A National Seminar on the Upper Ganga Region: Towards Conservation with Ecological-Cultural Sustainability and Organic Development was held on 20th -21st September at Muni ki Reti, Rishikesh on the banks of the river Ganga. The distinguished invitees and participants were welcomed to the tunes of the theme song Ganga Tum Bahtee Ho Kyoon (Ganga why do you flow?) composed by Padmashri Bhupen Hazarika. It was to remind the gathering that Ganga is suffering from callous neglect and that responsible behaviour of communities, policy-makers and decision-takers alone can save this iconic river.

There are countless millions in India who pray to the Ganga as a Mother Goddess. The Seminar is a significant initiative for conservation of India’s most sacred river. Participants from different parts of India and abroad, along with sixty stakeholders, deliberated over two days on various facets of conserving the Upper Ganga Region, on the objectives to be defined and approach to be adopted, prior to its qualification as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Swami Chidanand Muni, President of the Parmarth Niketan where the Seminar was held, graced the occasion. Present on the occasion were other luminaries like Magsaysay awardee Rajendra Singh; Justice Girdhar Malviya; Vice Chancellor of Doon University Prof. Girjesh Pant; Executive Director, Deptt. of Anthropology, University of Heidelberg Prof. William S. Sax; representatives of NGOs, universities, youth organizations, researchers, scholars and legal experts from all over India. INTACH was
family and I believe that we should hold such meetings from time to time.

But at the State level we have had quite a few Convenors’ Meetings and I have had considerable feedback from them. My attention and time, however, has also been taken up by the need to strengthen capacities in our various technical Divisions. This is necessary because they will eventually help to serve our membership better. Besides, it is important to keep up INTACH’s reputation for excellence in the field of conservation. We must also be leaders in the field of ideas. This requires having the best people manning our leadership positions.

As you are aware INTACH helped to set up the INTACH (UK) Trust soon after its inception. The funds for the INTACH (UK) Trust came from the bequest of the late Charles Wallace. The Executive Committee of INTACH has now appointed me as Chairman of the INTACH (UK) Trust. The Trustees consist of British and Indian citizens who are known for their commitment to a shared cultural interest between Britain and India. The first meeting under my Chairmanship was held at the end of July. It was a fruitful meeting and elsewhere in this issue of VIRASAT you will find a fuller report on that meeting.

Since I wrote to you last we have set up a Finance Committee that has been tasked with creating a strategy for ensuring INTACH’s Finance viability, as also overseeing the deployment and husbanding of our resources. Recommendations of the Finance Committee are placed before the Executive Committee.

Most recently we have also constituted an Advisory Committee for the Architectural Heritage Division. This Committee will review the mandate for the Division and also work as a search committee from time to time.

Major General L.K. Gupta, AVSM

represented by Chairman L.K. Gupta and Advisor Shri. Ashis Banerjee.

Principal Advisor S.K. Verma, INTACH Natural Heritage Division, who organized the Seminar outlined the scope of the Seminar. He stated that India has not yet accepted the truism that rivers like the Ganga are ecological beings. The real issue is Will the Ganga survive…..? after the unprecedented ecological and cultural destruction wreaked by a series of proposed dams in the upper reaches of the Bhagirathi river and its impact on Ganga, compounded by a total lack of ecological and environmental safeguards.

He presented the framework of an Action Plan for joint execution by INTACH and the Ganga Action Parivar (GAP), which calls for the active participation of major local institutions like field functionaries of Government Departments, Village Panchayats, major local institutions of the region like the Uttarkhand HNB Garhwal University, and those located in Dehra Dun like Forest Survey of India, Doon University, IGNFA, and Survey of India. “The Way Forward” necessitates ecosystem development coupled with cultural sustainability for preserving the integrity of the Ganga Upper Region.

The Presentations with several audio-visuals resulted in lively discussions. There were many eminent Speakers:
Padmashri Dr. Ranjit Bhargav; Member, Indian Everest Expedition 1981, Dr. Harshvanti Bisht; Prof. at Garhwal University Dr. DR Purohit; Vice Chancellor Doon University Prof. Girijesh Pant; Dr. Karin Polit of the Institute of Ethnology, Germany; Commander (Retd.) SD Sinha; specialist on micro-hydro-power Yogesh Kumar; Suptd. ASI DN Dimri; architect MN Ashish Gupta. They addressed various issues like Understanding of Ecological-Cultural Dimensions, Ecological Concerns, Development and Human Nature, Pilgrimage and Cultural Perspectives, Ecological Concerns, Impact of Urbanization and Management, Micro-Hydropower and Rural Development in the Ganga Basin, and of course the Myths, Legends and Symbols that have throbbed in the heart of Indians down the centuries.

It was resolved unanimously that there is an urgent need for the participants from different disciplines to come together and explore “the way forward”, summarized by Shri Ashis Banerjee while highlighting the major issues discussed.

**Most complex : Issues of Public Awareness:**

- To assess ‘limits of the possible’ and whether we prefer ‘Spontaneous’ or ‘Sustainable Development’ after assessment of the geologically sensitive area and prone to earthquake, slides and sinkage of land.
- To examine ground facts vis a vis the declaration of the Ganga as National River which is expected to flow free of pollution by 2020 as announced by the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in March 2011.
- To raise awareness on the causes of ‘non-point pollution’ and rituals, open defecation, laundering at dobhi ghats, immersing corpses and carcasses in sacred waters by local people, of refuse by pilgrims, visitors and stake holders alike, through appropriate measures.
- To convene a series of workshops aimed primarily at responsibilities of local communities, focusing on their right to take charge of environmental issues under the Indian Constitution.
- To patrol susceptible stretches along the Ganga river banks through a campaign of volunteers/workers who would retrieve plastic bags, floating sludge, litter, human and animal corpses that flow down the river every day.
- To monitor activities that significantly affect river pollution and entail public health hazards which entails altering ingrained social habits.
- To review projects of hydro power and displacement of local communities and their resettlement, haphazard growth of development and tourism which impacts both ecology and populace.
- To give preference to alternate sources of energy eg. solar energy, wind power instead of mega power dams especially in hill areas, etc.

The Major Recommendations of the Seminar:

- INTACH and GAP jointly, with the support of all concerned local agencies, including Mahila Mandals and Government, to add the dimension of technical expertise to bring about the envisaged transformation.
- A SWOT analysis to be carried out on the Upper Ganga with reference to socio-economic status and basic requirements of local communities.
- Preparation of Baseline Data and Assessment Impact of favourable and adverse factor in the infrastructural development in the region using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology, which covers a vast range of detailing.
- Cultural mapping of all sacred spaces viz. historical monuments, shrines, landscapes, etc.
- Undertaking capacity building measures specially aimed at youth and women for undertaking responsibilities of natural resources management viz. forestory, biodiversity, water, and revival of traditional practices.
- Ban on wholesale usage of polythene, except essential goods like milk and bread.
- Declaration of ‘No Construction Zone’, whether residential or commercial, upto 100 metres from the HFL of either banks of Ganga or its tributaries depending on gradation and location.
- Framing bye-laws for residential house construction based on energy efficient and earthquake proof architecture.
- Preparing a project outline to support NGRBA objectives of Mission Clean Ganga, keeping in mind lessons learnt from the previous Ganga Action Plan and new challenges that have cropped up to compound the problems. This requires not only a comprehensive approach on various fronts, but also Public-Private Participation (PPP), coverage of tribal population living in inaccessible areas, etc.
- Preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) with Budget Estimates for submission to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India and other Donors from NGRBA Clean Ganga Project under the 12th Five Year Plan.
- Documentation of important legal provisions and significant judgments of the Supreme Court/High Courts.
It is indeed a herculean task involving Government, public and private sectors, and individual entities, in order to ensure ecological-cultural sustainability and organic development of the Ganga, one of the major lifeline rivers of our country. It undoubtedly merits declaration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. But before that, it is not enough to keep singing Hazarika’s song. We need to question ourselves: “Ganga Tum Bahatee Ho Kyun?” And seriously address all the answers flowing from it.

Sacred Ganga

The Ganga River is sacred to humanity as a fountainhead of the oldest, continuous civilization and cultural heritage of India. It is also the symbol of faith, hope, substance and sanity for millions of its citizens since time immemorial. The Gangajal has become an essential resource in the symbolic propagation of life, rites of passage, and abolution at the time of death. The Upper Ganga Region lays claim to a sacred landscape with cultural traditions rooted in religion, rituals and folklore. With many paeans to it in religious literature. Nestling on its mountain peaks, past winding roads traversing sacred groves, valleys and forests, are the many pilgrim centres like Kedarnath and Badrinath; the Gangotri, Yamnotri and Hemkunt Sahib; the many Shakti Peethas. There is an ecological-cultural dimension to pilgrimage in the Chardham Circuit, with an enchanting heritage of crafts, fairs and traditions of its people. Ganga is also valuable for diverse natural resources like the perennial water supply from Himalayan snows, sustenance and life support for teeming populace, rich biodiversity for emerging solutions to environmental problems in future. No wonder a predominant number of Hindus across the length and breadth of India consider the Ganga sacred and have personified it as a deity down the ages.

A CHERISHED ASSOCIATION

I am a very proud Founder Member, and have good memories of the excitement of formulating this institution called INTACH. I came back with great enthusiasm in 2007-2008 and have an equally happy memory of my association with INTACH. In the meantime I had been working hard with Maritime Heritage Foundation founded by the Great Eastern Shipping Co. in memory of my late husband Vasanth Seth. The earlier phase saw shipping related projects at the Ahmedabad School of Management.......but my heart remained with history and maritime heritage. We had a glittering function of an exhibition at the World Trade Centre inaugurated by the C&C of Western Command, Indian Navy which was visited by important citizens of Mumbai and thousands of visitors. It opened my eyes to the maritime heritage in developing the city of Bombay as a major financial capital of India. This was followed by a book Ocean Omnibus, describing coastal heritage and knowledge of the ocean around India for young students. The real highlight of my work was partnering the Indian Navy in 2001 when during its centenary celebrations we organised with other enthusiasts a massive maritime heritage exhibition with models, old replicas, prints, paintings, etc. from early days to the British period. The Atomic Energy Commission gave us their historic 1846 building for setting up the exhibition that was inaugurated by the late PC Alexander, the then Governor of Maharashtra.

For me it was the launch of a journey......the heritage path continued and we undertook the documentation of existing landmarks and monuments, all ports and lighthouses connected with the Indian coast i.e. the nine coastal States which form the Indian peninsula. Gujarat which has a significant historical past in trading from ancient time till today was documented by the Foundation. In 2007 I undertook to make this project a part of INTACH as well for documenting the Indian coast, and gave a new dimension to our partnership. The Foundation was the initiator and monitoring agency and shared 60% of the cost, while INTACH through its coastal Chapters and enthusiastic Convenors undertook to monitor the work and share 40% of the cost. The result of this partnership has given us all a great satisfaction, which I will always cherish.

Asha Sheth
Former Vice Chairman, INTACH
NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

Meeting of the INTACH (UK) Trust

The two-day Annual Meeting of the Trustees of the INTACH (UK) Trust was held at the INTACH Central Office on 30th-31st July. The Trustees are Maj. Gen. (Retd) L.K. Gupta, AVSM (INTACH Chairman), Dr. Deborah Swallow, Mr. John McGregor, Dr. Farhan Nizami (UK citizen) and Shri Dhruv Sawhney. Member Secretary Dr. C.T. Misra, and Advisor Ashis Banerjee attended as INTACH invitees. Ms. Susan Denyer attended as the Executive Secretary of the Trust.

The Meeting was marked by a strong commitment on the part of all the Trustees to find a new way forward for the Trust. The Meeting reviewed the performance of the Trust and discussed all possible ways in which it could become more effective after nearly a quarter century of its existence.

The backdrop was provided by Chairman’s note circulated to all the Trustees a few months earlier requesting their views on the subject, as to how best the Trust could conceiv a fresh agenda for itself. The Meeting thus commenced with Chairman candidly stating he was open to every suggestion that could strengthen the goodwill that the Trust had been able to generate in the past. He said the Trust needed to make a greater impact than it had hitherto been able to do. This could be done by creating a brand value and by consolidating its programmes in a way that resulted in lasting gains. In order to do this the Trust may need to raise more funds than were available to it at present.

Trustees felt that the idea of exchange and transfer of knowledge on both sides should be maintained. The pool of applications for scholarships should be increased and target the highest international standards. They supported the Chairman’s idea of raising more funds, and suggested that new partnerships should be forged. The next stage of the Trust’s activities should be spelt out in a new vision document and be given wide publicity.

At this meeting there was greater appreciation of a strong relationship between INTACH and the INTACH (UK) Trust than in the past. Trustees decided to transfer some funds to INTACH, the interest from which would sustain activities of the Trust in India. Trustees considered proposals received mainly from INTACH and its Chapters for funding. Trustees also discussed the audited accounts, the existing financial situation of the Trust, and approved a budget for the current year.

A follow up meeting of the Trustees will be held in London in the second week of October when Chairman will avail of a stopover en route to Victoria, Canada where he will attend a meeting of INTO as a Member of its Executive Committee. Not all the Trustees may be available for the London meeting, nevertheless it was felt that an opportunity for periodic and regular contact should not be missed.

Chairman Visits Chapters

Bengaluru

Chairman LK Gupta attended the meeting with Corporate heads at Bengaluru convened by Union Secretary Culture Sircar on 25th July, to explore heritage activities in collaboration with FICCI, CII and INTACH. It was heavily represented by all Members of the Karnataka Chapter. It is felt that corporate social responsibility can foster innovative projects like preservation of cultural landscapes, sponsorship of local crafts, organization of art festivals, protection of intangible heritage, adoption of historic monuments, restoration and reuse of architectural sites, digitalization of archives, etc. to mention a few that would also enhance corporate image.

Andhra Pradesh

The visit to Visakhapatnam included a Press Meet on 7th August. Chairman LK Gupta stated that Visakhapatnam, much blessed with both natural and built heritage, also had a rare geological phenomenon the Erramatti Dibbalu (Red Sand Dunes), one of its kind in South East Asia. With excellent CRZ and the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act already in place, the local authorities are well placed to harmonise development and tourism activity with heritage conservation. INTACH as a people’s body is constantly engaged in imparting heritage education to schoolchildren and sensitizing the public to heritage issues. He said the VUDA Master Plan had excellent provisions for heritage preservation, and hence there was an urgent need to expedite setting up of the
Heritage Conservation Committee approved by the State Government.

During the meeting with INTACH Members, Chairman advised Convenor Rani Sarma to utilize funds left over from maritime heritage documentation for other listing. Assistance if required for listing and formulating a framework of laws could be provided by Central Office. Chairman also assured that he will take up the changing character of places of worship, where temple floorings are being replaced with granite or ceramic tiles with the higher authorities. In fact all INTACH Chapters from Bhubaneswar to Visakhapatnam, which share the common historical Kalinga period linkage should join together to showcase the Cultural Heritage of Kalingas which makes a greater impact, he felt.

During his visit to Andhra, Chairman visited Srikakulam on 8th August as the Chief Guest for the inauguration of the Heritage Club. Convenor Dusi Dharma Rao informed that 40 heritage clubs to date had been set up at several colleges. He made a power point presentation on the restoration of Upanishandamandiram, National Rural Art Camp, Chennai road show, documentation of folk arts and manuscripts, listing of heritage sites and the National Awareness Programme undertaken by the Chapter. Chairman inaugurated a heritage exhibition mounted by photographer M. Srinivasa Rao.

Chairman garlanded the statue of freedom fighter late Sardar Gouthu Latchanna, and visited all the other 10 statues of luminaries installed by the Chapter. He suggested to the sculptor D. Apparao that in future statues should be made of lime instead of cement concrete for greater life span. Taking note of the cement and granite used in restoration at ancient sites like the Sun Temple, Arasavalli he suggested that Convenor Dharma Rao should try and obtain old photographs of the 7th century AD ancient temple for ensuring future integrity of conservation work. Jagatimetta in Srikakukam District is a glaring example of inept and unprofessional methods used in excavation. By carrying out the operations in inappropriate weather, the trenches get filled with debris. At several places like the Thotlakonda Buddhist Site inaugural plaques are erected right next to the excavated monk’s cells without regard to the prescribed three rings of protected, prohibited and regulated areas of 100 metres. The latest act of violation reported is tenders put out by APTDC for putting permanent structures on top of ancient Buddhist sites, that needs to be taken up immediately with the AP Department of Archaeology.

Chairman LK Gupta also visited Kakinada, East Godavari Chapter during this tour. Along with Convenor L. Sesha Kumari, Co-Convenor Y. Harischandra Rao and other Members they inspected the Old Administrative Office restored by the Chapter, and saw the Photo Exhibition. Chairman met INTACH Patron Collector Ravi Chandra at the function organized at the LCD Hall where a presentation on Chapter’s activities was made. Pointing out many historic buildings were in a dilapidated condition, Chairman said “This is the time for protecting heritage and involving the younger generation in the noble task”, while drawing attention to places like London and Paris where no demolition is permitted in the name of beautification or modernization.

Chairman handed over the Best Chapter Award and cheque to the Chief Patron and Convenor for their excellent work. Dr. P. Chiranjivini Kumari and Shri L. Krishna Murthy were also felicitated on the occasion for honours recently received by them.

Visit to Lucknow
On 24th August Chairman met Dr. OP Agrawal at Lucknow, and took stock of the Conservation Centre after its headquarters shifted to Delhi. At the meeting with UP Secretary Culture, listing and heritage regulations figured prominently among other heritage concerns in Uttar Pradesh.

Visit to Haryana
Chairman visited the Haryana Chapters of Rewari, Mohindergarh and Alwar from 27th-30th August where Chapter Meetings were scheduled and well attended. Visits to important heritage sites added greater vibrancy to the issues discussed. Alwar Collector explained that most
heritage properties belong to the Municipality which are facing funding problems after the abolition of house tax, etc. There is a steam engine workshop at Alwar which is likely to fall into disuse. Marketed worldwide as a Tiger Reserve, Sariska has eight different valleys that could be promoted as an eco-forest destination. At a short distance is Tijara where Meerabai received her Gurudarshan.

**Visit to Brajbhoomi**

The visit to Mathura on 9th September was partly washed out due to one of the heaviest downpour of the season, as the meeting was held in the open. NGOs like the Rotary Club, JCI Club, Giants Club met with INTACH Members to discuss Yamuna Pollution and JNURM, a major issue for the religious city of Mathura. Some of the remedial methods suggested were trap drain, bacteria bio-remediation treatment, introduction of different species of fish as part of cleaning operations. The discussions will be resumed to create a synergy of commercial activities in coordination with the State Government.

**Tours by Advisor**

**Visit to Madhya Pradesh**

On Chairman’s advice Advisor Ashis Banerjee visited Indore, Mandu, Maheswar, Burhanpur, Nagpur and Chandrapur from 24th-31st August, accompanied by Convenor Maheshwari for the latter part of the tour.

At Indore a Chapter meeting was held at an Art Gallery owned by one of the Members to plan out future strategy. Advisor met Life Member Bhalu Mondhe, associated with the Chapter since early days of INTACH. His work on the natural heritage front has gone largely unreported partly because it was conducted through a sister NGO set up by him. His work of restoring the burnt down Shiva temple in the Holkar Wada is exemplary. The Chapter was able to have encroachments around the hattris of the Holkars removed giving back to the city two beautiful monuments. The future use of the Lal Bagh compound and palace, under the administrative control of the M.P. Archaeology Department, was discussed. This 50 acre site in the heart of the city can be developed into a green lung and a tourist hospitality centre with an excellent museum. The Chapter would seek a meeting with the Commissioner and the Secretary in charge of the complex to discuss appropriate development plans for Lal Bagh. Indore is a major centre for classical music with a gharana to its name. The Chapter contributes to keeping the musical tradition alive by organizing the Sanghi Music Festival annually.

Advisor, accompanied by architect Mondhe, visited Mandu on 25th August in order to assess the possibility of developing a proposal for its nomination as a World Heritage Site under the category of ‘cultural landscape’.

Since Pune Chapter Members had earlier sought a good cultural landscape site for study, Shri Banerjee identified three architect INTACH Members teaching at the Pune Architectural College to be recommended to ASI for developing a proposal for Mandu.

On the 26th morning, Shri Banerjee made a short halt at Maheshwar (where the Chapter needs to be revived), enroute to Burhanpur for a Chapter meeting. Accompanied by Convenor Maheswari, they visited the Farooqui mosque and the fort, an ASI property in a poor state of preservation. The discussion during the Chapter meeting organized by Convenor Dr Major M. K. Gupta was on the entire historic water system of Burhanpur that needs to be preserved. Some senior Members of the Chapter have undertaken detailed research and are passionate about this landmark heritage.

At Nagpur a meeting was held with Convenor Smt. Singhi. Together they visited the Shiva temple at the Holkar palace that Himanshu and Shreyas have restored sensitively. It is an exemplary piece of rebuilding cum conservation (after it was burnt down because of a massive fire during the 1984 disturbance). Advisor met Ms Awantika Chitnavis, an INTACH member and Honorary Secretary of the Vidarbha Heritage Society who has been working on various aspects of heritage regulations. She feels very strongly that unless the Ministry of Culture at the central level takes a direct interest in the area of unprotected cultural heritage, the present regulations are too weak to protect heritage. At the historic temple of Ramtek located about 50 kms from Nagpur, some of the restoration work was underway. The temple complex built under the Gond rulers is unique in many ways. A meeting of INTACH Members was organized at Shri Divekar’s private museum, with former Convenor Prof Chandrashekhbar Gupta also present. It was an opportunity to meet with prospective new Convenor and Co-Convenor for Nagpur.

On 29th August Advisor and Shri Maheshwari left by car for Chandrapur, where they were met by the Convenor Shri Gautam at Bhadravati. He took them to the Nag Temple, the Rama temple and some Buddhist caves. The Chapter is active in this area though it is nearly 50 kms away from Chandrapur city. Some of the sculptures are unique especially that of Shiva in yogasana posture. Later, in the evening the team participated in the popular ‘pola’ festival which is unique to Vidarbha, where the bullock is worshipped as a mark of thanksgiving for its role in agriculture. At the Gond temple of Mahakali, with its impressive iconography the impressive ‘aarti’ in the garbhagriha was witnessed. It is proposed to launch a project on Gond heritage that stretches across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh, in consultation with the various INTACH
Chapter’s new office has been set up by the Convenor Shri Ashok Singh Thakur. Chapter meeting was well attended and indications of the enthusiasm in the remote district is massive. The town seems to be is growing without any plans and the first priority would be to evolve suitable urban legislation to protect the valuable built and natural heritage. One of the major problems is extensive coal mining but an even greater one is neglect. The Nagpur tour concluded with a visit to to a ‘wada’ owned by the Chitnavis family- an excellent example of the architecture of the Bhosle period.

Visit to Hyderabad

Advisor Asish Banerjee visited Hyderabad on 16th-20th July during which he took an overview of issues related to the recent separation of the State and Hyderabad Chapters. It was an opportunity to discuss with State Convenor Shri Gopalakrishnan opening up channels of communication with the provincial civil service and public works department. Shri Gopalkrishnan mentioned in conversation that he has set aside a 50 acre plot on his personal lands near Hyderabad where he has planted at least two trees of each species’.

Shri Banerjee attended the AGM of the Hyderabad Chapter convened by Convenor Anuradha Reddy and Co-Convenor Sajjad Shahid. Currently State Convenor Veda Kumar is looking after work under execution with a grant from the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Shri Banerjee briefed the 25 Members attending the AGM on new initiatives taken at Central Office from which Chapters might derive benefits when dealing with the State authorities. He also interacted with Dr. VK Bawa, an old INTACH enthusiast who continues to edit the journal, Deccan Studies.

Visit to Pune

The Chapter meetings at Pune on 18th-20th July were held with Convenor Bhogale and Co-Convenor Sharvey Dongde. The latter along with a fellow conservation architect Chetan Sahasrabuddhe accompanied the Advisor on the visit to Wai enlisted by INTACH. It is the historic home town of Nana Phadnavis. Wai has ghats similar to Varanasi on the banks of the Krishna river, with temples and wadas that combine brick and basalt rock as an unique architectural feature. The visit concluded with a meeting of the core group of Pune Chapter. The Chapter was congratulated on the on-going listing work and Warsaa heritage shop.

Visit to Agartala

Advisor A. Banerjee attended a two day seminar on Heritage and Sustainable Development organized by the Agartala Chapter at the Ujjayanta Palace during his visit to Tripura from 24th-27th July. The Governor with his wife, the former Maharani of Tripura, two State Ministers and the Secretary for Culture and Tourism attended the inauguration, along with representatives of the Forest Department and Pollution Board; and a singularly large number of school teachers, students, and NGOs. The proceedings on 25th-26th held at the Pragna Bhavan covering Heritage and Environment Conservation for Sustainable Development and on Opportunities and Challenges for Tripura made an impact on all present Among the earliest of Chapters to be established, it unfortunately has no records of the considerable work done in the past. The present State Government has shown little interest in the fabulous architectural buildings and Indo-Saracen palaces of the former Manikya rulers, and consequently there are many pending litigations between members of the erstwhile royal family (to which Convenor Pragya Dev Burman belongs) and the authorities. The Convenor hosted a grand dinner party with the Reang community dancers performing in the courtyard of the Ujjayanta Palace. The Governor invited a few of INTACH representatives the following morning to a breakfast at the Raj Bhawan, a graciously hopeful gesture.

At the wrap up meeting with Convenor and other Chapter Members it was decided that a forward looking plan needs to be developed for the next few years, and involve INTACH Members who were active in the initial phase of the Chapter like its first Convenor Jishnu Deb Burman and other old Members to give an impetus to the proposed plans.

Visit of Francesco Bandarin

Assistant Director General for Culture, UNESCO was in Delhi to attend a workshop on Conservation and Management of Historic Urban Areas in India organized jointly by the ASI and Ministry of Culture on 6th September. Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta attended as one of the delegates. She availed the opportunity to invite Mr. Bandarin to visit INTACH Central Office. It was an unscheduled but most fruitful visit. He was conducted around all the Divisions and the ICCI laboratories, and was greatly impressed by the range and scope of INTACH conservation activities. It opens the door for closer interaction with the newly appointed Director of UNESCO at Delhi, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi.
**Chapters Please Note:**

* Your attention is once again drawn to the request made earlier that Audited Accounts of the Chapter had to be sent to the Central Office by 30th June. A number of Chapters have not yet complied with this notice, and are requested to do so in the prescribed format on urgent basis. Delays on your part hold up finalization of INTACH Central Office Audit Accounts.

* Convenors are once again requested to send their Bank Code, RTGS / NEFT IFS Code and Account Number – along with a Blank Cancelled Cheque (if they have not done so to date) – as this is a requirement for electronic transfer of funds from Head Office to Chapters when required.

* Kindly also expedite the Activity Report to be sent to Chapters Division, Delhi.

**Members to Note:**

* All INTACH Associate Members of two years standing may please note that 31st December is the cut off date for receiving names of Members with the recommendation of their respective Convenor, who wish to become Ordinary Members. Ordinary Members enjoy voting rights in the Annual Elections to the Governing Council of INTACH.

All Associate, Institutional and Student Members are kindly requested to renew their membership subscription for the year 2011-2012 (if not already done). The renewal subscription should preferably be deposited with your local Chapter, or sent by post to Central Office if necessary.

Institutional and Ordinary Members however must renew their membership before 31st December 2011, in order to be eligible to vote in the elections to the Governing Council on March, 2012.

**Articles Invited for Journal of Heritage Studies**

Contributions and research papers relating to Conservation and Heritage from INTACH Members, and from the dedicated community of scholars working with the Chapters, are invited for publication in the *Journal of Heritage Studies* to be brought out by INTACH bi-annually. The Journal is being published from 2012 in collaboration with a leading English language publisher of India which has a wide reach in the academic community worldwide. Contributors should be made aware that they are addressing international readers.

Please note manuscripts should be between 5000-8000 words in length (including end notes but excluding bibliography). Articles submitted should be original, not published earlier or under review by any other publication, properly sourced and cited. All pages should be numbered, and sponsorship of research declared. Non-English manuscripts should be translated into English, edited and proof read by an English speaker. Authors are themselves responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyright material from other sources.

All submissions will be peer reviewed and the final decision will be communicated to the author. A style guide will be sent to each author and later uploaded on INTACH website for quick reference.

**Fellowships Offered**

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India invites applications for 400 Fellowships, 200 each to senior and junior scholars, through advertisement every year, in a prescribed format.

Senior Fellowships of Rs. 20,000 per month is for artists/artistes in the age group of above 40 years; and should not be recipients of pension from the Ministry under the scheme of financial assistance to artistes in indigent circumstances. Junior Fellowship of Rs. 10,000 per month is for artists/artistes in the age group 25-40 years.

Age will be reckoned as on 1st April of the year. Graduation is the minimum educational qualification for applicants. Selected candidates will have to undertake academic/research oriented work and submit six-monthly progress report. For more details please write directly to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.
Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad

The Chapter in conjunction with the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department celebrated World Tourism Day, 27th September with a programme Linking Cultures at the Lumbini Park. A number of personages addressed the gathering on varied subjects like former Post Master General Dr. HR Rajendra Prasad on Linking Cultures; former ASI Director VV Krishna Sastry on Select AP Monuments; Director Salar Jung Museum Dr. ML Nigam on Jewellery in the Deccan; Hyderabad Co-Convenor Sajjad Shahid on Architecture of Hyderabad; Hyderabad Convenor P.Anuradha Reddy on the city’s Transport & Tourism; Guest Faculty of Hyderabad University Dr. Yashoda Thakore on Linking Cultures through Dance; President Sikh Education Society Pritam Singh on Sikhs in the Deccan; and ASI Director Dr.P. Chenna Reddy on the Museums of Andhra Pradesh.

Kadapa

The Chapter conducted the seminar Protection of Ancient Buildings – Social Responsibility on 23rd July, presided by senior Member S. Elias Reddy. He fervently appealed to the public to involve themselves in protection of heritage buildings of the district. Member G.Samasiva Reddy, a Professor at Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa as the main speaker stressed that ancient buildings and art works are the property of society bequeathed by our ancestors, and thus impose the responsibility of preserving this ‘civilisational’ legacy on us, the inheritors. Twenty-five Members of the Chapter attended the Seminar.

Assistant Conservator ASI Atluri Satyam explained to the gathering, that included 200 students, the procedural methods and formulae adopted for protecting ancient built heritage including forts and other structures.

Machilipatnam

Convenor Tikkisetti Rama Mohana Rao reports that the Chapter is functioning from 2nd August, when it was inaugurated by District Revenue Officer VV Subba Reddy.
Delhi

A full house Delhi Chapter Meeting was held on 9th September at INTACH Multipurpose Hall. Members were informed that the Chapter had signed a MOU with the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) to assist the Government in the encryption of Delhi on the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Cities. Convenor AGK Menon and Members will be reaching out to conservation experts, heritage enthusiasts, students, citizens of the capital, and the public in general, through lectures, heritage walks and a film festival on Delhi. General interest is being generated through public lectures and a series of seminars in the month of October and November comprising sessions covering tangible and intangible aspects of Ancient and Sultanate Delhi, the Mughal Period, and the Colonial Period.

Visakhapatnam

A team of INTACH Members met Vice-Admiral Anup Singh, Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command on 16th August to formalize their relationship with INTACH. A nodal officer from the Navy will oversee the joint activities proposed to be undertaken like exploration of underwater archeological finds, upkeep of the Palaeo Red Sand Dunes and Buddhist sites. The C-in-C as Chief Patron of INTACH will bring together the stake holders like District Administration and VUDA to further the cause of Visakhapatnam heritage protection. The proposed maritime museum is progressing. It will have ship and submarine models, uniformed mannequins, mounted crests and photographs of vintage value.

The Chapter is proud of its Member Dr. Kutikuppula Surya Rao who recently broke the Guiness Book of World Records for displaying the longest AIDS Awareness Red Ribbon measuring 110.9 meters long and 49 metres tall unveiled at Visakhapatnam. He has spent most of his medical career in clinical research associated with HIV/AIDS disease. He was honoured with the Padmashri, as well as international awards in the past for championing this cause.

Visakhapatnam member Dr. Kutikuppula Surya Rao honoured

Co-Convenor PV Prasad reports the Mirdh Vinayakam programme conducted for school children to encourage them to use clay dolls.

Warangal

The Chapter conducted various competitions in English and Telugu for students of different local colleges on subjects like patriotic songs, rangoli, quiz, essay writing, etc.during 20th-24th September.

Chhattisgarh

The Chapter is in regular touch with the State Government for developing an action plan for inclusion of Sirpur in UNESCO’s World Heritage list. In this connection the appointment of INTACH as the agency is under consideration.

I-Serve

The Institute of Scientific Research on Vedas (I-SERVE) established in 2004, carries out research on the authenticity and historicity of ancient events using modern scientific tools to provide common memories to different communities of the country. The objective is to expand the frontiers of Indian history by scientifically dating events through investigation of evidences. For example astronomical dating of planetary references in ancient Sanskrit manuscripts by making use of planetarium software; and correlation of such astronomical dates with corroborating archaeological, geological, anthropological, paleo-botanical, oceanographic, ecological and remote sensing evidences. The results have been promising. The planetary configuration mentioned in Ramayana and Rigveda for instance depict the sky view actually seen on certain dates from given locations as per planetarium software. A national seminar on the subject was held on 30th-31st July with former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam delivering the inaugural address, and attended by Sanskrit scholars, archaeologists, anthropologists, ecologists, scientists and academicians.

Saving the Green

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh denied approval to Morga-II coal block in the Hansdeo Arand forests of the state due to its rich biodiversity. It overrules recommendations of a committee set up by the PMO. He justified the earlier forest clearance given in 2006 as they were located on the fringe areas separated by a well defined hilly ridge, and because Rs.5200 crore investments had already been made, clarifying at the time that no fresh applications would be made.
The first of these Delhi : A Heritage City – Nomination to UNESCO’s List of World Heritage Cities is being held on 4th October at the Casuarina, India Habitat Centre. A dedicated website is being launched shortly to track the nomination process.

**Haryana**

State Convenor Shikha Jain and other Chapter Convenors of Haryana had the opportunity to interact with ICOMOS representatives who visited Rajasthan from 25th-30th August in connection with their Hill Forts Nomination. Among sites visited by ICOMOS were Ranthambore, Gagron, Chittor and Kumbhalgarh.

**Mewat**

Mewat is now fully functional as an independent Chapter, with Shri Jayanata Sanyal as its Convenor. He has vast experience in administrative and tourism matters, having served the Government in these departments.

**“Nawab of Cricket”**

Life Member and long time Patron of the erstwhile Gurgaon-Mewat Chapter, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi passed away on 22nd September. Former Convenor Nandita Lahiri reminisces that “It was about fifteen years ago when Fatima Al Talib and I had been to see him to request him to become the Patron of our Chapter. He readily agreed to our request. The first time he attended an event organized by the Chapter was when we had a field trip to Tauru. Shri S.K.Misra and Dr. C.T. Misra were there, as well as Divya Gupta and several others from the Central Office. About 25 Chapter Members were also present. As soon as M.A.K. Pataudi came hundreds of villagers suddenly appeared on the scene. They had all come to get a darshan of their “nawab saab”. After walking around Tauru we had a picnic lunch of the most delicious kababs and parathas which he had brought. He attended several other events organised by the Chapter, including a golf tournament where he gave away the prizes. He always took a keen interest in our activities and encouraged us in every possible way”. It was with his help that the Gurgaon Chapter succeeded in getting the Raja-ki-Haveli and the Chhatri Mandir at Balabhgarh vacated by its occupants for conservation and development as heritage sites.

It is the end of innings for M.A.K. Pataudi, a cricketing legend who became India’s youngest Test Captain at the age of 21 years in 1962, and was popularly known as “Tiger” ever since.

The Mewat Chapter held a meeting at the residence of Convenor Jayanta Sanyal on 25th September and forwarded a message to his family. INTACH records its heartfelt condolences to his illustrious and bereaved family for their loss, mourned by so many of his admirers in India and across the world.

**Narnaul**

Convenor Rattan Lal Saini organised a public awareness programme on the historical monuments of Narnaul, which received considerable media coverage. The Chapters endeavour has saved the Moti Mahal from Two Sides of a Coin

The much awaited MCD redevelopment plan for Chandni Chowk is taking off to decongest the capital’s iconic area. In the first phase the overhead tangle of electric cables will go underground, and walking footpaths and streetscaping will prohibit entry of motor vehicles. Yet the idea of recreating the old charm of Chandni Chowk evoked mixed response because even cycle rickshaws integral to its history and fabric will also be banned. It is the bread and butter of many people here, and will seriously affect the economy and fabric of the habitat.

**Documenting Delhi**

The Team and Association in Learning Education and Natural Theatre (TALENT), brought together by a local youth Irshad Alam Khubi, has been working over a decade compiling the living history of Old Delhi. A vast corpus of information compiled is now central to the intangible heritage documentation of the old city. It forms an integral part of the dossier being prepared by the INTACH Delhi Chapter for nomination to UNESCO’s World Heritage City status. TALENT anchors heritage walks, workshops and even rehearsals for qissa-goi. Operating from the home of a young member Isha Bhargava at Chandni Chowk, youth get a first hand look at how some vocations such as katibs (calligraphy), gharisad (custom made watch making), kalaysaaz (blacksmith) atkaree (embellishing of clothing and footwear), jilsaazi (book binding) etc are being practiced. The team’s initiative has now been extended to 50 MCD schools to familiarize school children with the lost traditions of Old Delhi. Something so educative and valuable should be initiated in other heritage cities of India.
demolition. It filed a PIL for protection of the Someshwar Talab from encroachments. Currently architectural and natural heritage listing is under progress.

**Panipat**
Shri Suresh Guglani is appointed Convenor of the Panipat Chapter; with Professor Indira Khurana as the appointed Co-Convenor.

**Sonipat**
Shri Anil Kumar Chotmarada is appointed the Convenor of the Sonipat Chapter; with Shri Rakesh Aggarwal as the appointed Co-Convenor.

**Himachal Pradesh**
Ms. Malvika Pathania is appointed the State Convenor for Himachal Pradesh. Shri Raaja Bhasin is appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Chapter

INTACH Life Member, and a noted author and historian Raaja Bhasin, is appointed the Co-Convenor of the State Chapter. INTACH counts on his experience and guidance on heritage conservation and environment protection matters.

**Kangra**
Shri L.N.Aggarwal is appointed the Convenor of the Kangra Chapter.

**Jharkhand**
Convenor Shree Deo Singh informs that a State Level Committee has been appointed by the Government to recommend heritage properties under the Chairmanship of Dr. Amitabh Kumar, Dy. Director (Arch), Ministry of Art, Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs. INTACH State Convenor SD Singh is appointed a member of this committee. The Committee visited several sites during the months of July and August like the Tanginath and Palkot Ruins; Anjani Gram; Navratangarh; etc.

**Hazaribagh**
Convenor Bulu Imam, accompanied by his wives Elizabeth Bara and Philomena Tirkey travelled through Europe during this summer, as has been the practice for several years. It was a packed schedule of lectures, exhibitions, seminars and interactive sessions with host organisations.

The highlight of this year’s visit included a special event hosted by FIAN Austria at Linz on the Danube riverbanks and on the ship *Lilofee*, accompanied by Press and TV, people and music. The water from the Damodar was given to the Danube and the Danube water was carried back to be given to Damodar in a ceremony christened as *Danube to Damodar, Two Rivers – One Life*. It signifies there are many rivers but one water as there are many humans but one life. Bulu has been making a sustained effort every year, both in India and overseas to gather support against the open cast coal mining in the Karanpura Valley in Jharkhand that is taking a heavy toll on the tribal region of the valley.

The second part of the programme took place on the banks of the Damodar river at Ramgarh. Accompanied by his Cooperative members and family, a ritual ceremony was conducted with a round wooden plate decorated with flowers (pagoda and *gulmohur*), and five lighted clay *diyas* in the midst of which nestled the ceramic jar containing the Danube water that was poured into the Damodar to the chant of women reading prayers to the Indian river to receive the water from Austria. Then in the traditional Indian custom the wooden plaque and jar was set afloat in the river.

In Italy, a two day international seminar was held by La Sapienza, University of Rome on the first day; with the following day’s proceedings held at ISIAO, the Italian Institute for the Study of Africa and the Orient. The exhibition on the *Khovar* and *Sohrai* art, set up by Ms Daniela Bezzi using artworks from the 2008 Pigorini Museum exhibition of TWAC in Rome, attracted many visitors. Philomena and Elizabeth Imam gave a working display of a Sohrai lotus *mandala* painted on mud treated cloth.

In Germany, an Exhibition of the Khovar and Sohrai paintings on paper by TWAC (Tribal Women Artists Cooperative) artists was held at Bad Honnef (near Bonn).
Ms. Lydia Caccamo arrived at Hazaribagh in August for a month’s study of tribal art of Hazaribagh at Sanskriti Centre, and made several trips to the jungle villages and the rockart sites. Over 2 lakh photographs of the Sohrai and Khovar art at Sanskriti were digitalized with proper cataloguing, with Justin Imam and Ustav Imam assisting her in this mammoth exercise. Ms. Caccamo was sent on this study tour by Prof. Daniel Rycroft, Head of the Art Department, University of East Anglia, UK.

Another visitor was Ms. Kanchi Kohli, a well known environmental researcher from Kalpavriiksh, Delhi who visited Sanskriti in September to prepare a study on wildlife corridors and the cultural backdrop of the North Karanpura Coalfields Project in the upper Damodar region, commissioned by Greenpeace.

**Karnataka**

**Bengaluru**

The Chief Minister Sadananda Gowda was invited to lay the foundation stone of the Bengaluru Paramapreya Udyaana (Bengaluru Heritage Park) on 2nd September. Government dignitaries and local officials, INTACH Members and people’s representatives were invited to the event. Conceived as a religious theme park by the State Government, it was conceptualized and designed as a heritage park by the Bengaluru Chapter. Convenor Sathya Prakash Varanashi says it was earlier referred to as the ‘bull temple project’ as there was a Bosavanagudi (bull temple) in the forecourt. The Park now spreads over the Bugle Rock Park, the Bull Temple and the Mallikarjuna Temple areas, and was given its formal name on the occasion. The museum on the premises will highlight art, architecture, culture and history of the city.

Ms. Meera Iyer is appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Bengaluru Chapter.

**Dharwad**

Convenor NP Bhat enthused the students of four local High Schools to undertake a Heritage Drive, which was flagged off on 27th August by Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage Neela Manjunath. State Co-Convenor Anil Gokak and Karnataka College Head of Master of Tourism Administration Dr. Rajshekar were on hand to greet the students undertaking the Heritage Drive to sites of historical importance. It was a vehicle cum foot travel across 360 kms from Dharwad covering religious and geological places as well as old, cultural and architectural marvels astride the Malaprapha river around Savdatti-Manoli, along the eastern ridge of the Western Ghats. Together the group climbed the 10th century fort of Parasgad near Savdatti, constructed by the Ratta kings and later renovated by the Maratha ruler Shivaji in the 17th century. They motored down to Hooli and saw a 12th century Chalukyan temple complex and another of Shivaji’s forts built typically by him atop a ridge line amidst tough rocks of granite and scrub forest. En route they took note of the small ‘joints’ in the ridgeline formed by tectonic upheavals millions of years ago. At Manoli they visited the 13th century Panchalingeshwar temple built by king Singhana of Devgiri Yadav dynasty. Motorbing down village roads they explored the Argad Bhanvi, a 300 feet deep well built during Adilshahi Peshwa times when their armies marched against the Rayas of Vijayanagara in South Karnataka. It later was used by British army columns in the 19th century when they waged war against the last Peshwa. Today even after 3 centuries the stone walls remain intact as a testimony to ancient engineering feat. Another hilltop fort built by Rattas is the majestic Katharigad hidden amidst a forest expanse, later fully fortified by Shivaji to store ammunition and food grains for his guerilla warfare. The next stop was the Sogala double waterfalls, with a 12th century temple against an impressive rise of rock walls. The last visit was to Naviluteertha, where the Mahaprabha river appears
to cut the ridgeline into two halves, separated by a 200-300 ft. deep gorge stretching 1.5 kms long locally called the Odaku Holey. It gets its name (Naveel means peacock) because the layer upon layer of rocks created by tectonic upheaval looks like the spread of peacock feathers. The effusive interest of the young boys and girls on this trip was so infectious that it did not leave the accompanying INTACH Members and school teachers untouched.

**Udipi**

Shri Kailasa Rao is appointed the Convenor of the Udipi-Manipal Chapter.

**Kerala**

**Calicut**

Convenor Mohan was invited to speak on Heritage and Tourism by the Government Youth Hostel Yathreesangamam on 26th August, on the occasion of the Youth Hostel Founder’s Day. The full day seminar with focus on travel was inaugurated by the Dist Collector Dr. P B Salim. Well known travel writer P.R. Nathan was conferred the best travelogue literature Himalayan Yathra on the occasion. A week of Sadbhavana was launched for protecting and planting tree saplings which attracted many committed natural heritage enthusiasts.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Chanderi**

Chanderi is famously linked with Rani ki Jhansi, one of the key soldiers of 1857 War of Independence against the British. The Chapter celebrated Balidan Diwas (sacrifice day) on 22nd July in memory of Raja Mardan Singh who fought by her side. The Chief Guests on the occasion were the fifth generation of his family Shri Govind Prasad Singh and Mahesh Pratap Singh.

**Datia**

Co-Convenor Vinod Mishra released a book in memory of his learned father, the late Dr. Mahesh Mishra Madhukar. The book carries 87 of the poet’s poems in his own hand writing, which makes the publication very special.

**Gwalior**

Chairman visited Gwalior to attend a Symposium held at Hotel Tansen Residency, attended by historians, archaeologists, heritage and tourism specialists, hoteliers, officials of MPSTDC and ASI, and senior INTACH officials.

The Chapter under guidance of Convenor Dr.HB Maheshwari in collaboration with Shri Prasanna Mathur, Chief Editor Discover.com.premier is enlisting the imposing Gwalior Fort whose existence from 5th century is seen in inscriptions of the Mihir rulers. Evidence is also traced by the 8th century rock cut Chaturbuj Temple, the 9th century Teli Temple, the Sahastrabahu and other Jain temples of the 10th century. To be seen here is the magnificent architecture of medieval period like the Assi Khamb Bawadi, Maan Mandir, Jahangir Mahal, Gujar Mahal, innumerable caves and sculptures of Jain deities.
Gwalior Fort is significantly linked to the Independence struggle when it was regarded as ‘Gibraltar’. Gwalior is also associated with a school of music. However, day to day encroachment and deterioration, in addition to internal and external pressures of various bodies, has resulted in years of neglect and its sorry state of appearance. The Symposium is the first step towards conservation and preservation of the Gwalior Fort which merits a place on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Site.

Convenor Maheshwari presented awards to the participants of the Go Green Environment painting competition. Orcha Convenor Prasanna Mathur attended the function.

**Jabalpur**

INTACH heartily congratulates Convenor Dr. RK Sharma, former Professor of Archaeology, who was awarded the Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Samman at a grand function held on 11th July at the Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal. It is in recognition of his publications related to Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology of Madhya Pradesh.

**Mandla**

With the assistance of local administration, during the summer, Chapter Members visited some of the villages - Jhariya which has a Gond period bawli, Badhraji famous for the idol of Vayaghdev belonging to the Chadel or Kalchuri period, and Taragarh (Jhugpur) where vestiges of an ancient observatory can be seen. On the occasion of Durgavati Martyr Day on 24, June at Mandka village, the District Administration honoured 16 wives/widows of freedom fighters with a certificate and shawl.

**Orchha**

The Chapter was revived in June this year with the appointment of Convenor Prasanna Mathur and Co-Convenor Ashok Singh Chauhan. Orcha, a beautiful city of religious and historical monuments, is not yet a popular destination. The Chapter has a clear and major task ahead, to ensure Orcha attains the status of tourism city which it lacks today due absence of strategic management that would reap economic benefits for its citizens. Dr. Maheshwari has been stressing the need to get Orchha declared a ‘Heritage City’.

**Maharashtra**

**Nagpur**

Shri Kishor Ramchandra Divekar is appointed Convenor of the Nagpur Chapter. He will be assisted by Shri Piyush Agrawal as the Co-Convenor.

**Chanderpur**

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur and Co-Convenor Surendra Singh Takur met Shr Ravi Shankar and briefed them about INTACH activities, in particular the work undertaken by the Chapter at Chandan Khera.

**Mumbai**

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta features in the Anniversary issue of *Time Out Mumbai* among six persons deemed ‘Game Changers’ for having initiated change in the city.
She, as Convenor of the Mumbai Chapter, transformed a decrepit museum into the Bhau Daji Lad Museum that won the UNESCO award for excellence in 2005. Since then the Museum has grown into a pre-eminent art hub of the metropolis and a showcase for crafts, exhibitions, workshops and artist-in-residence programmes. The Museum announced a 1 year Post Graduate Diploma Course in Modern & Contemporary Indian History 1850-2011.

The Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust continued to organise a series of programmes during the last few months. An exhibition of installations by Jitish Kallat “Fieldnotes: Tomorrow was here Yesterday” on 23rd April was the second of a series planned by the Museum to re-establish its historic connection with the Sir J. J. School of Art. During the 19th and early 20th century the position of Curator of the Museum and the Principal of the School of Art were held by the same person, with many of the Museum’s objects produced by students of the School. Jitish Kallat is one of India’s most prolific and recognized contemporary artists. He appropriated the museum’s architecture and intervened within the display cases creating new readings of the 19th century collection and the Museum’s history. “The idyll of the museum representing the aspirations of city’s Founding Fathers stands in sharp contrast to the battle for life played out on the city’s streets” - an underlying theme of Kallat’s works. On 20th August, a walk-through of the Jitish Kallat’s Exhibition with the artist was organised for members of Asia Society Mumbai.

The lecture on “Chinese Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London” by Beth McKillop, Deputy Director of V&A, London organised on 25th April, discussed the origins and growth of the Chinese collection. It traced how interest in Chinese art shifted over time, and in the mid-19th century the lavishly decorated art works from the Ming and Qing dynasties (14th to 20th centuries) were favoured. Later European collectors tended to favour Chinese antiquities dating to the Han and Tang dynasties - the first millennium AD. contemporary arts and crafts, with a strong emphasis on ceramics and lacquer work.

A six member high-powered delegation of Hangzhou Committee of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) led by Chairman Mr. Sun Zhonghuan visited the Museum. The delegates saw a film on the restoration process of the museum and were taken on a tour of the premises. UNESCO award winning conservation architect Vikas Dilawari made a presentation on the conservation and heritage of the city, and the conservation projects by INTACH in Mumbai.
**Nanded**

The Chapter has brought out a small but beautifully illustrated booklet on prominent places of Nanded and its vicinity, tracing its antiquity to the times of the *Ramayana*. The 1.5 km long *Ghat* on the Godavari river front with a landscaped promenade, temples like the Chanuksyan, Renuka and Laleshwar; the Kanddhar and Nandgiri forts; Unkeshwar hot water tanks, and the Jyotirlingas at Aundha and Parli, to mention a few of the attractions makes Nanded a potentially rich tourist destination. There is also the much revered Takhat Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar, Sahi Hottal-Later Chalukyan historic temple town. The book on Nanded by Dr. Prabhakar Raghunath Rao has been well received along with an illustrated booklet.

**Pune**

The meeting held on 20th July was attended by Ashis Banerjee and several active Pune Chapter Members. Among various issues discussed, Heritage Regulations figured prominently, with meetings proposed to be held subsequently at three key locations of Pune, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

**Shivpuri**

A fifth centenary function was celebrated to mark the 500th year of the founding of Chaderpur on 15th-16th August, headed by Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur. Co-Convenor Neelkamal Maheshwari organized an exhibition of 3000 autograph collections during the event attracting 8000-10,000 people. In appreciation of former Maharashtra MP Baresh Babu Pugliya presented the *Citizen Award* to Neelkamal Maheshwari with a citation and a shawl.

The most significant autograph on display was that of Mahatma Gandhi signed on a *khadi* cloth.

**Manipur**

The Chapter published a Project report on *Habitat Study and Conservation of Nongngin*, the State bird *Syrmaticus Humiae* popularly known as Mrs. Hume’s Pheasant. Found in three distinct districts of the State, the species was earlier presumed to be extinct. A group of Earth Science students of Manipur University identified a pair of lifeless birds being carried by hunters at Jessami in 2008. Captive breeding of the species was initiated in collaboration of IUCN, and Bird Life International was approached for a grant to study the species. The State authorities extended some financial support for the study conducted by members of IBCN Manipur under the guidance of the Bombay Natural Historical Society. The Chapter has been active in extending technical and logistic support to field visits.

Convenor Dr. RK Ranjan Singh in acknowledgement writes that the above mentioned Report is a compendium of extensive field work on the habitat studies of Hume’s Pheasant conducted during 2010-2011. It also covers methods of studies, list of plant and animal food species, threats and establishment of future conservation strategies. Unfortunately most villagers who hunt birds for food are unaware of the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 accorded to this species.

**Mizoram**

Chapter Members accompanied a team of ASI archaeologists on their first visit to the interiors of Champhai District of Mizoram which borders Myanmar. The two teams visited ancient settlement sites at Vangchhia, Lianpui and Dungtlang villages, and saw old *menhirs* and monuments. There are an impressive 200 *menhirs*, with intricate pictorial inscriptions and ancient settlement sites and roads, to be found particularly at Vangchhia village. It was generally felt that they are important enough to be notified as monuments of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 2010. If the effort fructifies, it will be a first time that Mizoram will figure on the archaeological map of India. Site plans and revenue maps are now under preparation by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Mizoram.
The matter of Raj Bhavan being deleted from the list of protected monuments in the 2009 is still pending. INTACH had requested that the legal infirmities be redressed on top priority. Convenor P, Rohmingthanga now has the opportunity to pursue the matter vigorously, as the Governor MM Lakhera is taking a personal interest in his official residence. He graciously met the INTACH team, and took them around the premises explaining in detail the proposed plans for restoration of the Raj Bhawan at Aizwal.

**Odisha**

The Odisha State Chapter has been entrusted with the responsibility of documenting antiquities from private sources like palaces, maths, museums, etc. Some funds have been released against the estimated cost of Rs.15.80 lakhs. The work is being coordinated by a State coordinator under supervision of the State Department of Culture. State Convenor AB Tripathy attended the orientation course for Field Assistants addressed by Culture Minister Prafulla Samal. The Minister has set up a committee for overseeing the conservation work at Konarak, on the suggestion of Shri Tripathy with INTACH representative as one of its members.

**Balasore**

The Chapter celebrated its first anniversary with a solemn ceremony held on 5th September at the Hari Plaza, Conference Hall, and was attended by over a hundred invitees from different walks of life. Convenor Himanshu Das escorted the Chief Guest Collector Dr. Akhil Bihari Otta to the nearby Balasore Art and Craft College to inaugurate the Art Exhibition organized by the Chapter. The function was conducted by its Principal Nikunja Kishore Das, and Chapter Co-Convenor SN Das Mohapatra. The latter presented the annual report of the Chapter, efforts made to enlist INTACH membership, listing of heritage properties, and creating greater heritage awareness among youth. Dr. Otta has long been associated with INTACH having earlier worked tirelessly to give heritage status to a village in Puri District, assisted by his brother who was the Dy. Director ASI. The Collector released the house magazine *Parampara*, and assured the gathering that he would extend his full support to the development of Ajodhya as a heritage village when it is taken up by the Chapter.

**Bhadarak**

The Chapter is setting up the *Jatra Academy*, with special focus directed towards preserving the intangible heritage of ‘Odisha, particularly the oral language that is vanishing. A workshop was held to give greater shape to the initiative. Convenor Digamber Mohanty welcomed the participating 78 artists and special invitees. Collector Akshay Kumar Pani suggested preparation of a list of *jatra* artists of the district, and promised assistance in further development of this popular art form.

A well attended special meeting was held on 17th August in the conference hall of the Collector, presided by Advisor Dr. Sanatan Mohanty. Convenor Digamber Mohanty presented a detailed report of the Chapter’s activities since its inception in December 2009, and outlined the future thrust areas. In addition to extensive listing, six capacity building workshops in different blocks of Bhadrak District will be launched. Members were requested to identify historic water bodies for natural heritage conservation, and tap the opportunity offered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. The Chapter counts on the enthusiastic support
of Collector AK Pani as he is appreciative of INTACH’s heritage conservation initiatives.

**Bhubaneswar**

The meeting on *Conservation of Our Heritage - Responsibility of Corporate Sector* was held on 2nd August with Dr. Nik Senapati, MD RIO-TINTO India as the Chief Guest. After presentation of a report by Convenor SKB Narayan, State Convenor AB Tripathy highlighted INTACH’s role in creating greater awareness of heritage conservation and greater expectations from the corporate sector. Dr. Senapati presented the global picture of damage to environment and local culture due to industrial activities. He stated while company is involved in mining activities, efforts are made to counter the impact at each of their projects, and invited members to visit their areas of operation. Dr. Senapati contributed Rs.15,000 to the work-in-progress for maintenance of Purbeswar Temple adopted by the Chapter.

Convenor AB Tripathy had taken up the lack of adequate protective measures and sub-standard conservation at the World Heritage Site of Konark Temple, and had suggested remedial action. The Odisha Government constituted a committee in June, including a representative from INTACH, to oversee the conservation work.

**Puri**

The first organizational meeting to open the new Chapter was held at Puri with Bhubaneswar Convenor

**Mayurbhanj**

The Chapter organized a plantation programme in three tribal Ashram Schools at Baripada, Ranibhol and Asanjoda on 15th-19th July. About 500 saplings of fruit and flower bearing trees along with medicinal plants were planted in the school premises, with full support given by the Divisional Forest Officer in the execution of the programme. Simultaneously awareness meetings on the importance of cultural and natural heritage of Mayurbhanj were held that should go a long way in protecting the fruits of this endeavour.
SKB Narayan in the chair. Shri Nanda, Founder Member of Bhubaneswar Chapter took the initiative in inviting the local gentry to attend the orientation meet held earlier.

**Sambalpur**

Convenor Dr. BB Mishra visited Central Office on 6th July, and held extensive consultations on prospective programmes of the Chapter with Chairman LK Gupta, Director Chapters MPS Bhatia, and other INTACH officials. He presented four printed copies of the listing work completed by the Chapter.

Dr. Mishra was the Guest of Honour at the Quiz Competition organized by the District Tourist & Culture Officer Sanatan Naik on 26th August. Collector Sambalpur was invited to honour the prize-winning students among the institutionally selected competitors from schools and colleges. The Convenor was again the Guest of Honour for the RDC level Quiz Competition held on 14th September organized by the State Department of Tourism, with the Additional Secretary RDC Northern Division as the Chief Guest.

The General Meeting of the Sambalpur Chapter was held at the Pantnivas Conference Hall on 25th September, and addressed by State Convenor AB Tripathy. State Election Commissioner DK Mishra was invited to the meeting as the Guest of Honour.

**Punjab**

**Chandigarh**

Convenor VK Kapoor made a power point presentation at the Seminar on *Chandigarh–Modern Heritage* held on 20th August, in collaboration with the Association of British Scholars Chandigarh. Former Principal of the College of Architecture Dr. SS Bhatti added some interesting details on the city’s heritage. A large number of serving architects attending the Seminar and appreciated the listing work of the Chapter. A Committee has also been formed to next list old heritage trees.

A Heritage Walk Clean and Green Chandigarh was organized on the Sukna Lake, flagged off by Commissioner Municipal Corporation Smt. Prema Puri on 18th September. Eminent citizens, senior bureaucrats, poets and painters, a number of students participated. In the on-the-spot painting competition, six prize winners received Rs. 1000 each.

**Faridkot**

Convenor Baltej Singh Brar reports that the efforts to clear encroachments on the 1908 Nehru Gate has ultimately borne fruit, thanks to the support extended by the previous Deputy Commissioner Dr. Karuna Raju. It has finally been cleared by the Sessions Judge Fatehdeep Singh, also known for his role in restoration work of the Faridkot Judicial Courts, another project taken up by INTACH.

**Maler Kotla**

Shri Rajesh Kumar is appointed as the Co-Convenor of the recently established Maler Kotla Chapter.

**Patiala**

The Chapter continues to hold regular Heritage Walks which are now the best known feature of Chapter activities. Convenor Sarabjit Singh Virk and Co-Convenor RS Bhinder are very appreciative of the hospitality and enthusiasm extended to the walkers by the residents of the old city. Devashish Nayak is the appointed Advisor to the Punjab Heritage Tourism and Promotion Board.

**Rajasthan**

**Ajmer**

Shri Rajesh Garg is appointed Co-Convenor of the Ajmer Chapter, with Dr. K. K Sharma as the Additional Co-Convenor.
The Chapter under Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh has set up a museum with a large collection of stamps and coins. The museum also has a unique collection of over 110 Istriyas (irons for pressing clothes) of different sizes, numbered to iron different types of cloth like silk, cotton, etc. It attracted Press reports as it is indeed a unique collection rarely to be found elsewhere. The endeavour was facilitated by the Collector and received a certificate of merit.

A Seminar was organized at the Government Museum situated at Naya Bazar on the anniversary of Prithviraj Chauhan. The Convenor is of the view that given the personality of Prithviraj Chauhan, the Reserve Bank of India should issue a commemorative coin for him. Museum Superintendent Sayeed Aajam announced that on the occasion of this anniversary, a painting of Prithviraj Chauhan had been received which will be exhibited. Historian Om Prakash Sharma imparted interesting information on Prithviraj Chauhan, among others. INTACH Member B.L. Sahu presented a postage stamp and an envelope issued on Prithviraj Chauhan to the Museum. The Chapter honoured Sanskrit scholars Satyanarayan Sharma and Padam Shree Dr. C.P. Deval on the occasion. The event was covered by the local media 'Bhaskar', Dainik Navjyoti and Patrika.

Bundu

The Chapter celebrated the 770th Foundation Day of Bundi on 24th June with a series of programmes that stretched should be conserved. A team from the Chapter, assisted by Indore archaeologist Shri Giyasuddin, architect Dheeraj Kanungo and archaeology designer Sumit Sharma, surveyed the neglected sites that are neither on the list of the State ASI or the District Administration and prepared a preliminary report for 13 sites. The survey included several temples like Shri Laxminath, Raghunath, Devnarayan, Musain Mataji, Ramjanaki in different villages worshipped by villagers, the Jain Atishalaya and the ancient Bawri Mothpur. The Collector assured Rs.5 lakhs for each monument for boundary walls and basic restoration works.

A number of distinguished citizens attended the inauguration of the Mandna workshop, an art form that first attracted national recognition due to the efforts of its artiste Kayshalaya Devi. She said it is one of 64 art forms described in the Vedas, with every Mandna having its legend, architectural importance and association with folk songs. Chapter founder and former Convenor Rajendra Kabara lauded the efforts being made through this 38 days workshop to train the future generation in Mandana folk heritage.
into day and night long. The event was a heart warming experience for the people of the city, and received wide media coverage.

**Jodhpur**

The annual meeting of the Chapter in June was held under the chairmanship of State Convenor Shri Gajensingh, attended by Smt. Hemlata Raje and Chapter Members. Chief Guest Shri Varun Arya, Director of Aravali Institute of Management presented the citation of the Singhania University conferring an honorary Doctorate on Shri Gajendrasingh. He in turn presented citations and mementos to Dr. Vikram Singh Bhati (bringing to light unpublished inscriptions of Marwar villages), Dr. Mahender Tanwar (research on havelis), Shri Nan Kishore Jaisalmeria (conservation of havelis), and police station in charge Dhaglaram Chaudhary (work at Khanda Falsa) for their outstanding work in the field of heritage conservation.

Convenor Dr. Mahender Singh Naggar expressed concern for the dilapidated state of the city gates and court status on old havelis and buildings. Shri Gajendrasingh said that talks would be held with the Government for conservation of the gates in which nuzal property issue would be mainly discussed.

The newly appointed Co-Convenors Bhagirath Vaishnav, Pradeep Soni and JM Boob were welcomed and introduced to all INTACH Members and former Trustees.

The book *Heritage of Traditions* by Dr. Mahender Singh Naggar was released. The proceedings of the Annual Meeting were conducted by Jafar Khan Singhi.

Later in June, a presentation on Heritage Conservation by the Convenor was made to 400 students attending the Free Training Camp organised by the Chapter on the request of Shri Mahender Lodha, Chairman Gita Prachar Mandal at their complex.

**Kota**

The Chapter started *Documentation of Natural Heritage of Kota*, after the successful completion of listing its heritage. A workshop followed by a film was organized on 17th August at the Science Centre, attended by
the Mayor Dr. Ratna Jain; with Conservator of Wildlife Division Anurag Bhardwaj, senior professors and scholars of Kota University present. It is noteworthy that a team of research and post graduate students of Botany and Zoology have volunteered for this documentation work under the guidance of Professors P. Dube, Fatima Sultan, and former Forest Officer HV Bhatia, which underwrites another successful endeavour under Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya.

**Rajsamand**

Shri Anant Singh Rathore is appointed as the Co-Convenor of Rajsamand, a Sub-Chapter of Udaipur.

Collector Dr. PV Yashwant presided over the inauguration of a new sub-Chapter of Udaipur at Rajsamand on 13th July held at Raj Bagh Garden, Udaipur. He graciously accepted to be a Patron of the Chapter and promised to extend facilitation of programmes proposed to be taken up with support of local communities. The function was attended by Regional Convenor SK Verma as Chief Guest, special invitee Life Member Dr. OS Rathore and all the newly enlisted INTACH Members from Rajsamand.

There is much work to be done as Rajsamand has precious heritage like the bio-diversity Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, the living heritage of Nathdwara paintings, architectural heritage like the Toran Dwar and stepped wells, the famous terracotta of Molela village, and a rich intangible heritage like Janmashtami and Goverdhan Puja.

**Udaipur**

The General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held on 3rd September at Raj Baugh, Fateh Sagar. Former Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta and presently Chairman of the Executive Committee presided over the meeting. INTACH Members of Udaipur and Rajsamand attended in conspicuously large numbers among them Prof. Dr. Meena Gaur, Dr. BL Kumawat, Dr. Satish Sharma, and Shri Arvind Mathur. Convenor SK Verma, after presenting the Minutes of the last Meeting, announced the meeting of the Executive Working Group on Intangible Heritage with Director West Zone Culture Centre scheduled for 11th July. Progress reports were presented: on Restoration of Project Heritage Sites (by Arvind Mathur); Listing & Documentation of Sacred Sites (by Dr. Satish Sharma); Heritage Awareness & Education (by Dr. BLJ Kumawat).

Chief Guest and subject matter specialist Aman Singh gave a talk on Community Owned Natural Heritage Sites: Sacred Groves: Biodiversity & Livelihood Concern with an audio-visual presentation. Address by two other special invitees Director Chapters Lt.Col. MPS Bhatia (Retd) and Dr. OS Rathore lauded the methodical approach of and the spectacular progress on heritage conservation work. Co-Convenor Sushil Kumar gave the vote of thanks.

**Tamilnadu**

**Madurai**

The Great Heritage Hunt is a unique programme conceptualized by Member Rajesh Khanna to discover neglected heritage precincts of Madurai. Fifteen sites were identified for the hunt within 1 km from the renowned Meenakshi Temple, with participating groups each including at least one lady and one child below 15 years. They rushed around on foot, or unmotorised bicycle or rickshaw chasing up a set of cryptic clues, discovering and photographing lesser known heritage sites like a 150 year old police station or exquisitely carved temple chariots, etc. The winning team of what was aptly described as ‘edutainment’ was an all women team! What an idea, and such an innovative fun learning programme.

Meanwhile the Road to Recycle which the Chapter launched in January this year is paved with success, enlisting more Corporation schools for the execution of this project. Children bring plastic waste from their homes and surroundings once a week to fill the bins donated by Britannia Industries and Arogya Trust. The collected material is used in laying of plastic tar roads, an invention of Prof. Vasudevan of Thiagarajar Engineering College. The project, coordinated by Member Bhavani Vel, involves regular presentations on the importance of plastic waste disposal, keeping bins in schools and disseminating information through pamphlets generously sponsored by two civic minded people Ligi George and Shyam Gupta. Another unique initiative of the Chapter worth emulation!
**Nagercoil**

Organic farming scientist K. Nammalwar and Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan led the Dharna organized by the Chapter on 16th August in front of the Collectorate to protest against conversion of paddy fields into housing layouts. A number of NGOs like the CREATE Trust, the Nagercoil Citizen Welfare Council, Women’s Consumer Centre, and others joined the Dharna. Large paddy fields in the Kanyakumari District at Putheri, Therakalputhoor, Sahayanagar, Ramapuram, Thovalai, Beemanganar panchayats are being encroached upon illegally because of corrupt panchayats issuing no objection certificates, although they are not vested with the powers to do so.

The Directorate of Town and Country Planning (T&CP) directed the District Collector along with the Regional Director of T&CP to visit these wetlands and prepare a status report on such site developments. It remains to be seen if permission granted by panchayats is cancelled, and whether hoardings falsely claiming “Govt. approved plots” are immediately removed, and action taken against estate agents who diverted irrigation canals to support their false claims. Until and unless the Tamil Nadu Government enacts a bill for conservation and protection of wetlands and paddy fields on the lines of Kerala such blatant infringement on people’s livelihood will continue shockingly unabated.

**Nilgiris**

The Chapter is conducting interesting audio-visual presentations at the Nilgiri Library to revive not only a reading interest among young people but also their awareness of cultural heritage. The Library itself is one of the oldest Heritage Libraries in the country, with more than 69,000 printed books and 49,000 manuscripts dating back to the Nayak period with most of the collection ascribed to Serofoji II, the Maratha ruler of Thanjavur. It has some Modi Documents, written in a short hand variety of Marathi which has just a handful of scholars today who can read the script. One of the speakers Pradeep Chakravarthy gave a fascinating narrative of the Chola period. He remarked that the reading habit was not dead but only the reading profile had changed over the years; hence libraries should evolve ways to go the people with books worth reading put on the net and make them relevant to the changing times. Perhaps value addition by way of amusements and refreshments would encourage young people to experience the charm of walking through a well stacked library.

The Chapter’s tireless efforts to promote heritage awareness conservation resulted in the opening of a Heritage Gallery set up by the State Bank of India, inaugurated by Collector Archana Patnaik. The Gallery exhibits many old photographs of Nilgiri District — scenic views, old buildings and even a photograph of John Sullivan, founder of Ooty that is one of the earliest hill stations built during British times.

**Salem**

The Clock Tower building is once again threatened with demolition with the appointment of a new Collector, reports Co-Convenor Sharavanan. The earlier Collector had approved the renovation of the clock tower building on receiving the stability report after inspection by engineers of IT Madras. The Indian Bank spent Rs 2.5 lakhs removing unruly vegetation and planned to move into the building after renovation at the cost of Rs 40-50 lakhs was completed. A meeting with the new Collector has been scheduled to further discuss the matter, and the Chapter might resort to a PIL to save the heritage building. The Convenor informs that the Department of Post has finally confirmed the INTACH’s proposal for restoration of the Philately Museum.

**Tripura**

The Tripura Chapter organized a two day seminar on Heritage and Environment Conservation for Sustainable Development – Opportunities and Challenges for Tripura. The seminar was attended by the Governor with Special Invitees.
jointly with the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad on 25th-26th July at Agartaa. The Governor of Tripura Dr. D.Y. Patil inaugurated the seminar, with Minister for Industry & Commerce Jiten Chowdhury present. A number of well known speakers like Director CEE Kartikeya Sarabhai, Chairman Tripura State Pollution Board Mihir Deb, Addl. PCCF Department of Forests Atul Gupta, INTACH Advisor Ashis Banerjee and other INTACH officials addressed the gathering. The issues discussed were environmental degradation, forest depletion, management of cultural heritage sites, etc. The participation of the authorities will go a long way in strengthening the hands of Convenor MK Pragya Deb Burman in furthering INTACH objectives.

**Uttarakhand**

Shri Dan Singh Rawat is appointed the Convenor of the newly established Pauri Garhwal Chapter. Shri Ratnakar Singh Rawat is appointed Co-Convenor.

**Uttar Pradesh**

Uttar Pradesh Co-Convenor RN Bhargava informs that a campaign, jointly with the Lucknow Chapter called “INTACH at Your Door Step” was launched to create a direct connect with people, instill pride in their heritage, and make conservation a mass movement. Five zone were identified covering 51 monuments/buildings in Lucknow to get neighbours, friends and children to interact with each other amidst their immediate surroundings. The meeting on 23rd July was held in one of these zones having five sites Sikchawali Kothi, Residency Buildings, General Wali Kothi, Chhatar Manzil and Farhat Baksh Palace. Conservation consultant Roshan Taqui enlightened them about the history of these sites. The Secretary General of the United Cultural Council, who is a Professor of Environment in Sweden, spoke about atmospheric pollution due to automobiles and industrial activity that are of direct relevance to Lucknow or any developing city. He said a possible solution is to have alternative binders produced by mixing industrial by-products with cement to save energy, reduce emissions and industrial waste which would protect monuments from degeneration and corrosion.

**Banda**

Programme Coordinator at Central Office, Payal Joshi participated in the celebrations of World Tourism Day, 27th September organized by the Chapter. State Convenor Alok Ranjan and Co-Convenor Dr. Nand Lal Shukla have been consistently drawing public attention to the importance of Kalinjar Fort. The latter is also the Principal Pt. J.N. College and assures that a conservation lab will be set up at the College.

The special invitees Commissioner Lalit Verma, District Magistrate Sheetal Verma, and DIG A M Jain, whole heartedly support Convenor Haris Zaman’s initiative to draw public attention to the prehistoric Kalinjar Fort, and its potential as a major tourist destination in future. The programme triggered a follow up meeting with Tour Operators convened by the DM, and attended by the DIG and Banda Chapter Members. It was decided to send a group of concerned local officials to study the successful promotion of Khajuraho, so that an action plan could be devised for a similar exercise for the Khanjar Fort. A third meeting was held on the premises of the Fort where Chapter Members met the local people of the surrounding areas to assess their reactions. The Convenor elaborated on the age old tradition of athithi dev bhao, stressed on the collateral economic benefits to be derived from tourism activities, and sought their views on the subject as the future stake holders who can make this endeavour successful.

Shri Radha Krishna Bundeli was honoured by Banda Chapter for his outstanding literary work on Kalinjar Fort.
**Brijbhoomi**

The Chapter organized a musical recital *Mahak Malhar* on 6th August, in collaboration with Mathura AIR, Braj Vikas Trust and Rotary Club of Mathura, attended by many music lovers. This old classical form touches on emotions of parted love. The efforts being made to revive this rare music tradition by the Chapter was covered widely by the local press. On 9th September INTACH Members met representatives of other NGOs like Rotary Club, JCI Club and Giants Club to examine facets of *Yamuna Pollution and JNURM*, and possible action.

**Jhansi**

In collaboration with the UP State Archaeology Department and ASI, the Chapter organized a public awareness programme on World Heritage Day at the historic Jhansi Barua Sagar. It was at this site built by the Bundela rulers that finds special mention in the independence war of 1857-58. Historian Suresh Dubey highlighted the importance of such programmes. Convenor Brig. Dr. JK Bohre informs that local administration and dignitaries attended the large gathering. Prizes were awarded to the winners among 300 school student participating in the painting and question-answer competitions held on the occasion. Co-Convenor Dr. CM gave the vote of thanks.

** Lucknow**

The Chapter in association with the UP State Chapter, the Bhatkhande Music Institute University, the Lalit Kala Akademy Regional Centre, Lucknow Club and Science City celebrated *Varsha Mangal Utsav* on 7th August, to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The programme included Tree Plantation in the traditional Shantiniketan style of *palash*. A special tree called *Chatim* (also known as *Saptparni*) with seven leaves was carried in a *palki* to be symbolically planted at the Regional Science City. There were recitals of *Raag Malhar* by the Vice Chancellor of BMIU Prof.

**Monuments in Neglect**

“Whenever I am in Lucknow, I happen to see the magnificent monuments of a majestic era in a pathetic condition... Take the example of Sikandar Bagh. Money is being spent on its facelift, but who is to enjoy that fresh look when it is hidden by large hoardings around it? You cannot even photograph the site properly,” laments Thakur Ranvir Singh. Several encroachments have cropped up near historic monuments of the city like the Bada Imambara, the Residency, Neil Gate etc. without the authorities taking strict action. It is reported that the iconic Hazrat Ganj received a good facelift recently, so hopefully other old historic areas will get their due attention in a city that is adding so many new parks, without forgetting the old is gold.

**Urai**

The Chapter organised a *No Polythese* programme at the Rajendra Singh Balika Junior High School, to sensitise young students to environmental issues.

Convenor Hari Mohan Purawar drew attention to the harmful effects of polythene on fertility of the soil, and how it endangers the lives of man and animal.
**West Bengal**

**Kolkata**

The Kolkata Regional Chapter met on 30th July at the INTACH Art Conservation Centre. Convenor GM Kapur informs that the Chapter website www.intachcalcutta.com is now functional. The field work for the West Bengal Heritage Commission Project has been completed; and also the Detailed Project Report for the Science Heritage Museum assigned by the Sir JC Bose Trust. The photodocumentation of the German Heritage Project is pending final completion after a meeting to be held with the Advisory Committee of the Tea Board.

The Chapter has been working closely with the Indo-British Scholars Association (IBSA) to involve them with INTACH activities. Former Chairman of West Bengal Heritage Commission spoke on The Future of Heritage Conservation, introducing the subject at a meeting held on 16th September. The Chapter made a presentation on significant facets of South Bengal heritage based on the study conducted by INTACH team led by Tathagatha Neogi, an archaeologist from Exeter University.

Convenor GM Kapur, regarded as a leading advocate of conservation of heritage properties across Kolkata and Bengal, wrote an article Rediscover Heritage which appeared in the Economic Times. He strongly believes that Kolkata in particular has important landmarks, each with its own historic tale that would be fascinating to visitors and tourists. He made a perceptive observation: it is not enough to merely showcase heritage, but more importantly to unlock its economic value and make conservation work for the greater well being of the people.

**Santiniketan**

*Kali Puja* was performed on 30th July for the first time after a gap of nearly 80 years at the Kali Temple at Itonda. The restoration work at Itonda by the Chapter was completed in all respects a month earlier.

This year the *Palash Planting* on 24th August was held at the home of Shyamali Khastogir, the daughter of a famous painter Sudhir Khastogir. She had spent her entire life devoted to Santiniketan and Rabindranath Tagore. This solemn occasion conducted by Sri Moloy Mukhapadhaya, was tinged with sorrow as she had passed away. Her son Ananda planted the sapling to the renderings of Rabindra Sangeet by Bulbul Bose and her group *Samabeto*, ending with chanting of Sanskrit slokas. Everyone fondly recalled how much Shyamali had loved her garden, and how when a major storm uprooted a huge Jarul tree she hired a crane at considerable expense to rehabilitate it in her garden.

**Monitoring Climate Change**

Director Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve Pradeep Vyas said: “climate change is a reality and we have to gear up to its challenges for the ecological management...” The Forest Department has initiated a scientific study for the first time at 3 centres, with in-situ monitoring of hydrological parameters on real time basis, including procuring data from remote core areas of Tiger Reserve. The front line staff has been trained by experts of marine science and botany. They will carry out day-to-day observation of salinity, water temperature, etc. using sophisticated instruments facilitating year round authentic data. It is a landmark initiative that should be taken up at other Biosphere Reserves.

Meanwhile it is reported that the World Heritage Site of Sunderbans is under UNESCO scanner as the State Government has not complied with the advisory to bring down an intrusive structure near the watering hole frequented by wildlife posing a major threat to the eco-sensitive zone.

**Overseas**

**Belgium Chapter**

The *Eighth Fundraising Dinner* is being organized by the Belgium Chapter on 8th October for the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho at the Don Bosco Centrum, at Kessel-Lo. Guests will be offered a pure vegetarian Indian meal, with a special menu designed for children.

Since 2009, De Pajottenlander, a company producing
organic fruits and vegetable juices, has been structurally supporting the Lost Gardens project.

Convenor Geert Robberechts forwarded the extensive report of Johan D’hulster’s last visit to Khajuraho. His most pertinent observation remains the conflicting image of rural India. “On the one hand, the beautiful tradition of knowhow, knowledge and wisdom; and on the other hand a general decay, degeneration and loss of elementary values caused by greed, short term reasoning and globalization”. He alarmingly adds that all experts predict “that in five years India will have serious water shortage, but still the Government is distributing pumps for free to farmers as if there is no tomorrow”.

**Attention : All Convenors & Members**

A number of letters/copies of Virasat continue to be received back at Head Office marked wrong address by the Post Office. This is to remind all Convenors to check their membership data, and forward a corrected copy, including new Members, with updated address/contact details to INTACH Chapters Division.

Members are kindly requested to facilitate this exercise by sending any change of their own address details to their respective Convenors at the earliest.

### NEWS FROM ICCI

**Workshop on Acrylic Paintings**

The Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI), Delhi organized a five day workshop from 23rd-27th August on ‘Restoration of Acrylic Paintings’. Facilitated by internal and external specialists with participants not only from INTACH but other organisations and private individuals, it was a very successful learning programme.

**Doon School Murals**

The Doon School situated in Dehradun, established by Barrister S.R.Das in 1935, has a prestigious place among public schools of India. The renowned artist Sudhir Ranjan Khastgir, who served as an art teacher at Doon School in the 1940s, embellished the inside walls of the art school with fresco paintings and relief murals in cement on the outside walls. Due to impact of earthquake, the art school building developed cracks all over and the school officials decided to demolish the weakened structure and construct a new one. As the building housed invaluable heritage INTACH ICI, Lucknow was approached for preservation of murals. The Centre transferred the relief murals from the initial site to a new premise in 2006. First step was to provide cloth facing over mural to ensure safety, and simultaneously numbering places from where they had to be cut. A free standing wall was built in the vicinity of the art school building, to which the four murals were fixed with cement before separating the cloth facing using chemicals. The joints and cracks were given a filling of cement.

**State Maritime Museum, Cuttack**

The Odisha State Water Resource Dept took the initiative to create a State Maritime Museum at an old boat repair workshop in Jorba. It enlisted the expertise of ICCI through its Bhubaneswar Centre. The boat repairing and boat building workshop existed at this place since 1866, constructed during British period. Huge iron tools and machineries which were fabricated there itself while some were imported from England, including tools, sailing equipments, and other materials used specifically for the purpose of navigation are stored at the workshop.
The existing building of the Jobra workshop needed extensive repair and restoration having developed serious changes due to ageing, lack of care and maintenance, vandalism and human negligence, compounded by damages and vegetational growth and immense physical alterations within the structure. Changes had been made in original façade when it housed Government offices. Different galleries have now been planned for the Museum such as:

- Interpretation Gallery showcasing the Museum, its exhibits and display of maritime history of Odisha.
- Gallery showing the transformation of the building: from a boat repairing workshop of British period to a general machinery workshop of the mechanical department of state irrigation, and finally into a state level Maritime Museum with INTACH restoration commissioned by the State Government
- Gallery showing boat building techniques of Odisha.
- Historical Jobra Machinery Gallery.
- Gallery for navigational tools and equipments.
- Gallery for maritime trade routes, associated rituals.
- Gallery showing different varieties of reverine vessels and sea ferrying vessels of Odisha.

Other basic amenities of a Museum such as clock room, ticket counter, visitor’s lobby, souvenir shop, multimedia room, exhibition areas, open area auditorium, library, computer section, toilets, drinking water, cafeteria are included in the premises. To make the museum visitor friendly, interesting elements such as a viewing tower with light house design, children’s park, a model of the Odisha coast line with location of light houses will be added to the premises, with special facilities for the physically challenged. The green landscaping is planned in colonial style to retain the original vintage ambience of the premises, with the latest infrastructure to disseminate information to visitors. It is a fine example of adaptive reuse development that keeps alive the maritime rituals and traditions of Odisha.

**Harirajji Mahal, Jaisalmer Fort**

Jaisalmer known as the golden city of Rajasthan has a Fort that seems to rise out of the desert haze, with its yellow sandstone walls and bastions taking on a golden hue in the afternoon sun. The Fort dominates the small city that spreads around it with the Harirajji Ka Mahal enclosed within the Fort. The beautiful wooden ceiling with decorative ivory work at the Harirajji Mahal needed conservation. The ceiling was initially examined using different chemicals. The work was entrusted to the team of ICI, Lucknow. The main problems were damage to wooden beam and roof by insects, deposition of dust and dirt, blackening of varnish and inlay work, flaking and loss of ground and paint layer, loss of glass mirrors, weakening of the wooden structure, loss of decorative design. The ceiling was carefully removed panel by panel, solvents were used to treat blackening of varnish layer. Consolidation of ground imparted strength to the weak structures. Hard deposits were removed mechanically from pearl shell and ivory inlay work. Termicide was applied, and saw dust and epoxy emulsion was used to fill losses. The glass mirrors. Red mineral colour was used for retoning missing areas. Finally all the three wooden panels were refixed and a varnish applied as a protective cover.
**Surya Mall Mishran Haveli, Bundi**

Bundi, the city of stepwells situated on either side of the Chambal river, has a rich repository of Indian art, culture and heritage. It has magnificent medieval forts and palaces, temples with intricately carved idols and chhatris and a picturesque lake. The Surya Mall Mishran Haveli restoration of wall paintings was carried out during February-April this year by ICI Lucknow Centre. The haveli is 250 years old, and the birth place of the great poet Surya Mall Mishran (1818-68). The mural paintings had suffered a lot of damages like loss of plaster, cracks, abrasion, thick dust deposit, etc. which were carefully documented to scale in order to guide the conservation treatments. It comprised removal of dust, lime splashes and hard deposits, cleaning of painting using mora and rectified spirit, filling of cracks, etc. Finally reintegration of paintings were carried out using mineral and water colours, and a protective coating of 5% paraloid B-72 solution given.

![Wall paintings Mishra Haveli, Bundi Before and After Conservation](image)

**Other ICCI Centres**

Senior Conservator Pankaj Sharma met Director Antiquity Tshering Tashi at Leh on 1st August. The latter requested INTACH to prepare a proposal to conduct a workshop on conservation of clay sculptures in Leh. Apart from restoration of the painted clay sculptures damaged during the 2010 floods, the workshop could also train some local artists in the restoration work. INTACH conservationists Sandeep Kumar and Nagamurthi Pareet were deputed for conservation of the murals at Mangyu Gompa, Ladakh for the fourth consecutive year.

ICCI Bengaluru organized an event Parichay led by Director Madhu Rani to create awareness on heritage preservation among people from different walks of life. Other workshops in August were on Conservation of Oil Paintings coordinated by Ms. Smita Singh; and on Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts organized by NMM and the Oriental Research Institute, Tirupathi.

ICCI Lucknow has taken on a number of conservation works at the National Archives, Delhi; at Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai; Kamala Retreat, Kanpur; Meherjirana Library, Navasari, Gujarat; in addition to academic activities and survey reports.

ICCI Jodhpur was commissioned several assignments by private funding agencies for restoration of paintings, photographs, manuscript, and other restoration work at the famous palaces and forts of Jaipur and Jodhpur.

**Amendment Proposed**

The Ministry of Culture has put up a draft policy in the public domain on sale and auction of important memorabilia belonging to iconic leaders and cultural achievers. The Government has been caught in a difficult situation when for instance sale of Gandhi memorabilia or the sword of Tipu Sultan was put on the block by international auction houses. It is not in a position to intervene or buy out such objects. Often sales and auctions are choreographed to drive up the prices of such objects d’art. By bringing all such articles under the purview of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, the Government would make their sale illegal and thus suitable legal action could be taken.

**Gujarat**

A Heritage Tourism Development Plan was conceptualized by the Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) for State Tourism Dept., Govt. of Gujarat, proposing intervention measures in Surat for the conservation and management of its heritage and maintaining its cultural significance and heritage resources.
AHD is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Kutch, an erstwhile princely state of India and the largest district of the State. The land is virtually ‘an island’ resembling a tortoise “Katchua or Kachbo”, surrounded by sea water. Once known as the “Kutchdweep” its historic areas have quality spaces that provide a unique visitor experience. Its rich heritage is a fascinating amalgam of Indian, Muslim and Dutch styles of architecture that are amply reflected in the various palaces, monuments, forts, temples, etc. to be seen in Kutch, with marked European influences on sculptures and carvings. The most outstanding structures are the royal cenotaphs popularly known as chhatris. There are also idols, sculptures, pillars and inscriptions surviving across the historic areas of Kutch region from different time periods, of rare archaeological significance.

**West Bengal**

Darjeeling town gets its name after the Tibetan words, ‘dorje’ meaning thunderbolt (originally the scepter of Indra) and ‘ling’ meaning place or land. Under the Ministry of Tourism, GoI’s scheme for *Integrated Development of Tourist Destination and Circuits*, INTACH initiated the DPR for Mega Tourism Destination Development of Darjeeling as an important cultural and natural resource of West Bengal. Its regional setting and history makes it a city with immense potential be it heritage, cultural, pilgrimage, natural or eco tourism.
Its endangered heritage structures need to be restored in a planned manner by adaptive reuse of the heritage properties lying unattended, including appropriate tourism infrastructure interventions to make Darjeeling into a major tourism destination.

Visit of Shinnyo-en Group

A team from Shinnyo-en, Japan accompanied by Prof. RC Agrawal and Shri Nilabh Sinha visited some historic sites in Leh, including the Mangyu where a grand reception was laid out for them by the village head and leading persons of various village societies. The Japanese team appreciated the conservation work undertaken by INTACH over the last three years. They inaugurated an exhibition held at a village school complex showing various stages of the conservation work. They were overwhelmed by the historic and artistic significance of the Gompa where the resident monk performed a special puja for them. In a reciprocal gesture, another ceremonial rite was performed by the Japanese team. An elaborate luncheon by the village society was laid out in honour of the guests as an expression of gratitude for conservation support received from the Japanese Foundation. The following day at Leh, the Japanese team witnessed the Mask Dance at the Main Market Gompa, and visited the Hemis Monastery, Shey Palace and Thiksey Monastery.

FOREGOING TO PROFESSOR R.C. AGRAWAL

Professor R.C. Agrawal, Principal Director, Architectural Heritage Division since 2007, stepped down on 30th September. A former senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India, his experience and application contributed greatly to the many prestigious conservation projects undertaken by AHD during the last 4 years of his tenure. INTACH bids him a fond farewell, with many good wishes for the future. He will continue to teach at the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation & Museology; and at the Institute of Archaeology, Red Fort, Delhi.

Shri Divay Gupta took over as the Principal Director AHD w.e.f. 1st October 2011.

STOP PRESS

Balaji Ghat, Varanasi

The 18th century Balaji Ghat, located on the banks of the Ganga in Varanasi, one of the world’s oldest continuously inhabited cities, and a major tourist and pilgrimage destination, stands nominated on the World Monument Watch List. Its inclusion on the Watch supports the plan to restore the site for use as a cultural centre of India.
**Water Policy**

The Natural Heritage Division organized the workshop *Delhi Water Policy* at the India International Centre Annexe. Water problems hit headlines regularly every year. Inaugurating the Workshop, Chairman LK Gupta emphasized the increasing importance being attached by INTACH to natural heritage issues, stating that water was one of the five prime elements for life. In the olden day surplus river basins, productive aquifiers and village *baolis* ensured certainty of supplies which is fast turning into a less certain future in an increasingly urban society. Climate change and global warming are the latest entrants which will surely impact river flows and the already receding glaciers adversely, further increasing water stress.

A recent Mckinsey Report projects Delhi’s population (16.7 million in 2011) as 26 million by 2031, presenting a daunting challenge for meeting rising demand, changing externalities like erratic rainfall, declining ground water, friction between riparian States, etc.

The deliberations of the Workshop focused on policy formulation i.e. how to identify demand and usage priorities within and outside Delhi, issues and long term objectives, in order to evolve a futuristic and alternative approach. A number of measures that need to be instituted on priority basis were enlisted. It was recommended that a unified agency such as *State Water Resources Board* should be established for integrated water resource and drought management, harnessing science and technology. And like all conservation measures, water security must entail effective water audit and strict implementation of new regulations.

**Wetlands Notification**

The Ministry of Environment & Forests notified Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, 2010 under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. Wetlands include marsh, fen, peatland, natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salty. It also includes areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, and includes all inland waters such as lakes, tanks, reservoirs, lagoon, creeks, estuaries and man made wetlands like drainage or catchment areas as determined by the authority. It excludes river channels, paddy fields and the coastal wetland. Wetlands are valuable as sinks and transformers of chemical, biological and genetic material; and best described as “the kidneys of the landscape” because of the function they perform in hydrolic and chemical cycles. They are also called “biological supermarkets” for the extensive food chain and rich biodiversity they support. They thus play a major role in recharge of aquifers, flood mitigation, aesthetic enhancement, micro-climate modification’. Moreover they constitute an important component of the cultural landscape of temples and heritage complexes.

The Wetlands of the country are under grave threat of being destroyed by reclamation, drainage, pollution and over-exploitation. The entire notification imposing severe restrictions on activities and development within the wetland areas can be seen on the MoEF website. Chapters should take note, and pressurise their respective State authorities to identify wetlands for notification under these rules. Or file PILs if no action is taken!

**Such Neglect!**

Just a few months ago Tirupur, a knit wear export hub of Tamil Nadu, throbbled with activity. Till its river Noyyal turned toxic with effluents pumped into it by the town’s dyeing units. And the river got covered with floating dead fish. Over the years effluents have inflicted much damage to green acres of paddy, sugar cane and cocoanut fields. As far back as 2003 a writ petition was filed on behalf of the impoverished farmers, but it took 8 long years for the court to order closure of 645 dying units in January 2011. The Assembly elections in April this year ensured top billing for the case, and hopefully the proposed bail out plan does not endanger the Noyyali again.

**NEWS FROM HECS**

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) conducted *Workshop for Local Language Training in Heritage Education* for Convenors of Gujarat, West Bengal and Maharashtra. The objective was to train Convenors in conducting *Teacher Training Workshops* in the local language i.e. Gujarati, Bengali, Marathi, Hindi so as to impart heritage education to local students in a medium they understood best.

**Gujarat**

The workshop for Gujarat Convenors was held at Mehsana, in collaboration with its Chapter on 11th
July, presided by Member Secretary Dr C.T.Misra. It was attended by State Convener Samveg Lalbhai; Jhalawad Convenor Sodhal Singh Dev Dhrangadhara; Rajpipla Convenor Rukmani Devi; Jamnagar Convenor Air Cmndr. Surendra Tyagi; Ahmedabad Convenor Vijay Ranchan; and representatives from the Surat Municipal Corporation.

Another workshop at Rajpipla Chapter on 29th and 30th June was conducted with the participation of 39 teachers from 26 schools. The subsequent heritage walk covered numerous places of historical importance including palaces formerly owned by the royal family that have now been converted into Government colleges. Teachers were also taken to some landmark temples of the town.

**West Bengal**

The Workshop for West Bengal Convenors on 8th August was held in collaboration with the Kolkata Chapter. It was attended by the Kolkata Convener G.M. Kapur, and the Convener of the Santiniketan Convenor Subir Adhikari.

**Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra Convenors Workshop was held in collaboration with the Aurangabad Chapter on 15th September. It commenced with Aurangabad Convenor Mukund Bhogale addressing a larger group of Convenors attending on the need for heritage education in schools, and by Director Chapters at Central Office Colonel MPS Bhatia. The workshop was attended by 8 Chapters of Maharashtra - Dahanu Convener Ms. Phiroza Taft; Coordinator, Pune Chapter Ms. Supriya Goturkar; Nagpur Convener Dr. Chandrashekar Gupta; Nashik Co-Convenor Amiteshwar Jha; Nanded Convener Dr. Prabhat Deo; Curatorial Assistant, Bhu Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai Varsha Reshamwala; Consultant Mumbai Chapter Ammar Mahimwalla; Chandrapur Co-Convenor Surendra Singh Gautam; and representatives from Aurangabad Chapter. The workshop brought out the usefulness of local language training and also touched upon issues related to Maharashtra Chapters.

**Bihar**

The Bihar Workshop held in collaboration with Ranchi Chapter on 23rd-24th September had 50 enthusiastic teachers from 25 prestigious schools participating. The workshop began with a lamp-lighting ceremony and inauguration by Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University A.A. Khan, who was welcomed by...
Convener S.D. Singh. The teachers were taken on a field visit to the Ranchi Museum of Anthropology. Dr. Amitabh Kumar, Dy. Director (Archaeology) was the Chief Guest at the valedictory session, and distributed certificates to the teachers.

**Filmit India 2011 Workshops**

**Delhi**

The *Filmit Content Workshop* at Delhi, held on 20th July at Central Office, aimed at sensitizing young students to the importance of making films on Indian culture and heritage. It was conducted by eminent theatre personality and film expert Faisal Alkazi’s, and specially designed to introduce the young people to concepts of creative film making. It was attended by 18 prestigious schools of Delhi.

The *Filmit India Technical Workshop* followed on 4th August for 19 schools, conducted by Mr. Paul Clifford from the Helen Hamlyn Trust and the Museum of London. Mr. Clifford, an expert in digital learning, elaborated on the use of digital film-making software.

**Hyderabad**

At Hyderabad the *Filmit Workshop* was organized at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Jubilee Hills, for teachers and students of 5 schools on 1st August. The programme was launched by Hyderabad Convenor Anuradha Reddy; with Paul Clifford and Purnima Datt as the resource persons.

**Goa**

At Goa the one day workshop was organized to introduce students to the *Filmit* project and its objectives on 28th July at Sunaparantha Centre for the Arts, Altinho; with Paul Clifford and Purnima Datt as resource persons. The programme was launched by Co Convenor, Ms Fatima Gracias, with the participation of seven local schools.

**Kolkata**

At Kolkata the *Filmit India Workshop* on 9th August was held with the support of Convenor G M Kapur who inaugurated it. Six schools participated which included a content session and a technical session.
Chennai

The Workshops in Chennai were held on 7th and 8th September to acquaint students with the programme. Director HECS Purnima Dutt discussed themes and technical aspects of the subject with students of 9 schools who had been enthused to attend the third consecutive year of the programme to be held in their city.

National Museum Study

On 6th August, the technical expert from London Museum Paul Clifford took a film making session at the National Museum of Delhi for Blue Bells International School attended by its 30 INTACH Heritage Club students. The programme commenced with an outdoor study of the Museum, in which he explained the inquiry method to be followed while filming in a museum.

**MUSEUM OBJECT STUDY**

- What is the object?
- What is it made of?
- What is it used for?
- How old do you think it is?
- Where does it come from?
- What does it tell us about the people who used it or made it?

Heritage Walks

HECS organized Heritage Walks on a weekly basis for 10 Delhi schools at the National Museum during the months of August and September. Special interactive sessions were held within the Museum wherein students were handed out worksheets based on the various galleries of the Museum, for example, the Indus Valley Gallery, the Indian Miniatures Gallery, and the Arms and Armory Gallery.

Heritage Passport

HECS organized the ‘Best Heritage Passport’ competition for Heritage Club students over the year, and received hundreds of entries from across India. The best entries were awarded from among the entries received. The Best Heritage Club passports have been uploaded on the young intach website. HECS plans to create a platform called Heritage Pen Pals inviting students from various Heritage Clubs to share their views with each other.
The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) organises Talks every month to acquaint INTACH Members with different facets of intangible heritage. The following programmes were held in the Multipurpose Hall of INTACH at New Delhi:

**Journey to both ends of the Earth and across Greenland:** Talk by Ajit Bajaj on 27th July covered two ‘extreme expeditions’ that few are privileged or equipped to undertake.

**Vanished Pirs and Absent Kings:** Talk by Anand Vivek Taneja held on 5th August was a fascinating tale of spirits, saints and stories related to Delhi’s medieval monuments.

**In the Footsteps of Guru Gobind Singhji** held on 20th August was a docu-drama in English/Hindi/Punjabi filmed across seven States of India, featuring 61 Gurudwaras associated with the Tenth Guru.

**The Lost River: On the Trail of the Saraswati** : A Talk by Michel Danino held on 14th September traced the once mighty river of Rigvedic times flowing from the Himalayas. It disappeared part by part through clearing of the vast terrain between the Gangetic and the Indus plains. Michel Danino described the Saraswati as a powerful symbol of the flow of Indian civilization.

**Colours of Faith** : A Film on a Thanka artist whose paintings that adorn many Buddhist monasteries, by Bappa Ray was screened on 23rd September.

**Advisory Committee**

The ICHD Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 17th August, attended by its appointed Members Muzaffar Ali, Laila Tyabji, Sushma Bahl, Dr. Shobita Punja, Dr. Sudha Gopalkrishnan and Prof. Ramakant Agnihotri.

**Projects**

The report of the Shahajahanabad Project undertaken by ICHD earlier this year was attached to the Delhi Chapter dossier seeking UNESCO World Heritage City status for Delhi.

Several projects related to the lesser known languages and disappearing art forms like the **Jogi Singers of Haryana** (traditional singers of devotional songs, ballads and story-poems on **Sarangi**), and **Teyyam** from Kerala (ritual dance of Kannur and Kasargod districts) mentioned earlier in the Virasat are ready, with the editing in the final phase of completion.

The much awaited medieval Kannada recipe book, a project of the Dharwad Chapter funded by AYUSH and researched by Dr. Sandra Albert, is ready for publication. It covers **Ayurveda** origins and principles, plants used for medicinal purposes, and the positive effects of following **Ayurveda** in our diet, nutrition and lifestyle.

Another promising publication under consideration is **Naga Folk Tales** by Tara Douglas. The scope of this compilation after several field visits is truly impressive because of transliterations of the original Konyak, Pochury, Yimchunger and Ao tales. The book will have bi-lingual translations i.e. the local language and English.

The Ancient Lepcha Manuscripts, the **Naamtho-Naamthaar**, is another interesting project being taken up. The Lepchas have a strong sense of commitment and pride towards their language which figures on the UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages.

ICHD undertook a comprehensive survey and documentation of the intangible cultural elements of Shahijahanabad deploying a researcher from IGNOU and a post graduate student from France. They conducted extensive interviews with Old Delhi residents, to determine how the changing socio-economic scene of the last 50 years has affected the ritualistic practices, beliefs and traditions of communities living in the area. The detailed report could possibly lend itself to an interesting spin-off documentary, at a time when 100 years of re-emergence of Delhi as the National Capital is being celebrated this year.
The Heritage Tourism Division (HTD) headed by Member Secretary CT Misra has forwarded several proposals to the concerned States and their responses are awaited.

The revival of Devyani Sarovar was forwarded to the Secretary, Shri Sarweshwar Shekshanic Sansthan (SSSS), Sambar Lake for their comments and will be incorporated into the project prepared by NHD before submission to the Rajasthan Government. He appreciated the suggested programme Kayakalp of 11 Jheel including the Sambar Lake and has forwarded it to the Chief Secretary for a final decision.

The preparation of a DPR on Heritage Tourism Development Plan for Chettinad and its funding, is another project under consideration of the Department of Finance, Ministry of Tourism

Secretary Tourism, Government of Jharkhand was sent a proposal for producing a Travel Guide for the State, marking destinations inclusive of its valuable tangible and intangible heritage.

Secretary Tourism, Government of Gujarat was forwarded a proposal for DPR for identification and listing of significant heritage properties, their significance and possible reuse.

A Heritage Interpreters Training Programme was organized at Leh from 22nd-27th September, with the participation of 75 Guides.

Similar workshops have been scheduled at Hampi (November); and at Delhi (December) where its three World Heritage Sites are being developed by conservation experts.

Heritage Regulation Cell

Legal Cell headed by Ms. Nayantara Roy coordinated Service Tax matters with FC Jagdish Chander and with a service tax consultant. She also studied the MOUs signed by INTACH Divisions, and strongly recommends that all MOUs should henceforth be vetted by a lawyer so that a uniform template can be evolved.

Chapters May Please Also Note: henceforward they must not enter into any Understanding with parties at their level, before the MOU is vetted by Central Office. MOUs will be signed by Member Secretary only.

The Heritage Law Cell is in the process of collecting heritage laws of various States. It appears that only J&K has a Heritage Act; while the rest like Delhi, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh have town planning acts/state monument protection acts. The Vidarbha Heritage Society has urged INTACH to press for a National Heritage Law. This needs more research. The ASI has done some preliminary work on model bye-laws and will be sharing their material with INTACH.

A note has been prepared on the role of Police and Customs authorities, and possibly creation of museums for confiscated antiquities.

Forestry Week

It may be recalled that 2011 is the International Year of the Forests. It is being marked by the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week scheduled to be held 7th-11th November at Beijing, China. More than 1500-2000 participants from Governments, International Organizations, NGOs and the Private Sector will address key issues shaping the region’s forests and forestry, to establish new pathways and networks. A massive exercise will be undertaken to find new solutions for forest governance, ecosystem services, green economy, etc. The melding of diverse national, cultural and stake holder viewpoints, civil society perspectives and cross-sectoral dialogue will provide a unique platform for charting a Asia-Pacific forestry landscape.

The 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), the region’s most inclusive inter-governmental body dealing with forestry comprising 33 member countries will also be convened in conjunction with the above event.

Smart Cities

By 2050 it is estimated that 70% of the earth’s inhabitants will be urbanites. To meet this challenge cities around the world like Amsterdam, Stockholm, Milwaukee, Yokohama, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi to mention a few are seeking to reinvent themselves to meet this challenge. Some cities emphasise the environment, others infrastructure like information technology and
transport, and still others aspects of urban quality of life. The most ambitious cities would try to combine all the above! For orderly Singapore bio-diversity as well as greenery is a 10 year goal. Chief Executive of their Nayional Parks Board says : “As we’ve moved into more knowledge-based industries, they bring along talent who like to live in a great city....it is no longer about being well tended, but also about the live-ability, the excitement of living in a great city – and biodiversity is part of it.” It is time Indian cities re-examine their master plans as the majority of India’s billions could also be living in them by 2050, to re-make our cities and through them our lives. Perhaps we should at least make a beginning by attending to pot holes in all our city roads!

Greats of Indian Art

Scholars of great painting traditions of India have taken knowledge of the subject to new levels, by assiduously combining documents, deciphering of inscriptions, and scrutinising art works, according to Robert Smith of the New York Times. He states that “the exhibition Wonder of the Age : Master Painters of India, 1100-1900 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is an epic and immersive progress report on this research”. It is organised by the Curator of Asian Art at the Met, John Guy and the Curator of Indian Painting at the Zurich Museum of Rietberg, Jorrit Britschgi. The exhibits outline the rich history of Indian painting – as diverse as manuscripts on palm leaves in Buddhist monastery, large paintings inspired by European models, flowering of Mughal court paintings entwining “Rajput flesh and Mughal bones”, emergence of Rajput family workshops, art of Hada and Kota Masters, emergence of real end of Indian paintings in tinted photographs, etc. It is a meticulously designed and chronologically ordered Exhibition, a veritable treat for art historians and connoisseurs.

Places (Re-) Discovered

Places (Re-) Discovered, the first of its kind book brought out jointly by Indian Heritage Cities Network – Foundation (IHCN-F), National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA), and akbar unlimited was sent to Chairman by Kamal Khokani, CEO akar unlimited. It incorporates winning entries of Louis I. Khan Trophy for Architectural Documentation (2007-09), released recently on 23rd September at the Nirman Symposium on Sustainable Heritage held at Ahmedabad. Present on the occasion were many INTACH Members like architect Karan Grover, Dr. Shikha Jain, Aman Nath, and Debasish Nayak, apart from other luminaries like Prof. Mitchell Abdul Karim Crites, AFTAB Jalia and Ambrish Arora. It is a valuable addition to the INTACH Library, and an important AHD resource material.

Sipahijala Wildlife Sanctuary

Tripura is also known for its rich natural and nature tribes heritage. Following a directive from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), the Sipahijala Sanctuary has received a master plan from the Ministry of Forest & Environment for the overall development of this best known wildlife sanctuary of the State. The main focus is on “proper conservation of endangered wild animals by providing better food, shelter and healthcare”. As per CZA guidelines almost all the enclosures will have to be relocated with wider space for the comfort of their wildlife inhabitants.

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