 1857 centenary. The ceremonial sword in his left hand has occasionally gone missing, but now put back on special School events! A distant relative of Nicholson, Lord Hailsham has even promised to send the School some photographs of the statue when it stood at Kashmere Gate.

Interestingly, in the shadow of the Schools’s cathedral stands the statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, much neglected by its caretaker the Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol even though the Indian Government has pledged money for its restoration.

SATTE Award
Chairman S.K. Misra was bestowed the Living Legend Award at the annual travel and tourism mart SATTE that brings together leading experts of the industry from India, Asia and overseas annually. He set up the Heritage Tourism Division at INTACH to integrate heritage and tourism as a tool for sustainable livelihood. Heritage Tourism Development Project reports are routinely requested by many State Governments under MOUs signed with INTACH.

SATTE-INTACH Awards
Three INTACH Convenors were honoured by the SATTE-INTACH Awards this year, for their substantial contribution in fulfilling INTACH objectives through personal efforts and sustained dedication.

Vizag Convenor Rani Sarma
A history teacher for 20 years, she is author of The Deodis of Hyserabad – A Lost Heritage that captures the grandeur of feudal homes of erstwhile Hyderabad nobility. She is actively involved in articulating civil society concerns for natural and built heritage conservation.

Nagaland Convenor Sentila T Yanger
A cultural activist, she has organized several festivals on Baga heritage and curated Naga art exhibitions, that promoted tourism in the State. She is widely known for her work with craft artisans and women’s issues. She was awarded the Padma Shree for Arts in 2008.

Jammu & Kashmir Convenor M Saleem Baig
A former DG Tourism, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, he promoted several tourism infrastructure projects that revived and highlighted the great tourism potential of the State. Currently he is actively involved in projects that ensure the preservation of heritage sites in Srinagar and in places outside J&K as well.
In House Talent

For the first time artistic talent of INTACH staff was exhibited in a gallery, at the India International Centre as part of the Silver Jubilee Year. The Chief Guest and noted artist Krishen Khanna observed: Some of the best art has come from experimenting. The exhibits were more than experimental as they captured the finer nuances of Indian life like the large colour print of vegetables with the mobile phone nestling in their basket, or a human figure wrapped up in limbs depicting a yogic exercise, a black crow flying towards the Taj on green wings, an intricate trellis of intertwining branches captured on camera, etc. There were buyers for some of the art works that compliment the talented in house artists of INTACH.

NEWS FROM ICCI

The Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI) has been busy with its many on going works reported earlier. Two recent works merit mention.

Zoffany’s Last Supper

It took Johann Zoffany, a German neo-classical painter just six weeks to paint the Last Supper considered to be amongst the finest representations of the Biblical scene in India. It was presented to the St. John’s parish in June 1787 for the consecration of the first church to be built by the British at Kolkata. It created quite a stir at the time because some of the faces like Jesus’ and his Apostles’ seem to have been modeled on controversial members of Calcutta’s high society.

Two previous restoration efforts adversely affected the painting, besides the 47 tears and holes and abrasions it developed during its 223 years existence. A team of five INTACH conservators assisted Renate Kant, a Singapore based conservation expert approached by the Max Mueller Bhavan to lead the project. The INTACH conservators at Kolkata worked to reverse the damage, and in the process gained expertise in current international standards and ethics of art preservation.

Leo Tolstoy Sculpture

A large free standing sculpture of the famous philosopher and writer Leo Tolstoy situated at the State Trading Corporation (STC) of India building at Janpath in Delhi was recently conserved by INTACH Art Conservation Centre, Delhi. The sculpture, cast in bronze in the late forties, was gifted to India by the Russian Government. It was placed at the Janpath crossing right in the heart of the capital city. During the Asian Games in the eighties the sculpture was shifted from this site and placed inside the STC compound. It suffered from heavy corrosion and loss of the metallic lustre, and has now been restored to its original glory.
**St. Estevam Fort**

Repairs at the St. Estevam Fort, Goa and the structures were resumed by the Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) in the month of January.

**St. Anne’s Church**

Front façade of the St. Anne’s Church at Goa has been structurally repaired, and the damaged moulding work is being executed as per the original.

**Heritage Development Plan**

Varanasi is one of the most unique cities of India with its myriad expressions of religious faith, rituals and festivals, traditional and ancient forms of worship and beliefs practiced since centuries. AHD submitted five Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to be implemented as pilot projects in the city: Dasashwamedh Ghat as a Cultural Quarter and Urban Heritage Rejuvenation & Management under Phase I, Heritage Development Plan for Panchkroshi Yatra Marg; Conservation of Chet Singh Ghat and Palace through Public Private Partnership; Conservation of Kunds – Pushkar, Pishach Mochan, Sarang Talab; Conservation and Restoration of Civic Heritage Buildings – like Tripolia Gate in Ramnagar, Jaganath Temple complex, Balaji Ghat etc. These projects have been envisaged to preserve and maintain the traditional values of Varanasi.

**Restoration of Christ Church**

Christ Church at Kasauli is an Anglican Church whose foundation stone was laid in 1844 by Dr Wilson, Bishop of Calcutta. AHD After evaluating the condition of the church., AHD recommended the steps to be taken for its restoration, along with a tentative budget to the church authorities.

**Yarrow’s Building**

AHD will be supervising the execution the conservation of Yarrows, a historic colonial building in Shimla on the basis of its Detailed Project Report submitted to the National Academy of Audits and Accounts earlier. Other proposals concerning site like paving pattern at the entrance and the garden area, constructing new amphitheatre, etc. that are under processing.

**Old Palace**

The Old Palace at Agartala, constructed as part of shifting the capital from Udaipur to old Agartala during the second half of 18th century by Krishna Manikya, provided accommodation for the royal family members. At present it is lying in a dilapidated condition, with most parts of the building collapsed due to lack of maintenance. AHD plans for its restoration and reuse, comprise development of the site as an interpretation center and museum to generate awareness of Tripura heritage among local citizens. The project has three district components: Restoration and rehabilitating the building for museum use; museum display in the building; and site development and landscaping.

**The Samadhi of Maharani of Kapurthala at Hoshiarpur.**

A double storey structure with grand steps has a turret with an onion-shaped dome on top openings into multi cusped arches. It has beautiful wall paintings on the lime plaster. The whole campus is affected by river flooding.
consequently plastered with cement mortar, transforming several pointed arches into semicircular openings and silt deposits on the site. AHD has prepared a draft report for restoration work on the structure originally made entirely of Lakhori bricks with lime surkhi mortar.

AHD was requested by authorities to take-up the restoration of Faridkot Judicial Court Complex on the basis of a DPR submitted a year back.

Christ Church, Nagaland

AHD team visited Molungyimsen village in Nagaland, located on a hill top with a church established in 1888 A.D by Rev. Dr. Edward Winter Clark and Mrs. Mary Mead Clark as its only landmark building. It has probably the oldest bell in Nagaland brought from America.

Ruins of Kachari tribe on the banks of river Dhansiri at Dimapur in Nagaland were also visited by the AHD team. Di” Ma” and Pur” (Dimapur) literally means “the great town on the bank of the river”. Structural and monolithic remains are lying all over the site maintained by ASI. It has some beautifully carved stone structures in “Linga” shapes. Some 50 odd memorials along with an entrance gate and two water bodies were photo documented.

Irony of Ironies

It is reported that the Government is going to regularize all or any disputed structures and constructions that fall within the banned 100 metre radius of “protected monuments”. It required an Ordinance to be passed, as the Delhi High Court had declared all 171 permissions granted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as “invalid”. If the orders to remove the violations had been implemented, it would have resulted in large-scale demolition of the Commonwealth Games and Delhi Metro infrastructure. Although 36675 monuments across the country were declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and 100 metre radius prohibition imposed in 1992, the ASI has given 171 permissions during the last 4 years, including to private parties on the recommendation of advisory committees. Making exceptions to established Acts leaves built heritage perpetually endangered by people who should be safeguarding them.

However, simultaneously the Government has decided to impose stringent punishment and fines for damaging monuments and heritage sites by bringing about an amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The prevailing 3 months imprisonment and Rs.5000/- fine has been raised to 2 years prison sentence and Rs.1 lakh fine as deterrent. But what about violations committed in the past?
recently, a valuable suggestion was put forward with regard to ‘Heritage Trees’. Principal Director NHD Samar Singh consulted experts to take the idea forward by focusing on individual trees. First of all, it is necessary to work out a simple, easy-to-understand description of a heritage tree in order to facilitate public participation and generate widespread public awareness needed for this purpose. The following description has been worked out:

“A Heritage Tree is one that is old and has a very special significance”. While the age factor is an essential criterion for a heritage tree, but age is naturally dependent on the conditions at a given place. In the Delhi context for example, most of the really old trees have been destroyed over time, so it was agreed that the benchmark of 60 years should be laid down. As regards the definition of ‘very special significance’, the experts agreed upon 8 factors laid down as: historical, mythological, cultural, religious, etc; large in size in terms of height, trunk diameter, canopy spread; rarity; endemism (native species); unusual features like the crown/canopy architecture, location, etc; ecological value; aesthetic value; planted on a special occasion by an eminent person.

Based on these criteria, a format has been prepared by NHD and circulated to all Chapters. The documentation of Heritage Trees especially in urban areas, where trees are often lopped on some developmental pretext is relevant in the context of built heritage. Chapters are requested to keep this in view when listing and documenting heritage sites.

**Big Cat, Small Numbers**

In the last two months, 4 tigers and leopard have died at the Corbett National Park. It is proclaimed that 1,411 tigers are alive in India today, a statement not endorsed by the Environment & Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh who thinks it is probably lower and diminishing each month! The Perambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala is likely to be declared as a Tiger Reserve. Meanwhile in one Indian zoo tiger cubs have been taught to stand on their hind legs to greet visitors like cute little puppies, and hopefully win a few hearts for their survival.

Karnataka is home to 20% of the nation’s tiger population. Huge forest fires have been reported from Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Nagerhole National Park in Karnataka, and the Madhumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu, driving wildlife into the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala which offers little water or fodder given the terrible drought conditions prevailing in these jungles since 2004. The sanctuary is presently closed with a large team of guards deployed to monitor the situation and prevent poaching.

The report of the international watchdog Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) came out with some shocking details. It states that the Chinese military is the biggest promoter of the illegal tiger trade, and tiger products are a great favourite with top officials. Tiger skins are widely used in interior decoration and taxidermy. Smuggling of tiger skins across the border is a lucrative occupation, as much as poaching due to lack of vigilance and easy transit through Nepal. Certainly there are no tigers left in China to prowl in their Year of the Tiger!

Rs.11 crores have been earmarked under the 11th Plan for saving the national animal. India urgently needs another kind of Tiger Project - one that can trap poachers and marauders to save tigers.!
pollution are greater due to human sewage and agricultural activities, over extraction of water, and physical alteration of rivers. Can the *Ganges River Basin Commission* set up by the Government equal the success of the TRRT? The Jamuna cannot be cleaned before the Commonwealth Games and according to reports it will take 15 years, so meanwhile an interceptor sewer is planned under the Jawaharlal National Urban Renewal Project. Minister for Environment Jairam Reddy has stated that the Union Government and State Governments are flushed with funds for river cleaning, but "more thinking is needed on how to clean the Ganga and Yamuna".

Mr. Oates visited India to participate in the 13th *Indian Birdfair* that is dedicated to the restoration of rivers in India.

**NEWS FROM ICHD**

Chairman SK Misra and Director Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) Kamalini Sengupta were among the hosts at the *Nomadic Fair and Festival* organized by INTACH in collaboration with Chinh India and the Sangeet Natak Academy on 16th-17th January. Chinh India Trust is an initiative of Meenakshi and Vinay Rai, supported by social activists and media professionals to preserve and promote the rich cultural and musical heritage of nomadic communities, and propagate repositioning of local knowledge - raising nomadic issues on national and international fora and identifying rural media tools to cater to the needs of the local population. *Fad Wachan, Ravan Hatha, Banjara Dal* and Been concerts have successfully merged into creating contemporary thematic media tools. Apart from livelihood initiatives, Chinh initiated an award winning series of films on children, culture camps to establish nomads as culture guides/custodians, successfully linking culture with livelihood.

Director Commonwealth Educational Media Centre (CEMCA), Dr. Sreedhar expressed interest in facilitating greater connectivity of Chinh experiments for sustainable livelihood and its concepts like a Nomadic University to be run by the nomads themselves that is under planning. Shri Suraj Bhopa, a Rajasthan Chief Artist of NOW (Nomadic Orchestra of World) staged a concert, and was one of the Speakers among others from Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. An award winning film *Maru Banjara* was also screened, followed by a lively panel discussion. Another film to be screened was *Kalbeliya*, (snake charmer) about generations of men who keep snakes and cure snake bites, and their women known for their snake dances.

An exhibition of nomadic artifacts was another highlight of the event, and some rare products like medicinal herbs, musical instruments and *kajal* made from snake poison! There is an electronic repository and library, the *Nomadic E-Museum* created by students, researchers, photographers and anthropologists as a result of the digital projects given to them under Nomadic Studies by Chinh. And of course the delegates tasted the staple food of the nomads – *bajra roti* and garlic chutney.

**Indigenous Security**

The dwindling number of Jarawas, a Negrito tribe living in the Andamans, are proving their worth to the Coast Guards in charge of coastal security. They have given leads on poachers trying to enter the reserve tribal areas from Myanmar’s Irrawady River looking for corals and expensive aquatic species, invading Indian waters.

This should not be the only reason for protecting the *Jarawas*. There are only 270 of them left, that is reason enough. Still carrying bows and poison tipped arrows, they do not like intruders on their territory. It is interesting how the Coastal Guards befriended them in the 1980s. Stripped down to underwear with their heads covered in red cloth, Coastal Guards would dance on the beaches inviting them to join and then let them take away the red bandannas they loved. They turned ‘foes’ into valuable friends!

It is also reported that the only tribal person who knew *Boa*, an ancient Andamanese language died in February. However Prof. Anvita Abbi of the Jawaharlal Nehru University has compiled a 4500 word trilingual dictionary of Andamanese, a language spoken by only 50 persons whose number is falling. Its publication is being funded by the University of London under a language documentation programme – Vanishing Voices of the Great Andamanese (a combination of *Boa, Jeru, Sare* and *Khora*).

**Ethnographic Museum**

An ethnographic museum *Arna Jharna* exploring traditional lifestyles and indigenous knowledge system of rural communities has just been set up in Moklawa village on the outskirts of Jodhpur. Conceptualised by a folklore research institute *Rupayan Sansthan* headed by oral historian Komal Kothari the museum displays objects, antiques and curiosities of artistic and historic significance, as well as contemporary ethnographic treasures. Designed as rural stone hutment, it’s a first of its kind museum with a library and an audio visual archives centre. For example the 350 types of brooms displayed from different staple foods like millet, *jowar* or maize from different zones of Rajasthan provide good material for comparative studies and technique of making them. There are also myths, symbols and beliefs attached to brooms apart from the economy of the broom for marginalized communities - celebrating the open spaces of the Thar Desert including its flora and fauna.
FOX History and Entertainment Channel-
National Competition

In collaboration with FOX History & Entertainment Channel, The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) had launched an innovative school engagement programme ‘My City My History’ for school children last November. The programme encouraged students to write about lesser-known historical treasures in their respective cities and for the national competition, resulting in 4000 entries from all over the country. The initial screening of the entries was held from 11th -15th January. The final 100 regional winners were selected by the jury comprising Shri. Feizal Alkazi, Vice-President Programming, FOX History and Entertainment Channel, Ms. Sudha Sadanand, and Director, HECS Dr Shobita Punja.

A regional felicitation ceremony was held at 18 INTACH Chapters in February-March for the regional winners of Ajmer, Aurangabad, Bhubaneshwar, Chandrapur, Chennai, Delhi, Gwalior, Goa, Hazaribagh, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Kakinada, Kolkata, Lucknow, Puducherry, Rohilkhand, and Vishakaptnam.

The felicitation ceremony at the national level was held at Delhi on 10th February at the Lodi Gardens, combined with a heritage walk covering little known aspects of Lodi Gardens. Eminent artist Ms. Anjoli Ela Menon awarded the Five National Winners. Their essays will be filmed by FOX History & Entertainment and the children will get the opportunity to represent their city and its history on the national channel.

Congratulating the Winners


Filmit Festivals

Filmit Delhi was held on 1st February at the India Islamic Centre Auditorium, with well known film actress Sharmila Tagore as the Chief Guest, and eminent theater artist, Vinod Nagpal as the Guest of Honour. The Films made by the students covered various themes like favourite foods, crafts, lesson, story of my city, etc. The students showed remarkable expertise in making these films with their script, screen play, music original score and acting winning them accolades from distinguished guests. The festival was attended by 200 students and by 14 teachers from different schools in Delhi, and was widely covered in the Media.

Filmit Kolkata was held on 6th February at Modern High School for Girls, with a renowned film director Ashok Vishwanathan as the Chief Guest, attended by 100...
students and 10 teachers. The students presented their self composed songs and poems on Kolkata as well as on the project, interestingly bringing out their learning on the project. Shri Ashok Vishwanathan and Convenor Kolkata G M Kapur addressed the students praising the creativity and the originality of their films.

**Filmit Chennai** was held on 12th February at Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya, Mylapore, one of the oldest schools of Chennai. Convenor Dr Suresh welcomed the Chief Guest, the noted dancer and singer Padma Bhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam. In her address, Dr. Subramanayam said she genuinely wished she could be a school student once again and make a film for the Filmit Project! She promised all help and support from her dance school to INTACH educational and cultural activities. Co-Convener Chennai Chapter, Prof. Prema Kasturi, proposed the vote of thanks. In addition to 250 students and their teachers from neighbouring schools, the function was well-attended by INTACH Members and the Media in a hall packed to capacity and late-comers standing at the back.

**Teacher Training Workshop**
A two day teacher training workshop on Heritage Awareness was held on 26-27 February at the Ashram Public School, Kakinada. 39 teachers from 26 schools comprising of 3-4 rural schools attended the workshop.

Convenor Sesha Kumari, gave an overview of the various projects undertaken by the Kakinada Chapter and shared her valuable experience of the various school activities undertaken over the years. Dr Chiranjivi Garu informed the teachers about the local heritage of Kakinada. The two days workshop concluded with the valedictory function wherein teachers shared the two day workshop experience beautifully and added songs, chanted shlokas and prepared the Ugadi (festival) chutney to mark the auspicious beginning of the New Year.

**Sustainable Tourism Proposals**
Sustainable tourism plans were prepared by the Heritage Tourism Division (HTD) for the two Northeast States of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, to strengthen the primary sector (agriculture and allied activities) and secondary sector (manufacturing and mining) in order to improve overall productivity of the economy. The focus is on local community mobilization for the development of tourism awareness, brand development through tourism promotion, setting up tourist city centres, tourist villages, wayside amenities, accommodation, city tours and tour packages. The proposed product portfolio for the plan comprise Cultural, Nature/Eco, Rural, Adventure, Wildlife and Forest, Leisure and the contemporary concept of Wellness Tourism. The draft reports of these State Plans have been approved by the Secretaries of Tourism concerned.

**Meghalaya Tourism authorities have targeted three villages - Mawphlang, Smit and Wahkhen in East Khasi Hills District - for Rural Tourism projects. After procuring the consent of villages, the State Government will send their recommendation to the Ministry of Tourism.**

**Rural Chapters at Hariharpur and Mubarakpur, Azamgarh District**
HTD Advisor Arun Gupta along with former Commissioner of Azamgarh Division, UP and Convenor Varanasi Kalyan Krishan, visited the two villages of Hariharpur and Mubarakpur. At Hariharpur 30 people were enrolled as INTACH Members with Shri Sambhu Nath Mishra appointed as the Joint Convenor functioning under Varanasi Chapter for one year. Two Co-Convenors were also appointed for Hariharpur - Shri Anjani Mishra and Shri Mohan Mishra. Hariharpur is a small 475 years old heritage village 90 km
from Varanasi where inhabitants of all ages are involved in musical activities (covered in the last issue of Virasat). This village has evolved the Harihar Gharana that is a 200 year old tradition passed down from generation to generation, providing endless enjoyment to classical music connoisseurs. A large multipurpose hall is built on land donated by the villagers themselves to provide space for musical and other social activities. Future plans include construction of a tourist center with a restaurant/cafeteria and four rooms for guests in the first phase, and upgrading multipurpose hall into an auditorium.

At Mubarakpur nearly 20 Members were enrolled with Shri Iftkar Ahmed appointed as Joint Convenor under the umbrella of the Varanasi Chapter. Mubarakpur, situated 100 kms from the city of Varanasi became an important supplier of silk sarees to Varanasi being well connected to it by road. It developed into a center for other weaver of Azamgarh District. The weavers use handlooms made of wood with yarn supplied from Malda (West Bengal) or China, Zariwal from Gujarat or Varanasi, Katan from Bangalore. Manufacture of a high quality saree involves 51 persons from beginning to end. INTACH has proposed a tourist center to be built on land donated by weavers/residents to house an emporium, a restaurant/cafeteria and a few rooms for tourist stay. It has also proposed the inclusion of Mubarakpur on the Benaras Kushi Nagar Buddhist Tourism Circuit so that buses could stop at this center.

People of Azamgarh have also shown considerable interest in opening a Chapter, and Dr. Madhuri Singh agreed to be the INTACH Convenor when it is set up.

On 27th January, musicians and instrumentalists from the village of Hariharpur performed at the India Islamic Cultural Centre at the invitation of INTACH. This small village of 40 households has a unique tradition of music, with even children aged 7-8 years adept at singing thumri, dadra and kajri.

Rene Singh presented some lilting compositions of traditional film music of yesteryears, some of which are perennially and hauntingly charming.

Pahi Baishya, a young artist from Guwahati who happens to be the daughter of our INTACH Convenor, was another star attraction of the evening. She represents the musical talent of the North East and is poised for success on the national stage.

Director Culture Affairs Division (CHD), Smt Anita Singh organized another musical soiree at the India International Centre on 6th February. Musicologist and arts writer Shri S. Kalidas spoke about the glorious musical tradition of Gwalior. Pt. Laxman Krishnarao Pandit, the senior most living master of the Gwalior gharana, regaled the audience with selected compositions from the Gwalior repertoire.

A Mohan Veena recital by Salil Bhatt was compered by Smt. Anita Singh on 20th March, as part of the series of Baithak being inaugurated by the India International Centre. Artistes are being carefully selected from all over India for these IIC programmes that offer scintillating evenings for music lovers.
**Gwalior Crafts Bazaar**

Crafts, Community and Heritage Division (CCHD) organized the Crafts Bazaar at Baradari, as part of the Heritage Festival organized by the Gwalior Heritage Foundation on 21st-27th February. Inaugurated by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Jyotiraditya Scindia, among other special invitees were Olympic Gold Medalist Abhinav Bhindra; cricketer Yusuf Pathan visited the Crafts Bazaar and interacted with all the artisans.

The venue and the stalls, were decorated in vibrant colours to create an atmosphere of festivity and gaiety characteristic of folk melas, sold handcrafted items, offered food fare and musical performances enhancing the ambience.

The crafts persons gave live demonstration of their craft skills for the benefit of visitors. Students from several schools visited the Bazaar. Special workshops were organized for them to try their hands at various crafts, with the potter’s wheel as one of the popular attractions, and the tie & dye and ikat techniques enthralled the viewers.

Another spectacular feature was the kite-flying spectacle—on one occasion there were a hundred kites on a single string, while some candle bearing kites lit up the evening sky on another day.

**ASSOCHAM Exhibition**

The Chanderi weaver brought to Delhi by CCHD in association with ASSOCHAM showcased her skills at an exclusive event Women Entrepreneurs 2010 held at Ashoka Hotel on 23rd-24th February. It gave the weaving traditions of Chanderi good exposure, with the artisan reporting good sales of her products. She won the Heritage Weavers Award.

**Block Printing**

The ancient Indian tradition of dyeing and block printing using vegetables, herbs, roots, flowers, minerals and insect substances has survived to this day in small pockets of the country. The craft has had its setbacks against new technology that uses artificial synthetic chemicals. One family of traditional dyers and printers from Kutch have succeeded in keeping the long and laborious process of this rich tradition live. It is a labour intensive activity, but it generates vast employment opportunities for tribals and rural women. It has nudged its way into haute fashion, and has found buyers in Japan and Europe.
**Andhra Pradesh**

**East Godavari**

The Collector Gopal Kkrishna Dwivedi, also Chief Patron of the Chapter, was the Chief Guest India at the essay writing competition entitled *My City My History* on 17th February. Notably 67 entries were sent online from one Pragati Little Public School, with a Class VIII student G. Ashish becoming the proud winner for the region out of 4000 participants. Convenor L. Shesha Kumari and Co-Convenor YS Harischandra Rao ensured that the prize winning essay was read out, and that the Prize Winner had the opportunity to respond to the congratulations from special invitees to the programme.

**Kadapa**

The Chapter conducted a series of programmes during the Telugu New Year. Convenor S. Sitharamaiah informs that a Poets Meet was held on 14th March at Kalakshetram. *Ugadi* was marked with the Panchanga Sravanam on the actual day 16th March; with the District Collector cum INTACH Patron Shashi Bhushan Kumar and other district officials present at this auspicious occasion. The celebrations concluded with the seminar on the epic *Ramayana* on 21st March.

**Kurnool**

Shri B. Venkateswarlu, Convenor cum District Tourism Officer, announced the inauguration of the INTACH Heritage Club at the Govt. Silver Jubilee College on 5th March, where he was invited as the Guest of Honour by the Principal Sri Prasad. The Chief Guest was Sri Chokkapu Narayana, SCNS Institute of Indology who addressed the gathering. History Lecturer VV Subramanyam Kumar, Heritage Clubs Coordinator Prasada Reddy, Smt. Dr. Lakshmi Prasuna, Lecturer Murali Krishna were some of the others who addressed the gathering.

**Hyderabad**

Convenor B. Venkateswarlu writes that a special function was organized on 16th January for the inauguration of the INTACH Heritage Library at Kurnool. Sri Chokkapu Narayan Swami, Founder of the local Research Institute of Indology donated rare books, manuscripts and publications to the Chapter on the occasion. Andhra Pradesh Co-Convenor M. Veda Kumar attended the function as the Chief Guest, along with local dignitaries from the Institute of Indology and Archives Department, and Heritage Club members from various schools.

**Srikakulam**

On the eve of Republic Day 26th January, following the flag hoisting ceremony, the Joint Collector and Additional District Magistrate E. Sridhar unveiled the 20’x10’banner depicting 40 heritage sites of Srikakulam, designed and executed by INTACH photographer M. Srinivasa Rao. Additional Collector T. Babu Rao Naidu, District Revenue...
Officer Hasim Shariff, and a host of district office officials lauded this effort of the Chapter. On 28th January a group of IAS probationers visited Srikakulam as part of their training to study developmental activities in the district. Shri Srinivasa Rao from INTACH was deputed by the Collector to accompany the officers on their visits to the Sun Temple at Arsavalli, ancient Buddhist site at Salihundam, and the temple of Tortoise Incarnate at Srikurman, explaining the history and culture associated with these sites.

Convenor DV Dharma Rao invited the Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasad Rao to the unveiling of the statue of the artist, the late Vaddadi Papayya. It is the eighth in an on-going series of statues being erected in the District to commemorate the works of great artistes, painters and writers.

The Steering Committee of the Chapter met at the Upanishan Mandiram, and decided to take up documentation of intangible heritage.

There are at least 15 story telling art forms in Srikakulam District on the verge of extinction like the Thappatagullu, Jamukupata, Burrakatha, Kolatam, Chekkabhajana to mention a few, and need to be protected as a precious living heritage. The Chapter is undertaking an ambitious project of identifying troupes, holding workshops, filming the art forms, translating into English, sound recordings, etc.

The Chapter was invited to participate in an awareness programme conducted by the APPCB Andhra Pollution Control Board on 24th February, the thrust being on tree plantation to combat climate change. Convenor Dharma Rao anchored the programme that was attended by both the Collector T. Babu Rao Naidu and the Vice Chancellor of Dr. Ambedkar University, Prof. SV Sudhakar, and more than a 1000 students.

Delhi

The Chapter was one of the participants in a Schools’ Initiative organized by the Indian Express along with the Archaeological Survey of India. Nearly 100 students went on a heritage walk to the Humayun Tomb built by his Persian wife Hamida Banu., which also houses the graves of his wife, sisters and relatives. It took 15 years to build by Persian architect Mirak Mirza Ghiyath. For the students visiting this World Heritage Site, it meant more than a brush with history. They appreciated the efforts put into the restoration of its majestic blend of Mughal architecture. They came up with slogans and poems, drew pictures of the tomb, and felt it was a great practical lesson in history. They could not help imagining how wonderful it must have been so many years ago, and pledged to spread awareness about preserving heritage buildings.
Haryana

Gurgaon
The hills of Aravalli came alive to the sound of pounding feet when Gurgaon residents of all ages 5-75 years got together for a 5 km run flagged off by Chairman SK Misra on a winter morning. As the Founder of Running and Living Infotainment Rahul Verghese commented: It is amazing the amount that a simple thing like running can do for people – of any age and weight, eventually increasing self confidence and optimism and more…” Gurgaon Convenor Nandita Lahiri says she took advantage of the feverish mood of the Delhi Half Marathon to take the runners away from the gleaming skyline of corporate Gurgaon to the Leisure Valley Park, hopefully to make them aware that sites like Farrukhanagar and Tauru desperately needed financial support to preserve their pristine beauty.

Karnataka

Bengaluru
Chapter Members held a meeting with Chairman INTACH on 1st February at Bengaluru. They indicated their interest in undertaking a Interpretation Centre at Beedar Fort, to be housed in an old structure in the vicinity of its gateway as the DC is interested in funding it. A project proposal budget of Rs.50 lakhs has been prepared for the work to be taken up in collaboration with the Shristi Institute of Design. A suggestion was made to incorporate a Bidri craft component in coordination with CCH Division headed by Ms. Bindu Manchanda.

Members voiced their concern about the need for a regular lecture hall/venue to conduct regular series of talks and programmes. They requested INTACH to explore the possibility of a tie up with the British Council and the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan to avail conference space at least once a month.

The setting up of a Chapter at Gulbarga is being followed up by State Convenor Asvathannayan. Chairman briefed the Members about Rural Chapters with membership at a token fee of Rs.100/- for 5 years with focus on youth involvement.

Madhya Pradesh

Burhanpur
The Chapter circulated a flyer Where Heritage Speaks History drawing attention to the little known tourist attractions of the city. There are five in particular deserving mention: a beautifully carved Jama Masjid in black stone with Sanskrit, Arabic and Parsi scripts; the Shahi Killa with exotic paintings and a hamam where Mumtaz Begum bathed in perfumed bath water; the Dargah-e-Hakimi of the Sufi philosopher and guide Maula Abdul Kadar Hakimi; a Gurudwara having the only Guru Granth Sahib signed in gold ink by Guru Gobind Singh; and the unique water system at the 80 feet deep Khooni Bhandara filled with mineral water that traversed a 3km long tunnel. Situated on the banks of the Tapti river, Burhanpur has many other attractions which Convenor Dr. Major MK Gupta and Co-Convenor Hoshang Havaldar are advertising through local travel organizations, exploring further promotional avenues for greater public attention.

Jabalpur
Convenor RK Sharma informs that the Chapter has inducted archaeologist Shri Girija Shankar Aggarwal to be in charge of Mandala District; and Dr. Ajay Jaiswal for Narsimhpur District with a view to extend INTACH objectives and activities to other districts of the Jabalpur Division.

Maharashtra

Mumbai
Convenor Tasneem Mehta extended invitations on behalf of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum for the lecture by Dr. Colin Cunningham on 25th January. The talk was on Victoria and Albert Museums in London & Mumbai - reflecting the nature of Museums and their buildings. Dr. Cunningham explored the stylistic roots of the BDL Museum rooted in the 19th century British museum. It grew out of the haphazard urgency of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and was conceived as an educational and scientific venture rather than a museum collection..The architecture of BDL Museum also drew inspiration from other conventional style of museums of 19th century England.

Orissa

Behrampur
The Chapter, a southern city of Orissa in the Ganjam district, was the 7th Chapter to be inaugurated in Orissa with the
Minister of Culture and Tourism Debi Prasad Mishra doing the honours. State Convenor Ananta Mohapatra, Convenor AP Tripathy, and Senior Member DK Mishra spoke at length drawing attention to the heritage of Ganjam. Dr. Sudhansu Pati was appointed as Convenor, with Shri Susul Padhi as the Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

**Bhadrak**

Convenor AB Tripathy invited the Panchayat Raj Minister Prafulla Samal to the inauguration of the Bhadrak Chapter in late December 2009. Shri Digambar Mohanty was appointed as its Convenor, and Shri SM Farooque as the Co-Convenor on the occasion.

**Koraput**

The Chapter marked INTACH Silver Jubilee Year by launching a youth event *Dongar* on National Youth Day, 12th January to be hence forth held annually. The Koraput region comprising originally undivided Koraput covered the districts and the Scheduled areas of Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi in Orissa (Odisha); adjoining Srikakulam, Vishakhapatnam, Khaman, East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh; and Bastar, Dantewada, Dhamtari districts in Chhattisgarh in the epic days of *Dandakaranya* according to the old Gazetteer of India. The main objective of this meet that was attended by 450 tribal youth was to provide a common platform for all to interact with other tribal regions regarding their cultural preservation, and problems faced vis a vis their day to day life. The major participants of this three day event would eventually cover indigenous youth from all 62 Blocks of the old Koraput region.

This landmark event on 12th January was also attended by Orissa State Convenor Amiya Bhushan Tripathy, former President of Odisha Chapter Ananta Mohapatra, Professor of Anthropology SN Rath from Hyderabad, MLA Raghuram Padal, Asst. Station Director AIR Ramprasad Parichha, and especially to be mentioned the District Magistrate and Collector Rajesh Prabhakar Patil apart from Koraput Convenor KC Panigah. One of the Chief Guests was Shri Biswanath Patnaik who is the fountainhead of the tribal movement in the region. The concluding day ceremony was graced by dignitaries from the Institute of Mines and Material Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar - its Director Dr. Barada Kanta, and others to be specially mentioned were Dr. Satyajit Rath, Dr. Prasana Kumar Panda, Dr. DP Sandha and Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra, all of whom expressed their cooperation in the digitalization of traditional tribal knowledge and patenting articles and innovative ideas to be found in tribal traditions. Koraput Co-Convenor Dr. PC Mohapatra concluded the function with a warm vote of thanks to the IMMT special guests.

**Mayurbhanj**

The Chapter held its annual function on 14th February at the Rotary Club, with the Rajmata of Mayurbhanj as the Chief Guest and Chairman of the Baripada Municipality Raj Sibaranarayan Kisku as the Guest of Honour. The Law Secretary Debabrata Dash was the Chief Speaker on the occasion hosted by Convenor PK Mishra who reported on the activities of the Chapter, and Co-Convenor LN Das who gave the vote of thanks.

**Punjab**

Convenor VK Kapoor has sent an extensive coverage of the two functions hosted by the Chapter to highlight

*Members gathered to celebrate intangible heritage with some talented performances*
the intangible heritage of the region. Held in private residences, members had the opportunity to perform and display their hidden talents. At another meeting at the Le Corbusier Centre, former Add.Chief Justice Maharashtra CD Singh released a book on the subject, written by Smt. Shan Gurudev Singh, wife of the former High Court Judge of Punjab and Haryana.

Rajasthan

Jodhpur

Convenor Dr.K.Mahendersingh Nagar has forwarded the list of Rajasthan artists honoured last year at the Silver Jubilee Award function organized at Chokelao Palace of Mehrangarh Fort with Shri Gaj singh as the Chief Guest. State Convenor Thakur Ranveer Singh was also present. The following artists received citations and mementos for their work in heritage conservation: Arvind Mathur from Udaipur; Sheikh Mohammed Lukman from Kota; Koshallaya Devi from Baran; Surendra Harsh from Nagaur; Kailash Sompura from Dungarpur; Pyarelal Lohar from Sirohi; KK Sharma from Ajmer; Bhairulal Swarnkar from Shekhawati; Babulal Mahavtar from Swai Madhopur; Shobharam from Jalawar; Aabid Uddin from Jaipur; Navjibhai Madhoji from Pali; marking the special year for INTACH. In the field of journalism, RP Bohra and Nandkishor Saraswat were given special awards; and also a few others from Jodhpur for their contribution to the Chapter activities: Shailash Mathur, Prasannapuri Goswami, Anshula Kothari, Pt.Ramdutt Thanwi and YD Singh Sankhala. The Convenors of Rajasthan from Kota, Shekhawati, Udaipur, Nagaur and Sirohi were also honoured for their dedicated contributions to heritage work.

Special Guest Mayor Rameshwar Dadheech addressed the artists as repositories of heritage so that our civilization, culture and heritage is not allowed to vanish.

Kota

Kota Chapter, and in particular Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya, are congratulated for the publication of 4 volumes of listing documentation. The complete set comprises 1100 pages illustrated with colour pictures and details of heritage buildings of Kota.

Shekhavati

A team from NDTV visited Apani Dhanai Eco-Lodge, where Convenor RC Jagid and the Chapter Office are located, to shoot a film on responsible tourism. The programme scheduled to be broadcast in April also covered Nawalgarh, Dundlod and Jhunjhunu. The team spoke to both the Convenor and Co-Convenor Catherine Ripou about the famed Shekhavati heritage. The Co-Convenor being French ensured the participation of the Shekhavati Chapter at a seminar held in Delhi by the French Embassy where the focus of the discussions was on heritage and culture as a tool for development.

Convenor Jangid informs that at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Adarsh Bal Niketan on 14th February, he had the opportunity to address many merchants of the city present on the occasion and appeal to them about the urgent need to save Shekhavati heritage built by their ancestors. A Drawing and Painting Contest was organized in the schools of Jhunjhunu in which 31 students from 6 schools participated producing art works on the built heritage of the city. An iterant exhibition of framed pictures will make the rounds of all participating schools.

Shri Mohan Goenka whose forefathers built most of the buildings of heritage interest in Dundlod was at hand to inaugurate the Heritage Walk organized by the Chapter on 18th February. 200 people participated, and received brochures on the subject to make them aware of their rich heritage.

Tamil Nadu

Kadapa

The third anniversary of the Chapter was held on New Year’ Day with Convenor S. Sitharamiah extending invitations to several prominent citizens to a function organized at the INTACH Office. Chief Patron and District Collector

INTACH members with Distt. Collector

During the closing months of 2009, the Chapter organized a number of functions like photo exhibition and classical dance programmes at Madurai, and an eco-tourism tour to Tummala Bile.

**Nagercoil**

Convenor Dr. RS Mohan Lal says it was a historic day for the Chapter when the District Collector Rajendra Rethnoo inaugurated the renovated Manammable Well built in 1697 by Queen Manammal of the Nayakar kingdom. The presence of Municipal Chairman Ashok Solomon and Municipal Commissioner Smt. Janaki Ravindran in bringing forth this forgotten history hopefully ensures its preservation and public attention. The Chapter has drawn detailed project plans for the Forts Maiyakottai and Marunthukottai and is optimistic that the visit of the Collector accompanied by revenue officers will lead to their renovation also.

Shri Rethoo arranged a heritage awareness programme at the Collectorate on 21st January to which he invited all village officers, *Thasildars* and Revenue District Officers explaining to them at length the value of built, natural and intangible heritage. Convenor Dr. Lal Mohan writes that it is heartening to receive valuable information that is now pouring forth from Panchayats and from the villages of Nagercoil District.

Dr. RS Lal Mohan visited Patna on 21st February at the invitation of the Department of Environment for participating in the Ganges Action Plan to study the river dolphin *Platanista Gangatina*.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Lucknow**

The U.P Convenors and Co-Convenors held a meeting organized by Convenor Usha Kohli and other Chapter Members on 15th December at Lucknow. UP State Convenor Alok Ranjan presided with Allahabad, Banda, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, and UP/Lucknow Chapter Members in attendance. Dr. OP Agrawal and Smt Usha Agrawal were the special invitees to the meeting.

UP State Co-Convenor RN Bhargava reports that a decision was taken to complete listing of monuments as per the given guidelines, and 5 new Chapters are targeted to be opened. The Convenors spoke about their immediate concerns like a by-pass construction that was destroying the heritage of Allahabad; and future plans like a *Crafts Mela* at Lucknow after the success of *Gazal ka Safar* organized earlier; the *Madhuban* organised in a 1400 year old temple at Gorakhpur; establishment of a Crafts Centra at Banda for marketing local sand and *sajar* stones statues; the revival of *Nautanki* at Kanpur; and setting up of new Chapters. In concluding the meeting, Shri RN Bhargava shared his concept of *Green School Initiative*. The UP Chapters will be giving special attention to global warming issues and
promoting greater awareness among student communities regarding carbon footprint and issues concerning environmental protection.

**Varanasi**

Convenor RK Bhatnagar, a former Commissioner Azamgarh, is the appointed Convenor of the Chapter. Efforts are being made to get 6.8 kms area of the Varanasi ghats freed of advertisements and hoardings that mar the walls of heritage buildings along the banks of the Ganga. A meeting was held to discuss the matter and take up the issue with local authorities. It is generally felt that a legal framework was urgently required in order to initiate proper action in cases of violation. Simultaneously, media sensitization is required to generate public support.

The faculty from the Benares Hindu University, Professor of Civil Engineering Dr. Devendra Mohan and History of Art Lecturers Dr. Pravin Singh Rana and Shri PJ Shyju, participated in a students programme *Save Mother Earth* organised by Prof. Kalyan Krishna of the University. The Chapter plans to go to schools and explain to the students the dangers of global warming and green house gases, to mitigate which they could take up simple measures like planting trees and saving water. The campaign started with a visit to the Army School on 23rd January.

The Convenor, along with Co-Convenors Alvaro Enterria and Raj Kumar have made a public appeal *To Save a Vanishing Symbol of the Identity of Kasi*. Varanasi, known for its unbroken chain of ghats dotted with chaukis (wooden platforms) and covered with chhatis (parasols), are symbolic of the holy city, providing shade to pilgrims during ablutions. Patrons were requested by the Chapter to support the craftsmen making these attractive bamboo chhatis costing as little as Rs1500 each, to save a dying craft and to earn punya (credits) according to popular belief.

**West Bengal**

**Kolkata**

The Chapter held its annual signature event, the *Prinsep Ghat Cultural Festival* on 22nd January, in association with HSBC that has been sponsoring this Festival since its inception. There was an invocation dance of the whirling dervishes by a Sufi *kathak* troupe from Padatik. The theme this year was peace and harmony, invoked with a recital of *Paigham-e-Aman* by the Wadali Brothers, well known Sufi singers. Their sonorous music held the audience of nearly a thousand people spell bound.

The Chief Guest Lt. Gen. VK Singh, GoC-in-C Eastern Command addressed the gathering that included the Consular Corps, CEO HSBC Mr. Stuart Davis, and Head of Eastern India HSBC Mr. Yentin Lama. The programme received a very warm response amidst steadily dipping temperature of a winter evening. It concluded with an equally warm vote of thanks by Convenor GM Kapur.
Shri GM Kapur succeeded in getting the Max Mueller to enlist conservators from the INTACH Art Centre to work with the German painting conservator Renate Kant and to upgrade their skills. Working on the giant canvas of Zoffany’s *Last Supper* in a makeshift laboratory erected inside the church near the Raj Bhavan. The budget of Euro 15,000-20,000 is being funded by the Max Mueller, with the Chapter chipping in a small measure. There is an interesting story attached to this 18th century painting. It is said to have incurred the wrath of people on whom the artist modeled the Apostles, especially Judas with his tortured visage modeled on “a certain English resident at the Court if Lucknow” or Tulloh resembling a Calcutta auctioneer. Kant who has spent 15 years working in India conjectures that the painting may well have been damaged by those he angered! But perhaps more damage was inflicted with age, overpaint and repair works earlier undertaken. Kant will be returning to Singapore, but he will continue to supervise the INTACH group at Kolkata through video conference.

**Santiniketan**

The book *Monuments Around Santiniketan* was released by INTACH Founder Member Prof. KG Subramanyam at Nandan Kala Bhavana, in what Convenor Subir Adhikari describes as typical Santinikean style. The distinguished guests were presented with an *Uttyario* and a bouquet. The *Ved Mantra* was recited by the group *Samabeto* directed by Smt. Bulbul Bose.

Co-Convenor Susmita Guharoy extended a warm welcome, while Shri Adhikari complimented the team comprising Shri Salil Chatterji, Smt. Dreya Mukherjee, Smt. Sumitra Khan and Sri Debraj Mukherjee for the hard work that went into the publication. The book covers INTACH’s explorations around the city and in the arid region of Birbhum. Compliments were also extended to the publisher Sri Sanjay Arya; the Editor Pialee Mukherjee from Delhi; and Life Member Hitabrata Roy who was associated with the documentation from inception. Shri Moloy Mukhapadhyay delivered the vote of thanks, and the proceedings concluded with a Tagore song *Amader Santiniketan*.

**Condulesces**

Shri Salil Chatterji, a much loved Member of the Sanntiniketan Chapter, passed away suddenly on 16th January. His untimely death is a big loss to the INTACH Chapter. In mourning him, Members recall his contribution specially in the field of documentation of monuments around Santiniketan, and in particular to the restoration of the Itonda Temple. INTACH Head Office joins the Chapter Members in extending its heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, and send good wishes for the future. May he rest in peace.

The Chapter suffered a second loss with the passing away of Life Member Smt. Supriya Das Gupta on 9th February after a prolonged illness. She was one of the Founder Members of the Santiniketan Chapter, fondly remembered by one and all as a charming lady of much grace. INTACH send its condolences to her husband Shri Chidananda Das Gupta and other members of family members on their grievous loss. May they find the strength to bear this loss. Our good wishes will always be with them.
First Air Mail Flight

Imagine! The first Aerial Post in the world took off from Allahabad, India on 18th February 1911. The plane looked more like an open air contraption with a seat for the pilot meant to fly a short distance long before the Wright Brothers propelled aviation history. It was recently exhibited at the UP Exhibition in the city. The event coincided with the Kumbh Mela of that year coincidentally.

Pirating Indigenous Knowledge

It is reported that both USA and Europe have been patenting over 2000 medicines every year based on traditional Indian medicine systems. To reverse the trend, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) set up the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has already documented 2 lakh formulations of the Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Yoga Schools in Sanskrit, Persian, Tamil and Urdu. India is in the process of signing agreements with other patent offices whereby they can access TKDL to prevent biopiracy. Forest & Environment Minister Jairam Reddy stated that 35 cases have been identified in the European Patent Office (EPO) and another 40 cases in the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with only a few cases decided in India’s favour. There is little chance of establishing a proper protocol at the next Convention on Biodiversity in Nagoya, Japan later this year as the rich nations oppose any legal framework, and poor nations are unable to realize benefits from the use of their rich biodiversity for their own people. Will it be another emerging battleground, after the one on Climate Change?

Redolent with Flowers

Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, like the Chowk in Lucknow, has old perfume shops with over a 100 varieties of desi ivera extracted from fresh rose, jasmine, khus, henna, etc. One of the oldest shops in the capital dates back to 1816, established in the time of Akbar Shah II, owned by brothers Ram Singh and Mohan Singh. The fragrant trade is not an easy one especially when the affluent population is spoilt for choices offered by heavily advertised western perfumes. But ivera is uniquely Indian, its fragrance redolent also with history and legend, with each season having its own fragrance. Khus for example is favoured in summer and Henna during winter. The best Rooh Gulab comes from the rose farms of Kannauj, and villages near Aligarh and Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. The best Kewra is procured from Kelhua Palli in Orissa. Krishna Mohan says wistfully “Heritage is as fragile as these bottles and yet, can be as lasting as the fragrance of ivera”. What about the sweet smell of success, when it comes to the ivera business?

Leading the Clean Energy Race

It is reported China has overtaken the West to become the world’s largest manufacturer of solar panels and wind turbines. It is marching ahead in building nuclear reactors, efficient coal power plants and other forms of sustainable energy. It could happen one day that dependence on oil may be substituted with ‘Made in China’ energy technologies. Multinational corporation like the Danish Vestas erected the world’s biggest wind turbine manufacturing complex in north China, and other corporations are in the race to build state-of-the-art factories in China. Even the average consumer is taking advantage of generous subsidies to install solar panels/heaters on their rooftops in pursuit of clean energy. Can a land of perpetual sunshine like India, and a nuclear agreement to its credit, lag behind due to poor governance? For a start 1000 solar powered cycle rickshaws will be plying in Chandni Chowk by the time of the Commonwealth Games. The scientists at Central Mechanical and Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur are tweaking the problem of a green transport called Soleckshaw for stopping and starting rapidly in crowded places. They can run 40 kms carrying 200 kg weight at 15 kms speed. Some people are of the view there should be colourful horse drawn carriages to make Chandni Chowk look like what Jahanara Begum conceived in Mughal times!

Wisdom Turned to Ashes

An exhibition of the 60 year old Delhi Public Library was short circuited hours after its inauguration at the Lalit Kala Akademi grounds. Rare books and audio-visual material were engulfed in flames, with knowledge turned to ashes. Gone are some rare books sourced from Haridayal and Marwari libraries which can never be replaced. Only the digitized records and news prints can be resurrected, and efforts are on to salvage some damaged volumes. There is a strong case for digitizing all rare books to be found all over the country as an essential heritage security measure.

Riot of Colours

The skies over the Sabarmati in Gujarat were a riot of colours during the 20th International Kite Festival held in the month of January. This year 105 professional kite fliers from 34 countries including Turkey, South Africa, Australia and some countries of Europe joined innumerable amateurs to grab the eyes. The kites were not only vividly colourful but also of different shapes and geometric forms, and of course Durga from India adding a touch of divinity to the auspicious festival of Makar Sankranti.
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