Warmest Greetings to all our Readers.
We wish you all a Very Happy New Year!

The year 2011 has been quite eventful for ICCI with Dr. O.P. Agrawal taking voluntary leave of office of the Director General, Indian Council of Conservation Institutes on 31st December 2010- after an illustrious career in INTACH spanning 25 eventful years. With his departure ICCI Head Office shifted from Lucknow to INTACH Central Office, Delhi. It was new challenges for me; as Dr. Agrawal advised “there has been enough horizontal growth, now the ICCI should strive for vertical growth”. It is hence the motto for the direction we must take, and we collectively as a team are working towards realizing this objective.

This year, apart from opening up a unit at Gwalior for conservation and scientific investigation on wall paintings, various programs related to training, workshops, etc were organized. In particular I would like to mention the contribution of two eminent experts in various disciplines Shri K.K. Gupta and Dr. Smt. Shashi Dhawan who

Continued on page 2

INTACH ICCI in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Instituto Italiano di Cultura (Italian Cultural Centre) organised the Indo-Italian Scientific Workshop on Stone Conservation at the INTACH Art Conservation Centre, Delhi. The three day workshop from 12th-14th October engaged Italian and Indian specialists in an extensive interchange of knowhow of heritage art conservation. It was one of the most successful interactive training series held at Central Office. It covered the whole range of stone conservation starting from basic materials characterization to the most recent technologies deployed in stone conservation. It is a field of special interest to both Italy and to India which has a vast historic repository of stone cultural heritage.

The workshop was inaugurated in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, H.E. Giacomo Sanfelice di Monteforte; Secretary Culture, Jawahar Sircar; and INTACH Member Secretary C.T. Misra who gave the welcome address. Principal Director ICCI Nilabh Sinha also extended a warm welcome to
Continued from page 1

joined as INTACH Fellows at Delhi and Lucknow respectively for training our conservators. Dr. Dhawan has expertise in bio deterioration of cultural property; while Shri Gupta, a lecturer at the National Museum Institute, is an expert on paintings and paper conservation. They travelled extensively and conducted workshops at various ICCI Centres for up-grading the technical skills of our staff members.

On the lines of the recent Italian workshop, we are currently in dialogue with the International Cultural Centre at Krakow, Poland for training and upgradation of Indian conservators at top universities of Poland that command high respect in the European Union. We are also working closely with the Germans for identifying areas of cooperation in conservation of art works and capacity building. Constant dialogue with the Italian Embassy paved the way for conducting several international workshops for the benefit of the Indian art community; the next phase under planning for 2012 involves bringing Italian experts to India for a 3-weeks hands-on training program on conservation of lime mortars.

We are also gearing up for an intensive 6 months duration training programs to students and practicing conservators. I believe this endeavor will pave a new path for capacity building as we face acute shortage of trained hands in the country. We will start with a training program on oil painting and wall painting conservation, focusing on developing theoretical as well as practical knowledge of conservators by way of lectures and hands-on training at various ICCI Centres.

In the year 2010 a Specialised Textile Conservation Unit (STCU) was launched at Delhi with support from Micro Inks Limited; and this unit became actively involved not only in conservation of India’s textiles but also in providing training. The Grant from Micro Inks Ltd. has been instrumental in up-grading of ICCI laboratories. It facilitated many activities such as acquisition of technical skills as well as equipment, organization of workshops, survey of museums and wall painting sites. We greatly appreciate the support of Micro Inks through which the STCU came up. We are hopeful that other corporate and philanthropic organizations will likewise be encouraged to support ICCI missions.

The Year 2012 will see other units starting, namely Specialized Paper Conservation Unit – for manuscripts, miniature paintings, tempera etc; Specialized Paintings Conservation Unit for oil and acrylic paintings; and Specialized Sculpture Conservation Unit for various kinds of sculptures in stone, wood, metals, ivory, stucco, terracotta, etc. These units, apart from individual conservation works will also be designing programs and workshops for training and capacity building.

Nilabh Sinha
Principal Director, ICCI, Delhi

the Founder, Italian Centre for Archaeological Conservation (CCA Rome) Roberto Nardi; stone conservation expert Ms. Adreina Costanzi Cobau; and other special invitees and participants of the workshop.

The participants included a cross section of professionals and senior officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), various State Archaeology Departments and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA); conservation architects; art conservators; art historians; academicians; architects; curators; as well as students from the National Museum Institute and the Delhi School of Planning and Architecture. UNESCO was represented by its Project Manager Paromita DeSarkar and Curator-Consultant Marie-Eve Celio-Schevrer. From INTACH, Director ICI Lucknow Mamta Misra and Jodhpur ICI Mehrangarh Art Conservation Centre Director Sunil Laghate also participated in the proceedings of the workshop. Scientific Attache of the Italian Embassy, Prof. Lidia Szpyrkowicz gave a brief introduction to this collaborative initiative, and the accompanying Exhibition mounted on the occasion.

The first session served as an effective background material for understanding the problems and issues related to stone conservation in India, as well as the approach adopted by the Italian experts. The presentation by Mr. Roberto Nardi titled Conservation of Cultural Heritage : From Restoration to Communication was a comparative study of approaches adopted by Italian experts. It was highlighted by a documentary on various projects undertaken in East Asia by the CCA Rome, deploying the latest technology that could be effectively adapted by Indian conservationists. Ms. Cobau shared her own experiences and knowledge of stone conservation.

The Indian participants provided an overview of the stone materials commonly used in India. INTACH Fellow KK Gupta identified various factors that are contributing to stone deterioration. Other Indian experts made presentations where many of the problems appeared to be very similar to those of East Asia. Ms. Shilpa Raturi presented a paper on Built-up Heritage in India : Scientific approach towards Stone Conservation detailing several contributions made by ASI. She stressed on the research-based benefits of industrial products and selection of materials for treatment in stone conservation. Conservation architect Ms. Smita Makhija presented an interesting case study on the Use of Sandstone in Red Fort
Italian excellence in restoration of cultural heritage, this Exhibition aimed at spreading wider awareness of Italian theories and practices in the field. Accompanied by a bilingual catalogue, it offered a concrete response to questions posed in many foreign countries about how Italians have successfully preserved their artistic patrimony, and one which has contributed significantly to both cultural growth of Italian society and to its vast tourism traffic.

Venice Biennale

This year the 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale crossed Italian borders to be celebrated at 89 Italian Cultural Centres across the world. It also marked the 150th anniversary of Italy’s Unification. At their Delhi Centre, the exhibition in November featured works of the Italian artist Tarshito (Nicola Strippoli) and his numerous collaborations with Indian craftspersons. He magnanimously acknowledged the contribution of these otherwise anonymous artistes by captioning their names under each of his exhibits. Tarshito is an avid Indophile who visited India several times during the past three decades, tirelessly working and living with tribal communities of several States. He was curious to learn how to meditate so he also visited Dharamsala, Vrindavan and even Pune where Osho Rajneesh gave him the name Tarashito. According to Chairman Lalit Kala Akademi Ashok Vajpeyi it is difficult to find a person like Nicola Strippoli who can interact with hundreds of craftspersons in remote tribal areas, including carpet weavers, terracotta sculptors, miniature painters, etc.

Tarashito stated: I wanted to highlight the richness of Indian symbols, the way folks in rural areas live and how spiritual they are. In this exhibition, I have amalgamated geography with spirituality.

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NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

INTACH Executive Committee Meeting

INTACH Executive Committee met at Central Office on 8th December to review the action taken report, and approve the annual accounts of the year 2010-2011. The budget estimates for the years 2011-12 and 2012-2013 were also revised.

INTACH Governing Council Meeting

INTACH Governing Council met post lunch after the Executive Committee Meeting on the same date, as is the practice. A number of reports and events were brought to the attention of the Council, including accounting policies and budgets, and filling of vacancies in the Governing Council.

Sentinels of Heritage

“Our motto is fighting to preserve what is rightfully ours” sounded just right coming from Maj.Gen.LK Gupta, Chairman INTACH when interviewed by Ruchira Mittal of IndiaNow. INTACH relies heavily on its battalion of committed volunteers across the country. They identify structures in decay, historic sites in need of preservation, works of art requiring restoration, ruins that must reclaim their historic glory. Chairman furthermore elaborated on some of the major assignments undertaken by INTACH in conserving archaeological, architectural, historical or art works of aesthetic significance. He cited some recent successes like restoration of the centuries old terracotta temple at Itonda village that regained its majestic look.
Whether it is developing elaborate conservation plans for the imposing Mubarak Mandi Palace of the erstwhile Raja of Jammu and Kashmir, an imperiled Buddhist monastery at faraway Mangyu in Ladakh, the forts and cathedrals of Goa, or an entire marketplace in Gwalior, a historic Senate building in Chennai, an interactive Museum in Mumbai, a 300 year old Railways Office in Delhi, the list is as varied as it is endless – INTACH has been there and left its imprint to cite some major works undertaken. INTACH Conservation Centres have restored works like Raja Ravi Verma’s Melody, Amrita Shergil’s Hill Women, Hussain’s Indira Gandhi, murals in the ceiling of Rashtrapati Bhavan, etc. Most recently, the Delhi Centre added a textile restoration laboratory. Ruchira Mittal concluded her report with the impression: “When I left the office building, the sun was setting. But I knew INTACH would never let the sun set on India’s glorious heritage”.

INTO Meeting

Chairman LK Gupta attended the meeting of the International National Trusts Organisation held at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on 12th-15th October. The theme for this 14th year gathering was Connecting People, Places and Stories – New Strategies for Conservation in a Changing World. INTO voices the concern of six million individual members across 45 countries, bringing together natural and cultural heritage organizations from around the world through alliances and affiliations in order to share their common concern for environment.

The Victoria Declaration on the implications for Cultural Sustainability of Climate Change was adopted by INTO Members and participating delegates. INTO has consistently maintained a proactive stance to urge world leaders to take action earlier specified in UN Climate Change Conferences held at Copenhagen in 2009 and Cancun in 2010. It is felt that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) does not sufficiently acknowledge the capacity of climate change to undermine the integrity of world cultures and substantially deprives the future generation of their cultural inheritance. The Declaration reiterated: History has shown that the obliteration of a culture can lead to social annihilation...... The cultural connectivity between a living people and their historical roots engenders pride of place and a spirit to defend it at all costs. For the sake of future generations, we must collectively tackle climate change not just because of changes in the physical environment, not just for reasons of sustaining human health and welfare, but to recognize that the core of strength and connectivity of all the socio-economic systems of humankind, is maintaining cultural sustainability.

To date world leaders have limited their efforts to seeking community consensus on the physical impact on environment, without addressing the larger implications of global warming. The world communities would be more responsive and willing to embrace essential reforms if “societal values” are incorporated into the ‘language’ of climate change.

Polish Delegaton Visits INTACH

Polish professionals on a study visit to India were invited to INTACH Central Office with regard to the MOU signed earlier for Indo-Poland Cultural Exchanges. On 5th December Member Secretary welcomed the Polish delegation comprising experts from their International Cultural Centre, Wavel Royal Castle and the Academy of Fine Arts at Krakow. She outlined the profile of INTACH and its extensive outreach via 170 Chapters across the country. INTACH officials Nilabh Sinha, Divay Gupta, Manu Bhatnagar, Col. Bhatia, Purnima Dutt and Nirupama Modwel – made presentations on the major conservation works undertaken by their respective INTACH Divisions, highlighting the broad span of heritage activities.

The Delegaton visited the Lodi Gardens, Chandi Chowk and Lutyens Delhi to observe various heritage conservation initiatives. Meetings were organized...
with the Archaeological Survey of India and Aga Khan Foundation. The following day there was an interactive session with the Delhi Chapter. On subsequent days they visited Anandgram at the invitation of Shri OP Jain, where they saw the rare collections at the Sanskriti museum on the premises; and the Neemrana Fort on the invitation of INTACH stalwarts Francis Wacziarg and Aman Nath. On 9th December, the final day of their Indian sojourn, the Polish team made their own audio-visual presentation on Krakow – The Centre of Polish Heritage at INTACH Central Office covering the exemplary heritage conservation work undertaken in Poland by a team of eminent art historians and conservators.

As one of the team explained in conclusion, the Krakow School of Conservation overcame the syndrome of a Poland of uncooperative Ministries, and built up resource management by basing it on social economy and better usage of existing legal framework. It thus succeeded in making the State an active participant in the exercise. A lesson to be learnt.

The Polish team took a trip to Goa to observe baroque architecture, and saw INTACH’s restoration of St Anne’s church. A visit to the Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai was also organised, with the support of the local INTACH Chapter to see the state of the art museum and its fine collection of exhibits.

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**Polish Delegation**

- Prof. Dr. Jacek Purchla, International Cultural Centre Director of International Cultural Centre Krakow
- Prof. Dr Jan K Ostrowski, Director, Wawel Royal Castle, Krakow
- Dr Ewa Wiłkojc, Wawel Royal Castle Conservator of Works of Art and Chief Curator
- Dr Jaroslaw Adamowics, Dy Dean of the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, Academy of Fine Art in Krakow
- Ms Barbara Szyper, Training Center – Academy of Heritage in International Cultural Centre Krakow and Co-operation
- Dr. Michal Wisniewski, Head of the Training, Academy of Heritage International Cultural Centre, Krakow

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**To Note: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards**

*The 2012 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation has been announced. Entries are invited by UNESCO for these annual awards established in 2000 - to recognize the achievements of individuals and organizations in the private sector, and public-private initiatives, in successfully restoring structures of heritage value in the region. The 2012 Awards are being enhanced with the support of the Macau Foundation, marking a milestone in the endeavour to create greater awareness about exemplary practices in conserving heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific region.*

*Please note: The last date for submitting entries is 31st March 2012. For details of selection criteria, required documentation and official entry forms log on to http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards.*

*For more information on the Awards contact culture.bgk@unesco.org.*

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**Advisory from Member Secretary**

Government is considering putting all NGOs who are recipients of Government grants under the Lokpal umbrella when passed. INTACH also comes within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. All Heads of Division and recipients of official grants should therefore ensure that no irregularities/omission/commission are committed.

In view of many Chapters functioning independently and taking up projects on their own, they are categorically advised that prior permission of INTACH Central Office should be obtained before entering into any agreement with other organisations as INTACH comes under Foreign Contributory Regulation Act (FCRA). Violations of its norms are viewed seriously.

At present INTACH is exempted from payment of Income Tax. However w.e.f. April 2012 this exemption may not be available. An update on the subject will be posted in Virasat in due course.

**Saga in Stone**

A beautifully photographed coffee table book, *A Saga in Stone*, was presented to INTACH Chairman by the Army authorities. In the foreword to the book, Chief of the Army Staff VK Singh writes: “The Indian Army has inherited many majestic buildings from our colonial past, each of which is distinct with its own aura and history. This legacy comes with a bounden duty to preserve these magnificent structures for posterity. This well crafted compendium of the Heritage Buildings in our Cantonments and Stations, documents our cultural heritage in a befitting manner. .....I compliment the QMG’s Branch for having captured the aesthetics so effectively”.
Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad

Convenor P. Anuradha Reddy received fulsome praise for making INTACH goals her personal goals. The web writer describes her as “a dynamic lady with a professional background in photography and deep passion for our historic monuments and heritage sites”. She depends on the 200 volunteers who relentlessly carry out missions of safeguarding heritage sites. It is hoped they will be equally successful in tapping the Corporate Social Responsibility of the many business honchos in the city.

The Hyderabad Chapter and the Salar Jung Museum, in association with the Heritage Club of St. Anne’s College marked World Heritage Week with a programme on Indian Jewelry. Dr. ML Nigam, former Director of the Museum made a photographic presentation comprising rare jewelry with some pieces dating back to the 10th century AD, describing the differences in jewelry of different eras and regions. The audience were struck by the beautiful collections that once belonged to the Nizams, the Kakatiyas and Vijayanagar rulers.

Convenor Anuradha Reddy presented a photo collection Images of India on the occasion. It included paintings, photographs, sketches from various eras by Dutch, Dane, French, Portuguese and British people who ruled in parts of India during different times. The collection portrayed Indians during various periods of time, their occupation, musical instruments, life style, etc. Particularly interesting were the first handmade imaginary maps on India by the French.

The Annual Heritage Awards for the Year 2011 went to 6 monuments: the Tombs of Fakhr-ul-Mulk; Old Idgah in Madanapet; Sri Ram Building in Khairatabad; Dabeerpura Darwaza; the Tomb of Mahalaqa Bai Chanda in Mouala Ali; and the Gardens of Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum.

A Heritage Walk to promote greater awareness of Hyderabad’s numerous heritage sites was organized on 7th December at Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Devasthanam, Ammapally Nakuda, and Shamshabad in Ranga Reddy District. Another Heritage Walk in association with the Historical Society of Hyderabad was conducted on 10th December to selected monuments like the Indvali Temple and Fort, Dichpalli Temple, Nizambad Fort and Kanteshwar Temple, Kala Bharavi Temple and the Domakonda Fort - all located in the Nizamabad District.

Kadapa

The District Chapter celebrated Children’s Day 14th November at the Sree Shanthiniketan High School. Programmes Organiser S.Elias Reddy welcomed the Chief Guest, Life Member and former MLC P.Subba...
Reddy who preside over the function and exhorted students to cultivate the habit of visiting heritage sites regularly to appreciate their value. At another function held at the Government Girls High School, Convenor S. Seetharamaiah advised students to tour places of built and natural heritage, and stressed on participation in various kinds of community service without detriment to their studies. Similar functions were held in Zion, Nagarjuna, Saibaba, Siddhartha, Vashishta and Balvikas High Schools under INTACH banner.

On 20th. November the Chapter organized a visit to the Mahavir Government Museum for students of 20 High Schools, with a painting competition held for Class 111-V and an essay competition for Class V1-10, conducted by Life Member S. Elias Reddy. A well-attended meeting was held on the premises presided by Convenor Seetharamaiah with Joint Collector G. Joshibabu, Project Director DRDA Tourism G. Gopal, and ASI Asst. Director Ramana present. Co-Convenor M. Janakiram also addressed the students encouraging them to take a lively interest in heritage issues.

**Kurnool**

Shri P. Vijaya Bhaskar is appointed the Additional Co-Convenor of the Kurnool Chapter.

**Machilipatnam**

Chapter Members joined together to conduct a heritage tour to a number of villages in Divi taluk of Krishna District - Ayyanki, Kuchipudi, Movva, Ghatasala, Srikkakulam, Mopidevi, Pedakklepalali, Hamsaladeevi, and Sagarasangamam which has a sea beach. There are several temples and natural sites to be seen in all these villages. It was reported in the Press that a stone pillar with ancient Telugu inscription and another inscribed in Urdu/Arabic was unearthed during the reconstruction of the Lord Shiva Temple in Nidumolu village (16 kms from Machilipatnam). On seeing the above report, Convenor Tikkisetty Rama Mohan Rao and Founder Convenor Mohammed Silar immediately visited the site. They were accompanied by two other Associate Members, one of whom had been the Temple Executive official. They discovered that one rock pillar dated 1178 AD stating that Mula Brihtya, the main servant of Raja Manmaha Mandaleswara Kulluthunga Rajendra Choda was granted five Kulunthunga Gadyanamulu (Rs.5/- of that period) for daily lighting the lamp at the temple. The smaller block of granite in Arabic/Urdu is presumed to be a tomb stone. They also found 2 metres high lime stone Ayaka pillars with beautifully carved lotus mandals, the kind generally associated with Buddhist arasams, chaityas and stupas of BC/AD periods. There were also some grey stone mantapa pillars, and large red burnt bricks used in construction even nowadays. The ASI ascribes the find to the Eastern Chalukyan kings of 8th-9th century who might have built the Lord Shiva temple utilizing available material from Buddhist ruins. This remains to be researched. Hence the Endowment Department has ordered the construction activity to be arrested for a period of 3 months to verify the historical authenticity.

The Chapter erected a memorial stupa at Ayyanki village, the birthplace of one of Vijaynagara court poets Madayagari Mavanna who wrote the 15th century
Rajasekhara Charitra. It is proposed to install a statue in memory of this poet of Telugu heritage literature. In this connection, Members conducted a public meeting in the village involving the local MLA DY Das and representatives of other political parties.

Srikakulam

Convenor Dharma Rao Dusi has offered suggestions to the District Administration for development of some cultural heritage sites in Srikakulam District. In particular he has identified Danthapuri, Pandavula Mitra, the ancient inscription site at Deerghasi and the Meliapatti temple for the attention of Collector G. Venkatram Reddy who is also the patron of the Chapter. Their preservation and promotion would greatly enhance the heritage tourism of the District.

Visakhapatnam

In resonance with the sustained efforts to protect the city’s environment of the city, the Chapter launched an innovative eco-programme ‘Diwali - My Way’ on 14th October. Its objective was to urge school children, youth and the civil society to ponder on the merits of celebrating Diwali without bursting crackers that are both noisy and highly polluting. A series of talk shows/discussions were organized in as many as twenty four schools, and several Departments of Andhra and Gitam University engaging them in group discussions on the pros and cons of celebrating Diwali as is customary.

The views of the youth were very incisive and surprisingly mature:

- Diwali is a festival of lights. Why don’t we drive out the darkness of ignorance, the "rakshasas’ within and spread light of goodness and peace all around?
- Why do we waste money on a joy "that lasts only a few hours" and causes so much pollution? Why don’t we spend that money for a public cause?
- What happened to the bhakti and shraddha of a celebration? There appears to be more pomp and show. This is not true ‘Indianness’!
- Our festivals have degenerated in content and spirit. Why have competitions of size, the money spent become more important than the meaning of the festivals? Is the size of a Ganesha idol or the size of a laddu more important than true devotion? And why do we play film music during religious festivals?
- We can celebrate Diwali even without bursting crackers and causing distress to the young, old and the sick. Do we need to create so much noise and air pollution in the name of celebration?
- It goes against the spirit of celebration to cause trouble to others. Can’t we have a milder, more moderate and less flashy Diwali?
- Animals and birds suffer during Diwali, along with human beings. So we should avoid bursting crackers.

Convenor Rani Sarma reports that subsequent to the discussions, the Chapter joined a civil society initiative to create awareness on the concept of Eco-Diwali. Huge hoardings were put up in different parts of the city to
exhort citizens to be sensitive to environmental concerns. The State Pollution Board later issued a statement in the local press that Diwali had been quieter and less polluting this year.

**A Tale of Many Cities**

A INTACH Life Member reminisces about Vizag of a bygone era: “The One Town or Soldierpet area was where Vizag’s heart was. The Jalaris along the local community defined quintessential Vizag. A fishing net drawn in from the beach by a dozen fishermen would bring in half a ton of sparkling catch...... Then the Iron Ore arrived, crossing over the area on Japanese funded conveyor belts......We were too young to know much about industrial pollution. Vizagites were somewhat trusting and naïve, they still are. ‘How wonderful, what great development, we thought’. Later the Port expanded further – the outer harbor, the coal jetty, the great big stocking yards. Some folks’ chests filled with pride........and some coal dust too in the bargain. An evil black dust spread through the city.......The dust spread insidiously to Kota Veedhi and One Town. Folks got respiratory problems, kids got sick, and my old school, the 150 years old St.Aloysius was covered with coal dust. Some classes did not need blackboards – they could write on the coal covered walls! (a joke). The huge banyan trees, teeming with life were chopped off. The large British heritage stone buildings were torn down and ugly tenement housing was built with dozens of families crammed into small spaces and their sewage fouling the air.......Vizag’s heart was being torn out! Yet we were silent. No one complained. We need progress! We need coal! The thermal plants must run! We need electricity! The port brought in plenty of coal, so much so that mountains of coal were stacked everywhere. Soon the coal dust, wafted by winds, had reached Gyanapuram, Maharanimpet, Suryabagh and as far as Ramakrishna Beach.....And we were silent again. Then the buzz from the affected became louder. The Port said “Ah don’t worry, be happy, we have everything under control. We have technological solutions. We will sprinkle water on the coal and build walls around them. How wise we thought and we collectively shut up again. Only hitch was – the coal stacks were 40 feet high and the sprinklers reached less than 10 feet. And most sprinklers do not work. .....instead of promised walls the port put up casurina poles and tied green and blue plastic sheets to it. The first gust of wind took off those sheeting and we were back to square one..... .....What do you think will happen to Vizag and its residents? And this includes the suited booted new arrivals who are hell bent on developing Vizag to death!

Are we a apathetic lot who don’t know when we are in trouble?”

*Life Member Sohan Hatangad*

**Warangal**

Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao invited the Chief Patron cum Collector & District Magistrate Rahul Bojja as the Chief Guest for a function held on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti. Local dignitaries Municipal Corporation J. Shankaraiah, officers of the Revenue Department, students from various colleges participated in the occasion. In his address to the gathering he impressed upon them the importance of Gandhian grassroots philosophy and non-violence in achieving goals. The Convenor presided over the proceedings of the day which included a seminar on Climate Change-Water Bodies.

The Cycle Rally and Seminar on Kakatiya Monuments to World Heritage was held at the ramparts of Warangal Fort on 14th November, birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru. District Collector Rahul Bojja flagged off the rally and addressed the gathering earlier held in abeyance due to the Telangana agitation.

Co-Convenor Deva Pratap has undertaken a field visit to Pandavula Gutta, accompanying a team of experts from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA). Pandavula Gutta, Regonda Mandal in Warangal District is
a beautiful geomorphic site comprising a chain of hillocks dating back to 10,000 years old Mesolithic age. The cave shelter and their ceilings, amidst sandstone formations, have rock art paintings in red ochre. There are figures of mythology, warriors with weapons and animals revealing the aesthetic urge of prehistoric man. It was at this site that the Chapter had organized World Heritage Day celebrations earlier this year. Dr. Bansilal Malla of the IGNCA, rock painting expert Dr. N. Chandramouli of Pondicherry University and INTACH Convenor have also visited the site and are assiduously working towards Government involvement in protection of the entire area.

**Chhattisgarh**

**Bilaspur**

Convenor Dr. Manju Mitra is working on the establishment of a Heritage Photo Gallery at the Bilaspur Railway Station, assigned by SER Bilaspur Zone. She has collected photographs of some heritage sites at Railway quarters premises which are 100-125 years old, that would make it a unique gallery of its kind.

**Raipur**

The Chapter has been organizing heritage walks in Purani Basti of Raipur for school students since the last 2 years after each monsoon period, guided by Members GR Nayak and Virendra Shrivastava. The Chapter was also actively associated with the Heritage Week programme organized by ASI Raipur Circle that was inaugurated by the Minister for Culture & Tourism Brijmohan Agrawal. Life Members Dr. LS Nigam and Prof. Debashish Sanyal were the key speakers on this occasion.

Secretary Rajendra Chandak informs that Members of the Chapter Sub-Committee Sanjay Singh and Uma Prakash Ojha met the Cultural Secretary to pursue the implementation of heritage regulations for Raipur.

**Delhi**

During this quarterly year, Convenor AGK Menon devoted all his time and energy to bring alive 100 years of Delhi’s growth and splendour, including principles that guided its construction, to the attention of its citizens. It is unbelievable that after it was inaugurated on 12th December 1911 as the capital of India, it remained mostly a deserted city for over a decade! The Chapter conducted a series of public lectures, heritage walks and seminars during October-November, making it widely known to Delhites that their city is in the race for listing by UNESCO as one of the World Heritage Cities. The

**Save the Yamuna**

First came the Akshardham on the floodplains of the Yamuna, one of the most visited new sites of Delhi. Then came the Commonwealth Games Village amidst large scale protests by the non-government organizations like the Yamuna Jee Abhiyan (YJA) to save the riverbanks, still stuck in a quagmire of court cases. But they happened nevertheless. Now it is the “willful encroachment” by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) which proposes to build two bridges as part of its Phase II expansion. The question being raised is how the DMRC has the authority to utilize 10,000 sq.m. land on the Yamuna bank when this area is not part of DDA’s sanctioned zonal plan and any construction therefore is both illegal and a violation of the DDA Act. Meanwhile quiet flows the Yamuna through the city with the highest level of industrial pollution in the country (39.83 mg per litre against the permissible limit of 3 mg during non-monsoon days), estimated on the basis of data collected over a 10 year period by the Central Water Commission! Even the Ganga fares better in UP industrial belts!
heritage body which is preparing the nomination dossier invited stakeholders and experts to develop the concept of Delhi’s ‘outstanding universal value’ to be incorporated in the dossier. Among the plethora of events crowding the Delhi scenario were a series of public lectures held at the India International Centre or at INTACH Central Office: Urban Design by Professor KT Ravindran of the School of Planning and Architecture on 2nd November; Dome Over India by Aman Nath who wanted the audience to see New Delhi with new eyes on 9th November; Vistas and Verdure: Edwin Lutyens and the Master Plan by Mervin Miller, UK on 12th November; Defining the Uniqueness of the Colonial Landscape of Delhi in the context of the larger Colonial Empire by British horticulture expert Patrick Bowe on 14th November; The White Mughals of Delhi by author and historian William Dalrymple on 16th November. It is interesting to learn from him that a number of British officers like David Ochterlony, Edward Gardner and William Fraser adopted the courtly culture of Mughal Delhi and one of them even married a Mughal begum! The seminar on Old Delhi: Living Traditions by Chief Election Commissioner Dr.SY Quraishi followed on 29th November. He said words like kanmaiya (ear cleaner), saqqa (water distributor of water in a sheepskin), tongawalla, warq (silver) beaters are slowing fading out from the Delhi ‘dictionary’. In the old days even eating with a spoon was looked down upon as bad etiquette....Poetry was a full time occupation and not confined to great poets but even the great poets but even the small people. The poet Abdul Khaliq of New Delhi says, ‘I know no other language besides the language of poetry. My only food is the language of poetry. Even my bed is made of the language of poetry. Even my clothes are of the language of poetry and my room is full of the language of poetry.” There will be film screenings, river walks and organic food stalls to complete the “stories through sound”. The 91 page tentative nomination dossier drafted by INTACH Delhi Chapter on behalf of the Delhi Tourism was forwarded to UNESCO through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Though the nomination is for Delhi, not every part of the capital is historic so four areas in particular have been shortlisted – Shahjahanabad, Nizamuddin, Mehrauli and Lutyens Bungalow Zone – for the heritage tag. An area like the Civil Lines is heritage, but since it is not a notified heritage zone it could not be incorporated. The deadline for submitting the final dossier is 1st February 2012. A UNESCO team will subsequently visit Delhi in the summer before announcing the finalists across the globe. The resulting prestige not only raises the level of protection, but also the possibility of receiving financial assistance and expert advice from the World Heritage Committee to support activities for the preservation of its World Heritage Sites. To take these initiatives forward, the Hindustan Times hosted a conclave at Hotel Taj Palace on the topic New Delhi: 100 Years in the Past and in the Future attended by Delhi Chief Minister CM Sheila Dikshit and INTACH representatives OP Jain and AGK Menon among other prominent persons of the city.

Yamuna Elbe

Project Yamuna Elbe is being held in Delhi and Hamburg as part of the Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities series, a first of its kind cultural initiative. Indian and German artists will install artworks on the riverbanks of the Yamuna. A music concert by Indian percussionist Suchet Malhotra and French musician Glenn Louvet will be held. Malhotra says he will introduce the sound the river lost to the people drawing attention to pollution and other forms of adulteration. The event also includes an art exhibition curated by Ravi Agarwal and Till Krause as part of the riverscape both in Delhi and Hamburg. There will be film screenings, river walks and organic food stalls to complete the “stories through sound”.

HOHO at your Service

Delhi Tourism has introduced the hop-on-hop-off bus service to ferry passengers to and fro 19 carefully selected ‘must see’ sites of the capital. Popularly known as the HOHO, a tourist guide and Guest Relations Officer on board points out the important landmarks of the city. The bus stops at an eclectic mix of monuments, museums and markets with their entry tickets purchasable on the bus. It is a fantastic way to see Delhi, at a lower cost than anywhere else in the world for a similar facility – only Rs.300 valid for two days.
Goa

Mario de Miranda, INTACH Goa Convenor from 1990-2010, passed away at his 17th century ancestral home - leaving a trail of memories “beyond the laugh lines” of his legendary cartoons. His delightful observations – the good, the bad and the ordinary about people and places, especially Goa and Mumbai, and while globe trotting 22 countries overseas, captivating everyone, everywhere. He gave us tantalizing glimpses of lives and landscapes in pen and ink and charcoal - delivered with a keen eye, or a razor sharp wit or indulgent sarcasm. There is even a five book series of his works brought out jointly with his dear friend Gerard Da Cunha. Even his diaries and café murals are “a treasure trove of cities, situations and characters”. Who can forget his endearing characters like Miss Fonseca, BC Bundaldass or Miss Nimbupani?

INTACH sends condolences to his dear wife Habiba and family for this grievous loss. But as one of his many admirers wrote: : : I do not think we lost Mario. His work is like a banyan tree, and will remain standing for generations even if the main trunk has been lost”. Such a comforting thought to share, far better than any words we can find to express our great regard for a former colleague and a great INTACH friend.

Gujarat

Ms. Manvita Baradi is appointed State Convenor of Gujarat.

Convenor Baradi has started issuing a fortnightly Heritage News, Gujarat which will be a compilation of heritage related news appearing in newspapers. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Urban Management Centre nor INTACH. The objective is to intensify the dialogue among city managers, professionals and interested individuals on improving heritage management. It will be interesting to see if this initiative yields positive results.

Ahmedabad

Shri Abhay Mangaldas is appointed the Convenor of the Ahmedabad Chapter.

Mehsana

The Chapter in collaboration with Gujarat Archaeological Department organized a Heritage Walk at Vadnagar town of Mehsana for 50 students of history from Ahmedabad on 19th November. At Ghaskol Gate they saw the archaeological excavations of Buddhist Vihars and Chaitya, and the remains of a buried fort. The coins of Kshatrap were also first found at his site. The students also visited the Gauri kund in the Amther Mata Temple complex, the Shaistha lake, the Torans, and the 600 years old Shri Hatkeshar Mahadev. After lunch there was more sightseeing at the Rushi tank, Arjunbhai Gate and the havelis in the Bazar area. The programme was telecast on Gujarati news channels and elicited other media coverage.

Convenor Javahar Mehta also reports that World Heritage Day was commemorated on a large scale with a program held in coordination with the Ahmedabad Chapter at Vadnagar on 19th November. A photographic exhibition was also held at Ahmedabad on 22nd-23rd November. It was widely covered by two prominent Gujarati dailies Sandesh and Gujarat Samachar. The programme was also subsequently telecast on Gujarati News Channel and VTV which interviewed Convenor Javahar on the conservation of step-wells.

Haryana

On 31st October, Chairman LK Gupta addressed the meeting of the Haryana State Chapter held at INTACH Central Office. He shared his thoughts on what should be the focus of Chapters in an environment of continuous change. Citing Gurgaon as a glaring example where the city’s DNA is undergoing radical changes, he pointed
out that management of change should be an area of priority concern. This in turn entails careful listing and documentation, including agricultural heritage. Given financial constraints, listing can be simplified in the first phase to basic information regarding heritage property, location, date, architectural/historic importance as suggested in the Guidelines to Chapters, with the help of volunteers and students. Chairman said that unlike other Heritage Trusts abroad, INTACH is probably the only Trust that does not own any heritage property, and basically functions as the ‘middle man’ who has to win the confidence of both owner and donor in execution of a conservation project. Chapters need to get away from “one size fits all” approach especially as Indian culture is multi-stranded diversity. Culture is created by people, and people change with the times. Chairman advised Chapters to first identify what precisely the local people want. One of the challenges today is to rebuild communities orienting them to changing times. Global warming for instance can be taken up with simple first steps like reduction in water and electricity consumption, garbage recycling, growing vegetable gardens, etc. Chapters must equally pay attention to exposing children to the importance of natural environment, inspire them with the ‘call of the wild’ as it were.

Chairman also advised Convenors to acquaint themselves with prevailing local heritage rules and regulations. Only then protective measures can be taken up effectively at a time when heritage assets are under enormous threat and planning laws are being regularly violated, driven by business and corporate interests.

Advisor Komal Anand and State Convenor Shikha Jain subsequently addressed specific issues relating to each member Chapter. While 60 odd districts have been listed, it is now felt listing is a semi-technical job and should be inclusive of agricultural and intangible heritage listing. Given the financial constraints it means inducting a team of students volunteers to help with the exercise.

Ambala

Lt. General Ranjit Singh, PVSM has kindly accepted to become the Patron of the Ambala Chapter.

Smt. Eva Prashar is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Ambala Chapter.

Faridabad-Palwal

The third batch of Young Heritage Club members was formed with 40 first year students of the Agarwal College for Women, Ballabgarh. The event was celebrated with an on-the-spot painting competition on monuments in which other batches also participated.

Following a meeting held at the NGF Engineering College in September a committee has been formed for the task of listing. In October two schools under the Young Heritage Club were enrolled to monitor Kos Minars, Old Gandhi Aashram and some other sites in their district with the help of the local administration. State Convenor Shikha Jain has pointed out that the Kos Minars are already protected under ASI and any encroachments around them should be immediately brought to her notice or that of Ms. Komal Anand. She also offered to extend help if required for framing ULB level heritage legislation for Palwal.

Gurgaon

The Chapter conducted a Heritage Run in Leisure Valley of Sector 29, Gurgaon on 26th November flagged off by Administrator HUDA Dr. Praveen Kumar. He urged the students to maintain discipline of the mind as well as actions. It is they who must carry forward the message that our heritage, in all its manifestations, must be preserved forever. Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee Ms. Beena Pandya informs that 600 children from 17 leading schools participated in the Run. Simultaneously an inter-school competition on creative banners and slogans was held eliciting slogans that won hearts. Adopt your rich heritage as your child and care for

**Good Example**

State Convenor Sikha Jain coordinated the preparation of a booklet entitled *Restoration of Boundary Wall Around Priest’s Residence Near St. Paul’s Church, Ambala Cantonment*. Prepared for the Ministry of Culture, the contents give the background and history of the site, its architectural significance and contribution to the townscape of Ambala. There is a brief analysis of the existing wall including a visual documentation indicating existing threats, issues to be addressed, and estimated cost of restoration. It is a good example of a booklet in preparation of a project proposal for funding.

St. Paul’s Church is the first garrison church to be built by the British in North India, on land donated by Rani Chand Kaur of Babyal. Its foundation was laid in 1844, completed in 1856, and the Church consecrated in January 1857 - ironically just a few months before the outbreak of the ‘Indian War of Independence’.
it”; Music flows in our Blood, Architecture is in our Heart, Heritage is an incredible Art. Preserve it”; and Our Heritage is in our hands so let’s preserve it” won the first three prizes for Blue Bells Public School, Summer Field School and the American Montessori Public School respectively.

The sponsors were highly appreciative of this event. Shri Akash Ohri of DLF assured “We will support all such initiatives of INTACH in future”. Director Balmer Laurie & Co congratulated the Chapter on the popular success of the event and pledged his Company’s support for such causes in the future. Ms. Rashmi Kaul of Fortis Healthcare too offered continued support for activities engaging with school children. INTACH congratulates Convenor Atul Dev and Gurgaon Chapter Members who ably assisted him in making a success of this public-private initiative.

### Gurgaon

Convenor Suresh Chowdhey informs that the Chapter celebrated World Heritage Week on 19th November this year, in collaboration with the Chandigarh Chapter and the Archaeological Survey of India. A photo exhibition of Sheikh Chaheli Tomb was put on display. Co-Convenor Prof. AR Chaudhri welcomed the Chief Guest RS Rana, Deputy Director of Sri Krishna Museum. Addressing the students of different educational institutions he said Kurukshetra abounded in intangible heritage of the Srimad Bhagwad Gita. It was the inauguration of a weeklong event that included a seminar on various aspects of heritage, and concluded on 25th November.

Prof. SS Boora, Chairman of the Tourism and Hotel Management of Kurukshetra University distributed prizes to the winners of the heritage quiz competition on the last day.

### Mewat

Convenor J. Sanyal in association with the Power Grid Corporation organised a lecture on the Heritage of Saraswati River by Rewari Convenor Sudhir Bhargava. It was held at the Power Grid Complex in Gurgaon on 11th December. The river dates back to 10,000 years, to the times of Manu and the state of Brahmavrat.

### Rohtak

Convenor Sudhir Sharma conducted 52 girls, students of the Vaish Arya Kanya Post Graduate College, Bahadurgarh on the tour to places of historic and cultural importance in Rohtak and Meham. Among the sites visited were the All-Saints Church where Reverend PK Tandy gave the history of this 1867 Church; the 1675 Gurudwara Bangle Sahib built by 9th Guru Tej Bahadurji; and the 1656 AD huge baoli at Meham built by a mace bearer of Shahjehan, Saidu Kalal. The College Principal was impressed by this educative tour, and now proposes to introduce a heritage lecture series in the College.

### Himachal Pradesh

#### Kangra

Shri Some Singh Jaikaria is appointed as Co-Convenor of the Kangra Chapter.

#### Great Himalayan National Park

The Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal may get UNESCO World Heritage status in due course, according to Chief Minister PK Dhumal who is also Chairman of the State Wildlife Board. He indicated that a Himalayan Snow Leopard Research Centre is soon to be developed near Kibbar village of Spiti valley; and an eco-tourism project in Pong Dam Wetland would be executed with the help of the Tourism Department. Himachal Pradesh has emerged as the first state in the world where successful breeding of the Western Tragopan has taken place at Sarahan village in Shimla District. A purview of 33 wildlife sanctuaries spread over 7161 km of the State is in progress.
**Shimla**

Convenor Ved Sud reports the alarming state of Shimla’s environmental and ecological degradation. He drew attention to the many heritage and historical landmarks like the Grand Hotel facing threat, and that even the famous Ridge was sinking. He writes “It is typically a case of Humpty Dumpty on the wall. God forbid if the Ridge sinks further more and the tank bursts or starts leaking then all the king’s horses and all the king’s men may not be able to put it together again. The situation is really alarming”. The urban forest character of the town, once the largest urban forest to be seen, is also being lost.

Shri Ved Sud convened a ‘Brain Storming’ session on 6th October in preparation for establishing a grand Shimla Forum under the aegis of the INTACH Chapter. It will hold a seminar to discuss the environmental degradation of the city in general and in particular the Ridge which is losing its stability each year.

Shri Rajesh Mehta is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Shimla Chapter.

**Jharkhand**

The State Government invited INTACH to be a consultant on heritage matters. This is a prestigious opportunity for State Convenor Shree Deo Singh and other INTACH Members to coordinate their efforts and make a valuable contribution that impacts Jharkhand’s rich heritage.

**Hazaribagh**

_Sanskriti_ was visited on 8th Dec. by the State Tourism Minister Ms. Vimla Pradhan and Secretary Tourism Sushila Kerketta, the Director Tourism Trepathy, press and photographers. They were given a guided tour of the Sanskriti Museum and Art Gallery and its office and archives by Convenor Bulu Imam, and were greatly impressed by the tourist potential of Hazaribagh rockart and _Sohrai_ painting. Later they were taken by Justin Imam to the tourist complex which he is building near Bhelwara with the support of the State Government. The adjoining Bhelwara village complex is famous for its _Kurmi Sohrai_ wall paintings.

Three members of Bulu Imam’s family were invited by the city of La Rochelle, France to represent Tribal Women Artists Cooperative (TWAC) at the Arts Atlantic Festival at Espace ENCAN from 5th-21st November. They painted four _Sohrai_ and _Khovar_ murals on six 6x8 ft. sized specially mud treated canvas using only mud pigments and binder in the traditional method. The subjects included _Jungle and Animals with Elephant_ and _Oraon Totem_ by Philomina, and _Sohrai Ghoda_ and _Dancing Peacocks_ by Juliet. The Exhibition this year hosted two hundred artists in ten galleries represented by artists/organizations from the trans-Atlantic and European region, as the seventh edition of the Festival. The TWAC team was made the Guest of Honour and the murals which they painted in traditional _Sohrai_ designs received widest publicity through the media and French television.

The program at La Rochelle also consisted of an exhibition of murals made with mud pigments and binder in the traditional method that TWAC is famous for, commissioned by the Centre Intremonde where the artists were accommodated. There was daily interaction with teams of visiting students interested in studying the art through organized programs. Literature on the tradition accompanied by a running video presentation and still pictures of art on closed-circuit television enlightened the visitors about their traditional setting in Jharkhand.

The Espaces Congress de La Rochelle was represented by Ms Nathalie Durand-Deshayes and Ms. Elizabeth
Beauregard. This exposition was visited by the French public and guests from several countries in Europe and Canada, Guinea, Australia, etc. who were impressed with the range of traditional tribal arts of Jharkhand. The exhibition will travel to Paris through the good offices of the Euro-India Centre and the organization of Michel Sabatier.

**Gandhi Foundation Seminar**

The Gandhi Foundation Seminar was organized jointly with Amnesty International at the Old Inn Yard, London on 9th November. The focus was on problems faced by Adivasis and other tribal groups, including reflections on the Gandhi Peace Award 2011. It was attended by Convener Bulu Imam and Co-Convener Elizabeth Imam.

Bulu Imam sends an interesting quote from *Mayur*, December 2011 issue: *The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth*
Karnataka

Bijapur

The Bijapur Chapter, in association with Archaeological Survey of India, Dharwad Circle, conducted a Painting Competition with a heritage slogan for High School students on 23rd November, to mark World Heritage Week. Over 60 students from 14 High Schools participated in the event held on the premises of the world famous heritage Golgumbaj gardens. Lecturers at the local Fine Arts College Shri Kedrapur and Shri Kannur were the Judges. Kumari Jyoti Rathod bagged the first prize for her Golgumbaj painting and its message.

Dharwad

Convenor NP Bhatt publishes a monthly bulletin Avani with the aim of popularizing literature, music and consumer activities in and around the city. The cover page of the latest issue carried an acknowledgement of the sustained help extended by Central Office in promoting Chapter activities; and the last page an important judgement delivered by the permanent Lok Adalat of Bengaluru.

Gulbarga

The Gulbarga Chapter was inaugurated on 4th November in collaboration with Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board. Its Chairman Amarnath Patil addressing the large gathering pointed out that the excavation of the Buddhist site at Kanaganalli in Chitapur town resulted in the discovery of the only sculpture of Ashoka to be recovered to date, and that the Gulabarga region merits a heritage tourism circuit.

Participating in the function were many enthusiasts like Dharwad Convenor NP Bhatt, Bijapur Convenor Dr. KK Kulkarni, Commissioner Archaeology, Museum and Heritage Leela Manjunath. INTACH Central Office was represented by Payal Joshi from Chapters Division. Karnataka State Convenor G. Asvathanarayan and Co-Convenor Anil Gokak addressed the gathering. The former pointed out that even 50 years ago artists of Karimuddin Mosque, Bijapur

Karimuddin Mosque, Bijapur

Karnataka has an estimated 530 protected monuments of which 80 are in Bijapur. Enforcement of the 2010 Act in letter and spirit means shifting 80% of the population out of town. The 11.5 kms wall of Bara Kaman constructed during Adil Shahi regime has almost collapsed. The new law applies to the entire wall length of which only 2.5 kms survive today. Giving effect to the new law entailing large scale displacement of people has resulted in a growing demand for suitable amendments and exemptions. The National Monuments Authority has been constituted to grant sanctions for construction in Regulated Areas. This is a problem common to other cities as well. Perhaps a separate byelaw is needed to be drafted for each monument?

Painting competition at the Golgumbaj

Painting competition at the Golgumbaj

Convenor Dr. K.Kolharkulkarni holding First Prize Entry

Inauguration of Gulbarga Chapter

Inauguration of Gulbarga Chapter

Principal PS Kademani of Shri Siddhesvar Fine Arts College Bijapur, as the Chief Guest distributed prizes and certificates to all participating students. Convenor Dr Krishna Kolharkulkarni, who is also a Governing Council Member of INTACH, presided over this much appreciated function.

Gulbarga region merits a heritage tourism circuit.
international repute gave performances at Gulbarga, and its glorious past needed to be revived once again. A number of learned scholars were specially invited to the inauguration. Dr. M. Bagodi and Dr. Indumati Patil, Associate Professor, PG Centre in History spoke on the centuries old heritage of Gulbarga. Dr. Shrishail Biradar spoke about the political history of the region, and Dr. Majula Chincholi about the places of tourist interest. There were power point presentations by Dr. SS Wani and Shashi Shekar Reddy. Prof. Vasant Kushtgi urged that the Central University in Gulbarga should be named after the ancient University of Nagai in Chitapur Taluk of Gulbarga District.

Dr. S.S. Wani is appointed Convenor of the newly founded Gulbarga Chapter. Dr. S.S. Diwakar is the appointed Co-Convenor.

Kerala

Calicut

The Chapter joined hands with the local Rotary Club (South), the National Institute of Technology (NITC Calicut) and the Regional Science Centre & Planetarium, (Kozhikode), to hold a Seminar on Kozhikode Heritage Development on 29th October in the Planetarium Auditorium. Convenor K. Mohan welcomed the gathering; and the keynote address was delivered by Kerala Convenor KJ Sohan. Kozhikode they feel could earn a place as one of the major heritage sites of the world given its historicity.

Among the special invitees to the Seminar, Mayor Prof. A Premajam drew attention to the neglected intangible heritage which he said was deeply ingrained in the very culture of its people. He said the Corporation would support all initiatives to uplift the historical value of this port city. MLA Pradeep Kumar spoke about the crucial need for development work without compromising the integrity of the city’s heritage assets. Debashish Nayak from the Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad focused on heritage management that is integral to both beautification and town planning. Director NITC Dr. MN Bhandopadhya, Educational Officer KM Sunil and former Mayor TP Dasan were some of the other speakers, followed by technical sessions and the final resolutions.

Ladakh

INTACH Conservationist Architect Deldan Angmo reported she is back in Delhi after completing this season’s work on Mangyu Monastery. Hideyuki Suzuki, Shnnyo-en from Japan has written to her appreciative of INTACH’s very good work in renovating this Monastery in Ladakh, and that it was a great pleasure and honour for his organization to help in the preservation of these Western Tibetan Buddhist Heritage. As per the agreement arrived at in 2008, US $ 30,000 a year will continue to be funded for this project till the year 2012.

2600th Year

In celebration of the 2600th Year of Buddhist enlightenment, the Government of India organized a four days long Buddhist Heritage Festival from 24th to 30th November at Delhi. The festival highlighted Buddhist art through a host of cultural activities like chham dance, butter sculptures, sand mandala by monks from Himachal Pradesh, folk performances from Nepal, a book fair with 2000 thematic books by Indian and foreign authors, a photographic exhibition showcasing Buddhism in every day life, and a pop musical recital by Dhara Bums from United States. The festival concluded with unveiling of a coffee table book Sharnam Gaccami : An Album of Awakening by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Maharashtra

Chanderpur

The Chapter celebrated World Heritage Week in association with the Archaeological Survey of India, and received an overwhelming response from the student community. Drawing, painting and sketching competitions on the district heritage monuments were held on the premises of

Students sketching and painting at Birshah
Gond King Birshah tomb for the participating 56 selected students from various local schools like the Marathi City High School, Hindi City High School and the Lokmanya Tilak Kanya Vidyalaya, Patel High School, FES Girls High and Junior College, etc. A renowned artist Mahindra Tiple judged the competition. ASI official MV Rangappa said: “This kind of competition will encourage young minds to strive for saving the country’s heritage”.

Odisha

Balasore

The one year old Chapter recently celebrated its Foundation Day with Collector Dr. AB Otta and FM University Professor Dr. Nirmal Chandra Das as the Special Guests for the occasion. The Collector, a former teacher of anthropology is taking a keen interest in preservation of old heritage sites, supported by his brother who is Dy. Director at the ASI. Convenor Himanshu Das is making every effort to enhance the quality of Chapter membership, and has launched the newsletter Parampara being edited by Member BN Das. Member UR Dasa presented a video clipping show of the heritage sites enlisted by the Chapter. Co-Convenor SN Das Mohapatra gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the event.

Bhubaneswar

The monthly meeting of the Chapter on 30th October coincided with a national level quiz on heritage amongst engineering students from various Indian cities in collaboration with the Sikshya Anusandhan (deemed) University that had long been under planning. It was a good initiative to get future engineers involved in heritage matters, and who potentially could extend a helping hand in preserving endangered heritage assets in the coming years. The final six groups were invited

The Olive Ridley

Millions of years ago the Olive Ridley turtles hatched their eggs on the beaches of Odisha and began their arduous seaward journey spanning hundreds of kilometers only to return annually to nest en masse. Now an endangered species, they are no more safe on the beaches of their ‘motherland’. Today these sea faring creatures have to fight against all odds from the start (till the hatchlings arrive 45-60 days later) against fishing trawlers, discharge of pollutants, and feral predators like dogs and jackals. The fishing trade and conservation lobby are at loggerheads. Turtles have a mythological importance in Indian culture. It requires just a little more thought to provide safeguards like modification of the beaches through plantation and other such measures if we care to save a precious species.
to the last round after a qualifying written test for all participants. The participation was made very attractive with three prizes of high value for the first three winners ranging from Rs.50,000-Rs.20,000, and additionally 20 floor prizes of Rs.500 each. It resulted in the participation of 158 teams who registered their entries on the website. M/s Quiz Monk from Mumbai was engaged to conduct the proceedings. They remarked that "We don’t get such a response in Mumbai. It is extremely nice to see engineering students taking so much interest in subjects like art and culture". Convenor SK Bijayendra Narayan invited Sri Abasrar Beuria, a retired Indian Foreign Service Officer as the Chief Guest and the Vice Chairman Sikshya O Anusandhan University Dr. BK Sarap as the Guest of Honour for the prize distribution ceremony. Shri Beuria was impressed with the knowledge of students and stated: “I am pleased that the future of India’s cultural heritage is in safe hands. Heritage is not the responsibility of the old people. Its future rests on the shoulders of the young”. Debit Ray and Pranshuman Singh from BIT Pilani; Abinash Sahu and Ankit Patnaik from ITER Bhubaneswar; and Amit Bikram Kanungo and Satyajit Gahana from SIET Dhenkanal, were the top three winners.

Ms. Namrata Chadha is appointed the Convenor of the Bhubaneswar Chapter.

Mayurbhanj

A special meeting of the Chapter was convened on 24th October at the Rotary Club, Baripada. Vice Chancellor of the North Orissa University Prof. Sanghamitra Mohanty graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The brochure Listing of Monuments of Baripada was released by the Chief Guest.

Convenor Prabodh Kumar Mishra also invited Inspector of Schools Uday Nath Majhi as the Guest of Honour. He released a booklet on the Heritage of Mayurbhanj disseminating essential information on the erstwhile princely state in Oriya. The Chapter will be distributing this informative guide priced at only Rs.50/- to students of schools and colleges as a part of their heritage awareness programme. It has 42 pictures of places of historic interest, monuments, dams and the Simlipal Biosphere Reserve. Co-Convenor Pratyus Kumar Mohanty gave the vote of thanks.

On the occasion of Children’s Day, 14th November students were invited to join a rally to sustain efforts being made to create awareness of Save Simlipal project. Teachers and students of the Maharishi Public School and the Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar in Baripada rallied together and went round the main streets with INTACH banner and cap. The rally terminated at the Children’s Park where they enjoyed a tiffin. Later they also took part in a meeting held at the Retired Government Employees Association building for a discussion on Preservation of the Simlipal Bio-Sphere Reserve and measures to be taken for prevention of further deforestation.

The Convenor gathered together Chapter Members at the Palbani Forest Bungalow for a social get together on the occasion of World Heritage Week. Several blown up pictures of Vimbetka, Sitabinji, Haripurgarh, Ajanta, Khiching and Komarak, etc. were displayed to highlight the significance of Odisha heritage.
Sambalpur

The Sambalpur Chapter met in the last week of September. Convenor Dr. BB Mishra later reported that former State Election Commissioner DK Mishra who presided over the function is now the designated Advisor Odisha Chapter. The Chief Guest for the occasion was the RDC Northern Division Kishore Chandra Barik, accompanied by Additional Secretary to RDC Gangadhar Mohanan both of whom also addressed the audience. It was a major gathering of INTACH Members to promulgate INTACH ideology, and assign responsibilities for the conservation of Odisha heritage. A number of participants like A.Mohapatra, KK Panigrahi, Gopinath Mishra, Bhagbat Prasad Nanda and BN Pati were invited by President DK Pandhi to present their views.

A book listing the historic monuments compiled by Convenor Prof. BB Mishra was released, and distributed to the Members along with copies of the Chapter bulletin Aithya.

The Heritage Week celebrations were along the lines of last year, with the Convenor addressing students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya in the presence of the Principal and senior members of the teaching staff. Unfortunately there is no ASI presence in Sambalpur to enlarge the scope of the celebrations through a collaborative effort.

Punjab

Amritsar

President Amritsar Vikas Manch, Amrit Lal Manan who coordinates INTACH Heritage Club activities charted a series of engaging programmes for the local school children from 18th-23rd December. It was an admixture of interesting events like visit to the Sarai Amanat Khan, Pul Kanjri and Preet Nagar; a lecture on the need for a Herbarium in the city; poem recitation and painting competitions; and a Heritage Walk that was flagged off from the historic Jallianwala Bagh.

Patiala

The Chapter launched a campaign in Patiala District to create awareness of ‘Punjabi’ cultural values during the World Heritage Week. Students and teachers participated en masse in the culminating function held on 25th November at the Secondary School in Patiala. Addressing the gathering Special Invitee former Commissioner Linguistic Minorities of India Dr. Harbhajan Singh Deol
reminded the gathering that “our heritage is our strength and we shall preserve our heritage to maintain this strength and for learning and betterment of future generations”.

Dr. Joga Singh, Professor of Anthropological Linguistics at Punjab University, exhorted both the students and teachers to identify the roots that equips people with heritage values.

A number of prominent citizens attended like former Forest Officer S. Balbir Singh Mohi, Dr. Kuldeep Singh of Government State College, Advocates Guninderjit Singh Sidhu and Ashok Mittal, Dr. Laxmi Narain Bhiki, Jaspal Singh Toor from PSPCL, Preet Mohinder Sekhon from All India Radio, and Co-Convenor S. Ranjit Singh Bhinder who addressed the gathering reinforcing the heritage message. Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk highlighted the achievements of the Chapter and the activities undertaken specially for young people like heritage walks, seminars and competitions to inculcate a deep-rooted interest in preserving heritage as a service to the nation. Principal of the Secondary School Tota Singh gave the vote of thanks.

Rajasthan

Ajmer

Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh presented two Arabic shilalakes (stone engravings) to the Government Museum. These are the only Arabic items now in their collection. It may be recalled that the Convenor and the Chapter were honoured on the occasion of the last Independence Day for their contribution to heritage awareness activities in Ajmer.

Nagaur

Co-Convenor Himmat Singh was quite thrilled to see students of the DMS Secondary School and members of Heritage Club planting 300 young trees in the new building of their school. They even tied rakhi to the plants on Rakshabandhan day promising to take care of them. What a beautiful thought!

Sawai Madhopur

INTACH Chapter officials met members of the UNESCO team, with regard to declaration of Ranthambhore Fort as a World Heritage Site. Convenor Padam Khatri, Co-Convenor Javed Anvar, Secretary Dr. Aarti Singh shared
their viewpoints with UNESCO Heritage Researcher C.D. Wan and other members at the Jhoomar Bawali. They elaborated on the history, architecture, ancient monuments, art, culture and archaeological importance of Ranthambhore Fort. The UNESCO team was also shown the colour paintings and a list of monuments situated in the Fort.

It may be recalled that on 7th September the Chapter members had launched a cleaning campaign on a two kilometer stretch of the Rathambhore road. The Chapter is now considering ways and means of involving the community in cleaning operations in future, especially after festivals when roads are littered by the people.

The local Press greatly appreciated INTACH efforts to ensure that the tank does not remain an eyesore to Nagercoil town people. The Convenor specially thanks Dr. Laksmi Narayan and Dr. Kuttalingam for their help in protecting this heritage site, despite a local MLA having tried his best to obstruct the work.

Today about 20 acres are irrigated by the tank and the remaining paddy fields are being illegally parcelled into housing plots by the land mafia and their usual colluders. In August this year the Chapter had held a 100 people strong Dharna at the Collectorate. The next step might be legal action to protect this wetland?

Salem

The Clock Tower, the iconic landmark of Salem is once again facing the threat of demolition. It is a historic building designed by Sir Mokshagundam Vishweswarya, the eminent engineer-statesman who played a major role in building modern India in the 1930s. This trapezium shaped building stands at the crossroads of two leading roads leading to the old market of the city. A former Collector J. Chandrakumar had reversed the proposed demolition and given permission for its conservation by the Indian Bank, after sufficient reports and a detailed technical study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai reiterating its structural stability. The new District Collector Maharbushanam however has abandoned the idea of conserving the structure. Indian Express reported their inquiries hinting at “hidden forces influencing the decision”. It also reported Chapter Members having said “We have hit a wall. A flat “no” is the answer we get lately to our pleas to save the structure”. Chapter Members should consider a PIL? They have the support of thousands of people of Salem from every walk of life who have signed a protest against the demolition order. The Collector has been earnestly requested to consider popular sentiment, and the people’s belief that demolition will be a mark of disrespect to a national leader (Vishweswarya). Copies of INTACH plea have been sent to the Chief Minister and all concerned officials.

Tamilnadu

Nagercoil

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan reports that after obtaining permission of PWD authorities and the District Collector Smt. Mathumathi, the Chapter cleaned up the Chemmankulam Tank. It is all the more creditable that Chapter Members contributed to the funding of this project costing Rs.30,000, taking help of Itachi Earth Movers. This 7th century tank extending over an area of 16 acres was in a highly degraded condition due to the callous attitude of the authorities concerned. It had not been de-silted for the last 50 years and was eutrophied with aquatic weeds.
**Thanjavur**

Convenor S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle reports a very special event *Elanthalir 2011* held at Sangeetha Mahal, Palace Complex from 23rd-25th November by the Chapter. It combined a children’s festival to mark *Children’s Day* with celebrations to mark the subsequent *World Heritage Week*. In the series of Heritage Lectures, Guru Vadivudevi spoke on *Thanjavur Classical Music and Dance*; Dr. T. Padmanabahan on *Thanjavur Folk Music and Dance*; and Dr. P. Perumal on *Thajavur Handicrafts*. Cultural programmes like *Nada Sangamam*, *Bharaanatyam*, *Karagattam*, *Thappattam* and *Silambattam* were performed by students in a number of exciting competitions held to tap different interests and pursuits of young students in the age group of 8-17 years, as well as in the category of individual display of special talents. There were also other competitions like a quiz on Thanjavur, slogan writing, photography, essay writing in English or Tamil, and drawing - all of which centred around different facets of the city’s culture. The *Elanthalir* concluded with cultural programs presented by students of art schools of not only Thanjavur but also Thillaisthanam, Reddipalayam and Madakkottai villages. The message conveyed to all:

*Join to Save Our Heritage for our Future.* Thirty INTACH Excellence Awards were distributed by INTACH Secretary S. Muthukumar to the outstanding students in various disciples.

**Uttarakhand**

**Pauri Garhwal**

Shri Dan Singh Rawat is appointed Convenor of the Chapter, with Shri Ratnakar Singh as the Co-Convenor. A new Chapter was inaugurated by Principal of Sundar Nagar K.C. Angar at Pauri Garhwal on 27th November. Addressing the newly enrolled INTACH Members, invitees and the young people gathered on the occasion he stressed on the importance of heritage awareness.

**Uttar Pradesh**

UP State Chapter and Lucknow Chapter reported that a seminar on *Unprotected Heritage of Monuments and*
**One of Only Seven**
The Taj Mahal, an iconic symbol of India's glorious culture, registered a hundred million votes in the recent run up for the *New Seven Wonders of the World.*

An interesting fact: Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan made sure its weight was uniformly distributed on a wooden base made of the finest ebony for this everlasting tribute to his beloved wife. The base requires a constant flow of water to stay firm to ward against expanding and contracting. Now the perennial river runs dry in summer months, temperatures are rising, and the ebony can crack and shrink the Taj foundations. The recent Rs. 222.21 crores effort to save the river has been disappointing as the water is saline and brackish. *Environmentalists, activists and politicians need to come together to spearhead a more serious endeavour to save our most famous national landmark.*

*Sites & Strategies for Conservation and Protection* was inaugurated at Lucknow with Secretary Culture & Tourism Manoh Kumar Singh as the Chief Guest. State Convenor Alok Ranjan did the *Vimochan* of the Chapter newsletter *Dharohar Darpan* highlighting some of INTACH activities. A wide cross section of dignitaries like Secretary General Rajya Sabha RC Tripathi, Prof. KK Taplyal, Dr. Ajay Kumar, architect Pragyan Darbari, Dr. Saiyed Anwar Abbas, Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Dr. OP Agarwal, RC Agarwal and Dr.HN Singh attended the seminar and shared their views. Members of ASI, CII, LMA, Lucknow Club, Town & Country Planning, academicians and architectural institutions attended in large numbers. The proceedings were covered by *Doordarshan* and the local media.

Participants were taken on a boat trip on the River Gomti on 3rd December and tasted some of the old delicacies of Lucknowi cuisine.

A Vintage Car Drive on 11th December was organized in coordination with the Oudh Vintage Car Club with the participation of children. They visited heritage sites with a running commentary given by a historian - another major event and the first of its kind for the Chapter

**Lucknow**
The Chapter organized a seminar on 23rd November in collaboration with the UP State Chapter and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

Convenor Usha Kohli is planning a boat trip to make the public better acquainted with the historic buildings flanking the banks of the Gomti, to learn about their past as they cruise down the river. For a start an effort is being made to involve various educational institutes to participate in an on-the-spot drawing competition on the monuments, particularly those associated with the freedom struggle of 1857 to highlight their heritage significance.

**Varanasi**
The Chapter Members held a meeting at *Guleri Ghat* on 27th November for which a boat had been arranged from *Tulsi Ghat.* It is a good development that such meetings are held at various places by turn to keep Members updated on the state of the *ghats* which are an integral part of the city’s heritage.

**West Bengal**

**Darjeeling**
Shri Bharat Prakash Rai is appointed Convenor of the Darjeeling Chapter. He will be assisted by Shri Karna Thami as the appointed Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

**Kolkata**
The contemporary world renown art group from Norway *Verdensteatret,* in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy, presented a captivating and poetic work of art entitled *And All the Questionmarks Started to Sing* on 10th-15th December. It was held courtesy ASI in the courtyard of the Currency Building, a heritage site saved by INTACH intervention. Convenor GM Kapur avers that the objective of using this venue was to bring this edifice to life and not let it remain a lifeless monument of national importance. *An exemplary message!*

This event of the *Verdensteatret* group concluded their highly successful world tour covering Poland, Italy, USA, Israel, France and of course Norway. It was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Norway H.E. Ann Olleslad. The presentation was an amalgam of automatic art installation, performance and concert – a novel experience for all heritage enthusiasts of Kolkata. The group described

**Tagore Notebook**
A previously undiscovered notebook of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore dating to 1928 fetched $170,500 at the recent Sotheby auction. Presented by him to a family friend and patron, it contained poems, lyrics and songs in Bengali. Two of the songs were later picturised in the dance drama *Chitranggada.*

In Australia as part of the initiative *Ektaal,* a Great India Project kicked off 2 years ago to enhance Indo-Australian understanding. Tagore’s bust was unveiled and garlanded at the Macquarie University. It recognized the great contribution made by Tagore to reshape Bengali literature, music and poetry.
**Clive House**

The *Clive House*, reconstructed by Robert Clive just after his famous victory at Plassey in 1757 and now owned by the West Bengal Government, is in such a bad state that even the 1947 squatters have vacated the premises! Formerly a Dutch or Portuguese factory, Clive turned it into a five bedroom mansion. The garden too was landscaped by Clive and is also in ruins. There was a tunnel for escaping from the mansion, supposedly sealed after World War II. Another legend is that half the 700 chests of treasure given to Clive by Nawab Mir Jafar as war reparation in 1757 was illegally appropriated and lies buried in the compound. British historians have asked the British National Lottery to support the maintenance of this historic building, estimating the annual cost as Rs.15 crore. Eminent architect Nicholas Thompson, who restored the Queen’s Windsor Palace after the 1968 disastrous fire, thinks full restoration is not possible but the building could be strengthened and a few rooms converted into an exhibition gallery or a tea room or gift shop to bring in some revenue.

Pro Vice Chancellor Vishvabharati Dr. Udaaya Naraian Singh. After a welcome song rendered by Bulbul Bose and her *Samabeto* group, *athithi baran* was performed to the guests on the dias. Convenor Subir Adhikari also welcomed the guests, and spoke of the relentless efforts being made by the Chapter since 1988 to protect the cultural and environmental heritage of the city. Recently the Chapter published a book *Monuments Around Santiniketan* containing 135 forgotten heritage sites of Birbhum with the help of the Ministry of Culture. Among them is a *mandir* spotted by Urmiya Ganguli which was restored by Mascon, and where regular *puja* is now conducted.

Dr. Udaaya Narain Singh congratulated the Chapter on the successful efforts and completion of restoring the *Itonda Temple* restoration. Dr. Asoke Das emphasized the need to develop the infrastructure of Birbhum so that many more such successful restoration works can be carried out to make the place a major tourist attraction. Smt. Shusmita Guharoy conducted the function, and Shri Animesh Khan gave the vote of thanks.

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**Santiniketan**

The 33 minutes video documentary *Story of Itonda* was screened on 20th November at the Lipika Auditorium, attended by many respected supporters of the Chapter like Life Member Hitabrata Roy, art critic Dr. Asoke Das, with Chapter Members
The network of ICCI Centres, due to their well spread out locations, cater to the conservation of heritage across a vast India. Some of the recent highlights of their work range from reviving the research project of Pidicryl 126 for use in conservation of paintings at the Delhi Centre, the training of Director ICCI Bengaluru on traditional practices of paper conservation at Japan, the new project of conservation of Delhi State Archives by the Bhubanshwar Centre, and conservation of manuscripts of the State Archives at Jaipur by the Lucknow Centre.

**At ICCI Bangalore**

**Stucco Figurine 14x41cms**

The torn and brittle maps were un-rolled mechanically, humidified, straightened and flattened under uniform pressure. They were relined, the missing areas were chamfered and finally mounted onto archival mount boards. Previous attempt of unscientific methods of conservation with cello tape had yellowed and stained the paper over a period of time. A few pages of the inked sale deed bore a stamp dated 1894.

**At ICCI Lucknow**

ICI, Lucknow has been working on the conservation of rare manuscripts at Meherjirana Library, Navsari, Gujarat since Feb., 2006. A temporary site laboratory has been established inside the building of the library with the required scientific equipments and tools. The manuscripts that were in a dilapidated condition are now getting back to shape with the careful efforts of conservators at the Lucknow Centre.

**At Mumbai Centre**

The imposing Holy Name Cathedral located in the heart of Mumbai is a majestic structure made up of large stone blocks joined with lime mortar with a raised prominent pointing in cement and mortar. The interior walls are plastered with lime plaster and the roof of the main hall is covered with Mangalore tiles resting on wooden frame.. Conservation treatment for preserving the beautiful, historic wall paintings in the Cathedral which are more than 100 years old was first undertaken in 2010 by ICCI.
Lucknow. On a recent examination it was found that at some places, water has seeped in from the roof or from side walls, and dampness had also appeared due to rise of sub soil water by capillary action. There were significant deteriorations present in the form of paint layer flaking profusely and the lime plaster detached from many areas. The Mumbai Centre has now done a commendable job on restoring the paintings again.

At Delhi Centre

The ICCI at Delhi organized a presentation on Museum Showcase Designs by Peter Taylorson, a representative of Sichuan ClickNetherfield Display and Exhibition Co. Ltd. on 17th October. The Company showcases are supplied to some of the leading museums of the world. Interested Museums may link to their UK website at www.clicknetherfield.com for a comprehensive information on their projects.

Condolences

INTACH ICCI lost one of its most promising conservators Sarojkant Mishra. He passed away suddenly on 13th November in UK, where he had recently gone on a scholarship from the Charles Wallace India Trust. A Condolence Meeting was held at Central Office. He will be greatly missed by all who worked with him at the ICCI Delhi where he worked during the last three years. Secretary Charles Wallace India Trust, Richard Alford wrote: Sarojkant was full of promise and also good natured. I saw him at Cardiff for an hour a week or so ago and was struck by his enthusiasm and excitement for the course he had barely begun, and also what he could bring back to INTACH in Delhi next year”. They say those the Gods love die young. He was just 28 years old and recently married. Our hearts go out to his family and his young wife for whom this is an irreparable loss. Our prayers are with them. And also our good wishes for their future well being.

From Gold to Dust

An article From Gold to Dust by Poonam Goel in the Deccan Herald is about how very few Indian people visit museums, despite the fact we have some of the finest collections of artifacts in the world. Apart from lack of trained personnel at museums, there are archaic recruitment procedures and inability to create opportunities for younger museologists. Art is considered arcane or pretentious by the common man because museums have done little to attract the general public. “What is needed at the policy making level, is to change the very notion of how art is defined”. There is a total lack of interesting events that draw public attention to museums. The only show at the National Museum, Delhi which generated a buzz a few years ago was that of the Nizam’s Jewels; while the Art Acquisition Committee has been lying defunct for decades and new acquisitions banned because of spurious purchases of the past. Meanwhile Gandhi and Tipu mementos and much else make their way to overseas high profile auctions! The National Gallery of Modern Art while well organized falls back on cross-border cultural exchanges with little emphasis on permanent collection, says Goel. The discontent within museum walls is palpable. General opinion amongst art watchers is: every museum should have 3-4 small and big shows every year. INTACH has made a good beginning at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai.

Kaliighat Pata

The Victoria & Albert Museum, London possesses the world’s largest collection of Kaliighat Pata paintings, like the accompanying work of art that is eye catching. Their painters lost patronage in the 18th century, which resulted in the fading out this art form. It would be interesting to trace and list some of the Kaliighat Pata still to be found in India.

Ravi Verma

Ravi Verma’s A Himalayan Beauty went under the Sotheby hammer for $2,66,500 recently. In 1997 his painting The Begum’s Bath fetched Rs.32 lakh at an auction at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai. His works have been selling for higher and higher prices ever since. Swapna Dutta writes that Ravi Verma was the first Indian artist to exquisitely blend early Tanjore style painting with the graceful realism of European painters in his portraits and landscapes – “the technique was European, the soul was undoubtedly Indian”. Born in a royal Travancore family, his art was also patronized by the royal houses of Baroda, Mysore and Udaipur where his paintings are exhibited. Perhaps the largest collection of 80 paintings including his mythological masterpieces are to be seen at the Maharaja Fatehsingh Museum in Baroda. He was one artist who believed in initiating the Indian public to real art, so in 1894 he set up an oleography press called the Ravi Verma Pictures Depot – the ‘products’ still to be found here and there in some homes.
Awards Available for Professional Training

The Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria & Albert Museum (NTICVA) marks its 20th year with the announcement of awards available for the year 2012-2013. The awards are instituted for Visiting Fellowships/UK Travel Awards/Small Study and Research Grants (India) / and Small Study and Research Grants (UK) – to assist scholars and museum professionals to extend their study, research or training, or to participate in collaborative ventures.

In addition, the V&A Jain Art Fund, in association with the NTICVA is offering a series of research and travel grants to be administered by the latter. Scholars from Museums, Institutions and Universities are invited to apply. The application forms can be downloaded from the website www.nticva.org by interested scholars. The last date for submission of completed applications is 31st January 2012.

NEWS FROM AHD

MOUs Signed

MOUs of cooperation were signed between INTACH and the Centre for Conservation Studies of University of York, and the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University. The latter two organisations are closely associated and have been active in the field of Heritage Conservation studies, architecture and built environment of India with a well developed academic methodology and multi disciplinary human resources. The overarching aim of this tripartite MOU is to facilitate CEPT and INTACH to work with the University of York in areas of mutual interest; particularly research, training in archaeology, conservation and management.

Tapping Traditional Architecture

A new and young generation hailing from Agra have taken over the profession of stone cutting from their forefathers. A small group well versed in the art of stone cutting and pietra dura are at work on the Red Fort, Delhi. “They are the critical link between the past and the future”, reports Renuka Puri in the Indian Express. Jirnoddhara which literally mans to repair or restore whatever is broken or mutilated was the basis of all conservation under ancient Indian traditions. It is being proposed as an important conservation methodology today. Heritage experts are of the view that while the West stresses on “authenticity of ruins”, Indian ancient architecture texts recommend reconstruction using traditional techniques with knowledge that has been passed down generations. Satish Kumar, one of the workers at Red Fort recalls at least three generations before him, and an enterprising grandfather who set up a thriving business for the family.

50th Anniversary of ASI

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the Vigyan Bhawan on 20th December. Minister for Culture Kumari Selja welcomed him and the high profile gathering which included Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal. Archaeological pursuits in India can be traced to the foundation of the Asiatic Society in 1784 by a group of antiquarians under Sir William Jones. Many individual experts contributed enormously to laying the foundations, with Alexander Cunningham appointed as the first Archaeological Surveyor in 1861. John Marshall became the first Director General, and was succeeded by Daya Ram Sahni, the first Indian to head the organization in 1931, followed by Mortimer Wheeler in 1944 till Independence.

Archaeological Practices

Archaeological Practice in Great Britain is one of a series of cultural heritage manuals providing “key-facts” on core principles that can guide archaeologists worldwide. It explains how British archaeology evolved, and provides “a snapshot of three-quarters of a million years in a little over 15,000 words!” The writers – John Schofield, John Carman and Paul Belford - state that Britain was really where modern archaeology began, as a result of contact with the New World which provoked questions of national identity in relation to other countries. Indian archaeologists might be interested in knowing what the authors have to say about “who is responsible for what aspects of archaeology, and how to get it done”.

Catch 22

The problem everywhere in cities under siege of new developments and progress is how to tackle encroachments, especially in areas that have been in existence for decades. First you are allowed to stay, then the police put up eviction notices asking them to leave. As countless numbers suddenly face eviction for living too close to protected monuments, there is one question that has arisen in many cities like Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad, etc. that needs to be answered : “Are people the victims or monuments”? What about alternative housing provision being made before issuing eviction notices?
IUCN Asian Regional Conference

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a voluntary association of scientists, Government departments, international environmental organizations, environmental administrators, NGOs and individuals, formed as far back as 1948 with a view to conserve biodiversity and eco-systems. INTACH has been a member of IUCN since 1995. Former Advisor Ashis Banerjee served on the IUCN Asia Region Council as India representative during 2000-2001. This year Principal Advisor NHD Manu Bhatnagar attended the Asia Regional Conference in South Korea on behalf of INTACH. The main theme of the Conference was ‘Greening the Economy’. Many sessions, presentations and poster displays put up by experts, NGOs, and Government organizations gave an amazing insight into the diverse work being carried out all over the world. The Conference was held as a prelude to the World Conservation Congress scheduled to be held in September 2012 at Jeju Island, a famed biodiversity reserve of South Korea.

IUCN works through 6 World Commissions, more than 60 regional and national committees and over 7000 volunteers through 6 thematic Commissions - Protected Areas, Ecosystem Management, Species Survival, Environmental Law, Environmental Economic & Social Policy, Education & Communication. In addition specialized cells/committees focus on issues such as Global Policy, Water, TRAFFIC (Wildlife), Marine & Polar Program, Forest Conservation, Gender, World Heritage, etc. INTACH will be playing a slightly more active role in IUCN henceforward in the area of ‘Water’ and in ‘Protected Areas’ (with focus on urban biodiversity) where it will seek membership of the specific Commission or Committee.

IUCN has been steadily gaining in strength and influence and has become a powerful voice in advising Governments on scientific implications of policy decisions and influencing opinions of decision makers in favour of nature conservation.

Sacred Groves of Pune District

A Project of Listing and Documentation of Natural Heritage Sites and Heritage Trees was initiated in December 2010 by the Pune Chapter under the aegis of Convenor Arti Kirloskar and Co-Convenor Sharvey Dhongde. Chapter Coordinator Supriya Goturkar-Mahabasleshwarkar was authorized to constitute a study team cum working group of ‘listers’ Girija Bokil, Muktai Khandekar, Shruti Joshi, Kshitij Gambhir, reviewer Mukul Mahabaleshwar and Advisor Neema Pathak from Kalpavriksh Pune who has been active in the field of community conserved areas (CCAs). A series of meetings with subject matter specialists and selected ‘listers’ was followed by a training workshop specifying the objectives and essential features of the documentation work along with collection of data on community participation and traditional practices The project of listing and documentation of Natural Heritage Sites and Heritage Trees was completed within the targeted time, and the Utilization Certificate submitted along with the Project Report of the documented sites of 2010-11.

The Principal Advisor Natural Heritage Division (NHD) visited Pune to assess the documentation work of NH sites located in the Western Ghats of Taluka Mulshi in Pune District. He convened two meetings, firstly with Convenor Arti Kirloskar, Co Convenor Sharvey Dhongde, Coordinator Supriya Goturkar-Mahabasleshwarkar with members of the study team also present; and the second meeting was held after the field study tour with Coordinator and others on the Study Team comprising Mukul Mahabaleshwar, Kshitij Gambhir, Ms. Girija Bokil, Ms. Muktai Khandekar. They visited the documented
Sacred Groves Dighiai Ban or Sabalecha Ban to assess the views of local people and their observations.

The Western Ghats are a well-known hotspot of biodiversity. This range of hills were once covered with extensive forest all along the length from the Dangs in Gujarat to the southern part of Kerala. The Northern Western Ghats extend across the three states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa and include several unique ecosystems and harbour a large number of threatened and endemic species. They also include areas with rich cultural heritage sites. The tradition to preserve sacred groves is embedded in ancient tribal culture and folklore. An edict based on good governance principles of Shivaji Maharaj specifically includes protection of tree cover of the Ghats. His foresight and vision was promulgated throughout his kingdom.

In order to assess the cultural history and legends associated with one such area, the group met and interviewed the owner Shri Sabale whose family owned the grove – ‘Dighiai cha ban’. The interaction confirmed that the family is interested in preserving the grove. There is a legend associated with this grove - when the earlier owner Deshpande needed wood for house construction, he tried to cut wood from this area and was attacked by rock bees. The labourers were unharmed as primary it was under the supervision of only the owner. Next day a priest dreamed of a Goddess and declared her presence in the grove. After this incident, the area was considered sacred and has been protected by the villagers.

Another Sacred Grove Nandivli Donekarcha Ban, or Nandiwaliche Ban, located about 1.5 km near the village Nandivali, Taluka Mulshi covers 3 villages and is owned by the village community. The deity worshipped here is Waghjai goddess.

Important tree species in these forest regions are semi-evergreen to moist deciduous with many lianas or woody climbers. Wild animals like barking deer, wild boar are found in the grove. Even pythons and leopards have been sighted in the grove by villagers. Absence of a proper road to grove prevents disturbance from outsiders. However 26 important festivals are associated with the Grove but only 4-5 are celebrated today. Medicinal plants are extracted by outsiders every few years. Present belief system and religious association among the villagers with
the grove can be strengthened with improved knowledge on biodiversity and conservation in order to ensure long term forest conservation.

The Western Ghats today are being rapidly degraded due to changes that have occurred in the recent past, apart from the traditional impact of farming, grazing and fire leading to biodiversity losses. This includes deforestation due to mining, roads, dams, townships and industrialization. Changing existing wilderness areas for intensive agriculture, urbanization and industry in Maharashtra, has altered the natural ecological attributes over the last several decades. This has not spared the Western Ghats where economic development programs have led to new forms of land use. Most regrettably sustainable development in areas that are ecologically fragile finds little place in current planning processes.

**A strategy to preserve biological diversity, hydrological balance and ecological services is urgently needed for the Western Ghats.**

**Three Lakes of Delhi**

The Delhi Development Authority has asked INTACH to treat the waters entering three main lakes of the capital – Sanjay Lake, Bhalaswa Lake and the Hauz Khas Lake. It may be recalled that DDA and INTACH earlier had a MOU to clean up Hauz Khas which expired in 2007 after which the lake deteriorated again. Under the new MOU the above mentioned three water bodies will be revived during a period of 5 years. Fish like Indian carps will be introduced as part of the cleaning system, apart from aerators to pump air and deployment of other NHD technical know how.

**Threat of Extinction**

The Western Ghats, an amazing biodiversity hotspot of India, encapsulates a freshwater ecosystem that has always been self sustaining. It is estimated that it caters to 400 million people by way of food, drinking water, irrigation, transport, hydroelectricity, etc. It is a life-giver to hundreds of fish species, molluscs and aquatic plants. The Freshwater Biodiversity Unit of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), conducted a study and reports that almost all the freshwater species in the Western Ghats are under threat of extinction. The tussle between economic progress and ecological sustenance is one of the biggest national challenges, jeopardizing many livelihoods, that we face today. **If we continue to over-harvest our resources, we lose valuable services that nature provides.** There is no scope for short-sighted policies.

**Battling for the Bats**

Did you know this is the International Year of the Bat? Fewer bats means less food, as they eat harmful insects and rats, thereby reducing vectors that spread diseases. A few years ago thousands could be seen - hanging from trees and wires everywhere, today there are just a few hundreds left. Only the villagers seem to know the importance of bats, and some have taken to keeping them in boxes. Bat guano (dropping) is good fertilizer, besides pollination and spreading seeds it piles up as home for many small animals and used to make laundry soap and other products. All bats are not blind. It is only people who are unaware of their ecologically importance. Some people even think they are a bad omen. How blind is that!
Teacher Training Workshops

At Gurgaon

The Heritage Education and Communications Service (HECS) in collaboration with the Gurgaon Chapter organized a Teacher Training Workshop on 17th-18th November at Summer Fields School, Gurgaon, with the participation of 28 teachers from 14 schools. During the site visit to the American Institute of Indian Studies, teachers were shown a presentation on the work done by the institute in areas of Haryana and Punjab, specially the heritage along the Grand Trunk road. This was followed by a presentation on Gurgaon’s remarkable heritage and the need for its preservation by Gurgaon Chapter Convener Atul Dev.

At Jamnagar

The two day Teacher Training on Heritage Awareness was held at Jamnagar on 26th – 27th November, with the participation of 48 teachers from 20 schools. The workshop began with a film screening of Jamnagar heritage and culture made by the students of Shree Satya Sai Vidyalaya. Ms. Rupal Mankad from BEd College spoke about various aspects of intangible heritage and how a better understanding of it can be reached. The following day a bus tour conducted by the Jamnagar Co-Convener Air.Cmde S.Tyagi was organized to visit the city’s heritage sites including the Solarium, Marine Museum, and Haziro.

At Dharwad

In collaboration with the Dharwad Chapter the Teacher Training on 15th-16th December had 48 teachers from 28 schools. During the site visit to the Shiwalla Heritage Trust, the teachers were given a demonstration and explanation of the various artefacts and exhibits.
schools participating in the workshop, commencing with a welcome note by Convener NP Bhatt and an excellent summary of the Chapter activities. Day two began with a trip to the Karnataka University Department of History and Archaeology Museum, followed by a presentation on the Intangible Heritage of India. It ended with a discussion with the teachers on future activities to be taken up by them. As part of their group work, teachers gave excellent presentations on different aspects of the natural, built, material and living heritage of Dharwad.

**Rabindranath Tagore at 150**

In collaboration with INTACH UK Trust, HECS organized the ‘Power of the Pen’ competition from October 2011. This ongoing national-level competition is being held to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. It involves an All-India essay and a painting competition on Rabindranath Tagore for Classes V111-X1 school students. Entries will continue to be received from Chapters till January 2012. Some Chapters will conduct programmes together with the Tagore competition in both essays and paintings. The 10 best students from the all India competition would be taken to Santiniketan.

**EU Sanskriti Festival 2011**

The EU Cultural Week — this year titled EU Sanskriti Festival for Delhi Schools was held in November. It is organized biannually by the Member States of the European Union and the EU Delegation in India, and is one of the most important joint cultural initiatives organized by the European Union in India. This year it was co-organized by the Polish Embassy with the support of INTACH, NSD and IIC as part of a cultural gala held on 11th November at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the festival ‘children and youth’ was packed with dynamic performances and activities for youngsters. There were several distinct strands to the Festival – performing arts, literature, story-telling and film. It also included a host of fun and educational activities like art, cultural quiz, face painting, and music competitions for students; and also an interesting juggler’s workshop for young people. With the participation of 17 prestigious schools of Delhi the programme was a grand success.

**HECS Participation at INTO**

Director Heritage Education and Communication Service, Purnima Datt attended the INTO Conference at Victoria, Canada. (See News from Central Office).

She gave a presentation on the Heritage Education programmes highlighting the success stories of INTACH’s training workshop, setting up of Heritage Clubs and publications which was greatly appreciated by the National Trusts delegates.

The speakers from Penang Trust of Malaysia, National Trust of Australia and Cross Cultural Foundation of
Uganda elaborated on the use of museum as a tool for learning as well as the unique use of inner city spaces, jails, arts neglected in the curriculum. The closing session of INTO emphasized that conservation was important and must be upfront for the next generation. It was also stated that there is a need to be creative in engaging supporters and funders, to work with the people and not for the people, and to build permeable organizations.

For and By the Students

Students of INTACH Heritage Clubs participated in a online forum expressing their views on best practices, and gave their suggestions to save our heritage, a sample of which are enlisted below:

Students should volunteer to take care of the physical cleanliness of the monuments and buildings under able supervision, while the school management should rectify the technical parts of the monument in their own area.

Pulkit
5th, D.A.V Public School, Amritsar

We should promote sustainable heritage tourism

Megha Agarwal,
11th, K.L Mehta, D.N.P School, Faridabad.

Ancient manuscripts are in urgent need of care and saving and are a deposit of social and cultural inheritance. They should be converted to digital and electronic forms, to save them from being eaten by termites and can be used for teaching and research purposes.

Japsimar Kaur Miglani,
5th, D.A.V Public School, Amritsar

Conserve medicinal plants and use medicinal plants in research of Ayurveda.

Ankur Chaturvedi
10th, Suditi Global Academy, Etawah

Buildings should be made in such manner that they can contribute to solar energy and water and electricity conservation, and reduce wastage of these elements.

Devanshu Agarwal,
8th, Delhi Public School Sec 45, Gurgaon

By forming Heritage Clubs and writing articles to newspapers awaken common people to the need for preservation of our cultural heritage.

Shyna Vohra
IX, D.A.V International School, Amritsar

Chairman LK Gupta in an article in Destination India stated: “Heritage is raw material for tourism. If this raw material - whether it is art, built or environment - is protected and preserved, tourism will naturally flow. But then the protection of our heritage is not only for attracting tourists, it is also for taking pride and showcasing our own cultural, spiritual, architectural and many other achievements”. He estimates that India is sitting on approximately 5 million monuments and sites with significant historical value that urgently need identification and protection. Only about 8000 monuments currently enjoy protection, with most selected by the British and some more added later since Independence. The lack of protection should be great cause for national worry. Major General Gupta added that “Heritage is like the roots a tree. If the roots dry up, the tree dies”. India desperately needs a law to be enacted by each and every State Government under the Town and Country Planning Acts which can effectively protect those monuments and sites that have not been listed to date.

Promotion of Jharkhand Tourism

The Department of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand and INTACH jointly hosted a seminar Destination Jharkhand: Rhythms of the Earth on 21st November at the Pragati Maidan. It was inaugurated by Dr. Mary Nilima Kerketta, Secretary Tourism, Jharkhand, with Chairman LK Gupta also addressing the gathering. INTACH Consultant Nerupama Modwell welcomed the eminent participants which included economist Dr. Kamta Prasad, Chairman IRMED; adventure sports expert Ajeet Bajaj, MD Snow Leopard Adventures; Director IRCTC Railways Dr. Nalin
Ms. CT Misra in her address to the participants of the Seminar said Jharkhand is like “a new bride that needs to be unveiled”. She drew attention to the richly endowed natural resources and intangible heritage of the State, and its potential for developing as a sports training centre as it has produced Olympian champions. The specially invited participants made presentations on various facets of tourism development of Jharkhand. Infrastructure development, capacity building, training in tourism and hospitality, community participation, publicity material, innovative tourism plan, and promotion of tourism circuits were identified as some of the major inputs required for putting Jharkhand on the road to successful development of tourism.

Tribal art expert Justin Imam made a detailed power point presentation on North Jharkhand.

Jharkhand had earlier launched two pilot projects, the Urban Haat in Hazaribagh town (2003-4) under the Ministry of Textiles and the Bhelwara Rural Tourism Resort in east Hazaribagh (2008-9) under the Ministry of Tourism. It is now proposed to establish a Cultural Heritage Resource Centre which would strengthen the existing INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter cum Sanskriti Centre, Museum & Gallery in Pipugarha, Hazaribagh already set up by Convenor Bulu Imam. Member Secretary CT Mishra endorsed the concept and said the Centre could act as a one-stop destination for information, collection, documentation, research, publication and web portrayal. Sanskriti Centre already has world wide linkages established through yearly tours and art exhibitions held overseas, and would only require an annual grant for the recurring administrative and management expenses. The proposed Centre could serve as a promotional and marketing outreach through actual ground research, documentation, etc. and fully tap the tourism potential in regional arts and handicrafts, as well as promote field visits and tour packages.

Training Programme for Guides

The Ministry of Tourism sponsored the Heritage Interpreters Training Programme for Guides held at Leh at the J&K Academy for Art, Culture and Languages from 22nd-27th September.

Capacity building lessons on various aspects of guiding were imparted by a number of expert teachers - Mr. Robinson, Nawang Tsering, Tashi Dawa Deldan Angmo, Sundar Paul and Abdul Ghani Shaikh. Field trips to Stakmo, Leh Old Town and monastaries, practical sessions and video presentations added to the learning experience. The concluding sessions comprised preparation of storyline for a route in and around Leh supported by a photographic exhibition.

Heritage Interpreters Training Programme

Another INTACH training programme Heritage Interpreters Training Programme on Three World Heritage Sites of Delhi, sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, was held on 12th-16th December at the Central Office. It was inaugurated by Addl. Director General Tourism Devesh Chaturvedi and released the Training Manual for Interpreters.
Member Secretary CT Misra welcomed the Trainees. Dr. Ranjeeta Dutta, Asst. Prof. at Jamia Millia Islamia, who coordinated the workshop and also addressed the gathering.

The programme commenced with a Quiz on *History and Heritage of Delhi* conducted by Director HECS Purnima Dutt. The Lectures covered a wide range of Delhi’s past and present architecture, monuments and tombs, art, and *Sufi* traditions. INTACH Convenor AGK Menon gave a detailed lecture on *Delhi Heritage City*, a public awareness campaign launched by Delhi Administration to which the Delhi Chapter is making a major contribution. Dr. Najaf Haider spoke on *Delhi- During the Delhi Sultanate*. Prof. Raveendra Srivastava of IGNOU gave two lectures on *Humayun’s Tomb* and *Shahjahanabad*. A performance of *Dastan-goi* was presented at the conclusion of the first day programme.

Site visits were conducted to the Qutab and Mehrauli complex, to the Red Fort and Saleem Garh by Dr. Swapna Liddle. Of great interest were two short films: *Portraits of Belonging - Sagira Begum* and *Bhai Mian* by Sameera Jain followed by discussions.

**NEWS FROM ICHD**

*Rest in Peace*

Smt Kamalini Sengupta will be always remembered at INTACH as the first Head of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) set up in 2008. She initiated the first forays into a hitherto unexplored facet of heritage. A former member of the Indian Administrative Service, she spent many years abroad with her husband in the Indian Foreign Service. In Islamabad she started a school for the Indian Embassy children, and expanded the Indian School in Sanaa, Yemen. In London she studied at its prestigious School of Journalism and took up freelance journalism with a gusto characteristic of all that she undertook. Soon she was contributing articles on social issues, culture, history, education and languages to a number of leading Indian dailies, the Guardian in UK, South China Morning Post and Orientations in Hong Kong. She published Readers for primary schools, a cookery book on Bengali cuisine, wrote two novels, set up a NGO, and made two widely viewed films on the origin of Indian peoples and languages that became part of the magnum film series *The Banyan Tree*.

INTACH was fortunate in inducting the services of this lady of many parts. She launched some fascinating projects at INTACH like the documentation of traditional health practices of the Khasis, Meghalaya; the Magic Mantras and Witchcraft in Assam, etc. She was specially lauded for organizing the *International Seminar on Endangered Languages* within a short span of setting up the ICH Division, one of the landmark events of INTACH Silver Jubilee Year 2010.

It was a cruel fate that cut short her association with INTACH. May she rest in peace. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Santosh Kumar and family members.
Cultural Programmes

Teyyam Thiruvathirakkali Oppana Margam Kali: was held on 10th October at INTACH Delhi by folk dancers from Kerala, in collaboration with Bharat Bhavan-Tiruvananthapuram, Folkland-Kasargod, and Kasargod Chapter.

Disappearing Steps

Firkal, a little known living martial art-based dance form, is still very much performed by the Bhumij tribes of Chotanagar area in Jharkhand. Older than the better known Kalaripayattu, it traces its origin to China and Japan enacting raw macho courage of hunting and self defence. Today only 25 families in an obscure village Janumdih are familiar with this art form, and even among them there is little urge to perform anymore except when Adivasi Utsav are held by the State Government once in a while. Amitabh Ghosh of The Celluloid Chapter Art Foundation (TCCAF), a social organization in Jamshedpur is engaged in revival and promotion of this art form with no support from Government agency. Recently the Association for Indian Development in Minnesota, USA extended a handsome grant! Volunteers have created an impressive library comprising old Firkal song recordings, video tapes, analysis of body movements, studies of various rhythms and beats.

Heritage Regulation Cell

A Shining Example

The case of INTACH [Petitioner] v. the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), the Corporation of Chennai and the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) [Respondents 1-3 respectively], decided last year in the Madras High Court pertained to the question of preservation of the Bharath Insurance Building (hereafter referred to as ‘the building’), located on Mount Road in Chennai. Inaugurated in 1897, the building has a history spanning over a century. Originally called the Kardyl Building, headquarters of W. E. Smith & Co. (then South India’s leading pharmacists), was designed by J. H. Stephens combining Mughal, Ottoman, Hindu and European Classical styles to create an imposing structure. Subsequently, the building changed hands a number of times: it was bought by Spencer’s in 1925, by Bharat Insurance in 1934, by the Dalmias in 1936 and finally taken over by the nationalised LIC in 1956. It was also listed as a Grade-A Heritage Building by INTACH in accordance with the draft heritage regulations formulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in June, 1995.

In 1998, the LIC began evicting the tenants of the building on the grounds that it was unsafe for occupation. As early as August 1999, the Superintending Engineer, Planning and Design Circle, P.W.D. had addressed a letter to the LIC making recommendations as to immediate repairs to be carried out on the building to prevent its further deterioration. The LIC, however, did not act upon these directives. Moreover, the Tamil Nadu Govt. had, in 1999, issued a Government Order requiring Respondents 1 and 2 to persuade the owners of heritage buildings against demolition thereof and not to issue demolition permits. In spite of this, the LIC insisted that it was not interested in retaining the building due to insufficient rental returns. Demolition permission was obtained in 2004 and consequently, INTACH contended that the LIC had restored all other heritage buildings in its possession except for this one and hence filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court praying for a mandamus which would prevent the Respondents from demolishing the building.

The High Court initially directed a Committee of Experts to inspect the building and file a report on the feasibility of its renovation and restoration. Meanwhile, the LIC approached the Supreme Court with a Special Leave petition, which was dismissed in November 2007. The Madras High Court was
directed to dispose the matter as expeditiously as possible. Thus the matter returned to the High Court. The LIC had engaged its own team of experts comprising two engineers and an architect, who submitted their respective reports by January 2008, all stating that the building had ceased to be economically viable and should make way for a new building to be designed in a way that would preserve the aesthetics of its predecessor. In view of these reports, the Court allowed INTACH ‘to engage the expertise of anyone who is a heritage engineer or architect to explore the possibility of the restoration of the building wholly or in part’. In their report filed in October 2009, INTACH’s experts asserted that the building could be restored and used for several current needs, also suggesting a number of monetary sources such as the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), the Ministry of Culture etc. that could help to fund its restoration.

The principal contentions from INTACH’s side were that the building is an ‘ancient monument’ as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and hence is a heritage building. Further, the LIC, in a meeting with the CMDA, had acknowledged the heritage character of the building and hence could not insist on its demolition. Rule 22 of the Development Control Rules for the Chennai Metropolitan Area (in force since 2004) was also referred to, which states that if a building or premises is not covered under the Archaeological Monuments Act, and in the opinion of the Authority (i.e.: the CMDA) is of historical or architectural interest and is in danger of demolition or alteration likely to affect its character by a development, the Authority may impose such conditions as are necessary for the preservation of the said building.

Pursuant to these submissions, the Court noted the definition of an ‘ancient monument’ as per the Tamil Nadu Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (TNAHMASR) Act, 1966 as relevant to the case: ‘any structure which has been in existence for not less than 100 years……..which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest’. It observed that the historical value of the building was validated by its Indo-Saracenic architecture itself, and also made a number of observations and suggestions furthering the cause of heritage conservation.

In light of all its deliberations, the Court finally allowed the writ petition filed by INTACH, restraining the LIC from demolishing the building. The icing on the cake for INTACH was that in addition to the specific orders relating to the building, the Court also ordered the constitution of a Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC), further ordering the HCC to recommend to the Govt. to take steps to notify buildings listed by it as heritage buildings and within a period of 3 months, cause notices to be issued to the concerned (especially private owners) in respect of all buildings enumerated in the report of the Justice E. Padmanabhan Committee (a committee constituted in an earlier case by the same Court which enumerated 467 buildings of historical/aesthetic/religious importance in and around Chennai), so that there would be no threat of demolition/destruction or alteration to such buildings without the permission of the HCC.

This landmark judgment of the Madras High Court thus marks a major victory for INTACH and cements the cause for heritage conservation in India. The LIC’s appeal against this judgment is pending in the Supreme Court, but hopefully the opinion and decision of the High Court will be upheld by the Apex Court, according further recognition to the need for conservation of our heritage.

Abhinav Kumar (Intern, Legal Cell)

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

Gandhi Jayanti

The nation celebrated *Gandhi Jayanti* on 2nd October, but there is still much to know about our Bapu. He had a terrible handwriting, so many have puzzled over Ts and Ls and Bs and Ns in his handwritten notes. He actually made a sincere effort to improve his writing. The National Archives in fact brought out a 1942 calendar using his geometric drawings as artworks. He sketched those illustrations to teach various subjects to fellow inmates of the Yerawada Jail at Pune where he was incarcerated. It is one among 40,000 items and 400 microfilms compiled as *The Bapu Collection* to assist researchers who continue to study Mahatma Gandhi.

Merry X’Mas

Christmas celebrations on 25th December have been embraced by secular India all over the country, with markets and malls spilling over with goods and goodies. It is time to recall that the oldest Church in India is the 1844 Santa Cruz Basilica in Kochi. Christ Church in Shimla is reputed to be the second oldest in North India though consecrated after 1857. Among the oldest counted are the St. Andrew’s Church in Goa, and the St. Philomena’s Church in Mysore. All over the country, old and new churches had bells pealing and carol singing to celebrate the birth of Christ - to ring in the New Year with a prayer and hope.

Ramayan Reincarnated

There are various versions of the *Ramayana* so it can be said that this epic has many incarnations. So does it make any difference even if one was removed from a history syllabus recently?!

French publisher Diane de Selliers thinks even Homer’s
Odyssey and Iliad, and Virgilio (Eneide) were inspired by the Ramayana. She has brought out a beautiful version of Valmiki’s Ramayana in French, illustrated with 660 exquisite reproductions of 16th-19th century miniature paintings sourced from around the world. She believes the Ramayana and its philosophy goes beyond Hinduism. She even prefers Hanuman’s qualities of helpfulness and modesty over Ram’s and Sita’s virtues. Regarding the fire ordeal to which Sita was subjected, she finds a parallel to Pontius Pilate who let the people decide his fate even though he was convinced of Christ’s innocence.

**Copiale Cipher**

The code of the 300 year old Copiale Cipher, a legendary secretive manuscript, was cracked by US and Swedish researchers with the help of a new computer program. Bound in gold and green brocade, the book describes the rituals and political leanings of an 18th century German secret society encoded in a series of 75,000 characters comprising abstract symbols interspersed with Greek and Roman letters. Perhaps it opens the door for deciphering other manuscripts in India through the use of this new computer program.

**5000 Years of Indian Art**

The Roli book 5000 Years of Indian Art is by far the most brilliantly illustrated recount of Indian art heritage – ranging from the caves of Bhimbetka of Madhya Pradesh to Subodh Gupta’s avant garde installation A Very Hungry God commissioned by French billionaire Franncois-Henri Pinault comprising a 1000 kg skull made of pots and pans for the 2007 Venice Biennnale. Sourish Bhattacharyya writes that the sculptors of Gandhara or the miniaturists of Bundi and Kishangarh unfortunately did not have a Pinault to proclaim their talent, and survive only because of treasure hunters from the West - before being discovered by India. This book is one of the rarest visual tributes to the multifarious Indian art heritage, taking one on a colourful journey across millennia.

**World Fashion Week**

It’s important to realize that India is acknowledged for its fashion identity......Indian fashion is unique in today’s world of mechanization, as it depends largely on the hand skills of its creative textile master craftsmen” says Ritu Kumar, who was chosen by an international jury to represent India at the first ever World Fashion Week preview held in November in New York. Many designers are doing a great deal to give an international appeal to their collections, and using crafts sectors in the country. Some are over the top as is the case in all world collections! They should take note of what Ritu has to say: A great deal is achieved if one stays with India’s strength, which is drapes and fabrics suited to our unstitched garments. The use of India’s crafts is a USP, which sets us apart.

**1921 Malabar Fatwa**

A Malabar musaliyar (cleric) issued a fatwa against the backdrop of the popular Khilafat movement, exhorting Muslims of the region to rebel against British Raj. It was written in Malayalam using Arabic script as was the prevailing practice. It came to light at a recent workshop on Arabic and Persian manuscripts organized by the National Manuscript Mission in association with the Calicut University.