INTACH will be completing 30 years of its glorious existence this year, and during this period it has built a firm and stable foundation. This was primarily achieved on account of immense work undertaken by the INTACH network of Chapters, which are the eyes and ears and arms of the organisation. Each of the Chapters has initiated a number of works and carried out heritage activities, with or without funds from Central Office.

Today, we have 175 Chapters spread across the country with a membership of 7436 of different categories. The membership issue is presently under revision in order to include many more Members in the voting category, except students and have a common applicants form. Opening a new Chapter in each district of the country has not happened so far, as a minimum of 20-25 Members are required for inaugurating any new Chapter. Also, the requisite quality Members with concern for conservation of heritage and culture are not coming forward to join INTACH. We need a model of systematic working and attracting people of different disciplines, and especially those who are making valuable contributions at the regional and national levels. To achieve this, a concentrated effort is needed to enhance Chapter activities.

The role of the Chapter Convener and Co-Convener and of all Members is of utmost importance in conducting Chapter activities and its day-to-day functioning. Towards this, Guidelines for Chapters 2013, published after thorough scrutiny for over two years in consultation with Chapters, will be of immense guidance and value. These Guidelines read in conjunction with the INTACH Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations are complete in themselves for a smooth and proper functioning by any INTACH Chapter. Listing Proforma for Architectural, Natural and Intangible Heritage, both easy to understand and to fill for the person doing the listing, as well as Financial Operating Procedures on what the Chapters can or cannot do has been incorporated in the revised Guidelines. Chapters must undertake only those works/projects that are in the Negative List for service tax, or in the Mega Exemption list.

A two day national Seminar on the Tangible and Intangible Gond Legacy was organised by the Madhya Pradesh Chapter on 7th-8th April at Jabalpur, the heart of ‘Gondwana’ land inhabited predominantly by one of the largest tribes of South Asia. Gonds are to be found also in other pockets and forest areas of the State, as well as in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

State Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari extended a warm welcome to all the special invitees and participants of the Seminar. The idea of the Seminar on the Gond community, with their proud history of 800 years, crystalised after an extensive tour of the region undertaken by an INTACH team. INTACH Chairman LK Gupta encouraged the steps to be taken to unravel their identity and draw attention to this neglected heritage. A meeting with Jalalpur Commissioner Deepak Khandekar ensured support of the State Government. It was felt these forest residents had been studied only from the anthropological point of view, mistakenly taken for “jungle” people with little knowledge of their well managed society and history. They must be brought into the mainstream of Indian society. The Chapter’s listing and documentation already included over 150 tangible and intangible heritage assets related to Gond territories, but many more required to be listed. There was also a palpable need to highlight tribal development schemes floated by the authorities. The Governor of Chhattisgarh Shekar Dutt complimented INTACH on this

National Calamity Uttarakhand

It seemed as if the gates of heaven wide-opened in June, and the ensuing spate of rivers wreaked havoc on Uttarakhand. In awe and grief the entire nation awakened to the tragic consequences of indifference to environmental security. Only a handful of people attributed the reasons to an unpredictable Nature beyond proximate human control. However human interventions, past or present, exacerbated its ferocity without a shadow of doubt. Certainly by most accounts, this national calamity was not due to the ‘wrath of Gods’ but man’s “greed-triggered tragedy” with rampant development taking precedence over environmental issues, and warnings treated as routines reports.

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Gond Art

Gond folk and divine art, like a host of other tribal arts of the Bhils, Santhals, Minas, Mundas, Khonds and Oraons, stem out of their environment and are beautifully aesthetic. They are steeped in labyrinthine intricacies with minute detailing, and display the dexterity of the artist’s hand. The paintings seem to pulsate with a life of their own, inspired by flora and fauna, fables and forest lore. The many splendoured shades and colours metamorphise into a magical world where Mother Nature reveals her true self, a world where carnivorous and herbivorous creatures have learnt to live together in perfect harmony amidst happy villagers. The Gond clans worship Prakriti (nature), Dharti Maa (mother earth) and celebrate Hariyali (greenery). Some of the better known artists are Durga Bai and her husband Subhash Vyam, Venkat Raman, Shyam Singh and Bhuri Bai whose works are an art connoisseur’s delight.

Gubernator Shekhar Dutt welcomed Recommendations of the Gond Seminar

• Gond Listing & Documentation should commence with Jabalpur, and later extend to other States like Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh Gond regions.
• Historical writing of princely states like Makrau in MP; Kawrdha, Sakti, Raigarh and Saarangarh in Chhattisgarh, should be obtained.
• A committee to be formed to obtain Gond records kept during Mughal, Maratha and British rule; and preserved at Universities of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
• Documentation of Gond architectural remains to be undertaken.
• Animation movies by Adivasi Trust on Gond folk tales should be shown in schools for creating greater awareness of Gond heritage.
• Jabalpur Museum tribal section, and the Museum run by Gond Trust in Mandla, to be redeveloped to international standards.
• Tribal and Nature Tourism to be developed and promoted in Gond areas to bring employment opportunities to the community.
• A Journal to be published of nearly 100 papers presented by scholars at the Seminar on different aspects of Gond Heritage.
and Castes are growing in strength, but they are handicapped because of language and education barriers. Government has made a beginning by opening Ashrams in remote areas with free education and midday meals for their children, but hygiene, health and medical facilities for them lag far behind.

Government Shekhar Dutt acknowledged that Government is working for betterment of tribes, but public awareness remains the biggest basic requirement that is still to come. He felt Government should concentrate on development of Tribal Research Institutes, Tribal Ayog Committees, etc. Quoting Dr. Ambedkar he said “It is well experienced that preservation of Rights does not come by knowing law but by public awareness”. He therefore lauded INTACH initiative in organizing a Seminar on Gond Legacy – as a step in the right direction to protect, preserve and develop one of India's major tribal communities.

Guest of Honour, MP State Assembly Speaker Ishwardas Rohani said “Gonds have a glorious history, which needs to be brought before the world. The Gond dynasty had a great roiling period with their instances of bravery, valor and courage which can prove as light to this world and to Indian societies.” They are the people who played a leading role in making present day Madhya Pradesh with their art and architecture. Many of these tribal fellow citizens continue to live in mountains and valleys in the lap of nature, keeping alive some of their old traditions and lifestyles.

State Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari and Jabalpur Convenor Dr. RK Sharma, Commissioner Deepak Khandekar, INTACH Governing Council Members, were among the speakers who addressed the gathering. The Seminar was attended by nearly 40 scholars and historians from Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, as well as many researchers. A book enlisting the heritage sites of Jabalpur and Chandrapur was released by the distinguished panel of invitees after a scintillating presentation of folk dance. An exhibition highlighting the activities of INTACH undertaken jointly with public administration and private participation at various places under the Madhya Pradesh Chapter were displayed at the venue.

I am happy to say, progressively over 120 Chapters have been submitting the audited annual accounts and activities reports. And 150 Chapters have functional e-mail. Updated Convenors’ Directory incorporating all amendments has recently been disseminated; changes in contact details may kindly be intimated on occurrence. All Chapters are requested to submit their audited accounts, in order to avail of the yearly administrative support. The Chapters should also complete the Listings works for which allocations have been made so far, and then take up new listing work. Considerable Architectural, Natural or Intangible Heritage, Listing work across the country remains to be done, hence completion of earlier works is pertinent for taking up new listing assignments. Please keep in mind Listing is just the beginning of INTACH preliminary work, after Listing is completed it requires Notification as a heritage asset by the State/Local authorities without which the Listing serves no purpose and is a lost effort. This vital aspect of Listing has mostly remained unattended and requires to be looked into at both the State and Chapters level.

With the likelihood of more grants at INTACH disposal in the ensuing years, Chapters will have to strengthen themselves and be geared to do activities and projects more than what has been done so far. This grant is unlikely to be given for routine and recurring expenditure. The focus of utilization should continue to remain on Advocacy for conservation and protection and awareness of local culture and heritage, both tangible and intangible. And on Listing of the areas which have not been taken up so far. Most importantly, Chapters should not always be looking to the Central Office for all funding, but fully explore local resources like tapping the MP/MLA funds, negotiating bureaucratic hurdles to get work done, involving influential Members, and exploring new ways and means of getting Sponsors for pilot conservation projects. It is most important to remain in touch with State/Local Authorities on a regular basis.

When additional grant becomes available, the Central Office will be in a position to schedule a number of regional orientation conferences/seminars, to fund Chapters’ passion projects, to increase administrative support to the Chapters for office expenditure and heritage activities, for informative and updating users friendly web sites, and to institute INTACH awards of excellence in different fields and activities.

My best wishes to all our Members,

Lt. Col. MPS Bhatia

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News from Central Office

18th May : World Museum Day

World Museum Day was marked internationally on 18th May.

Unusual Museums

There are some unique museums across the country that are lesser known, but they both educate and entertain the visitors. The INS Kurusura Submarine Museum is parked on the shores of Ramakrishna Beach at Visakhapatnam. A guided tour inside the submarines tells you about the life of a submariner. You see narrow bunker beds, toilets, kitchen, torpedoes, communication system, crowded by wires and knobs.

The Sulabh Toilets Museum at Delhi located in Dwarka tells the story about toilets beginning with Indus Valley civilisation, the evolution of commodes through many eras, a quirky one built by a king into his throne, and a demo of futuristic toilets which do a health check based on excreta and biodegradable ones.

The Sudha Car Museum at Hyderabad is a wacky one with a most unusual collection of cars. There are custom built models in weird shapes which do not look like cars but surely work as there is a video showing them actually running on roads, and record books as well. Can you imagine a football, cricket bat, camera, laptop and even a condom plying the roads!

The RBI Monetary Museum in the Fort area of Mumbai takes you on a numismatic journey starting with cowries and going on to coins and currency notes. You learn about minting, mintmarks, and identifying fake currency which is specially useful in our times. It is one of the better designed and documented museums in India.

The Pukhauti Muktangan at Raipur is a 200 acre newly developed cultural park that brings the past and present of Chhattisgarh together. It has colourful walls paintings, iron gates that tell stories, models of popular destination of the State, tribal jewelry – combining native ethos with modern design sensibilities.

The Uruswati Museum at Shikhopur on the outskirts of Gurgaon is dedicated to folklore. Terracota tablets and paintings portray well known stories like Sohni Mahiwal, Habba Khatus and the lesser known Monal and Bhupinder of Jaisalmel, etc. There are depictions of folk temples dedicated to local deities. There is sunlight streaming inside to guide one through dark interiors, so the frequent power cuts are not a deterrent for visitors.

Pupul Jayakar Lecture

The Fifth Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture was delivered by French author Michel Danino, whose literary works include a multidisciplinary study of a Vedic river ‘The Lost River: On the Trail of the Sarasvati’ and a forthcoming ‘The Dawn of Indian Civilization and the Elusive Aryans’. Held annually on 18th April, World Heritage Day, these Lecture Series commemorate the memory of INTACH’s Founder Pupul Jayakar. Topics chosen address different facets of heritage to explore new ideas and developments in the field of conservation.

Michel Danino, a long standing Indologist, is currently Guest Professor at IIT Gandhinagar and Visiting Professor at IIM Ranchi. He is involved in the protection of forests in the Nilgiris which led to the creation of the first joint management group involving local citizens in Tamil Nadu. He participated in the translation/publication of the works of Sri Aurobindo and of the Mother.

The 2013 Pupul Jaykar Lecture focused on the importance of cross-disciplinary study in the approach to Indian heritage. Drawing on new research in anthropology, genetics, agriculture, archaeo-botany, archaeology, archaeo-metallurgy, climatology, geology, cultural studies, etc. he wove together a critical narrative questioning many of the reductive assumptions associated with Indian civilization. He countered the ‘Aryan Invasion’ theory, which supposes that the upper castes of India are descendants of Aryan invaders who cleared forests and introduced sophisticated iron implements around the second millennium BC, by putting forward contradicting genetic, agricultural, geological and cultural studies.

The examples he chose tried to bridge the binary gap between the sciences and the humanities. It was an attempt to initiate a rethinking of the categories of race, linearity and identity through use of cross-disciplinary evidence and broader perspectives. Danino hoped the gathering “will not mind the mix of anthropology and genetics and archaeology and other disciplines”. He said “in fact this is my whole attempt, to show you that today a study of Indian heritage has to be not only multidisciplinary, but also cross disciplinary, that you need collaboration between disciplines”. He shared a fund of information:

A biologist from the Bradshaw Foundation envisages multiple migration exits out of Africa, one of...
which went northward to the Levant (today Israel, Syria, etc.) but dying out. Another turned eastward a little later (50-60,000 years ago) and moved step by step to populate the rest of the world. There are variant confirmation from other sources like a British team which worked for many years in India. They are convinced that the India part of the story will need to be rewritten, and they see modern humans coming into India about 78,000 years ago. A noted Estonian geneticist T. Kivisild maps what he calls “genetic distances” between various populations; according to him our DNA undergoes certain mutations caused by cosmic rays and genetic accidents, etc. through the passage of time. If two people, however remote geographically share one mutation, it means at some point of time they had a common ancestor according to genetics. It is a complex story that does not match the old idea that most northern populations are immigrants from Central Asia. In fact, in recent studies biologists have totally discarded the concept of races, and talk of haplogroups i.e. groups of people who share common mutations of their DNA. Damino made a profound observation “There is no way to decide who is an adivasi in India. A brahmin, for all that matters, however politically incorrect this might be, might be as much an adivasi as a tribal”.

Similarly Damino drew attention of the audience to a number of intriguing findings of “continuous evolution” in the field of agriculture, metallurgy, climatology, geology, archaeo-botany, archaeology. It is incorrect to imagine Aryans coming and clearing virgin forests to settle down, as rice was being cultivated in the Ganga plains even in Neolithic times. Advanced lithic industry, used solely to produce stone tools, found in Attirampakkam near Chennai were scientifically dated in France as belonging to early Pleistocene i.e. 1.5 million years ago.

Damino cited many other scientific data related to the Harappan civilization, Birrana site in Haryana, the Gangetic plains etc. (Interested INTACH Members may request ICH Division for a copy of his Lecture).
Award for Best Practices

INTACH announced an award for Best Practices in Heritage Conservation, on 18th April on the occasion of the Pupul Jayakar Lecture. It was constituted with the support of former Delhi Convenor Shri OP Jain, by creating a corpus for it. It will be awarded in recognition of achievements of individuals in successful conservation and restoration of buildings, with special attention given to their documentation. It is open to heritage building owners, consultant agencies, professionals and organisations working in heritage conservation. There will be 3 categories of Awards: Excellence in Conservation Work (valued Rs. 1,00,000); Excellence in Documentation (valued Rs. 35,000) and a Special Mention Jury Award (certificate). The Jury will comprise the Architectural Heritage Advisory Committee as well as noted conservation specialists.

Public, Private Sectors and other Partnerships between People and Public are invited to apply. Entries will be open until 15th October each year. The award will be conferred annually on 27th January, INTACH’s Foundation Day.

Central Government Grant

A meeting was held on 11th June at Central Office with a high powered delegation from the Ministry of Culture headed by AS&FA PK Jha to discuss issues related to the Central Government Grant announced in the Budget 2013 by the Finance Minister. Member Secretary CT Misra took the opportunity to establish INTACH credentials and briefed the six-member delegation with an overview of its vast network and diverse activities. She also informed that INTACH is undertaking conservation projects under grants provided by the XIII Finance Commission in some States. INTACH Divisional Heads gave brief audio-visual presentations of an impressive range of on-going activities and future plans.

It was clarified that INTACH would like to utilize the Central Government Grant on a sustainable basis by adding it to its Corpus Fund. An Investment Committee would be constituted to be chaired by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, a Member of INTACH Governing Council. It will also have two representatives from the Ministry of Culture. An annual programme would be drawn up and the interest amount earned on the Corpus would be utilized only on Special Projects as per the agreed programmes. It may also include a few important projects under ASI or State Archaeology Departments which are short of funds. It was agreed that a vast area of heritage conservation is outside the Government domain, and INTACH can predominantly fill that lacunae. Some part of the Fund could be utilized for works of capital nature to improve existing facilities and professional capacity of INTACH.

Earlier in April, Governing Council Member Dr. Vijay Kelkar had visited INTACH for interaction with INTACH Officials. He had shared some of his views on some of the neglected aspects of heritage conservation. He said there should be greater emphasis in school curriculum regarding heritage awareness. Tribal heritage with its indigenous knowledge and vast diversity was a largely neglected area. More attention also needed to be given to promoting traditional methods of architecture, especially as old materials used have proved to be more compatible to counter the vagaries of nature. Craft communities could be empowered to participate productively in the market economy. Disaster Management was another critical issue calling for special attention. Some of these concerns would no doubt be addressed as Dr. Kelkar would be chairing the proposed Investment Committee. He has also advised that for most of these projects, it was important to know how to leverage Government projects and lend expertise for INTACH own growth and spread. There are good suggestions in the context of the Central Government Grant to INTACH, the SFC for which is likely to be finalized by July.

In the last 20 years, climatology and geology have provided archaeologists a lot of information, including the extent to which people are impacted by the environment. But some of it lacks data. There is evidence worldwide of the abrupt shift in the monsoon around 2000 BCE, which was also the period of the collapse of Harappan civilisation and subsequent migration eastwards.

Cultural studies indicate that the triangular stones worshipped by the Tribes of Central India goes back to the 10th century BCE. Damino said this is something Pupul Jayakar would have found most interesting as she worked a lot on ‘Mother Goddess’ traditions in India. “Traditions are about symbols, the most spectacular example being the Swastika” which the Harappans used on a number of tablets in both directions. Another is the Trishul, the symbol of Mahadev/Shiva. He cited the excavation of a rural settlement in Balathal in Rajasthan which was part of a Chalcolithic culture, where some skeletons were found buried in a padmasana posture dating to about 1000 BCE; the tradition continues to this day among the Lingayat community of Karnataka.

Damino concluded his absorbing talk saying old methods based on race and migration have given way to cross disciplinary studies that have been pushing back the limits of antiquity, diversity as well as continuity due to more scientific inputs from a range of disciplines.

Reported: Scientists have unmasked an apparent genetic line between Prince William of Britain and a half-Indian maternal ancestor line going back centuries.
Exhibition of Old Maps

It was a very special Exhibition of Old Maps that was inaugurated by Prof. Mushirul Hasan, DG of National Archives on Pupul Jayakar Day on 18th April. Professional geographer Dr. Manosi Lahiri delivered an illustrated talk on the significance of the maps.

These old maps picked up by a collector from London footpaths became available to INTACH in 2011, and were purchased jointly by Natural Heritage Division (NHD) and the Architectural Heritage Division (AHD). Out of a total collection of 92 maps only some 30 were put on display on account of space constraints. The maps are part of a series which were printed by Sol for the first time in India and hold unique value for historians and geographers. Dr Lahiri, author of Mapping India, curated the exhibits with help from Shri Amol, a young history student who carried out research on historical events at areas covered by the maps to be displayed. Various organisations and diplomatic missions were sent flyers regarding the exhibition attracting over 350 interested visitors. The entire cost of the exhibition Rs. 3.80 lakh was borne by General Funds of both INTACH Divisions equally.

The exhibition was well reported in the leading newspapers of Delhi. Visitors showed their keen interest with entries in the visitor’s book, appreciative of INTACH’s initiative and the discovery of old maps. There were some enquiries as to whether the maps were available for sale; this might open an opportunity for INTACH in future, especially to meet request of researchers and scholars. Interaction with visitors and Convenors indicate that some people might be interested in keeping their own old maps with INTACH. Dr. Maheshwari for instance has some very interesting and unusual old maps. Perhaps others might be interested in conserving their maps. Convenor Prof. AGK Menon mooted the idea of an exhibition of maps on Delhi.

Delhi Town Hall Maps

The Town Hall, the iconic building at Chandni Chowk, has housed many offices, ideas and cultures in its 144 years of existence. I has been decided to convert the building into a museum and heritage centre. Historians are pouring over yellowed sheets to piece together the social and cultural history of Delhi. A map dated 1930 shows a Hindu restaurant and a Hindu kitchen on the ground floor, while the first floor has a separate Muslim kitchen and restaurant. Another map shows a ballroom and a resting room, as a portion of the building was once called the Queen’s Hall. At one time there was a caravan serai, at another a public library, and a club for Europeans. When the maps are restored and chronology arrived at, visitors will know stories of the Town Hall not to be found in history books.

This map exhibition was perhaps the first of its kind to be held in Delhi. PD Manu Bhatnagar mooted the idea of setting up a INTACH Centre for Historical Indian Maps, currently however there is a constraint due to lack of even a dedicated exhibition space. Its establishment in the future would enable members of the public to bring their maps under one roof for safe keeping and to organize thematic displays of these maps all over India. The Centre could also digitize maps and make them available to databanks such as Google or on INTACH Map Website.

Andhra Pradesh Convenors Meet

An interactive dialogue was convened on 22nd April, Hyderabad, with the valuable support of State Convenor Anuradha Reddy. Hosted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and presided by AP State Convenor M. Gopal Krishna, the meeting was also attended by senior Forest Officers, subject
matter specialists apart from 25 INTACH Convenors. The main speaker Principal Advisor (NHD) SK Verma spelt out INTACH’s Vision Statement, highlighting mutual cooperation between INTACH and Forest Department in conserving the nation’s bio-diversity and stimulating public awareness of its importance. He said INTACH has listed and documented nearly 1600 NH Sites in selected districts of 10 Bio-Geographic Zones with focus on community owned sites. Andhra Pradesh is the missing link in India which remains left out despite ranking fourth in the country’s state forest areas with the second longest 972 km coastline in the county. The preservation of natural resources and cultural property includes all places of scenic beauty and geological features having archaeological, historical or scientific value and are not protected to date. He said Natural Heritage, especially mangroves, have suffered serious neglect due to physical, biological, anthropogenic and social factors apart from unscientific management practices that have resulted in soil salinity, poor water quality, diversion of fresh water upstream and conversion for aquaculture, salt pans and other land use practices. Another specialist Dr. Yashwant Nene from Secunderabad focused on agricultural heritage for the benefit of Convenors and Forest Department.

The AP Convenors in house interactions continued from 18th-23rd April to motivate participation of selected Chapters in Telengana, Rayalaseema and the coastal region of Eastern Ghats in undertaking the listing exercise of sacred groves, heritage trees, threatened mangroves and estuaries, etc. and involve local communities. Mangroves are also to be found in small patches of the State along the coasts of Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari, Guntur and Prakasham districts. Many eco-fragile sites are being altered, affecting not just environment but livelihood issues of displaced persons which adds to the urgency. There is the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board, and its main function of is to prepare People’s Biodiversity Register of comprehensive information in consultation with local people. Chapters need to remain in contact with the Board and garner information for their own initiatives.

21st April : Earth Day

Earth Day brings forth a plethora of sentiments – from ban on plastic bags to feeding animals and birds, and expressions of pious hope! An army of activists voice their concerns and environment issues come into mainstream discussions. Save Earth, Save Earth! But that is where it all stops. Weak enforcement of rules and generally insensitive individuals and government agencies have shown again and again that awareness is even more important than legislation. Use of plastic bags, burning leaves, dumping of waste into water bodies, over-spilling garbage bins, cutting of trees, transport emissions, extracting groundwater, etc. etc. carries on in pampered cities – without a thought for the future of the Earth, and our Life.

Changing Dynamics

Recent research has established that if nothing is done to counter the effects of global warming, by 2080 half the common plants on earth and one-third its animal population will lose their climate range. What about the effect on Man and the future generations? Experts from UEA’s School of Environmental Sciences state “This broader issue of potential range loss in widespread species is a serious concern as even a small decline in these species can significantly disrupt ecosystems. Our research predicts that climate change will greatly reduce diversity of even common species……. Thus loss of global-scale biodiversity would significantly impoverish the biosphere and the ecosystem services it provides” Man may not even catch sight of common flowers like the bougainvillea or jasmine, or sight birds like the myna. “there will be a knock-on effect for humans”. In India the effects are already apparent. Olive Ridley turtles cannot find safe nesting sites for their eggs. In the Himalayas, flowers that once bloomed in spring are budding in winter, confusing the bees and insects. In Western Ghats tree frogs predict the monsoons at unusual times of the year. Future lives are at stake, is this what we want for our progeny?

Monitoring Forests

An Environment Ministry Committee recommended improvements for monitoring forest clearance which is currently considered the “weakest link”. The proposed monitoring system not only includes self-monitoring by project proponents, but also third-party monitoring by accredited experts/institutions, as well as remote sensing satellite for real time data. To improve inspection, it has suggested site inspection standing committees in line with Supreme Court order. Project developers using more than 100 hectares must prepare status reports of compliance of clearance conditions to be submitted annually by 31st January. A system has also been set up to address major violations affecting flora, fauna and environment.
News from Architectural Heritage

Heritage as Venue

A Status Report on the Reis Magos Fort that opened to the public one year ago in June 2012 indicates a very positive and successful development. The only complaints were entrance ticket, but in terms of finance this heritage site is earning only 60% of its running expenditure of Rs. 2 lakh per month. The balance is generated from a yearly grant and the corpus fund. The two proposed restaurants pending leasing will no doubt add to the revenue generation. Everywhere in the world entrance fees are much higher.

To date 26,000 people have visited the Fort and participated in guided tours for visitors and professionals. Students also attended the 14 lectures scheduled to date. Efforts will continue to improve the cultural sphere and involve local community. The project has proved to be a fine example of adaptive reuse of heritage property – and points the way forward for other heritage properties everywhere. INTACH acknowledges the funding and support of the Lady Hamalyn Trust which played a major role in the initial stages of heritage conservation and its subsequent impact on the development of Goan society. The Fort is now a prestigious venue for events like the International Film Festival when the dinner by Chief Minister and the reception by the Portuguese Foreign Minister were both hosted at the Reis Magos Fort.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Delhi is one of India’s premier institute for agricultural research and education. Five heritage buildings - the library, Phipps laboratory, and the Divisions of Genetics, Entomology and Agronomy in the campus – have been identified for conservation in the first phase. INTACH’s primary concern is to restore the original architectural and functional character of the buildings. Work entails restoration of blocked corridors and intervening spaces, maintenance of services and infrastructure, and rectifying structural deterioration.

Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli

A team from INTACH comprising conservation architects visited the territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli from 7th-13th April at the invitation of the Department of Culture and Tourism. Some of Daman and Diu heritage buildings from the updated old listing were identified for conservation and adaptive reuse. Conceptual proposals for Silvassa State Museum and a Haat are under preparation.

MOU with Odisha

INTACH signed a MOU with the Department of Culture, Government of Odisha to prepare detailed project (PDR) reports and undertake conservation and development of heritage sites, to be funded under the 13th Finance Commission. AHD will be assisted by the Bhubaneswar Conservation Centre and the Odisha State Chapter in the execution of this project covering 26 sites identified by INTACH.
News from Conservation Institutes

Jobra Maritime Museum

INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI), the Art and Material Heritage Division received many kudos for the restoration work of the Jobra Maritime Museum which was inaugurated on 1st April by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He suggested the addition of a large aquarium which ICI hopes to complete this year.

Chitrasabhai, Courtallam Temple

The Chitrasabhai is an important pilgrimage site in Tenkasi District of Tamil Nadu, for religious tourism that attracts thousands of devotees. As the name suggests, the temple is painted with figures of Gods and Goddesses with scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata. The paintings have suffered severe deterioration due to carelessness of visitors offering prasada, tilaka, etc. on the painted images and further compounded by ingress of rain water from leaking roofs. The work on these paintings under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department was completed in mid June, and has been appreciated by the general public as well as the local politicians.

Visits of Principal Director

ICI Principal Director Nilabh Sinha visited Indira Sangeet Kala Vishva Vidyalaya, Khairagarh to examine the royal portraits at the Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad. He also visited the Ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Puthaparthiy.

Several meetings with the Convenors were also held to initiate awareness and capacity building programmes in Raipur, Chattisgarh, documenting wall paintings in important temples in the Tamil Nadu, and to explore possibilities for developing a conservation training institution for South India led by the ICI Bengaluru Centre.

Grants to ICI

Another generous grant from the Micro Inks Ltd. was received to undertake projected activities like wall paintings conservation at Kirti Mandir, Vadodra, workshops on preventive conservation and a National Scholars Meet.

Grant form Shinnyo-en

The last phase of conservation of wall paintings at the Mangyu Monastery, Ladakh has started this year with the grant sanctioned by the Shinnyo-en Japan.

INTACH U.K. Trust

Funds received from the Trust are being utilized to conserve 12th Century Wooden Sculptures at Sumadh, Ladakh. It will also be deployed for training and upgradation of conservation skills of ICI conservators by implementing various in-house training programmes.

Ministry of Culture

Funds received from the Ministry will be utilised for training and capacity building programmes in Wall Paintings Conservation, and to research and develop conservation grade adhesive from a variety available in Indian market.

Training programmes

Two in-house workshops were organised at ICI Delhi and at the Bengaluru Centres on acrylic paintings conservation, conducted by a Senior Conservator from the Tate, London. A French intern has joined the Delhi Centre for training in conservation of paintings for a period of 10 weeks.

Ministry of External Affairs

The ICI Delhi Centre is undertaking conservation of MEA’s collection consisting of Easel Paintings, Paper Objects and Textile.

Bhootnath Temple, Mandi

The restoration of Bhootnath Temple at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh has been successfully completed by the ICI Centre, Delhi. Over the years this historically significant temple was desecrated by ugly intrusions in the form of layers of industrial paint. With cleaning and repairs, the temple with its intricate stone carvings and stone masonry has recaptured its magnificence enhancing the significance of this temple. INTACH team discovered fine stone carvings beneath the enamel paint and plaster. The main task was removal of thick layers of vermilion, rolli and sindur applied to the mandapam and temple interiors.
The marble floor in the temple premises laid over the original stone paving was not leveled. During last Mahashivrathri, the ICI team also noticed that there was a water drainage problem in the pranali area, the path for offerings to the Shivalinga to flow that had damaged the temple walls. The marble floor was dismantled and the marble and cement layers were removed and the original stone paving underneath was restored. The drainage system was also changed with new fittings and settings.

Finally, the entire temple structure was assessed, new stones introduced in areas where they were missing, and dowels were also introduced in some areas for consolidation of the masonry. The project was executed with meticulous planning and teamwork without hampering the daily activities of the temple, working relentlessly in severe cold and heavy rains.

ICI Bangalore

The programme Parichay led by Director Madhu Rani on 25th May created awareness of heritage preservation for the public. Around 25 people from all walks attended this interactive meeting.

ICI Lucknow

The Municipal Art Gallery in the premises of Nagar Nigam, Lucknow houses beautiful paintings on canvas, paper and sculptures made by eminent artists like Lalit Mohan Sen Vireshwar Sen, Randhava Vakil, Pranyajan Mukherjee, Ishwar Das, V.N. Jijja, and others dating from 1949 onwards.

The ICI Lucknow received 33 paintings on paper and canvas in an alarming stage of deterioration, much damaged by biological growth, discoloration, dust, dirt and accumulation of stains. Old support of board was acidic in nature, the oil paintings had a thick layer of discoloured varnish, leaving the paintings warped and brittle. It required chemical cleaning, removal of stains, consolidation of paint layers and lining as per the damage in individual cases.

A view of Paintings displayed at Municipal Art Gallery, Lucknow
Conservation of Artifacts at Rajput Regimental Centre

The Rajput Regimental Centre at Fatehgarh, UP has a museum collection of oil paintings, regimental colours, photographs, lithographs, letters, and natural history objects like a large alligator and a stuffed lion. The ICI Lucknow conservation team started work from April on these unique objects, with a temporary conservation lab established at the Centre.

ICI Jodhpur

A very fine piece of Marwar miniature painting in 10 separated pieces was received from Chanod family for conservation at the Jodhpur Centre in a badly deteriorated condition in 10 pieces. Large portions were lost completely, with layers of wasli separated. The painting suffered cracks, wrinkles and fold marks indicating exposure to dampness, fluctuating humidity, physical knocks and marked with spots, stains and streaks that distorted the visual effect.
Detailed scientific investigations, and assessment of the quantum of deterioration was done, to adopt the best methodology for conserving this painting of historical importance. After mechanically cleaning, solvents were also used, and the frail paint layer was consolidated. Then a thin solution of gluten free starch was introduced between split layers of paper to re-attach all the ten broken pieces into a single piece, simultaneously mending tears with acid free tissue paper strips and cellulose fibers used to fill holes, missing paper layers and lost portions.

The conserved painting when completed might look jarring as the areas of losses have been filled with new paper that is white in colour. In order to maintain visual harmony, it is proposed to tone down the new areas in neutral colors to effect visual harmony, before framing.

ICI Mumbai

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, photographic negatives were made from sheets of thin glass with a photo-sensitive emulsion applied to one side immediately before taking the image so the glass plate was exposed while still wet. Positives were then made by placing photo-sensitive papers under the glass and exposing to light.

Bhaub Daji Lad Museum has approximately 1580 glass plate negatives of various sizes from late 19th to early 20th century, stored vertically in wooden boxes. However some of them have deteriorated due to damage by water, or broken / chipped around the corners. The glass side of the negatives have dirt and fingerprints due to handling, with a few minor losses in the image.

On the other hand the negatives are sensitive to cleaning, and washing is impossible. After trying various combinations of solvents, a cleaning solution of Industrial Methylated Spirit (IMS) reduced in white spirit and some amount of water was used carefully to remove much of the unwanted materials. No cleaning could be attempted on the image side due to the delicate nature of the emulsion as it is extremely sensitive to moisture and to organic solvents.

Precedent of Importance

The US Metropolitan Museum of Art repatriated two 10th century statues, the Kneeling Panadavas, to Cambodia after establishing their dubious acquisition. It is an important landmark, setting a benchmark for responsible museum practices. A museum scholar Neha Paliwal states “The Met’s actions forces us to ask the question, and to realise that many collections, private and public, contain items that have been obtained by violent means — previously by imperial and colonial governments, and more recently through looting during stressful times such as civil war in the case of these Cambodian statues, or war in the case of the National Museum of Iraq in 2003. It is clear that such plunder happens precisely because of the great aesthetic and cultural value of artefacts at the behest of private collectors. For example, the looting of the Iraq museum was clearly organised as if “some of the looters were working from a list”.

Public institutions, museums have a special responsibility to ensure that the objects they display are not dubiously acquired. One act of repatriation does not make way for return of so many thousands of Indian art objects that have found their way abroad. In recent years countries like China, Greece, Italy and Egypt have made claims to artefacts displayed in overseas museums, but like the return of the Kohinoor such requests lie in slumber with little chance of ever returning home.
Heritage and Education Communication Service Division (HECS),

Teachers Training
Kangra Chapter Convenor Malvika Pathania in collaboration with G.A.V. Public School, Gangtok organized a HECS workshop on 21st -22nd May. ASI

News from Intangible Heritage

Cultural Mapping of Tribes
The Intangible Heritage Cultural Division (ICHD) commissioned a cultural mapping project on the tribes of Andhra Pradesh, for which the field work is being carried out in major tribal areas of the State by a team of trained anthropologist. The audio-visual documentation of the four tribes selected for study will be completed shortly.

A report, along with all the data collected by way of videos, audio clipping, and photographs will be available with the Division on completion of this pilot mapping project. The main objective of the project is to prepare a systematic, scientific and authentic visual and textual documentation of the intangible heritage and life-style of the Tribes of Andhra Pradesh, substantiated with photos taken from the field or collected from the locals. The proposed publication would also include documentation of rituals, folklore, aesthetic sensibilities, narratives, religious practices, customary laws, dress patterns, ornaments, utensils, agricultural implements, fairs and festivals of the Tribes of the State. The objective is to preserve this intangible heritage and the endangered languages of Manipur, and to make audio recordings of as many folktales as possible that would otherwise disappear. The stories will be transcribed not only in the mother tongue, but also translated into English for wider circulation.

Folklore of the Kamar Tribe
ICHD is also working on documentation of Kamar tribe folklore. The Kamar also known as Paharias, are spread across the geo-cultural area encompassing east Chhattisgarh and western Nuapada district of Odisha. They have a social history dating many ages, a rich linguistic and cultural repertoire, and a repository of oral traditions. They have 37 highly interesting oral epics which have not been compiled to date, besides their phonetics, morphology and semantics also need to be documented. The bulk of such fast vanishing oral traditions among all tribes still exists but only in the minds of the community and must be documented before they are lost forever.

Documenting Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICHD brought out a manual on Documenting India’s Intangible Cultural Heritage. This guide will help interested individuals or communities who are concerned about the loss of language, traditions, ways of life and associated knowledge, to create publicly available material like all cultural traditions going back thousands of years that are still embedded in the very fabric of our society. This heritage is inseparably linked to architectural, natural and material heritage – an amalgamation of which comprises our physical heritage. This manual is meant for individuals and institutions that support initiatives for publication of documents pertaining to cultural mapping of the ICH of a particular tribe or community. It is a good guide for surveys/reports and documentation of all facets of living traditions and art forms to ensure transmission of traditional knowledge. The manual can also be used as a resource for training interested Convenors and community stakeholders in documenting the intangible cultural heritage of India.
Conservation Assistant Ravi Kaul spoke about the rich heritage of the region. National Director, Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD) urged the teachers to nurture cultural values among their students. HECS Director Purnima Dutt talked about Heritage Education services of INTACH. Sikkim Chapter Convener P.K. Dong in collaboration with HECS organised a two-day training workshop for schools at Janta House, Gangtok. Chief Guest G.S. Lama explained different aspects of tangible and intangible heritage, and especially the natural heritage of Sikkim. He drew attention to recent sites like the Kanchanjunga National Park in Sikkim the status of which will be taken up with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Heritage Walk Training

Two groups of College Volunteers were trained in conducting Heritage Walks on 20-21 May at Delhi. Programme Coordinator Moby Sara Zachariah steered the walk through Lodi Gardens pointing out various aspects of the monuments, their history, architecture, motifs and symbols, the stories associated with them, etc. Delhi Co-Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle imparted valuable guidelines on conducting a heritage walk, and emphasized that a walk leader must act as a cultural-interface. During the interactive feedback session participants shared some of their own ideas and suggestions to make the walk interesting, adding to the overall learning-experience.

Endangered Tibetan Attire

The Tibetan dress known as ‘chuba’, brought by one of the teachers Ms. Tsering Yangzom Topdan, was inherited from her grandmother. The 120 years old dress, made of wool taken from the breast of a sheep and hand woven, is made of a cloth called ‘shema’. The wool of the coat is so thick that a needle or even water or snow does not pass through it even when it rains or snows. This kind of dress was usually worn in southern and central Tibet in places like Kharm, Chang, etc.

Participants with Trainers
Harit Sankalp

To date around 6,000 students from classes VI-X from 62 INTACH Regional Chapters have participated in the competition Harit-Sankalp – Care for Nature across the country. About 99 regional winners and 11 national winners were shortlisted.

The National Winners were invited for a visit to Delhi on a three-day trip from 1st-3rd May. They visited Lutyen’s Delhi, the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the Rajpath, Humayun’s Tomb (with support of the Aga Khan Foundation), the National Museum, Anandagram’s Museums of Everyday Art, Indian Terracotta, and the Indian Textiles (with the support of Sanskriti Pratisthan), the resource-efficient TERI Retreat for Environmental Awareness and Training, and the Bio-diversity Park (with support of TERI staff). They interacted with well-known environmental experts on the heritage of Delhi, while Director NHD Dr Manu Bhatnagar briefed them on the Natural Heritage Conservation efforts undertaken in Delhi.

On the final day of the visit, the national winners were addressed by Dr R. K. Pachauri (Director General, TERI), INTACH Member Secretary Dr C.T. Misra, Ministry of Forest and Environment official Maninder Singh, eminent wildlife filmmaker Rupin Dang at the award ceremony. Students were congratulated on their essays and their resolve to protect and promote the precious heritage of their respective cities.

The award winning national level entries

The Marina Beach: A Toast for the Coast (Ananya S, Class VII, Chennai); Pariyon Ka Talab: Aurangabad’s very own Fairyland (Rajlaxmi Adwant, Class VIII, Aurangabad); (Not So) Mithi River (Oorva Raut, Class IX, Mumbai); Neelakurinjii: A Twelfth Year Wonder (Devika S.R, Class VII, Thiruvanathapuram); The Soon-To-Be Extinct Sparrow (Ipshita Panda, Class VIII, Vishakapatnam); The River Hooghly (Shreya Saboo, Class VIII, Kolkata); Owl Slaughter (Smiti Mittal, Class VI, Delhi – Gurgaon); Tan Tlang (Althea Z.H. Kimi, Class IX, Aizawl); The Gharana Wetlands Speaks (Kohsheen Pandita, Class IX, Jammu); Safai Kaamgaar ‘Giddh’ (Nisha Subash Prajapati, Class IX, Chandrapur); Bargad (Bor) Ka Vichitra Ped, Mann (Mansi, Class VI, Phawara).
World Heritage Day Workshop

A workshop on Heritage Awareness was held at the Anglo Arabic Senior Secondary School, New Delhi. Established in the 1690s by Ghaziuddin Khan, it offered a perfect historic setting to host a workshop on Heritage Awareness on 18th April with the participation of 1500 students of classes VI-XII, conducted by HECS team. Dr. Swapna Liddle highlighted the various aspects of Shahjahanabad’s Heritage. The recently published book in Urdu as well as the poster on Saving the Monuments were appreciated and awarded.

Excerpts from Essays

Tan Tlang: Steeped in History & Folktales

On the Burma Border of Mizoram, stands Tan Tlang approximately at 1837m and might as well be the pride of Champhai not just because of its beauty but also because of its significance in Mizo history. A number of folktales and legends are associated with this mountain—-it will geographically always stay there but what if it loses all its glory to the extent that people just pass by it?

Althea Z.H. Kimi, class 9, St. Paul’s Higher Secondary School, Aizawl

The Gharana Wetland Speaks....

The Gharana wetlands have been notified as a protected water body and an important site for birds by the State government of Jammu and Kashmir. Around 20,000 to 25,000 species of birds (migratory or endangered) visit the Gharana wetlands annually. However, due to overuse and exploitation by mankind (including wanton depletion) there has been a continuous destruction of the wetlands which has resulted in a corresponding decline in the number of birds visiting the region. The other factor contributing to the disruption of the eco-system has been unrest and regular gunfire in the region.

Kosheen Pandita, class 9, G.D. Goenka Public School, Jammu

Neelakurinji: The Twelfth Year Wonder

Kerala is blessed with many natural spectacles and among them is a unique canvas that gets unveiled every twelve years in the fabled hills of Munnar, in ‘God's own country’ the blooming of Neelakurinji. The massive flowering and the subsequent death of Neelakurinji is the subject of hill folklore. It is believed that the name Nilgiris came from these purplish blue flowers. The last few decades witnessed impairment to this rare species owing to hydro electric projects; tea, cardamom and timber plantations and destruction of bushes by tourists. Efforts are being made to preserve its habitat. The Kerala Government established Kurinji Sanctuary to save the Neelakurinji.

Devika S. R., class 7, St. Shantal Senior Sec School, Thiruvananthapuram

The Vulture: Cleaning Agent of the Ecosystem

It was the birds who introduced music in the lives of humans and yet, so many of the species are on the brink of extinction. Why can’t man, who is so vocal about freedom, grant the same to the birds? The vulture may appear scary, but in reality it is responsible for feeding on dead animals and keeping our surroundings clean. Some years back, vultures were a common sight but now have become extremely rare. One reason for their disappearance is the use of Diclofenac, a chemical responsible for the death of vultures. The Central Government banned the use of Diclofenac in 2006. Without the vulture the ecosystem will lose its unique balance.

Translated from Hindi: Nisha Subhash Prajapati, Class 9, Hindi City High School, Chandrapur

Grants to Schools

The Department of Environment is offering a grant of Rs.20,000 to schools in Delhi wanting to set up eco-clubs or hold meetings for students to learn about environment. Nearly 2000 schools have already availed of this grant for programmes such as bird watching, gardening, etc. Environmental studies should be considered for addition to the school curriculum in due course.

News from Publication Cell

Publication Cell Coordinator Bela Butalia displayed 4 titles at the INTACH Coordination Committee Meeting held in May:

- Museums of India: A Directory, by Usha Agrawal
- From Frederksnagore to Serampore:
- Recollections of the Past (A Kolkata Chapter Publication)
- Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lectures 2009 and 2010
- Conservation of Indian Heritage Trees
Andhra Pradesh

East Godavari

Commandant APSP of the Batallion stationed at Kakinada, Rajesh Kumar flagged a 1-km Heritage Walk on 18th April. Nearly 200 people participated in this World Heritage Day event including Members and NCC college students. As the Chief Guest at the Andhra Sahitya Parishad Museum, he said Sir Arthur Cotton is remembered to this day by farmers for the construction of the Anicut over the Godavari River, and developing the canal system for water distribution. AD Archaeology & Museums S. Bangariah spoke on the rich heritage of East Godavari District, and requested the audience to bring to ASI notice any ancient articles or stones they may stumble across. He said a large number of Buddhist relics had been unearthed n the vicinity of Tuni by chance. Member Pydithalli reminded the youth about Ashoka’s Dharma Chakra and the values enshrined therein for all times.

Convenor Lakkadraju Shesha Kumari informs that this year’s World Heritage Day programme was well covered by the local media, including the sumptuous snack and buttermilk that was served by the Chapter after an invigorating heritage walk.

Hyderabad

The INTACH Heritage Annual, in the series published by the Chapter, is a fund of heritage news of Andhra Pradesh, edited by Convenor Anuradha Reddy and Co-Convenor Sajjad Shahid. Released at the Salar Jung Museum, this well researched issue focuses on the Qutab Shahis, the master builders of the Deccani Sultanate. The culture of Hyderabad is highlighted with fascinating pictorial glimpses of the old Masulipatam when the elephant was a mode of transport for British Residents, courtesans the subject of miniature paintings, the royal necropolis at Golconda, Kalamkari tapestry, awarded monuments, oil paintings and mint coins. The Chapter thanks the support of the Director of Salar Jung Museum Dr. A. Nagender Reddy and his team, and Dr. MA Nayeem for their guidance in the production of this souvenir issue.

On World Heritage Day, AP Tourism Minister Vatti Vasanth Kumar felicitated Convenor Anuradha Reddy, Co-Convenor Sajjad Shahid and INTACH Secretary Frauke Qader who were awarded in recognition of their work to save the rocks and protect monuments with on-going efforts.

Kadapa

Chapter Members conducted a Rally accompanied by folk artistes and 25 Chekka Bajana performers to celebrate World Heritage Day. The Project Director of District Rural Development Agency G. Gopal and local AIR Station Director Dr. Nagasuri Venugopal participated in the Rally. A public meeting was held at Chapter Office located at Kalakshethram, presided by Convenor S Eias Reddy. Shri Gopal joined in urging the gathering to protect both built heritage and folk arts as cultural treasures. Senior Member M. Janaki Ram requested people to participate in INTACH programmes. Experts in Yakhaganam Kondapalli Verabhadraiah; puppetry Siva Rao; training of Chekka Bhajana K.Lakshmaiah; children’s folk art teacher C. Jagjeevan; stage artistes R. Chandra Sekhar and PS Raveendra were all honoured in recognition of their contribution to enriching the cultural heritage of the Kadapa District.
Kurnool

On World Heritage Day a tour was organized to *Sri Lakshmi Jagannatha Gattu Cave Temple*, with the participation of INTACH and Heritage Clubs Members, and trainees from the National Academy of Construction. The environs of the Temple, with its sculptured pillars and architectural designs on *koneru*, is described as a great heritage by Convenor B.Vekateswarlu. Other attractions are the *Sri Govinda Raju Temple, Astalakhmi Temple, Shivalayam, Vinayaka Mandapam* and *Devathala Koneru*. Set amidst natural hills, five headed snake *Padagalu*, and natural water tanks called *Donas*, this heritage site offers many scenic pleasures for visitors. Co-Convenor Osman Haroon and Member Swetha Reddy helped the Convenor in organizing this awareness programme, including a delicious lunch for participants and Life Members of the Chapter.

Machilipatnam

Convenor Tikkisetti Ramamohana Rao accompanied by nearly 30 Chapter Members undertook a heritage tour of Vijayawada-Amaravati region. The caves *Akkanna Madanna* in Vijaywadi and in the Undavali village are being used by Buddhist monks for taking rest to this day. They visited Amravati where the *Kalachakra World Seminar* was conducted by the Dalai Lama, and which has the largest Buddhist statue. Amravati is also one of the *Pancharamas* where the 20 feet white *Shivlinga* is worshipped even today, with the Krishna River flowing by the side of the temple. The other *Pancharamas* are *Gunupudi* at Bhimvaram, *Kshirarama* at Palakol, *Draksharamam* and *Kumararamam* at Samalkot. The INTACH group also visited the Museum which has many Buddhist evidences and Pallava dynasty sculptures.

Srikakulam

On *Ugadi*, considered the auspicious beginning of a new year by Telugu people, Union Minister of State for Communications Dr. Smt. Killi Kruparani released two stamps commemorating the *Sreekurmam Temple* and the *Arasavalli Surya Temple*. Chief Guest AP Minister for Roads and Building Dharmana Prasadrao, Collector Sourabh Gaur, Planning Commission Member Sunita Trivedi, Chief Post Master General Viswapavan and other senior officials attended the event. In pursuance of the Chapter’s long time suggestion, Convenor Dharmarao Dusi had been asked to formulate a proposal for a stamp on architectural heritage.
He suggested the 7th century Sun God Temple; the Dravidian style Sreekurram Temple; and the Someshwara Temple at Sreemukhalingam, culling details from photographs and Gazettes, etc. Minister Kruparani, who represents the District in Parliament, preferred a postal stamp commemorating Garimella Sathrhyanarayana, to be released on next Ugadi 2014.

Six Chapter Members from Srikakulam and Odisha went on an amazing self-organized tour of European countries visiting London, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Italy and the Vatican – taking in the sights, sounds and heritage sites in each country.

**Warangal**

The Chapter Members celebrated World Heritage Day at the Thousand Pillar Temple, Hanamkonda District. Convenor Pandu Ranga invited many prominent local people who addressed the citizens on different facets of heritage conservation and its public importance. The prominent speakers were INTACH Patron and District Collector Rahul Bojja, former civil servant BVP Rao of the Kakatiya Trust, officials from the State Archaeological Survey and Department of Tourism.

**Bihar**

**Patna**

The Chapter invited people to a slide show of World Heritage Sites at the Bihar Archives to mark World Heritage Day. Editor Hindustan Times and Chief Guest KK Upadhyaya spoke about the importance of maintenance, protection and conservation of such precious heritage. Eight eminent citizens from different fields – Siddeshwar Prasad Singh, NK Prasad, JN Rohatgi, Dr. Dilip Singh, Maj. Gen. KN Singh, NN Rohatgi, GN Singh, Dr. Surendra Gopal, Padma Shri Gajendra Narayan Singh - were felicitated for their contribution to society, and each was honoured with a memento and scarf by Justice Uday Sinha. A student from St. Carmel High School, Niharika Varma was congratulated as the Regional Winner of the essay and painting competition. Convenor JK Lall said to date only the Mahabodhi Temple has got World Heritage Status in Bihar, and the Chapter plans to take up many other heritage sites.

**Chandigarh**

World Heritage Day was celebrated with 200 students gathered together at Strawberry School. A talk was organized on Green Chandigarh, elaborating on different aspects of the city's heritage. Prizes were distributed to winners of the Harit Sankalp - Care for Nature as well as the Power of the Pen competitions held last year; the former conducted by HECS in collaboration with INTACH UK Trust, the latter marking 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.
**Chhattisgarh**

State Convenor Lalit Surjan enrolled highly qualified Members for setting up three new Chapters at Sarguja, Korea and Sarangarh-Raigarh. It is his tireless efforts that have resulted in taking the total number of INTACH Chapters to six in the State. The State Chapter has completed listing works at Bilaspur City and District, Raipur City and District, Kawardha and Sarguja (Ambikapur) despite terrain and inclement weather at times. Listings of the historical sites of Raigarh City and District is also nearing completion. Convenor Dr. Manju Mitra and her team spearheaded the listing work with great speed and efficiency.

**Old Gold**

The excavation at Tarighat, 30 miles from Raipur, unearthed remains of 2500 year old city and a treasure trove of one-sided mint gold coins and ornaments. Deputy Director Chhattisgarh Archaeology said this is a remarkable discovery of artifacts belonging to ruler Mehendraditya and Prasannamilta, two rulers of that time. A large number of jewelry like nose studs and rings of 4-5th century belonging to Sarabhapurias were found, revealing a distinct cultural period such as pre-Kushan, Sung-Kushan, Satabhan and Gupta – that opens another chapter in the archaeological history in Central India.

**Delhi**

Convenor AGK Menon is concerned about the proposed plans of the Urban Ministry to construct high-rise residences razing the decades old government housing colonies. He stated “The area has valuable land not only from an economic point of view but also in a social and ecological way. . . . . . The Government can’t act like a landlord”. It would change the look and character of the capital if high rises choke up the area on the periphery of Lutyens Bungalow Zone; apart from the deleterious impact of parking, traffic, services, and overcrowding.

Delhi is said to already have the highest level of urbanization in India. It is located in Seismic Zone IV with many legal and illegal structures built on weak foundation of alluvial soil and soft policies! The Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) agrees that the proposed plan needs careful re-examination for a more balanced view. Meanwhile a circular has been issued by the Delhi Forest Department that trees should be freed of concrete. Although Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (1994) provides penal action for concretization of tree bases, a tree activist points out “Concretisation is a fiscal drive. More concrete means more money to the contractors. Less use of cement entails more maintenance. So the practice has continued”!

The Chapter submitted a Management Plan for the 82 years old Rashtrapati Bhawan spread over 130 hectares. Conceived as the focal point of the monumental central axis of imperial Delhi, Lutyens incorporated a distinctly Indian style on Palladian models. A Total Station Survey of the precinct was undertaken supported by the President’s Secretariat and the CPWD. The Chapter submitted a CCMP balancing the imperatives of conservation and development, and defining the future use of this living and functioning site. It entailed revisiting some earlier decisions which had inappropriately altered this site. The Chapter proposes to subject the report to an external peer review to ensure that the recommendations are commensurate with the iconic status of the President’s House.

**Folklore of Old Delhi**

11th May is the anniversary of the 1957 Revolt. A scribe RV Smith goes down memory lane and writes about strange premonitions reported once upon a time. A headless warrior on a horse rode near Kashmere Gate startling many travellers, and similar apparition was seen in many other northern cities. A sheet of blood darkened the skies at Agra. A Maulvi in Faizabad who later led a heroic resistance in Lucknow, dreamt that Delhi streets were flowing with blood. The pregnant wife of a British officer dreamt that the baby would go through a harrowing time, and during the revolt she did in fact give birth to the child on Delhi Ridge till she was rescued. A Sikh seyaradar saw a vision of men hanging from the gibbets in Chandni Chowk, recorded in the aftermath of the revolt. Another dream to come true was the massacre of the entire family as happened to the British Manager of Delhi Bank. At Khooni Darwaza a fa’kir walking by Delhi Gate saw blood trickling down its walls. Fact or fiction? One hardly knows but then the scribe poses the question: could all witnesses be lying? Modern research has proved that the mind has infinite capacities for foresight. Believe it or not?

**Metro Waste**

The National Green Tribunal issued notices to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the Centre and the Governments of Delhi, UP and Haryana following a petition that they have not put in place any rainwater harvesting systems into operation, and a few installed in the third phase are not in working order. The total of 141 stations waste 8 crore litres of rainwater as per the yardstick of the Delhi Jal Board. The average rooftop of most stations is approximately 1000 sqm where rainwater harvesting system if properly installed can save 1.96 crore litres of water per year. With elevated tracks for rain water harvesting the saving could be 6.37 crore litres per year. An idea that should not go down the drain!

**Teen Murti House**

Teen Murti House was converted into Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, as Jawaharlal Nehru lived there since Independence till he passed away in 1964. It actually derived its name much earlier, from 3 statues standing at the roundabout in front of its main gate. Sculpted by Leonard Jennings (UK) the three lifelike statues of soldiers were erected in 1922 to honour the three princely states of Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Mysore for their contribution in the First World War. A visiting faculty member from the University of Cambridge remarked “Teen Murti provides space that is steeped in Indian history and an intellectual environment that is unsurpassed by any other large archive in Delhi”. Built in Victorian and French architectural style over 30 acres, earlier it was Flagstaff House, the residence of Commander-in-Chief of British forces.

**Ghalib’s Home**

Ghalib’s humble abode lived many lives over the years - from being a pauper-poet’s home to a coal depot and then a baraat ghar with goats jostling around to a coal depot. That is how Kathak exponent Uma Sharma, founder of Ghalib Memorial Movement, once found the site when she came to shoot a film. In May this year its doors were thrown open to visitors with a mushaira and an exhibition of Ghalib’s belongings, with plaques of his famous verses dotting the brick walls. Sharma’s initiative and friends like the late Abid Hussain, with the support of the Indian Council of Cultural Affairs, has rejuvenated and refurbished this into a memorial to a great poet. The owner of one part of the house however refuses to budge at any cost, so a guest house, a STD booth and optical shop continue to thrive in another sliver of this 200 year old ‘haveli’.

**Modern research has proved that the mind has infinite capacities for foresight. Believe it or not!”**
Gujarat
Mehsana
The Chapter celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March, reported later. Students gathered at the Toranwali Chowk and went in a procession to the local stepwell where a puja was conducted by the Chairman of Mehsana Nagar Palika Chandrikaben Patel, accompanied by other Palika Members and INTACH Convenor Javahar Mehta.

Meherjirana Library
Parsis enjoyed a special relationship with the Mughals from the time of Akbar. A French orientalist James Darmesteter wrote “I have never seen such a fine collection in a small town” after his visit in 1887 to the first Dastoor Meherjirana Library in Navsari, Gujarat. Today it is one of the most important centres for the study of Zoroastrianism and Parsi history. In recent years it has been supported by various organizations like INTACH, UNESCO and largely by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust kindling global academic interest. Earlier this year it hosted scholars from UK, Germany, Japan and India for a conference to mark important changes and Zoroastrian manuscript additions to its collection. It attracted both veteran researchers like scholar-priest Dasturji Firoze Kotwa, and first time visitors to Navasari like novelist Amitav Ghosh and South African paper conservator M. Vajifdar.

Haryana
Faridabad/Palwal
It is noteworthy that two colleges of Haryana have dedicated a small portion of their Library to INTACH and conservation related activities. On 4th April sixty girls of the KL Mehta Dayanand College for Women, Faridabad took part in on-the-spot painting and declamation contest on national monuments. The Aggarwal College for Women, Ballabgarh had a batch of 32 young women participating in the declamation contest held on 8th April. It is often said ‘educating a girl means education of a family’, the same holds good for environmental awareness.

Himachal Pradesh
State Convenor Malvika Pathania received the Bharat Jyoti Award constituted by the India International Friendship Society (IIFS) for “her meritorious service, outstanding performance and remarkable role in the preservation of heritage in the State”. The presentation was made by former Governor of Tamil Nadu and Assam, with former Election Commissioner GV Krishnamurthy present, at a function held at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Secretary General IIFS Gurpreet Singh said the award was being conferred for her role in women empowerment, uplift of the people of the State, besides her contribution to heritage preservation.

Kangra
The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June at Gandhi Park, Dharamshala jointly with other NGOs. Convenor LN Aggarwal asked the children to pledge that they will conserve natural heritage and resources that include hills, forests, water bodies, birds, herbal medicines, and precious stones – “for the survival of all life”, he said. Earlier in May, Shri Aggarwal attended the National Workshop and Brainstorming on Geo-Heritage organized by the Department of Geology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. He presented a paper on the Geo-Heritage Conservation and Tourism in Himachal Pradesh.

Horse Before Cart
One of the oldest General Post Offices of India opened in 1883 at Conny Cottage on Mall Road in Shimla. It was the summer capital of the British Raj, and the nerve centre of activity during the Independence Movement. This was before the establishment of road or rail links when Dak was sent through a special Dak Gaadi from Ambala to Kalka, and then transported to Shimla using ponies, horses and even elephants. It arrival in Shimla was heralded with a red flag and bells ringing whatever time of day or night, according to a former Head Postman Ram Krishna Rohail who served from 1911-1955. Today the post is delivered to branches and then by postmen and postwomen on foot carrying heavy bags up and down hills – still an onerous task in the hills.
Jammu & Kashmir

The earliest *hammams* or public baths in J&K, for ablution before offering prayers attached to mosques and *khanqahs*, date back to the Mughal era. Smaller ones were constructed at *sarais* on the famous Mughal Road linking Kashmir to the Indian plains. The *hammam* at Shalimar Bagh, the royal pleasure garden for exclusive use of the Mughal royalty consisted of a bathing pool, changing room and toilet. Archaeological explorations revealed a heating system hidden under heaps of earth. It is part of an initiative undertaken by the Deptt. of Floriculture in collaboration with INTACH and the Chapter.

The conservation of the royal Shalimar *hammam* commenced with a study of the original building fabric removing debris of inner chambers, revealing original masonry piers that supported *Baramulla* flagstone floors. Lime pointing of eroded masonry and structural consolidation was undertaken ensuring least intervention with the historic fabric of the building. Convener Saleem Beg hopes the *Shalimar Hammam* will now provide visitors a unique and historical overview of the way it once functioned.

Ladakh

The Sarpanch, Nambardar and President of Welfare Committees representing villages of the Sham and Wanla area participated in celebrating World Heritage Day organized by the Chapter at Khatlase. The Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh, Sonam Dorje chaired the meeting. Also present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh Tsering Morup; SDM Khalatse Shokat Hussain, President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Dr. Tondup Tsewang; President of Ladakh Gonpa Association Ven Geshes Konchok; and several other local officials and dignitaries.

Convener Tsering Angchok, welcoming the participants, spoke on the importance of the day particularly in the context of the Sham area of Ladakh. Chapter Executive Members Dr. Thustan Norbu and Wangyal Tsering gave a power point presentation on the deteriorating conditions of natural and cultural heritage of Ladakh, and highlighted the various works undertaken by the Chapter since its formation in July 2010.

This major gathering of officials and opinion makers will add new vigour to the conservation movement in Ladakh. A large number of ancient tangible/ intangible and natural heritage sites are still surviving, but the pressure of development is palpable in many parts of Sham area resulting in loss of the ancient cultural sites. A major thrust for INTACH is educating the people through village representatives about the importance of preserving their heritage. India's repeated nomination for World Heritage Site from the Himalayan region is *Alchi Chhoskor Monastery*, a 11th century marvel of architecture and wall paintings. Tingmosgang and Basgo and many other important Buddhist monasteries and heritage sites are located in Sham region of Leh district; its people known as *Shamma* are known for their skill in various traditional arts and crafts, which has given the region a unique identity. All the important dignitaries speaking on behalf of their respective associations and the District Administration assured the gathering that the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council will ensure the preservation of the cultural and natural wealth of the region. The highlight of the event was the unanimous decision taken to form *Heritage Conservation Committees* in every village. The Ladakh Chapter was lauded on this initiative, and the coverage was relayed from All India Radio and Door Darshan Leh, and reported by many papers from Ladakh and Jammu.

Kerala

INTACH Governing Council Member Asha Sheth and Chairperson – Vasant J Sheth Memorial Foundation (VJSMF) met Director Michael Crayford and his team from Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) at Kochi.

ANMM proposed a workshop on *Maritime Museum Development*, appreciating INTACH work in the maritime sector. VJSMF seized the opportunity to conduct a non-governmental maritime workshop for 22 local students interested in maritime history and museology. Australia and India are in the process of establishing stronger cultural and trade links; the exhibition highlighted Australia’s historic maritime links with India. This was one of a three-city workshop tours conducted by the ANMM in India, the
other cities being Chennai and Mumbai. The Australian team comprised experts in maritime history, archaeology case study and design displays. The students came from backgrounds of History, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Museology and Conservation. The VJSMF played the catalyst role in drumming up student participation, arranging site visits to important historic and maritime sites like Kottapuram Fort Excavation and Pattanam Excavation sites (Muziris Heritage Project). The meeting with senior government officials and Excavation Director of Kerala Council for Historical Research P.J. Cherian threw light on their proposal for having Museums at various Muziris sites. The visit was a milestone in long term strategy for engagement with India in museum practice particularly in the areas of exhibition design, maritime history, its heritage and archaeology.

**Mumbai**

**Lectures**

A series of Lectures were organised by The Chapter at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum: (in close spacing):


13th April: The Afterlife of Images by Rahaab Allana

4th May: Amrita Sher-Gil: Passage to India by Yashodhara Dalmia

11th May: Being Moved – The Kochi Muziris Biennale by Rasna BHushan

18th May: Shanti Road – Synergies of a Social Space by Suresh Jayaram

25th May: Site Under Construction – Notes on the Contemporary Art Museum by Vidya Shivadas

1st June: Out of India: Landscape Paintings Beyond the Picturesque Frame by Shukla Sawant

15th June: Curating Architecture as Critical Practice – From Independent to Institutional Contexts by Pedro Gadanho, Museum of Modern Art, New York

**Workshops**

Using the Museum’s unique collection of clay models, interactive discussions and worksheet activity introduced participants to Mumbai’s traditional communities. Another workshop for the JJ School of Arts students engaged them with the Museum’s pottery collection, and the impact of western art teaching on the arts and crafts tradition of the city. Another group of participants explored the Rangmala paintings in the Museum collection and experimented with making their own. In a special workshops focusing on the Museum’s Raj Silver, participants engaged with the ideas and techniques behind this unique tradition, and tried to replicate original designs with silver foil. Inspired by an ongoing exhibition Homelands, the Curating Workshop encouraged participants to consider the meaning of “home” and focus on the practical aspects to curate their own display. Similarly the Mapping Memories was a workshop inspired by Cobweb/Crossings, an artwork by Reena Cobweb/Crossings, an artwork by Reena Kallat, for which participants brought their own mementos with personal memories to personalize their memory maps!

**Visitors**

Among the prominent visitors to the Museum were Asian Art Projects Director, Elise Foster Vander Elst; Head of Exhibition Tate Modern in London, Dr. Achim Borchardt-Hume; and Rob Lynes and Sam Harvey from the British Council.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Orchha**

Convenor Prasanna Mathur extended the Chapter’s warm welcome to the Director of Caair Travels Ranjit Vig and writer Beth D’Addono and their team on their visit to Orchha. Caair Travels is a leading tour company representing American Express for showcasing India. The visit was hosted by a consortium of travel and hotel industry leaders like Taj, ITC, Hyatt, Spice Jet, and their partners. Co-Convenor Ashok Singh Rathor and GM Hotel Amar Mahal took them on a guided tour of various sites like Jahagir Mahal, Raj Mahal, Rai Parveen Mahal, Betwa riverside, Kanchan Ghat and the Cenotaphs. The objective was for Caair Travels/American Express to create a “Orchha Visit” itinerary. A lunch was hosted by the Chapter for the visitors at the Hotel Amar Mahal.

Caair Travel representative and American Journalists

**Maximum City**

Mumbai has the largest number of art deco buildings in the world, second only to Miami. for representation of 19th-20th century heritage. A team from the Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) has enlisted 89 structures in a bid to secure a place in time for UNESCO World Heritage nominations. The term art deco refers to a design movement that boomed in the 1920s and the 1930 Depression. Historian Bevis Hillier defined it as “an assertively modern style running to symmetry rather than asymmetry, and to rectilinear rather than curvilinear”. The Oval was once the sea front, and the vast Reclamation that followed with art deco buildings changed Bombay’s construction industry. There are two centuries of buildings facing each other across the Maidan. Cinemas like the Regal, Eros, New Empire, Metro and Liberty built after Gateway of India were among the first art deco buildings that transformed the lifestyle of people. It spread to Marine Drive, Malabar and Cumballa Hills with some art deco structures also extending to the suburbs like Dadar, Matunga, Sion, etc.
Pune

Life Member CD Singh has written a most unusual book *Stamps on Sikhs*, a thematic tribute to the history and cultural heritage of the Sikhs during the past 544 years through philately. Vispi Dastur in his Forward states "While recounting the history behind the stamps of the Sikhs, battles, honours and wars in Europe and Africa have been researched where the Sikhs laid down their lives beyond the call of duty. . . . . . This book will fill a void and should be helpful specially to the thematic collectors".

The author with his military background has succeeded in giving the reader a treatise on military history as miniaturised by stamps in his collection. A few years ago he had succeeded in getting a Special Cover on the Battle of Chappar Chirri released. Only some philatelic material like the Postcards on Kartarpur and the Golden Temple 1935 are missing in the book as they are to be found in museums, he says. INTACH congratulates CD Singh on this unique contribution to heritage.

Sholapur

Co-Convenor Shveta Kothavale informs that there has been a 100% increase in Chapter enrolment which now has 96 Members. Both she and the Convenor have given a series of presentations at various platforms like Rotary Club, School of Art and College of Agriculture, etc. Visits like the ones to Karakal archaeological site; study tour of the turreted Deshmukh Gadi with its unique motifs and pillars at Malkavathe; Nature Walk to Solapur Vana Vihar, etc. during the last quarter are periodically scheduled.

Odisha

Balasore

Convenor Himanshu Das presided over the World Heritage Day function, elaborating on the glorious heritage of Odisha and the need to preserve it for future generations. He appealed to the Media to help in spreading this message. Chief Guest Prasanta Kumar Padhi elaborated on the damage caused to monuments everywhere due to unplanned development with scant regard to their heritage value. He said it can be countered only through greater awareness among people and strict vigil of conservation specialists. Member Uday Ranjan placed before the audience the Listing work undertaken by the Chapter and described visits to various sites undertaken by INTACH team. Co-Convenor SN Das Mohapatra gave the vote of thanks.

Sambalpur

Convenor Dr. BB Mishra presented the keynote address at the seminar sponsored by the University Grants Commission on Cultural Heritage of South Koshala (West Odisha) held at Siddhartha College, Binka. The place is known in the Puranas as Binitashwapura, the first capital of the Somavansi Kings during the 9th century, its fort now in a ruined state.

World Heritage Day was celebrated at Sambalpur in collaboration with the Culture and Tourism Department. Early morning of 18th April about 150
students, teachers, INTACH Members along with Convenor Mishra went on a walk through the city from Victoria Hall to the Brahma Pur Jagannath Temple via various heritage sites of the city, carrying a banner. In the evening it was a time of quiz and elocution competitions for school students.

World Environment Day on 5th June was organized by the Budhara Hills Forest Conservation Samity attended by INTACH Convenor. These hills in the heart of Sambalpur have heritage trees, vast greenery and a Shiva Temple on the hilltop.

Tribal Rights

The Supreme Court ruled that the rights of the Dongria and Kuitia Kondh tribes and their culture like the right to worship the Niyam Raja on the hilltop must be protected. The bauxite mining project in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, and the Vedanta alumina refinery, cannot impinge on the rights of these people in any way. A bench of Justices empowered the gram sabha to consider all the community, individual as well as cultural and religious claims, over and above existing claims within 3 months. A District Judge will be nominated to observe and certify that proceedings of the gram sabha are completely uninfluenced by either project proponents or State/Central Governments.

Punjab

The Government of Punjab has set a good precedent vide a Notification that “No Objection Certificate” is mandatory from the Department of Cultural Affairs, Archaeology and Museums, Chandigarh for demolition of any building in Punjab built prior to 1947. It is applicable also to alteration, repair, reconstruction and re-alteration also of such heritage buildings. The methodology and material to be used must also be vetted from the Department of Cultural Affairs. If any advice/technical intervention of experts is required, the cost would be a valid charge on the approved work to be carried out by the concerned department/institution.

Malerkota

The Chapter Members conducted an awareness campaign in the schools, colleges and public organizations of the city. All the royal tombs now have signages with names of Nawabs and the periods of their reign. Currently the renovation of the Baradari Tower and the Birks Nanak Shahi curved gateway leading to the baoli of Dera Baba Atma Ram is on-going.

The Chapter is much concerned about the poor condition of the Mubarik Manzil Palace of Nawab Ali Khan where the Begum of the last Nawab is still living. In the month of April, Convenor Dr. Salim Mohd and Co-Convenor Rajesh Kumar organised a cultural heritage exhibition at the local Zakir Hussain Stadium to create public awareness of this royal heritage at peril. It was inaugurated by MLA Nisara Khatun and attended by Retd. DGP Padma Shri Izhar Alam and SDM Rajesh Tripathi. Coins of 11 Nawabs, their letters of state, manuscripts, stamp papers, photographs and antiques exhibited on the occasion were crowd pullers.
monuments of historical importance, Indians should make it a common cause and concern to preserve them for all times. Young people must be imbued with the knowledge and understanding of the importance of this inheritance. Dr. Tiwana shared personal experiences of her life, saying our parents were more aware and took pride in serving the nation, visiting historical places with children, and insisting they speak their mother tongue. Either through negligence or modern day pursuits, there is little importance being attached to such matters and the price would have to be borne by an impoverished future generation.

Dr. Gurnaib Singh, former Head Department of Punjabi Development, Punjabi University said a person who values heritage needs to regard his elders, work hard, keep surroundings clean, learn from history, and serve the people. Heritage adherent S. Baghel Singh stressed upon the need to protect the historical monuments of Patiala and called upon the students to come forward to bring back the glory of Patiala known as a City of Gardens.

Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk said that a campaign was started to protect and preserve the historical monuments of the city at a time when the administration was bent upon razing them due to commercial or developmental considerations. The Hon’ble Punjab and Haryana High Court took note of the PIL and the media reports and issued the notice to the Government. This was an encouraging victory for Patialvis, especially when Punjab Government gave a written undertaking that the historical buildings like Central Jail and Qila Mubarak would not be touched in any manner.

Principal Amarjit Kaur, Co-Convenor R. S. Bhinder, play writer Preet Mohinder Sekhon, and Punjabi writer Dr Laxmi Narain Bhikhi also spoke on the occasion. Several leading dignitaries also participated in the programme. Meritorious students of the school were honoured with books. An exhibition of heritage articles of Punjab was organised by Beant Kaur and Balwinder Kaur Sohal. A portrait of Dr Dalip Kaur Tiwana, prepared by renowned artist Sukhpal Singh was presented to Dr Tiwana. Baba Chamkaur Singh, Managing Director of Bhai Ram Kishan Gurmat Public School, thanked the audience and the Chapter Members for hosting such an educative programme in their school.

Festival of Punjab Music
The Punjab Academy, Delhi held a Festival of Traditional Music of Punjab at the India International Centre, Delhi on 18th-19th May. Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was the Chief Guest on the occasion; with the Minister of Education, Languages, Social Welfare, Child and Women Development, Prof Kiran Walia as the Guest of Honour.

Rebirth of Lakhe Laov Talab
Convenor Ramesh Jangid fought vigorously to stop the painted Havelis of Shekhavati from being ravaged by the land and building mafia who threatened to strip them in cohort with antique dealers and build apartment blocks on their sites.

Sirhohi Convenor Ashutosh Patni took concerned nature lovers to the dried up Lakhe Laov Talab, and forged a partnership with hundreds of volunteers to laboriously dig and dry out the tank, which filled up during the following monsoon.

Barmer Chapter Convenor Prakash Sharma heard about statues being unearthed in a remote area of Barmer, and was wonderstruck to behold a female Varah. Villagers cited old legends that a mighty river flowed there once upon a time, so could it be the lost Saraswati? One person offered a piece of land if INTACH agreed to set up a
Museum to house such discoveries which are periodically discovered in the area.

Ajmer

The Chapter joined hands with the Government Museum on 18th April for a two day exhibition of heritage buildings and monuments of Ajmer and Pushkar which was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Kiran Soni Gupta. Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh handed over an antique forest map of erstwhile Ajmer-Mewar State to the Government Museum. Member Himmat Singh displayed the first Indian coin and of other eras from his own collection. The convenor’s pen collection attracted media coverage in the local Dainik newspaper.

Availing the summer holiday period, an on-the-spot painting competition was organised for three age groups of students. Ex-MLA Dr. Gopal Baheti was invited on 9th June to give away 16 prizes to the winner.

Baran

INTACH (UK) Trust sanctioned a project for the revival of the 250 years old traditional drama in the Hadoti region, Kota-Bundi-Baran districts known as Okha Charitra locally. Co-Convenor Jitendra Sharma Pammi organised a training programme based on a historical drama, scripted and directed by him for reviving this folk art form. 18 workshops were held over one and half years, and to date 32 new artistes have been trained through this commendable and sustained effort. The drama was broadcast in 10 episodes by All India Radio, and scheduled to be exhibited through Prasahar Bharati, Delhi. Copies will also be placed in the National Archives. Congratulations to the Chapter!

Bundi

Convenor Vijay Raj Singh and his associates are congratulated on the restoration of the 250 year old Suryamall Mishran Haveli and the Bhawaldi Bawri in Bund city, as both monuments were conserved with the Chapter’s own resources. Collector Shiv Kumar Agrawal who visited the site on 29th May, accompanied by Thankur Ranvir Singh and Convenor, greatly appreciated INTACH’s work.

Suryamall Mishran was a great poet and scholar who wrote mostly about patriotism and valour, and authored Veer Satsai, Ram Ranjat, Sati Raso, etc. His Vans Bhaskar consisting of 17,000 couplets is considered a modern Mahabhарат. INTACH acquired his crumbling haveli from his descendants and using traditional technique restored it to its former glory.

The 335 years old Bhawaldi Bawri, built by former Maharani Bhawalde in 1678, with its fallen walls and overgrown with peepal trees, was restored stone by stone, along with the chhatris and frescoes.

Jaipur

The Chapter joined hands with the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust to hold a drawing/painting event at the City Palace for about 70 underprivileged children from an orphanage on World Heritage Day. INTACH provided the drawing material and refreshments, while the Museum Trust took care of all other arrangements at the venue including a lunch for participants. Eleven year old Vishal, one of 56 youngsters from the orphanage Apana Ghar could not help saying “It’s so beautiful. I wonder how they were made. People who designed them must have been so skilled!” Some girls simply gaped at crystal chandeliers, mirror works and floral


**Under the Lord’s Feet**

Priest Pradeep Sharma of Mansa Dham Temple in Jaipur claims that constant pouring of holy water and milk on Lord Shiva has blessed them with increasing ground water level. It was no spiritual benediction. Astrologer Purshottam Gaur landed his feet in a puddle of dirty milk and water, sacrilegious because it was the very water poured on Lord Shiva and thus sanctified. He set up a water harvesting system with the help of devotees and residents who did not like the mosquitoes it bred. Soon Gaur started installing more water harvesting systems with financial support of devotees, digging two separate wells for milk and water costing Rs.3000 only. Social activist Suresh Mishra joined the campaign. During the holy month of Shravan alone 1000 big pots of water are poured by each devotee on Lord Shiva as part of the Sahastragadhi ritual. Today water harvesting systems have been installed in 305 temples saving at least million litres of water.

decorations awe struck by the maharajas/maharanis lifestyle; while the boys were excited viewing antique handguns, body armours, helmets and shields. Earlier they had only seen forts and palaces at a distance, this was their close encounter for the first time. With the kit of drawing paper and colour pencils given to them, they tried to capture the enchantment they had experienced. Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar mentions that refreshments were provided by the Chapter after the talk organised at Albert Hall Museum. She has good reason to be proud of this particular awareness programme for the underprivileged youngsters.

**Kota**

A cultural programme Phagotsava was organized on 7th April starring two venerable artistes of classical music who were honored by the Chapter. Eighty-six year old retired music teacher, gave a vocal performance of his well honed skills. The other veteran artiste was seventy-five year old Kishori Devi, who was an artiste of Aakashvani and All India Radio for 50 years till 2010. She is the only surviving Kota based musician who is an expert in singing Rajasthani Maand. Convenor Hari Singh is pleased that this programme attracted a large audience and music lovers.

**Sawai Madhopur**

The Chapter organized a Tiger Conservation Awareness Camp and Community Outreach programme in 10 villages sponsored by the GoI Ministry of Environment and Forests. While stressing on importance of the national Tiger Project, other issues like health, education, dowry and social ills were discussed with the villagers and held their attention.

Programmes were also organized in 20 schools along similar lines, evoking much interest among the students. Suggestions about holding Nature Camps and School Debates evoked great interest, and would be held on yearly basis to sustain their enthusiasm.

**Jodhpur**

Remember the Save Bird project promoted by NHD Advisor SK Verma last year? Convenor Dr. MS Nagger took up the cudgel in right earnest and would like the movement to be adopted by all Rajasthan Chapters. Last year the Jodhpur Chapter provided hanging water pots to people who joined this humane campaign. This year he suggested some popular contests specifically to protect birds with a motivating spirit by instituting awards. He announced the Avian Photo Contest, Avian Architect (for best bird house construction), Avian Parent (for bird adoption), Green Achiever (best bird watcher). He reiterated “Think about living beings that inhabit with us for doing nice things but do not claim any returns”. Nearly one-third of our avian population is endangered, so summer is a time for providing them some extra loving care with feed and drinking water – in gardens, balconies, roof tops, under green net covering, etc.
Forts of Rajasthan

Six historic Forts of Rajasthan – the Amer, Gagron, Jaisalmer, Kumbhalgarh, Chittorgarh and Rathambore Forts – have been included in the list of World Heritage Monuments on 21st June. Earlier an Advisory Committee of UNESCO visited these sites and recommended their inclusion in view of the history and architectural merits of these monumental fortresses.

Udaipur

The General Body of Udaipur Regional Chapter met on 25th May at Hotel Ram Pratap, Lake Fatehsagar. Convenor SK Verma welcomed the Chief Guest Tasneem Mehta, and Special Guests former Vice Chancellor Prof. BP Bhatnagar, Dr. Onkar Singh Rathore, Chief Conservator of Forests KK Garg, and other dignitaries like Jagat Mehta; new Chapter Members and young prize winners of INTACH programmes. He presented the report of the Chapter 2012-13, and of its two sub-Chapters at Rajsamand and Bhilwara. Life Member Dr. Satish Sharma updated the gathering on the listing work of architectural heritage of Udaipur, and the importance of promoting its unique natural heritage as eco-tourism sites. Subject matter specialists covered a wide spectrum of heritage topics, enhanced with audio-visual presentations.

INTACH Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta addressing the gathering said no other city in India has such an extraordinary combination of both natural and manmade gifts. She said today the buzz word in the West is ‘Creative Industries’ like food, entertainment, advertising, design, product development, architecture, etc. UNESCO Studies over the last 10 years also show that creative industries drive urban economies, and sustain both financing and manufacturing. There is need to ‘re-evaluate our strategies and our ways of approaching development in the light of all the obvious mistakes that consumerist oriented economies have made…that we modify its impact by bringing to the fore cultural and ecological impact. We need to ensure that cultural resources and environments are not depleted’. She also felt as the world shrinks and becomes smaller, cultural and ecological biodiversity emerge as the biggest challenges of the future. And perhaps the only answer to debasement of values and today’s conflicts that do not allow civilized solutions to emerge.

Tamilnadu

Chennai

A 3-Day Heritage Preservation and Conservation Workshop was organized at Chennai in association with the INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building (ICCTCB). INTACH resource persons – Director ICCTCB Navin Pilan, Ajit Koujalgi from Puducherry, Badhu Rani from Bengaluru, PT Krishnan and Dr. Suresh from Chennai - delivered the lectures attended by faculty and teachers of Architecture.

Madurai

To mark the significance of various languages and their significance, the Chapter organised a discussion on 12 languages. The programme threw light on how the Temple Town, has always attracted people of diverse linguistic backgrounds. Nearly a dozen people belonging to various communities speaking Oriya, Marwadi, Gujarati, Kutchi and Malayalam shared how they have they nurtured and preserved their mother tongues while making Madurai their home.

Convenor Arvind Kumar Sankar says: Madurai has always been a melting pot of cultures…….The Telugu-speaking Naicks made the city their own and they mingled well with the locals. Later, even people from the north found it warm and settled here. The programme highlighted the role of language as a tool for knowledge. Arvind Sankar said: Mother tongue is always something special…. Every one of us thinks in our mother language and even
Cauvery Dye-ing

The Cauvery River and its tributaries are slowing being choked due to rampant pollution caused mainly by the textile dyeing units. Among its branches the Noyyal is “already a dead river”, while some other tributaries “are in the intensive care unit” according to a Resolution of the Farmers’ Conference held in April this year. There is also rampant sand mining in the river beds. The State Government continues to unroll the red carpet for setting up different types of industries, with unauthorized tapping of water, banned in developed countries on environmental grounds. “It is like selling one’s eyes to buy a painting” was the consensus. The Cauvery Management Board needs to get cracking on the work assigned to it.

studies have been conducted on the effect it has on one. It’s said that the thought process is always richer when done in the mother language”.

Sankaranarayanan, the man behind the event, shared the historical episodes that demonstrate the multilingual and multicultural aspect of the city. There were many speakers – originally from Oriya, Kerala, Gujarat, Kutch and Bengal who can now speak, read and write Tamil fluently but felt the need to teach their children their mother tongue at home. Neeraja Sajan, a student from Kerala, said she enjoyed learning Tamil and found it funny that some words in one language may mean something else in the other. “In Tamil, madhyam means afternoon, while in Malayalam it means liquor.” Abhay Ghosh, a Bengali who has lived his life outside Bengal, said “Grandmothers and mothers are the teachers at home.

The dialogue also threw light on the dialects in different districts and on the change in lingo every ten miles. The participants spoke about the political colours given to languages and how politicians use language to strike an emotional chord. INTACH Convenor reminded the audience that they live in “Vandharai Vazhavaikkum Madurai”, the city that embraces and accepts everyone.

Dr. Uma Kannan authored the book Madura Malligai celebrating jasmine that grows abundantly around the temple town of Madurai. At a gathering in Co-Convener MD Vel’s residence, Chapter Members gathered together to talk about another thing for which Madurai is famous, the exquisite tie-and-dye craft, Sungudi. Families and friends of designer Sujatha Srinivasan sashayed on the makeshift ramp in a mini fashion show of Sungudi some with embroidery or tinges of copper sulphate.

On 12th May the Heritage Walk of the Month was organized to the Anaiyur Village, historically known as Thirukumullur and the early Pandia site of Thiruvakneeswaramudaya Parama Swamy Temple which has many Chola-Pandya inscriptions.

Nagercoil

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan is very concerned that nearly half of the 500 sacred groves of Kanyakumari District have disappeared over the last 15 years. These groves represent precious biodiversity, with more than 600 species of medicinal plants known locally as Kavu that are extensively used by Ayurveda doctors. The tall shady trees like Than (Iterminalia bellii), Banyan (ficus bengalensis) Arasu (ficus religiosa), Ayani (atrocarpus hirsutus), Ilantha (ziziphus mauriteiana) contribute to the greenery of the district. It is mono plantations of rubber that have swallowed up many sacred groves, compounded by concrete building activity. The Chapter hopes to take up the matter with the Dewasam Board, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board; and most importantly with the Forest and Revenue Departments.

Nilgiris

Tribal communities of the Nilgiris, dressed in colourful traditional attire, participated in a cultural festival sponsored by the All India Radio, Ooty and the Light and Life Academy. The first copy of an audio-visual The Spirit of Nilgiris, a valuable resource material, was presented by the Project Director Area Development Programme to Convenor Geetha Srinivasan. She was the Chief Guest at the Investiture ceremony for the Prefects of the Good Shepherd

Chocolate Museum

Mouth watering chocolates have gone viral crossing geographical barriers and duty free shops. In India it is in the Nilgiris, popularly known as Ooty-Queen of Hill Stations, where a 80 year old tradition of homemade chocolate making thrives. Because its maximum temperature is 32 degrees Celsius, while chocolates melt only at 38 degrees. The long standing M and N Goodies shop run by Rahman Brothers has set up India’s first Chocolate Museum depicting its evolution since ancient Mayan to our times. There are several chocolate sculptures including models of boat, horse carts, and most prominently the Laughing Buddha making the museum both educative and enticing, attracting thousands of visitors.
International School. Speaking about erosion of values and moral degradation, she exhorted students to preserve the Nilgiri Biosphere and presented the CIS Accreditation plaque to the Principal of the School.

Member Dr. Tarun Chhabra who is in charge of the Toda Nalavaazhv Sangam has worked on Todas welfare for many years, and has been instrumental in getting the Geographical Indication Award for Toda Embroidery. The GIA indicates specific geographical origin of prized goods which improve the economic activity and status of the community. At a celebratory function on 13th June, Collector Archana Patnaik presented a certificate to the representatives of the community and lauded the Chapter’s role in preserving Toda heritage and hereditary migration as well as rebuilding tribal dairy temples. On the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda celebrations, Tapas Datta spoke about the impact on national and international spheres of this charismatic personality at the Nilgiri Library.

Uttar Pradesh

The State Chapter organized Lucknow ki Shayari at the residence of the recently appointed Convenor Vipu Varshney to welcome new INTACH Members. It was a magical time for them and for all the prominent Luchnowphiles who joined the gathering. Presiding over the event, Yogesh Praveen recited poetry on Lucknow quoting poets Meer Taqi Meer, Sauda, Majaz, Morza Ghalib, and others. Manish Shukla touched many hearts with his soulful rendering of his own poetry on contemporary Lucknow. Ms. Varshney recited poetry on Umrao Jaan ‘Ada’: Begum Hazrat Mahal, Aziz Bano ‘Wafa’. Nandita Bhaskar read poems on Sham-e-Awadh. What followed was an equally delectable dinner that will be long remembered by new and old Members including Shri OP Agarwal and Usha Agarwal who graced the occasion.

Lucknow

The Chapter organized the annual Heritage Vintage Drive jointly with the Oudh Heritage Car Club, with the Times of India as media partner, and the Amity International School as the host. About 60 children and 10 teachers were taken on a drive through the heritage sites of Lucknow. It was flagged by State Co-Convenor R N Bhargava from Bada Imambara and finally culminated at Amity International School, with eminent historian Ravi Bhatt highlighting the historical and architectural importance of the sites visited. The Chairman of Oudh Heritage Car Club, Capt. Paritosh
West Bengal

Darjeeling

The announcement of Darjeeling MP that MPLAD funds would be provided for setting up a Gorkha War Museum at Batasia Loop, and the hurried steps taken by the District Administration to select a site, was a matter of much consternation to the Chapter. A Bumi Puja had already been performed at the selected site. On receipt of this news from FOSEP, an environmental NGO of Darjeeling, Convenor Bharat Prakash Rai immediately convened a meeting of all local NGOs and concerned citizens, chaired by a senior Chapter Member Haren Allay. He lodged a strong protest against the decision of the District Administration, and released an article in the local media to garner popular support. The Batasia Loop area is one of the most sensitive sites of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, which was conferred World Heritage Status not too long ago because of its steam engine and more so for the unparalleled beauty of the entire Mt. Kanchenjunga range of the Himalayas. The proposed museum would have blocked the panoramic view of serpentine ridge, green valleys and gorges, and tea gardens. The bureaucratic proposal exhibits a blatant insensitivity to environmental issues. The Convenor faced almost physical and rude verbal attack for opposing the project. UNESCO warned that any concrete structure coming up in the Batasia would mean loss of WHS status. The Railway authorities have denied

Varanasi

The Chapter has been actively participating in the various HECS programmes, and also the Conservation Workshop organized by the INTACH Training Centre.

It is currently involved with the restoration of the 1735 Balaji Mandir, built by Peshwa Balaji II and popularly known as Peshwa ki Ranashala which is now governed by the Scindia Devasthan Trust. It is proposed to start cultural centres and a museum once the debris is cleared and the carved pillars and fallen portions are fully restored. A music centre is also under consideration as this temple was the sadhana sthali of late Bharatratna recipient Ustad Bismillah Khan, the famous shehnai maestro.

Watery Graveyards

The Forest Department and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) conducted a 2800 km survey by different teams and reported that the Ganga, Yamuna and Ghagra – three major rivers flowing through Uttar Pradesh - are fast degrading. They will soon be submitting a Combined River Conservation Plan to the State Government. Polluting industries have resulted in the disappearance of wildlife as oxygen in the waters has completed depleted. It was found that the Ghagra river between Sitapur and Mao districts, the Yamuna between Pachnada and Allahabad, and Ganga between Kanpur and Allahabad are critically losing their life support systems owing to uncontrolled mining and fishing – and absence of Government controls.
permission to use the railway land after a convincing presentation was made. The museum plan has now been shifted to another site. INTACH congratulates the Chapter on its success.

Kolkata

Restoration work on the Acharaya Jagdish Chandra Bose’s 110 year old house has started, to be transformed into a national science museum when completed. Prime Minister announced the project on the occasion of the JC Bose’s 150th anniversary three years ago. It was only in April this year that the state backed Aus-Heritage Trust of Australia joined hands with INTACH for restoring and setting up the museum. The Ministry of Culture will be overseeing the project and has granted Rs. 5 crore. Preservation experts brought in by INTACH have found most of the personal effects, books, scientific instruments like the Crescograph (to measure plant growth), microscope and laboratory intact. The museum will have audio-visual shows to bring late 19th-early 20th centuries space and scientific experiments to the viewer.

Itachuna means brick and lime. When the Rajbari was built in 1766 it was the only brick-built structure because of which the entire area came to be known as Itachuna. Its origin was traced to the marauding Marathas also known as Bargas who invaded Bengal during that period. The Maratha Ditch, presently Lower Circular Road of the city, was dug up by the British to keep the Maratha forces at bay. The genesis of the Kundans who settled here can be traced back to a faction of the Marathas. Rajabari is thus steeped in much history. Convenor GM Kapur says that heritage enthusiasts will find an excellent example of adaptive reuse at Rajabari. The Kundu family have effectively utilized the existing infrastructure to make it a comfortable place for “home stay” with minimal alterations so that it retains its ‘olde worlde’ charm despite additions made to provide modern comforts like air conditioning, TV and toilets. Tourists are encouraged ‘to do their own thing’ enjoy home-cooked Bengali cuisine, and experience the lifestyle of the surrounding village.

The Chapter, jointly with the Victoria Memorial, organized a programme in the museum’s portrait gallery on the theme “Heritage is Education” to mark World Heritage Day. Director of Modern High School for Girls, Devi Kar expressed her chagrin at the lack of interest and knowledge among many young Kolkatans. She said “Students today know all about pollution and global warming. But how many of them bother to notice the sad state of our architecture heritage – how old buildings

Chinese of Calcutta

Of all the quaint and colourful communities that have contributed a distinctive hue to the kaleidoscopic variety of Calcutta’s life, the Chinese have swelled their ranks to carve out a special niche in the hearts and minds of Calcuttans. While Chinese sent out itinerant tradesmen, monks, scholars and curious travellers in ages gone by, it is Yong Atchew who came in 1780 and is acknowledged as their first settler in India. 65 years later, Colesworthy Grant wrote about 25 shoe makers on Bentinck Street “who manufacture with much taste and at moderate charges. All carpenters attached to our ships in the country’s service are Chinese”. By the middle of the 19th century, the community established itself as a skilled, industrious, sober, honest and above all clean people. Their only vice that shocked Europeans was addiction to opium smoking! Today China Town, Chow Mein, even two Chinese newspapers are common place, and Chinese New Year is heralded with dragon dances and fire crackers.

Fifteen miles downstream from Calcutta at Achipur village stands a sparkling red tomb of uncommon horse-shoe shape, lapped by the river Hoooghly. Groups of enthusiastic Chinese sometimes come by in gaily bedecked steamers, playing their musical instruments and clapping hands, in memory of the first Chinaman whose business failed but his settlers flourished. Jawahar Sircar who sent some articles to Convenor Kapur and garnered this information says “While Atchew sips Tei with his honourable ancestors in heaven, his descendants do not seem to have done too badly on this portion of earth Their tanneries and shoe shops, their dentistry clinics and restaurants, their furniture stores and laundries, all form a permanent and inseparable part of Calcutta’s life”.

Heritage : An Agent of Change

Academi cans gathered at Victoria Museum to celebrate World Heritage Day, at a seminar organised by INTACH Kolkata Chapter on 18th April. Before commencement of the proceedings directed chiefly towards youth awareness, Convenor GM Kapur played Quiz Master asking some of the simplest questions about familiar landmarks of the city which children know without their history. He posed simple questions like who built Victoria Memorial, how did Park Street gets its name, what are the three villages that comprise Kolkata, where foreign settlements are located, etc. Director of Modern High School for Girls felt the need to develop the aesthetic sense of children as “they are the agents of change but they should know how to manage and monitor the change simultaneously” Professor Amlan Dasgupta spoke about the School of Cultural Records at Jadavpur University which has an archive of 6000 hours of classical music in its Music Library. He believes that “one cannot revive something that is not supported by the environment”. Heritage is insured by sensitizing youth.
Convenor GM Kapur visited the Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia built from 1186 and completed in the 13th century. He met the participants of the World Heritage Youth Forum. ASI is currently restoring this large monastic temple as part of the Indo-Cambodia Cooperation Project. It is a mammoth task involving numbering of thousands of different shaped blocks, to be reassembled without using mortar and relying on indentations to fit them together. ASI has documented every stone member layer by layer and grid by grid, measuring each. The broken stones of floors, columns and roof were repaired and rejoined with appropriate material and threaded with steel pins. When completed it will be an overseas restoration work of great pride for India.

**Ta Prohm Temple**

The Government has decided to ban trade of peacock feathers, five years after it was designated the National Bird. World Wide Fund did a stock taking exercise of peacock population in 1991 and revealed that only 50% remained of the numbers existing in 1947. Their numbers have been dwindling because the demand for morpankh has outstripped naturally shed feathers, and they fetch a good price even in the international market. The large quantities off loaded in markets explodes the myth that they are naturally shed feathers. The ban will make the offence punishable equivalent to that meted out for killing endangered species.

**National Bird**

Chimpanzee Talk

Discovery News reported “Like a passionate Italian uses a combination of hand movements and sounds, the chimpanzees often succeed in conveying what’s on their minds………often food, playtime and an annoyance over being ignored”. Chimpanzees use gestures, vocalized sounds and sign language to communicate with each other - and with humans, if you are patient enough to listen. It only involves persistent ‘monkey talk’ on our part, according to the study made at the Chimpanzee and Human Communications Institute of USA.

**Chimp Talk**

Conservation India expert indicates not more than 200 Great Indian Bustards are left in India, and they might become extinct like the cheetah. The meager population fragmented in small pockets of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh makes the extinction even more imminent. Many environmentalists have asked the Government to start a Project Bustard, with a hand-picked team of committed officials, conservationists, biologists and local community leaders.

**Great Indian Bustard**

Photographer Arya has one of its kind museum of 400 vintage cameras, some dating 1880. Also on view are a lot of equipment including the earliest flash bulbs, lenses, enlargers, even Kodak advertisements. There are rare classics like the 1930 Speed Graphic camera, another called Raja made in 1950 and sold in USA, a stereoscope camera including a 1911 photograph of Delhi Durbar, and cameras with swastika produced during Nazi Germany. The smallest one is the Minox which was used in the Watergate scandal. There is much history to be viewed through the lens of vintage cameras.

**Vintage Camera Museum**

One might shudder at seeing nails and boards on trees, chopped branches and brown grass in any city. The scenario is not entirely without a silver lining. A group of students from Lakshmipat Singhania Academy not only noticed the polluted maidan they crossed every day, but filmed it at the Victoria Memorial on the occasion of World Heritage Day. Seven more entries on heritage subject form local schools were also screened. The film by Apeejay School, Salt Lake called Nolen Gur was about how sugar cane juice is collected and made into gur; Apeejay School, Park Street portrayed the hand-pulled rickshaw as an integral part of the city’s heritage. Convenor GM Kapur said this was the first time an event was organized involving children, and was surprised at the range of themes captured by young eyes. Education Officer Piyasha Bharasa said such events served as a bridge to make young people more aware of the importance of conservation, and turn teachers into heritage specialists. She said “We would love to partner organizations like INTACH to bring more students on board and involve them in preserving our heritage”.

**News from Here & There**

**To Note**

With the increasing number of Chapters/ INTACH Memberships, and in order to ensure due coverage to all, Chapters are requested to write about their programmes/events/projects in succinct form omitting details which are not of general interest.

For better reproduction, pictures should be sent as a separate attachment (JPEG) and not posted on word document to improve print quality. Alternately send original photographs by post. No Press clippings please!

Student Members will henceforth receive their copies of Virasat only by Email. Kindly ensure that you have registered your email ID with Chapters Division.

It has been decided to restrict the number of Virasat pages due to exorbitant mailing cost.
Heritage at Risk

SOS from Heritage Adherents

Sri Raghunathji Mahaprabhu Temple, Kharsawan, Jharkhand

Sri Raghunathji Mahaprabhu Temple was constructed by Raja Gangaram in Icha District of Jharkhand. It was completed in 1887 by his son Maheshwar Singh who installed the deities of Ram and Lakshman made of ashtadhatu, and Bharat, Shatrughan and Sita in stone. It has other decapitated structures like the durbar hall, guest house, storeroom, kitchen, etc. However the temple is now in danger of being submerged.

Subanarekha Multipurpose Irrigation Project

The Subanarekha Project construction commenced in 1991 with World Bank funding. It straddles the Subarnarekha river valley comprising the states of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal with multimodal financing including the Ministry of Water Resources, and involves two dams, one at Chandil and the other at Icha.

Bilwara Textile Mills Limited, Rajasthan

The 1938 Bilwara Textile Mills, the first in Rajasthan, are now under demolition as part of the city development. These mills, a part of the erstwhile state of Mewar (Udaipur), were sold to the Rajasthan Government. It’s important features, and particularly its chimney deserve to be preserved as it is the most prominent landmark of the town. People awakened to its sound and even timed their daily activities to its periodic sirens.

Panaiyapuram Temple, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu

The 1000 years old Panaiyapuram Temple is slated to be destroyed to make way for a 4-lane highway. Though the Temple is unprotected site, it should ideally come under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 2010 so that no construction including roads and highways is permitted within 100 metres of the monument.

If there is any heritage monument at risk in your region please bring it to the attention of Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) with your observations.