MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN

Amidst all the sound and bytes of the recent Elections, two environmental issues resonated and attracted considerable public attention. I think they need to be factored into INTACH’s future concerns.

No less than the World Health Organisation declared Indian cities as having the most polluted air among all cities of the world. Our capital New Delhi topped as the most polluted of the ‘dirty’ cities, followed by Patna, Gwalior, Raipur and nine others. WHO experts insist that the idea is not to name and shame as the data required was gathered by way of voluntary information. Their objective was to “challenge” these cities and make people aware that they are harming themselves by allowing heavy traffic, smokestack industry, burning coal, etc. without checks. They are also incurring a higher risk of contracting life threatening diseases. The report forgot to mention that the future of our children is also at stake.

In my last message to you all, I touched on making the cultural connect with people. This is not only for creating greater heritage awareness, but also for confronting vital environmental issues that can beleaguer the country’s future. Only public opinion and pressure can bring such grave matters to the priority attention of the

The eminent Prof. Madhav Gadgil delivered the Pupul Jayakar Lecture hosted by INTACH annually on 18th April, World Heritage Day. The audience at the India International Centre was held in rapt attention through a series of visuals unfolding the concept of a “Community of Beings”. A community “involving not only human population but other beneficent elements such as hills and rivers, woods and trees, birds and monkeys, according such beings respect, even veneration”. A succession of visuals charmingly sparked alight his trail of thoughts, transporting the audience to another plane - creating awareness about sights and sounds in our surroundings that elude us amidst the cacophony of modern life.

India’s rich heritage of conservation traditions evolved in a society that instinctively respected nature in India. Let us not forget that.

contd overleaf
authorities. We need to educate INTACH Members and through them the people at large about such issues that concerns us all.

Another matter of equally vital importance is the water crisis looming on the horizon. A recent UNESCO report on The World Water Development indicates that by 2050 more than 40% of the world population will be under severe water stress with the demand for water more than doubling. Scientists and environmentalists have asserted that water will be the biggest “destabilizing factor” in future. As far back as 1955, the then Vice President of World Bank had stated “If wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water”.

To take just one example, as many as 956 industrial units comprising chemical units, distilleries, dairies, sugar factories, dyeing units, tanneries, etc are polluting the Ganga and its tributaries. It requires both the Pollution Board and the public pressure to ensure that people’s health and aquatic life are not endangered by emissions and effluents.

Both these key issues - air pollution and water scarcity - are alarming enough to demand our attention. They must be factored into preparing our future thrust areas or adopted as passion projects. I believe heritage organizations like INTACH have a major role to play through our vast network of Chapters. Members must be inducted to propagate environmental awareness among people in their respective localities. If we succeed in establishing this kind of connect with the public, environmental issues can be brought to the attention of the new Government by the people, with the people and for the people.

Chairman

Prof. Gadgil in fact emphatically pointed out that “scientific practices of nature conservation in no way represent a real advance over the traditional folk-knowledge based systems. All that has happened is that the spatial scale of efforts to conserve biodiversity has changed along with enlargement of resource catchments or footprints of modern societies”. He felt our scientific understanding of complex ecological systems is in fact still very limited. At present there are no universal laws to guide ecological management comparable to laws of physics and chemistry for example that enabled man to land on the moon.

Prof. Gadgil cited the Dalai Lama’s philosophy that human beings are basically of a gentle nature, and they should maintain and extend that gentility and non-violence to fellow beings, and importantly to their natural environment as well. These admittedly are idealistic sentiments indeed, especially in our times when authoritarian social demands have in fact put a tremendous strain on natural resources and green environment. And on human nature?

Prof. Gadgil cited a Russian humanist and biologist Pyotr Kropotkin who said there have been two opposed tendencies in our civilization: “the Roman tradition and the popular tradition, the imperial tradition and the federalist tradition; the authoritarian tradition and the libertarian tradition”. The authoritarian tradition prevailing today views social demands for nature conservation as an opportunity to control, harass and extort, Prof. Gadgil concludes.

The Professor spoke at length about the destruction to nature and people’s livelihood so widely prevalent in our times. The most glaring example he cited was the VEDANTATA site in Odisha where forested slopes and flowing streams of the Niyamgiri hills provide a living to the Kondh tribes. The rich biodiversity of the Niyamgiri massif critically links a series of forests and wildlife sanctuaries. Today it is threatened by mining operations. The VEDANTATA site is one of the main source of Vamsadhara River, and mining operations would result in a hydrological disaster, destroying the very integrity of its ecosystem. It also
severely disturbs 7 sq. kms of wildlife habitat wrecking its ecology. The Kondhs are agitating because they believe their survival is at stake.

The Government of India Forest Rights Act (FRA) vests recognizable community and habitat rights, with its Preamble clearly stating that forest dwellers are “integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem”. The FRA further authorizes the Gram Sabhas to ensure that their habitat is preserved from any destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage.

The Forest Rights Act however has not been formalized to date, with the result District Administrations have often failed to act either fairly or firmly to protect the rights of the Kondhs. In fact the State Government has already taken a decision to transfer tribal land to the mining group. Dr. Gadgil pointed out: “Not only is the transfer of community resources for mining without seeking their informed consent unfair, it is also illegal after the enactment of the FRA.”

Orissa Government is not likely to implement the FRA in an impartial manner. Prof. Gadgil strongly condemned this as “promoting lawlessness”. The VEDANTA Company has been forwarding false certificates and consistently violating the Orissa Forest Act, Environmental Protection Act and the FRA in active collusion with local authorities.

Prof. Gadgil spoke about many other instances of rights being blatantly violated in other States as well. An interesting episode is that of Karwar which was incorporated into Karnataka in 1960 under the Linguistic Reorganisation of States. Some villagers learned that their land would be taken over and so quickly razed it to the ground in just 2 weeks. The case dragged on for many long years, till eventually the High Court ordered that the land be given back to the villagers.

Concluding his talk with many other such instances of FRA violations, Prof. Gadgil posed a devastating question: Should our biodiversity wealth be surrendered to moneyed mining interests? Or just to serve a capital-intensive economy that
Director Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) Nerupama Modwel extended a warm vote of thanks on behalf of INTACH for a most engrossing talk. Prof. Madhav Gadgil was invited to release two recent publications of INTACH.

The publication by Anubhav Das *Baiga* is about this small *Baiga* tribe living in the sal forests of central India, in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. Today the largest settlement of the *Baiga* is in *Baiga Chak*, a 100 sq.km area carved out by the British in 1890. With a population of only about 23,500 they remain an exclusive community. Efforts are being made by several adjoining State Governments to draw them into the mainstream. The book has many colour pictures of smiling faces and beautiful nature, giving readers a peep into the lives and times of the *Baiga*.

The book on *Traditional Methods of Weather Forecasting* by Meenakshi Dhawle was released by the Natural Heritage Division, with the support of the Ministry of Culture. It is a unique attempt to document and classify the traditional techniques of predicting arrival or failure of monsoons in the district of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. “Our ancestors developed techniques of forecasting local weather conditions from miscellaneous observations of their immediate natural environment. Over the years they astutely kept track of growth, reproduction and other behavioral patterns of animals and plants in their area; sun, moon and star phenomena; cloud formations and wind directions, etc.” Their cumulative observations were passed down the generations and became part of both folk parlance and practice. Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar said the book is an introduction to their traditional knowledge and practices. Illustrated lavishly with pictures and quotations it makes fascinating reading.

Director Nerupama Modwel and Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar with Prof Gadgil and INTACH Chairman at the release of two INTACH publications

**ECONOMY OF MUTUALISM**

Western capitalism elaborated a capital-intensive economy highly wasteful of natural resources because of its successful accumulation of large capital stocks through draining their colonies, and access to natural resources of whole continents like the Americas, taken over by wiping out the indigenous people. India does not enjoy such access to capital and natural resources, but has to do justice to its huge pool of human resources. This calls for prudent use of natural resources, best accomplished by empowering local communities to safeguard and nurture them, and creation of productive employment on a massive scale.

J.C. Kumarappa
(Cited by Prof. Gadgil)
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002

From time immemorial Nature has been the mother of culture, and was nurtured by people to provide themselves a livelihood. With the pressures of time and development, the ecology of the country and its people are at enormous risk. Interests of industry and economy are subordinating environmental and social concerns. Chairman INTACH is of the view that our biggest challenge is to evolve logically sound ecological development models, rooted in respect for nature, and factoring environmental health. He draws attention of all Convenors and Chapter Members to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 which provides for sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and equitable distribution of the benefits arising out of biological resources.

A National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established at Chennai to regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and for fair and equitable benefit sharing. It advises the Central and State Governments on these matters, and on selection of important biodiversity areas to be notified as heritage sites. On behalf of the Government, NBA can oppose the grant of intellectual property rights in foreign countries on biological resource/knowledge obtained from India. Approval of the NBA is required and a charge is levied for utilizing biological resources for commercial utilization, bio-survey, bio-utilisation, or transfer the results of any such research. Permission has to be sought on a prescribed form for transfer of any biological resource or related knowledge. The NBA will determine in consultation with the Central Government matters like equitable sharing of biological resources, grant of joint ownership of intellectual property rights, transfer of technology, location of development areas, payment of monetary compensation, etc.

State Biodiversity Boards have also been set up. The NBA/ Central Government will issue directives to take immediate ameliorative measures if biological resources or their habitats are threatened by over use or neglect. To the extent possible, the Government integrates the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The Act has also constituted Local Biodiversity Management Committees for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and animal breeds, microrganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

Chapters need to familiarize themselves with all the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 – a copy of which is being circulated to them. It is useful to establish contact with the Local Biodiversity Management Committee.

For more details see News from NHD

GEOHERITAGE

There is a serious need for activism on Geoheritage, a new field of conservation that is now in the vision of INTACH. Like archaeological sites portraying human history, geological heritage sites display earth’s processes as well as the evolutionary history of a life form. Much like the conservation efforts directed to archaeological and
historic sites, geo-heritage sites must also be preserved and protected like “gifts of nature”. They include fossil locations, sites of stratospheric importance, important traverses, newly excavated mines, sedimentary deposits, etc.

A brainstorming session on *Geoheritage – Need for an Indian Activism* was organized by the Geology Department, Andhra University supported by the Geological Survey of India, Kolkata and INTACH in May last year. The objective of this national workshop was to evolve a mechanism for protecting these national sites, and also to explore the possibility of introducing a Bill in Parliament for their protection.

The proceedings edited by Prof. D. Rajshekhar Reddy has now been published highlighting the significance of geoconservation and growth potential of geotourism sites and geoparks. Dr. Reddy is of the view that the first step is to introduce geoheritage into the educational curriculum. Equally important, the role of different Ministries, Departments and NGOs must be identified for initiating a National Geopark.

Network. A draft strategy is covered in the book which also carries the various presentations made at the Workshop.

The publication has a series of articles on specific geoheritage sites in India – in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal, Kashmir and Ladakh, North East, Adaman & Nicobar Islands, and many places in South India. India owns some of the most productive geological sites, but it is ironic that not a single one features among the World Heritage Sites of the country.

**INTACH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

The Governing Council met on 16th April at Central Office. Revised budget estimates for 2013-14 and the budget estimates for 2014-15 were discussed.

Chairman L.K. Gupta proposed Ms. Tasneem Mehta, the outgoing Vice Chairman for reappointment and continuation in the same post. The names of Shri Lalit Surjan outgoing member of the Executive Committee and Shri M. Gopala Krishna were approved for appointment of two members on the Executive Committee.

**SOME GEOHERITAGE SITES IN INDIA**

To mention a very few: Marine fossil park, Lonar lake and dinosaur fossil in Jhabua, Dhar and Jabalpur districts, Madhya Pradesh • Leni caves, Maharashtra • Kishangarh Nepheline Sodalite Syenite, Pali Sendra Granite, Akal fossilwood park, Jhamakotra stromalolite park in Rajasthan • Dinosaur nesting sites, Allah-Bund fault, Pyroclastics and volcanic features, Gujarat; • Early Oligocene fossil. Manipur • Angadipuram laterite, Kerala • Sagirelu Valley, Andhra Pradesh • Zanskar-Ladakh Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir.

Geoconservation is an emerging Geoscience within Earth and Space Sciences where scientific data and knowledge is submitted to current validation procedures as in other Geosciences. Unregulated mining/quarrying in some places, urbanization in other places in total ignorance, has already caused some serious damage to Geoheritage.
CHAIRMAN VISITS LUCKNOW

Chairman L.K. Gupta attended the Convenors Meeting of UP Chapters at Lucknow on 31st May. Delivering the keynote address, he reiterated INTACH Mission and the considerable success it has had in promoting professional conservation over the past few years.

Contrary to popular misconception, Uttar Pradesh existed long before the Aryan invasion. There is evidence of rice cultivation as far back as the 8th millennium BC and more than 250 rural settlements existed in times gone by. Chairman also reminded the gathering that the State has many heritage assets like the Salkhan Fossil Park in Robert Ganj District, the quarries of Chunar from which Ashok pillars were carved, statues scattered in Lalitpur and Jhansi districts with even fragments of the original fetching a phenomenal price in overseas art markets. He said Uttar Pradesh can still boast of many mythic cities like Allahabad, Varanasi, Agra, etc. but the rich heritage of the State, with cities polluted and rivers toxic, is in urgent need of attention. It is not enough for people to depend on Government alone, they must also take responsibility to preserve what is also their own heritage.

State Convenor Alok Ranjan further elaborated on the Role of Civil Society. Principal Secretary Culture Rajan Shukla gave some interesting details about the Government Agenda. Chapter Convenors made presentations on the work undertaken in their respective regions.

CODEA – FOOD FOR THOUGHT

At the UP Convenors’ Meet, Chairman shared an interesting insight of Charles Correa. Lord Buddha tried to abolish the caste system more than 3000 years ago. In the last century, Mahatma Gandhi spent his entire life trying to banish untouchability. He cited Correa who gave the example of two villagers in Maharashtra sitting side by side on the same bench in a “dumb old BEST bus. One is the village dhobi, and the other its money lender. Naturally they are not talking to each other, but both just staring straight ahead, enduring the proximity that would be totally repugnant back in their village” Correa came to the conclusion “that is what our cities are about….. They are mechanisms for social engineering….they will transform, this country”.

COMMITTEE FOR INTACH PUBLICATIONS

A Committee for INTACH Publications has been set up for evaluation of manuscripts/books proposed for publication from Chapters and other sources - in terms of proper heritage value, quality and gravity as per INTACH standards and mission. Adviser IDC Prof. Narayani Gupta, PD IHA Navin Pipani, Editor Virasat Rajeshwari Tandon and Consultant Publications Rekha Khosla are appointed members of this Committee.

NEWS: MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION

WORKSHOPS, ICI DELHI

INTACH Conservation Institute (ICI), Delhi is continuously developing the best methodologies in the field of conservation science. The Centre is conducting series of workshops and training programmes for capacity building, dissemination of knowledge to spread concern for heritage conservation - through a series of lectures, seminars and hands-on practicals facilitated by both in-house facilitators and external experts as well as international collaborations.

The first in the series was on oil painting conservation conducted from 28th-30th April at ICI headquarters, Delhi. It focused on documentation methods, scientific techniques
of examinations, basic principles of restoration and preventive care of oil paintings, facilitated by experienced conservators working in the Delhi Centre. Students and research scholars from reputed institutions of Delhi and out station participated in the workshop.

Display, storage and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Participants from different institutions and Government Departments; the Deputy Commissioner’s Office Shimla, Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, St. Thomas School Shimla, office of the Superintendent of Police, Jail Department, RGGR College Shimla, Rajkiya

The second workshop on ‘Preventive conservation for library and archival collection’ (26 - 30 May) was held in association with the State Museum (Shimla) at its premises. Ms. Upma Chaudhary Additional Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh) inaugurated this event. This workshop focus was on understanding the detrimental effects of environmental factors (light, moisture, pollution, etc), various aspects of curative and preventive conservation such as care, proper
ICI LUCKNOW

Twenty eight regimental colors were received from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun covered with dust and dirt, stains, tears, hardening of adhesive, fold marks, loss of original cloth, fungal growth, tarnishing of the metal area, bleeding/spreading of colour, loss of zari from original/supporting cloth, and missing of logo or emblem. The results of very elaborate treatments can be seen in the dramatic transformation of the regimental colours before and after conservation.

Kanya Mahavidyalaya Shimla, and the State Museum Staff attended the training programme making it a huge success. INTACH State Convenor’s office facilitated the event, concluding with certificates distributed to participants by Deputy Commissioner (Shimla) Dinesh Malhotra.

The ICI Delhi is planning more training workshops in the coming months with focus on various areas of art conservation; preventive conservation, curative conservation of art objects, wall painting conservation and conservation of library and archival material.

Deputy Commissioner Dinesh Malhotra, and State Convenor Malvika Pathania
Three printed books were received from the Library of J.K. Temple, Kanpur titled *Vishnonaam Sahastranaam* and *The Glorious Quran- Part I & II*. The problems included dirt deposits, weak and brittle fibres, stains, torn pages, etc. Other problems were discoloration, creases and fold marks, warping, loose stitching, broken torn binding cover smaller than folios. The type of script of the book was Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu and English. Conservation treatment included fumigation, documentation, examination, removal of old binding, stitching, etc.

Aqueous deacidification and resizing of each folio was also done. Finally new section stitching and archival binding with acid free hand made board was done and original binding cover of the books was maintained.

The 1st Guard (2 Punjab), Roorkee Officer’s Mess displays versatile objects of both organic and inorganic in nature like paper documents, paintings, lithographs, animal skins, textiles, flags, metal trophies, shields, ceramics etc. A small part of this collection was sent to ICI, Lucknow for conservation.

The Election Board Commissioner and Lucknow Vyapar Mandal organized an Awareness campaign for 100% voting on 20th April on the banks of river Gomti, near Kudiaghat. ICI Lucknow prepared the
Before & After Conservation

rangoli at Kudiaghat, designed by Director ICI Mamta Mishra in the shape of a map of India with Uttar Pradesh as highlighted and decorated with diyas. The Lucknow Vyapar Mandal, an umbrella body of more than 600 small and big trader groups along with the district administration organized this “Deep Utsav”. Local dignitaries and officials were present on the occasion.

ICI BHUBANESHWAR

ICI Bhubaneshwar is assigned the renovation of the Art and Craft Gallery of Odisha State Museum, to be redesigned with proper show cases, illumination and display of conserved collection.

The royal exhibits of the gallery are under conservation at the Centre for display inside the specially designed Royal Exhibit Section.

Rennovation underway at the Art and Craft Gallery, Odisha State Museum
The new Conservation Laboratory, Odisha State Museum, established by INTACH Odisha Art Conservation Centre, was inaugurated on 18th May, International Museum Day.

**ICI BENGALURU**

The ICI Bengaluru received 14 Japanese Woodcut Prints belonging to the pre war period dated 1931 and 1936 according to the seals and signature found on the prints. These exquisite Hasui and Shozon wood block prints were brought to the centre from Chennai in a fragile condition, pasted with strong glue on highly acidic support boards, brittle, warped and pasted to the mount boards.

The art works were cleaned, flattened, repaired and float mounted on archival paper with Japanese paper hinges, shofu (starch), and remounted and reframed.
ICJODHPUR

An important illustrated manuscript from a private collection having 56 folios containing 27 paintings was received at the Jodhpur Centre for conservation treatment in a very poor condition. The folios are single, separated, unstitched and not of same size with some parts missing. Stains of water, oil, ink were present along with abrasions on the painted area.

Treatment involved dry cleaning with suitable solvents, followed by stitching them together. Archival binding with full cloth was undertaken as the last step, on cloth specially prepared for the cover board.

18TH MAY, INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

After the Great London Exhibition of 1947-48 of arts and crafts loaned by newly independent India’s major museums and private owners, it was decided to showcase them in Delhi after first displaying them at the Rashtrapathi Bhawan. A foundation stone for the National Museum was laid in May 1955 by Pandit Nehru, designed by Ganesh Bikaji Deolalikar. This year’s 2014 Exhibition comprises photos of all those historic occasions, even images of architects and engineers discussing the building’s construction. There is a picture of the Museum’s Inservice Museology Training Programme inauguration, with D.G. Grace M. Morley standing under a mandapa in the museum’s wood carving gallery along with Nehru.

This year at the Red Fort, thousand year old relics usually kept in out of reach glass showcases, were put on display without ASI restrictions. Visitors were urged to touch and hold the recently excavated Mughal and Gupta period artifacts that had been excavated from the site of the Old Fort. There was also a workshop to teach people the art of making ancient seals in clay, similar to the Harappan ones used for trade and for marking copyrights.

In Bengaluru, the Government Museum and Venkatappa Art Gallery unveiled a collection of photographs dating back to the early 12th century. It included the Jain Tirtankaras, valuable artifacts of the Chola period, carved ivory items, etc.

The theme for 2014 Museum Day is “museum collections make connections”.

Hansui and Shozon woodblock prints after conservation, Total of 48 x 33 cms 14 prints restored, ICI Bengaluru

Before and after conservation photographs of the illustrated manuscript
**ODDS AND ENDS**

Hindustan Times published a list of odd museums around the world, only some of which are to be seen on tourist itineraries but rarely. Like the *Museum of Broken Relationships* in Zagreb, Croatia; *Museum of Witchcraft*, Cornwall, England; *The Simone Handbag Museum*, in Seoul, South Korea; and the *Casa Batllo Museum* in Barcelona, Spain; and the International Spy Museum, Washington DC, USA.

India too makes the list of “Odd Museums” with the *Sulabh International Museum of Toilets*, New Delhi. Not to be sneered at, as today toilets are a matter of national concern! This Museum, established in 1992 by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, is practically an ode to 300 different types of commodes, showcasing the history and evolution of toilets from the Harappan one of 2500 BC till today. There is also the throne like chamber pot of French Emperor Louis XIV who gave audience only to select few people when seated on this particular ‘throne’. One does not know why this Museum is flushed out of most Delhi tourist itineraries!

**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM RURAL INDIA**

Another unique exhibition on display during this quarter was a collection of 48 *Photographs from Rural India* at a Art Gallery in Delhi with surreal vignettes of tribal life, 48 in all. Photographed by 80 year old Jyoti Bhatt long back, he now lives and works in Vadodara. He has created a remarkable body of work by travelling through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradish, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Haryana documenting tribal communities. In the intervening decades these communities might have become prosperous enough to build concrete homes and “maybe their cattle now roam down highways untended and those little girls, if they didn’t die of childbirth, are old women before their time after years of laboring on construction sites” but his collection vividly captures a time and space. An art critic writes that Jyoti Bhatt’s pictures function at various levels. They archive indigenous domestic and decorative arts; they dazzle with their perfect framing and symmetry of composition; they are surcharged with the mood of the subject – by turns contemplative, endearing, celebratory and coy; they invite the viewer to contemplate all that and to ruminate also on larger issues, on the abstract and the philosophical, on things that cannot be framed, on the ephemeral nature of Life”.

**RUPA-PRATIRUPA**

A unique exhibition showcasing Tamil Nadu’s rich heritage *Rupa-Pratirupa: The Body in Indian Art* was on view April-June at the National Museum, Delhi curated by Jawaharlal Nehru University art historian Dr. Naman Ahuja. His scholarly student AS Chatterjee said the exhibits encourage viewers “to ponder over themes of sex, death, rebirth and immortality and what these say about us as an ever-evolving culture”. A statue depicting Sati challenges the contention of historians that the practice was limited to North India, particularly among Rajputs. A rare exhibit is that of a squatting woman in labour giving birth to a child supported by two attendants, a practice still prevailing in some Indian villages. The 300 masterpieces at the exhibition encompass 4000 years of Indian History structured around a single theme – the Body, and how it has been represented in Indian art over centuries. Specially guided 3 hour tours of the exhibition were conducted at the Museum for various organizations and Ministries.
**FROM PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR (NHD) to all Convenors and Members**

Biological Diversity Act was notified in 2002 with the view to fulfill India’s obligations under Convention on Biodiversity which India ratified in 1994. The Act was promulgated with the twin objective of:

- Regulating access to biological resources of the country and ensuring equitable share in benefits arising out of the use of biological resources
- To conserve and enhance sustainable use of biological diversity.

The Act required State Governments to form State Level Biodiversity Boards and also Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level. Generally, the State Governments have done little on this count.

INTACH Convenors can and should take the initiative to initiate voluntary local level Biodiversity Management Committees by pressing the local authorities to do so. The task of these committees is to form Peoples’ Biodiversity Registers and also to identify Biodiversity Heritage Sites. It is in the identification of these sites that INTACH Chapters should become active.

These efforts will go a long way in meeting the objectives of the Act. The Kota Chapter has recently completed a marvellous documentation of the biodiversity (floral and faunal) of Kota District; and shortly Sawai Madhopur Chapter will initiate the same for their district. The following extract from the Act can be read profitably:

- Institutions of local State Government will be required to set up Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in their respective areas for conservation, sustainable use, documentation of biodiversity and chronicling of knowledge relating to biodiversity. The main function of the BMC is to prepare Peoples Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people.
- The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.
- Many of our local people or ecosystem people possess valuable knowledge of uses of biodiversity such as herbal remedies and vegetable dyes; much of the knowledge of the status and dynamics of biodiversity also resides with the people at grass roots.
- Owing to the tremendous variation from place to place in the distribution and uses of biodiversity, the documentation has to be highly location and time specific.
- All local bodies have the responsibility of documentation of local biological resources, knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other traditional knowledge or use associated with them.
- Data about the local Vaid and practitioners using the biological resources.
- Details of the access to biological resources and traditional knowledge, collection fee imposed and the benefits derived and mode of their sharing.

**NEWS FROM NATURAL HERITAGE**

**BUDDHA’S WORD: THE LIFE OF BOOKS IN TIBET AND BEYOND**

Several unseen artefacts, prints and world’s oldest Sanskrit and Buddhist manuscripts are on display for the first time at an exhibition of the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology in Cambridge, UK. There are some illuminated Buddhist manuscripts from the first decades of 11th century as well as skillfully illuminated wooden covers, and a quartet of scroll paintings brought to UK from the Younghusband Expedition. They chart the journey of Buddha’s words that travelled through Asia and the Far East. The exhibition “Buddha’s Word” tells the story through curation of three distinct spaces: a Himalayan Buddhist Altar as a relic of Buddha; the Laboratory shows the long history of how Tibetan books were made and analysed; the Library which traces the journeys of Buddha’s word across Asia where Buddhism took even more deeper roots than in India.
People’s knowledge is of two kinds:

• Knowledge of uses that might find commercial application and that might need to be guarded with respect to IPR.
• Knowledge pertinent to prudent management of natural resources that might be widely shared with benefit to all concerned without any unfair commercial profits accruing to any party.

BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES (BHS)

Biodiversity heritage sites (BHS) should include both wild and domesticated biodiversity and human cultural relations with such biodiversity. The question will arise, how biodiversity heritage sites are different from the concept of “Protected areas”? Protected areas are covered in *The Wild Life Act*. It is important to focus while declaring Biodiversity Heritage sites on some aspects like:

• Local communities would be central to such a process in identifying and deciding on potentials of BHS.
• Both traditional knowledge and modern scientific knowledge could be used for management of BHS.
• Involvement of marginalized sections of communities including women should be ensured in BHS.
• Government Institutions, NGO’s, Teachers should facilitate local communities for capacity building for BHS management.
• Institutional linkages between and among the existing institutions like panchayats, gram sabhas, village/tribal council, urban wards should be planned for BHS management.
• Without prejudice to any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under this Act.
• The State Government, in consultation with the Central Government, may frame rules for the management and conservation of all the heritage sites.
• The State Government shall frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating any person or section of people economically affected by such notification.

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In the recent general elections, manifestos of political parties outlined their approach to development and environment. In general the environmental concern was tucked away towards the middle or ending pages or are extremely generalist in nature. But distilling the pledges of major political formations this is what has been collectively promised by them:

• Setting up of the National Green Accounts by 2017 to ensure that development factors in environmental costs
• Promoting resilience to climate change
• Presenting India’s viewpoint in Climate Change negotiations in international fora
• Promoting cleaner production technologies and fuels and promoting ‘pro-active carbon credits’
• Emphasising on implementation and pollution control both air emissions and liquid effluents on a priority basis
• Incentivizing the concept of green buildings
• Promoting decentralized renewable energy
• Implementing National Solar Mission to achieve target of 20,000 MW by 2022
• Launching a National Mission on Wind Energy
• Launching a National Mission on Himalayas with a view to arresting glacier melt
• Prioritising local and decentralized water resources
• Pledging to clean the Ganga and to launch clean rivers program
• Setting up a professional agency to conduct EIAs in a time bound and transparent manner by carrying out ecological audit of projects and pollution indexing of urban areas
• Adopting a holistic approach and top priority to water conservation
• Empowering tribal and forest communities over forest produce and local resources.
• Developing indicators on the State of the Environment to keep public informed on environmental trends
• Stopping implementation of the current proposals on protection of Western Ghats

These are some of the specific pledges made by the political...
parties. For environmentalists the pledges contained therein are heartening and INTACH Convenors could contribute wholeheartedly in such constructive endeavours when undertaken in their region.

22ND APRIL, EARTH DAY

*Earth Day* was celebrated worldwide to remind people that cities must become more sustainable with reduction in their carbon footprints for a more economically viable future. Many educational institutions also marked the day to sensitise youth that cities need to improve efficiency and investments in renewable energy and technology by implementing 21st century solutions. Current electric generation systems that are outdated and extremely inefficient need to be redesigned. Cities also need to update ordinances regarding buildings which currently account for nearly one-third of all global gas emissions. Investments in alternative transportation needs improvement to reduce emissions from road vehicles, resulting in smog. This is urgent in view of the increasing numbers of vehicles registered in every city, every month.

To learn more about the Green Cities Campaign, email: greencities@earthday.org

22ND MAY, INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY

International Biodiversity Day was celebrated in a unique way in the capital. The Aravali Biodiversity Park staff took slum dwellers and other locals of Vasant Vihar in Delhi on a nature walk to make them aware of the flora, fauna and their environment. The National Zoological Park staff spent the day inside the elephant enclosure highlighting the plight of the pachyderms due to global warming. Curator (Education) Riaz Khan was accompanied by school students and zoo keepers when he gave bath to elephantine Rajlakshmi and Hiragaj.

The theme for the day was “350” which stands for 350 parts per million – the safe ratio of carbon dioxide molecules to other molecules in the atmosphere. “*The planet alas has crossed 400pm last year which according to scientists is the threshold level after which climate change impacts can become severe*” according to Times News Network.

5TH JUNE, WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

*World Environment Day* is celebrated worldwide to remind people that their life nurturing nature must be protected, in the hope of creating awareness and action from a global platform. It hopes to galvanise them as stakeholders and generate a collective power that can make the required impact on our fast depleting environment. This year the UN General Assembly declared 2014 as *the International Year of Small Island Developing States*. Each of these far flung islands have a vibrant and distinct culture, amazing biodiversity and a rich ecosystem. They are also the most vulnerable to climate change, and most exposed to storm surges and floods. Some are even likely to disappear.

Principal Director NHD states “*With the new socio-political scenario, India ought to work with UNDP to put in place a climate change risk management system, including adaptation and mitigation measures that contribute to their development agenda……. Let us not merely feel happy in performing ‘aarti’ but feel responsible to enforce a ‘Code of Conduct’ to treat Ganga and all water bodies as sacred spaces*.” He feels economic growth that strips the planet’s ecosystems is not sustainable. “*Advancing human development and protecting the planet’s ecosystems must be approached as two sides of the same coin*”.

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) recently released a new report in April to recalibrate the action plan against climate change. It reports that there has been alarming emissions of climate-changing green-house gases during 2000-2010 than in each of the preceding three decades. Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel RK Pachauri states “*nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change*”. Greenland’s immense ice sheet is melting as a result of climate change. What happens if the Himalayan snow begins to melt? It is time for nations grappling with economic downturn to nevertheless sit up and take note that certain aspects like overpopulation, decline in energy resources, deforestation and water shortages are dead certain to have a disastrous impact on society. And on agriculture that feeds them. It is reported that wheat, the staple of 49% of Indians, is already in short supply. UN Food & Agriculture Organisation scientists warn that wheat is facing a serious fungal disease, called “*wheat rust*” often dubbed “*polio of agriculture*”, that could wipe the entire crop off the world. Climate change also increases the possibility of rising sea levels and cyclones that could gobble up coastal settlements, trigger migrations and put enormous pressures on the already over-stretched hinterlands of India. Even small countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Ethiopia have started on adaptation plans for carbon-neutral development. Hopefully the policy makers of the new Indian Government will take serious note of the IPCC recommendations - to stall this catastrophe-in-the-making.

The Government has come out with a draft national policy on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation popularly known as REDD+ Initiative, to be backed by an information system and building a critical mass of technical/institutional capacities of stake holders. It would enable local communities to secure financial incentives for increasing forest cover.
LANDFILL OF TOXIN, HANDFULL OF PROBLEMS

Garbage dumps are often regarded as landfills, when in fact they are just monstrous mountains of trash and hazardous waste leaking toxic liquids and emitting noxious fumes. They need to be managed. Waste scavengers make a dangerous living out of them because even a broken brick fetches them a rupee; earning them Rs. 150-250 daily by selling metal, paper, plastic and bricks – without of course masks, gloves or any protective garments. Heavy metals found in solid waste samples from landfalls are alarmingly high in India, and a ground water can easily get contaminated. JNU Environmental School of Sciences, Delhi for example found high levels of nickel, zinc, lead, arsenic, chromium, etc. in solid waste samples collected before and after rains during 2010 and 2011. Nearly 20% methane gas emissions in India are caused by landfills that lead to higher global warming.

UK recycles over 70% of its *malba* and Singapore 90% according to our scientists at the Centre for Science and Environment. In New York construction and demolition waste like bricks, concrete, wood and rubble is taxed! Once mixed up with other things as is often the practice in India, it cannot be recycled. Our Municipalities need to get involved in collections from people’s homes if health and environmental crisis are to be averted well in time, with a widespread public campaign on the issues involved.

*Ack : Jayashree Nandi, Times of India*

ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION

As many as 15 avian species in India on the edge of extinction including the Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Floricans, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and some species of vultures figure in *the 100 Evolutionary Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) Birds* from around the world. It is the findings of a recent study conducted jointly by Yale University and the Zoological Society of London. BNHS is working on the conservation of 12 of them in India, but what can they do about the growing human pressures on avian habitat? Something at least can be done about our destruction of their habitat of grasslands, wetlands and scrub forests which have long been neglected.

A GRIM REMINDER

Cherrapunjee, the wettest place on earth, is reeling under an acute water crisis. Believe it or not, it is a common sight today to see people fetching water in hordes, on tired feet – an unimaginable sight after what was taught in geography books for years! Cherrapunjee has even lost its greenery! Household water harvesting can help to some extent. More important, the ongoing illegal and unscientific mining needs to be banned immediately for protecting the ecology of the land.

NEWS: ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MAHAKAL AND GOPAL KSHETRA, UJJAIN

The Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) is the consultant for design, and supervision of the works to develop Ujjain
hundreds of years to counter the harsh climate, is in a state of grave danger. New building construction technology is fast penetrating the valleys of Ladakh, with the constant supply of “modern” building materials from the Indian mainland depleting knowledge pool and further endangering the traditional practice of building. The latter has always been community work in Ladakh, from monasteries to small houses, with whole village or members of extended family working tirelessly. It is therefore extremely important to document the traditional knowledge and continue its practice. AHD is preparing a manual which deals with the construction, restoration and repair of traditional buildings with local materials and technique to address basic needs of local community while restoring or rebuilding a house or a monastery. For this manual, an extensive local survey and research was carried out in four regions of Ladakh (Leh, Nubra, Zangskar and Kargil) including a case study of ongoing constructions, interview of masons, carpenters etc. The manual for building repair and construction practices would be a handy guide for owners, craftsmen, architects and other people involved in the field.

INITIATIVES IN DAMAN, DIU AND DADRA NAGAR HAWELO

The Government of the Union Territories (U.T.) of Daman and Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli (DNH) recently took several initiatives for conservation of historic buildings and sites. These territories were under the Portuguese domain until 1954 (DNH) and 1961 (Daman and Diu) and their influence is still recognized in the traditions, religion, architecture, cuisine, etc. INTACH is entrusted with the mapping of the cultural resources for both these
Union Territories, and preparation of integrated heritage development plans for Diu and Daman, Museum and Urban Haat in Silvassa, and conservation of selected heritage buildings in Diu. The *Panikotha* and *Pani Bai School* in Diu are some of the significant conservation projects, for which plans and detailed project reports are under preparation. INTACH team visited the sites in April for detailed survey.

The *Fortress of Panikotha* was built before the Portuguese entered Diu. The location and setting, itself are the main highlight of the building. It is a long narrow structure resembling a ship between the island and the mainland. The layers of cement plaster over the building’s surface during recent interventions are undermining the authenticity of this unique building. The conservation plan aims at reviving the physical integrity of the building and tapping the tourism potential.

The *Pani Bai School*, is located in the middle of the fortified Diu town as one of the first schools with Portuguese language, (established on 1st December, 1927). The building is highly ornamental and its front façade is the main highlight of the building embellished with carved figures and motifs on stone. The building is abandoned at present and in advanced state of decay with collapsed floors, damaged walls, wild vegetation growth etc. The conservation plan entails reuse of the building complex after restoration.

**SILVASSA STATE MUSEUM**

The proposed site covering 6.4 moderately flat acres in the middle of the newly developed industrial area is in the heart of Silvassa. The museum is designed with built spaces in octagonal forms connected through ancillary spaces around a proposed central water body, to create a microclimate within the site based on the indigenous settlement pattern. Efforts are being made to use locally available laterite stone to give the building vernacular character. The galleries have been divided into a series of spaces showcasing different aspects of the regional history and evolution. The museum also proposes a village recreation centre depicting the life of the tribes of the region as a live walk-through to the indigenous settlement via tribal huts and artefacts of the time.

The conceptual plan and design have been approved by the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Administration. Preparation of detailed drawings is in progress at AHD.

**SILVASSA URBAN HAAT**

The *haat* site area covering 5.5 acres to the west of Silvassa abutting the Daman Ganga River, has an undulating terrain sloping towards the river, and is a part of the Riverfront Development Project. The *haat* proposes to showcase Dadra and Nagar Haveli artefacts and cuisine as well as regional handicrafts and handlooms and provides direct marketing access to the artisans. The central focus is on the shopping block, the open air theatre with exhibition areas and workshops to enhance the local arts. The conceptual design has been approved by the Government of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and the preparation of detailed drawings is in progress.
MINIMUM CITY

Everyone has read, heard or seen Suketu Mehta’s Maximum City, Gregory Roberts’ Shantaram and Danny Boyle’s Slumdog Millionaire. Mumbai is perhaps the most psycho-analysed and romanticised city of India. Katherine Boo’s Behind the Beautiful Forevers is the latest book, with well known columnist Shekhar Gupta glimpsing a new insight about a megapolis divided between an overcity and an undercity, where the two coexist organically and not clearly demarcated. He accompanied Medha Pathak on her walkathon to Mumbai’s slum areas and encountered the ugly face of overcrowded streets and slums. Temporary structures with the most expensive split ACs (since there are no windows) hanging over a sea of dung, urine and slush cocktail are commonplace in many of the lanes. Hutments flourish around open drains and overflowing muck. Warnings about dengue and malaria are pasted on the walls by municipal authorities. “But it is no use. They haven’t taught mosquitoes…..to read the warnings in Hindi, English, or Marathi…. You can be successful, even moderately rich. But you do not have space for self respect at home or outside……if you had a dog, you would have had to train the poor thing to wag its tail vertically, as there’d be no space left to right”, Shekhar Gupta scathingly comments. He feels life in Mumbai is an endless struggle for space, or a celebration of having some of your own……….. “Mumbai’s aesthetically disastrous construction boom establishes beyond doubt that perhaps architecture is the least evolved profession in India”.

CRAFTS COMMUNITY HERITAGE CELL

The Exhibition “Splendours of Indian Architecture” was organized by INTACH Crafts Community Heritage Cell (CCHC) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Architects, Uttarakhand and Ansal School of Architecture, Lucknow. It was curated for Belgium, and had earlier been exhibited in several European countries. The exhibition is currently in Spain.

The exhibition at Lucknow was highly appreciated by all and attracted a large number of visitors, with a very good press coverage. A section on India’s achievements in the first millennium AD included prehistoric city, ancient caves, forts and abandoned cities. The displayed pictures had buildings revealing various stages of fusion between European and existing indigenous Indo-Islamic - some European or Gothic or in Indo-Saracenic style.

The talk by INTACH Governing Council Member Dr. Saryu Doshi encapsulated the complete architecture legacy from the earliest times to the modernity of recent times. Principal Secretary Culture, UP Government presided over the valedictory session attended by well known people of the city and architecture students who showed a keen interest in the exhibits.
The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) published a book on the *Baiga – of the Baiga Chak*, profiled by Srishti Mandaar, with photographs by Anubhav Das.

The *Baiga* people have a distinctively rich culture and lifestyle, with defining characteristics of appearance and clothing. The women are proud of their tattoos as a mark of their individual identity. The Baiga dialect has now become a mixture of their Gond language and neighbouring Hindi and Marathi instead of the Austro-Asiatic language they once spoke centuries ago.

Once upon a time they wore very little clothing, and it is believed that the naked *Baiga* were much healthier. The older *Baigas* in fact think that the need for buying so many readily available clothes is responsible for some of their poverty! The younger generation is now aware of the world outside the Chak, and have begun to understand that beyond their territory attractive new opportunities beckon instead of shifting cultivation of their characteristic agricultural life. They celebrate *Dasra Naach* with great zest from Dussehra till January, travelling from village to village, dressed in their best attire, drinking, dancing and singing – and learning about the larger world that lies ahead.

**ART PITARA**

*Art Pitara* was a first of its kind event hosted by ICHD from 26th May-25th June jointly with the NGO *Happy Hands*, and conducted by master artisans. Director ICHD Nerupama Modwel offered an engaging opportunity to young and old through this month long workshop series, celebrating heritage art forms from different parts of India. She said it was an opportunity “for people to engage with
rural artists and exchange stories/myths/legends behind these arts. More than anything, you go back with the satisfaction of having learnt the skill of making something so unique and special – and one can actually hand-make gift items for loved ones following this experience". The response was a packed multi-purpose hall at INTACH Office that did in fact establish a palpable cultural connect with people - to beat the summer heat with ‘cool’ hobbies. The idea was to bring young people closer to our rich cultural heritage. The workshops however were also open to parents, art enthusiasts, professionals, or just about anyone with a curious mind – but it was the young people who packed the hall.

**Calligraphy**, ancient form of lettering dating back to Harappan times; still to be seen on the Ashoka Pillar.

**Mask Making** of the Nakashis of Cheriyal village, Andhra Pradesh using tamarind seed paste and saw dust powder, painted in different characters.

**Gond Art** creating signature patterns depicting fantasy-wildlife to give texture to any painting.

**Kavad** making small wooden story-boxes with mulitiple folding doors, each painted in folk style telling mythological stories.

**Leather Puppet Making** used in shadow puppetry where leather is perforated so light can pass through and cast shadows.

**Molela Tile Making** of terracota depicting every day life or idols, passed down generations that is on-going in Modela village of Rajasthan.

**Pithor Painting** of the Rathwas, Bhilals and Nayak tribes who adorn their walls with this art to mark auspicious occasions.

**Soara Tribal Art** depicting daily lives of the Soara tribe, in alternating rows of activities and different moods portrayed on tussar silk.

**ARTISANS : A NATIONAL ASSET**

Each of the crafts person invited to participate in Art Pitara has been instrumental in preserving these priceless traditions just by continuing to practice them. Some forms have been a medium for performers and bards to tell stories from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* and the life of *Krishna*. Lately, communities who have been traditional practitioners have also been using them as a tool for social welfare and to share their own stories.

Dwarika Prasad, a kavad artist from Chittorgarh’s Bassi village where the form emerged, reveals that a lot may have changed about oral traditions of story telling but an evening with the bhats, traditional story tellers, is still a favourite pastime for many. Award winning puppeteer from Karnataka Gunduraju makes puppets, writes a story and sings, and has been making a living for the past 50 years. He just cannot imagine doing anything else.

There were many such fascinating stories shared by artisans and crafts people who keep traditions burning with so little input from others and so much effort by themselves.

Ack: Tanya Talwar, Hindustan Times

**A CRAFTS INCUBATOR**

The Malliah Memorial Theatre Crafts Museum at Delhi was established by crafts revivalist Kamladevi Chattopadhyay dedicated to a fellow freedom fighter. She built up a splendid collection of masks, weapons, ornaments, life size figurines, etc. It included representations of dance-theatre forms from every part of the country like Kathakali, Yakshagana, Manipuri, Therukoothu, Sahi, Jatra, Ramlila, Krishnattam, Nautanki and many more. Current Director Usha Malik hopes to give new life to the collection which had been long stored away, Along with conservation prescribed by ICOMCC norms, the Museum will be undertaking documentation of the material that bridges the rural-urban gap. Professionals of the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property at Lucknow are also involved in this renovation programme targeted for completion by 2016.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE

INTACH and the Council of Architecture (COA) signed a MOU for cooperation in the field of architecture and heritage. It was a landmark event when the two pioneering and national bodies agreed to join hands and work together on various aspects of architectural documentation, heritage conservation and cultural awareness in India. They will jointly work on various aspects of this programme.

COA President Professor Gadkari said "the coming together of the two institutions is a historic event and we have taken up challenging responsibilities to accomplish". One of the key tasks will be Listing and Documentation of the vast architectural heritage of India. The colleges of architecture in different parts of the country will be roped into this activity.

Chairman L.K. Gupta emphasized "the need for ancient knowledge systems and cultural practices to be included in the modern architectural education in India".

The two organizations will develop research and capacity building programmes to promote advanced research and training faculty and professionals in heritage and related fields. The traditional knowledge systems have created iconic architectural monuments and ancient texts that need to be studied through structured research methodology. It will be documented to facilitate transferring traditional knowledge and skills to the present and future generations.

The joining of hands by INTACH and COA will hopefully provide a new vision ensuring continuity and refinement of our living heritage.

INTACH has been listing and documenting heritage buildings for over three decades and has covered several thousand historic properties. However, there are innumerable heritage buildings and sites in India that still need to be documented.

This MOU will be executed by INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) and the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Architecture (NIASA).

TEACHERS TRAINING

The Heritage and Education Communication Service (HECS), Teachers Training is an on-going programme.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

During this quarter it was held at Udhampur in collaboration with Jammu Chapter at the Govt. Degree College with 71 teachers from 30 schools and 5 college participating. Jammu Convener S.M. Sahni welcomed resource persons and academicians including IPS Director Danish Rana, Shera-i-Kashmir S.S. Bhalwal, and others. The workshop concluded with presentations on the living heritage of the region and varied topics like River Devika, Devika Temple, Bahu Fort, Pandava Mandir, Mantalai Temple, folklore, a traditional Dogra Family and erosion of joint family system.
A site visit to the ancient temples at Kachari ruins at Rajabari was organised for the participants. This group of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century temples under the Pandva Temple, resemble the Odishan style of temple architecture. Also a museum walk at the North East Zone Cultural Centre, where Naga culture with its rich material heritage is on display, was another absorbing experience for them.

**NORTH EAST ZONE CULTURAL CENTRE, DIMAPUR**

The Centre was set up in 1986 with its headquarters at Dimapur, Nagaland. The museum curator Shri Veswuzo Phesao showed around the museum and explained different artefacts belonging to different tribes residing in Nagaland. A multifaceted personality, Shri Phesao has also made a wax statue of himself in the traditional Naga tribal costume. It is put on display at the entrance of the cultural centre.

**DIBRUGARH, ASSAM**

A two-day teacher training workshop was held at Dibrugarh for 13 schools at the D.C.P. Hall, Jalan Nagar. State

**NAGALAND**

In collaboration with Nagaland State Chapter a two-day teacher training workshop was organised from 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May at Dimapur at Maple Tree School, Kashiram, Dimapur. State Convenor Sentila T. Yanger in her welcome address gave a brief introduction to the history of Nagaland and its intangible culture.
Convenor, Jayanta Sharma, in his welcome address urged the teachers to justify their role as the torch bearers for heritage conservation in their respective schools and to form heritage clubs. The workshop also had interesting presentations by teachers who have set up heritage clubs in many districts. The workshop concluded with felicitations and certificate distribution.

MY LIVING ICON - NATIONAL COMPETITION

My Living Icon – has been well covered in previous quarters of Virasat. During the year 2013-14 around 62 INTACH State Chapters took part in this competition along with heritage clubs from all over the country. Over 6000 entries were received, and after several rounds of screening, 11 national winners and 100 regional winners were chosen, screened by an eminent jury in the month of April. The essays received were not only in English and Hindi but in regional languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Nepali, Urdu, etc.

AWARD WINNING NATIONAL LEVEL ENTRIES

Ek Sarita Himmat Ki: Jaishree Sen, Sanskar Sr. Sec. Public School, Ajmer;
Sudarshan Pattnaik: Jyotisman Rath, DAV Public School, Bhubaneswar;
Khushwant Singh: Bani Sehgal, Springdales School, Dhaula Kuan Delhi;
Principal-Aditi Misra: Aarya Yadav Delhi Public School, Gurgaon;
Alobo Naga: Iminungchet, Maple Tree School, Dimapur, Nagaland;
Mr. Bijay Singh (father): Priya Singh, Motilal Nehru Public School, Jamshedpur;
Saba Anjum: Jayshree Biswas, Shri Balaji Vidya Mandir, Raipur;
Sister Celine Augustine Mary: Pradiksha V., Emerald Valley Public School, Salem;
Sugatha Kumari: Devika, Alan Feldman Public School, Kazhakuttom, Trivandrum;
Bhakti Sharma: Kajal Gupta, Central Academy, Udaipur;
Patnaik K. Pramodd: Sri Prakash Vidyaniketan, Seetammadaara, Visakhapatnam.

The national winners were taken on an educational trip to Jaipur from 4-6th May, organized by INTACH Jaipur Chapter in collaboration with City Palace Jaipur. Felicitation ceremony was organized at the ‘gunijankhana’ inside the City Palace premises. Founder Member and Chief Patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, D.R. Mehta was the Chief Guest. Convenor Dharmendar Kanwar, congratulated the prize winners.

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

To commemorate the World Heritage Day, on 18th April HECS Division, in collaboration with ASI accompanied students and teachers from 16 Delhi schools, on a visit to the Purana Qila to learn about recent excavations from the Rajput, Gupta, Kushan and Sultanate periods. ASI Archaeologist Baijnath Avasthi conducted the students to the ruined walls of Rajput and Mughal era, cells used by Buddhist monks from Kushan period, piece of large jar from Mughal period, remains of Chinese porcelain, glazed ware, beads of semi-precious stones, a red sandstone pillar base found among Kushan period layers, an impression of a wall of Kushans which the archaeologists call ‘Ghost wall’, etc. Director, ASI Dr. Vasant Swarankar asked the students about the experience of exploring the finds and shared details
of the latest mobile application of Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle that gives information about 173 monuments of Delhi.

VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

HECS organized tours around the National Museum’s special exhibition “Rupa-Pratirupa: The Body in Indian Art”, for students from 12 schools. 300 masterpieces from 43 collections, showcase the different ways in which the body is represented in India’s rich art traditions and in various periods in India’s vast history and across its geography. A special tour was designed for middle-school students around the exhibition, which focused on beliefs, traditions, and mythology from Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Islam, highlighting material representations of the same.

(For more details of exhibition see under ICI News)

BEST HERITAGE CLUB AWARD 2013-14

Sri Sankana Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai; Govt. Higher Secondary School, Peruvallur, Malapuram, Kerala; and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

received the Best Heritage Club 2013 award. Delhi Public School, Sector-45, Gurgaon; G.K.D Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore; Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School, Jaipur; and Delhi School of Excellence, Hyderabad won the First Runner Up award. Seven schools such as Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Delhi; Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai; Hansraj Model School, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi; Akshara School, Kakinada; Sri Prakash Vidyaniketan, Pendurty, Visakhapatnam; D.A.V Public School, Bhubaneswar; and Modern High School for Girls, Kolkata were awarded the Second Runner up award.

FILMIT PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS IN UK

Director HECS Purnima Datt visited London at the invitation of the Helen Hamlyn Trust which funds the popular Filmit program. She visited the Gallions Primary School, followed by a round of school meetings in Wakefield Yorkshire with possibilities of vibrant school partnerships. Ms. Datt also visited Setubal, Portugal to see the Music Festival funded by the Helen Hamlyn Trust, in view of similar events proposed to be held at Reis Magos Fort, Goa in the future.
**BEST CHAPTER AWARD**

INTACH has constituted the *Best Chapter Award* to be given in recognition of remarkable dedication and commitment shown by Chapter in terms of programmes organized, reports submitted, and submissions sent for competitions like My Living Icon. It comprises both a cash award and a trophy.

The *Best Chapter Award* for excellence is being given to Dharwad, Aurangabad, Solapur, Raipur and Jabalpur Chapters. INTACH heartily congratulates the Convenors and participants on this distinction.

*Chapter Award for Commendable Work* goes to Jammu, Visakhapatnam, Ambala, Kodaikanal, Trivandrum, Jaipur, Yamunanagar, East Godavari and Chandrapur Chapters.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

State Co-Convenor M. Vedakumar with a team of INTACH Members visited heritage sites at Karimnagar, Adilabad, Nizambad and Nalgonda making a study of the historic importance of these Districts. There was equal emphasis given to other aspects like fine arts, performing arts and the preservation and protection of heritage monuments and natural precincts. Kotilalingala in Karimnagar District for example was the earliest capital of the Shatvahana rulers, now under threat of submersion due to the Sripada Yallampali Project. The Sardh Mahal in Adilabad District speaks of the history of Qutub Shahis. Nizamabad also requires urgent attention of the District Administration to preserve major heritage sites like Faridpur Fort, Qilla, Swamy and Ramalayam Temples, etc. On some tours like the visit to Rachakonda Hills, Shri Vedakumar was accompanied by concerned district officials to discuss conservation of heritage precincts. There was a positive response from the District Administration and the people to the proposals for Listing and Documentation of heritage assets of the newly constituted Telangana State.

**Anantapur**

The Chapter published a literary work *Samaikyaandhra Sankharavam* highlighting the aspirations of the Telugu people following the reorganization of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and Seemaandhra. It is the compiled work of several poets of the Anantapur District, many of whom are INTACH Members, and is being distributed free of cost to the public.
In its Forward, Convenor Dr. A.G.V. Reddy highlights the sacrifices of various freedom fighters like the late Sri Potti Sreeamulu during the 1950s, and also the traditional history of the Telugu people down the ages. The book encapsulates the hopes of the people of the state and the impact of the recent bifurcation that has now come to stay.

**East Godavari**

Shri Vedula V.L.N. Murthy is appointed the Co-Convenor of the East Godavari Chapter.

UNESCO declared the theme of World Heritage Day 2014 as *Heritage of Commemoration*. Inspired by the centennial of the outbreak of the first Great World War of 1914-18, the objective was to draw people’s attention to those constructions purposefully created to commemorate an event, a personality, an idea, etc. related to that historic event.

The Chapter marked the day by conducting an essay competition for senior school students from in and around Mamidikuduru Mandalam on *Konaseema Heritage*. Prize winning essays were read out at a function subsequently held at Aadurru, near the 2000 year old Buddhist stupa built by Ashoka’s daughter Sanghamitra. Convenor L. Seshu Kumari in association with the Aadurru Buddhist Vihar Trust welcomed the guests, and spoke about their respective activities. Author of *Konaseema Andalu* Dr. Venkateswarulu addressed the gathering on the local heritage. Co-Convenor V.V.L.N. Murthy gave the vote of thanks.

**Hyderabad**

The INTACH Heritage Award 2014 was held at the Mir Turab Ali Khan Auditorium of the Salar Jung Museum on 18th April as has been the tradition of the Chapter for many years. The Turkish Consul General Murat Omeroglu was specially invited to release the Heritage Annual. Convenor P Anuradha Reddy thanked the Salar Jung Museum authorities for sponsoring the event.

**INEVITABLE LOSS?**

The dilapidated building in the middle of Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on the bank of Hussainsagar is in the throes of demolition to create parking space for the makeshift Secretariat of Seemaandhra Secretariat. This erstwhile Saifabad Palace was the seat of power for many prime ministers during the erstwhile Nizam era, and subsequently that of ICS administrators and Chief Ministers. The demolition will remove a historic landmark of the city. The city has already lost many such heritage assets like the Diwan Deodhi, the Bashirbagh Palace, Mehboob Mansion, Khilawat and now Asman Garb Palace and Saifabad Palace as a fall out of the Andhra Pradesh bifurcation. Meanwhile representatives of the *Forum for a Better Hyderabad* called on Governor’s Advisor and submitted a memorandum to protect this particular block.

**Kurnool**

The Chapter celebrated 18th April, World Heritage Day at the site of the 14 Rock Edicts of Emperor Ashoka, at Jonnagiri village, Tuggali. It is a site well known as *Suvarnagiri* capital associated with the Emperor. Many eminent scholars have translated the original Pali script on the 2000 year old edicts into English and local languages. Earlier translations
offer insights into a powerful ruler’s attempt to establish an empire founded on righteousness, with the moral and spiritual welfare of his subjects as the primary concern. There is also an inscription stating that the diamonds, gemstones and gold found here belonged to Emperor Ashoka.

Convenor B. Venkateswarlu, Co-Convenor Osman Haroon and Conservator Krishna Chaitanya of ASI Kurnool Circle also accompanied INTACH Members, ASI officials and students gathered for the occasion on a visit to Golgumbaz, Kodareddy Buruju. There was an unanimous decision to safeguard the Ashoka Edicts with solar fencing, translations from Pali into English, Hindi and Telugu for visitors, and to set up an Interpretation Centre and children’s park to popularize the site as a tourist destination.

ASSAM

State Convenor Jayanta Sharma visited four districts of Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukhia, and successfully activated Heritage Clubs in twenty odd schools. He was accompanied by the founder of Assam Chapter and of the Asian Museum at Agartala, Gautom Sharma. A record number of 45 Heritage Clubs were activated with a planned outreach to other schools in the coming months.

CHANDIGARH

The Executive Committee meeting was convened by State Convennor Dr. Sukhdev Singh, with a press release on the activities of this quarter. Heritage walk was organised from Jallianwala Bagh, and a visit to Gobindgarh on 1st June.
The Chapter held a lecture and prize distribution function for winners of the *My Living Icon* and *Harit Sankalp* competitions held in schools.

The Chapter held a film show with the participation of students from seven schools at the Strawberry School, Chandigarh, in coordination with HECS. Chairperson Nenu Vij of the *We* group of artists presided this successful function for young people.

**CHHATTISGARH**

**Raipur**

The Chapter organized a series of programmes this quarter. Convenor Lalit Surjan delivered a lecture on *Our Common Heritage* at the invitation of Bastar University, Jagdalpur on 7th April. He talked about the rich heritage of Bastar, this remote tribal area of the State. It was highly educative for both academicians and eminent citizens who attended the talk, including the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Principals, faculty members and special invitees of the Bastar region. Convenor Surjan had a separate meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Bastar University Dr. NDR Chandra and eminent citizens of the region. With their help he hopes to inaugurate a Chapter at Jagdalpur for the Bastar region.

A State level seminar was held on *Adivasi Art-Culture: A Culture of Ecology in Chhattisgarh* inaugurated by Governor Shekhar Dutt.

The essay and painting competition under *My Living Icon* was attended by well known artist Jaya Bhagwanani; social activist Arunkant Shukla; Principal Sister Sarita of Holy Cross School; and writer Prabhakar Chaube. Convenor Prof. RG Bhave and Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandak were happy that students from 15 different schools participated in this popular event.
Central Provinces. Copies of the book were presented to Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh and to Pandariya MLA Motiram Chandravanshi.

DELHI

The Chapter marked 18th April, World Heritage Day with a month long exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art showcasing major works of architect Raj Rawal like the Hall of Nations at Pragati Maidan and Parliament House Library. The Pragati Maidan Re-development Plan of the Urban Development Ministry might result in demolishing many of its buildings. As Chairman of Delhi Urban Arts Commission, Rewal opposed the removal of these iconic structures as adversely impacting the Delhi landscape.

Convenor A.G.K. Menon is of the same view and points out most countries do recognize modern buildings as part of the city’s legacy, lamenting “Here, we focus on just ancient and medieval era monuments”. If modern structures like the Parliament Library, Connaught Place, Hall of Nations, Asian Games Village, etc. are demolished, it is a grievous loss to our cultural memory.

The Delhi Chapter is developing an integrated conservation and museum development plan that includes the iconic Gandhi Smriti. The Convenor who has been associated with preservation of Luytens Delhi, feels names are not too important as some had to be changed like the Viceroy’s House that became Rashtrapati Bhavan. Architect Herbert Baker was responsible for its design. People joked that Lutyens met his “Bakerloo” when his imperialistic appeals to lower the entire hill (so that the dome of Viceroy House would be visible from afar) was denied.

SHAHJAHANABAD, OTHER CAPITAL

In the walled city of Shahjahanabad, haveli owners will soon be able to avail of loans to convert their premises into hotels and tourist lodges. INTACH Delhi Chapter has in mind a three pronged strategy to revitalise this erstwhile imperial capital, the twin of Lutyen Delhi recommended for status as a World Heritage City. The families living in these havelis belonged to the royal courts of the Mughals. The Chapter proposes to first clear the garbage, solve the drainage and over hanging cables, and install proper signages to spruce up the area – before negotiating with the owners of about 700 havelis in the area. The idea is not to sanitise the area ‘a la Europe to look like a pretty picture, but to preserve it as a living and breathing city – with its e-rickshaws, street vendors, biryani and kebab joints intact to add value to heritage. Lt. Governor Najeeb Jung even approved a plan to bring back the good old trams introduced in 1908 by Lord Hardinge connecting Red Fort with Fatehpuri Masjid, with restricted vehicular traffic.

WALK THAT TALKS

Ms. Gladys Klodt, wife of a German diplomat and daughter of a Ghanaian diplomat, has collated information on 40 odd Missions located in New Delhi’s Diplomatic Enclave. The coffee table book maps post independence history and architecture of various embassies and some imperial New Delhi chanceries and residence with details, letters and photographs from their respective archives. Some of her favourites are the Bhutan Embassy, a unique example of traditional architectural idiom of that country following time honoured practices and symbolic ornamentation; Sudan Embassy with its palm lined driveway giving a distinctly Nilotic touch; Belgium Embassy designed by sculptor Satish Gujral adopting Mughal features with an exposed brick facade as a concession to Belgium architecture, with recreational facilities and a tennis court; the Australian High Commission with Josef Stein’s modernist signature using stone, perforated solid screens, water bodies and wide verandahs and the building embedded in a lush green landscape to offset the effects of a hot climate. There are many others to be encountered on this walk through the Diplomatic Enclave, unique also because no other country has such a designated space in their capital exclusively for diplomats.
Convenor A.G.K. Menon lauded ASI efforts to disseminate information to visually impaired visitors by putting up sign boards in Braille language at 10 of Delhi’s most visited monuments. It is proposed to extend such signboards to other places of tourist interest. As per the Disability Act, every public place needs to be made accessible to people with special needs, as special schools also take their students on educational trips. This is something important enough for our Chapters to follow up with their respective local authorities.

GUJARAT

State Co-Convenor Sanjeev Joshi drew attention to press articles regarding the 19th century *Nazzarbaug Palace* in Mandvi that appeared in major local dailies. It was once the venue of grand royal weddings, its interiors done in Italian marble with gold leaf décor on walls and ceilings. The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) issued an order barring any demolition moves. It is however the inheritance of Sangramsinh Gaekwad; the family built high walls around the palace and undertook demolition as walls were crumbling and might not withstand the coming monsoon season. The civic authorities find their hands tied as the palace is not a listed protected monument. Nor have the authorities finalised and published any list of heritage buildings and precincts to date under the General Development and Construction Rules (GDCR).

The Gujarat State Chapter called a Press Meet on 26th May jointly with the Indian Institute of Architects and a cross section of eminent citizens and professionals to condemn this “act of blatant and brazen vandalism – on the part of those who should be setting some standards and examples…….” They urged the authorities concerned to constitute Heritage Conservation Committees without further delay. And put severe deterrents in place to ensure that such acts are not repeated in the future. It is a case that only highlights for all INTACH Chapters the importance of listing followed by the all important timely notification that saves precious heritage.

Rajpipla

Convenor Rukmini Devi is congratulated for not only completing the listing of heritage buildings of Rajpipla, but also for its publication in bilingual booklets in English and Gujarati. It has many colour pictures that highlight the rich depository of heritage assets in this erstwhile princely State. It was one of the most prosperous regions of Gujarat that flourished immensely, particularly during the reign of Maharana Chattra Singh who ascended the throne in 1897 AD.

HARYANA

Faridabad

Convenor Anand Mehta informs that the Faridabad/Palwal Chapter conducted the *Young INTACH Heritage Event* at the Aggarwal College for Women, Ballangarh and at the KL Mehta Dayanand College for Women, Faridabad. On the spot painting and declamation competitions were
HIMACHAL PRADESH

State Convenor Maalvika Pathania, recently nominated INTACH Governing Council Member, informs that the Chapter has partnered with the Divya Himachal group of newspapers and weekly. They will promote heritage awareness news highlighting specifically INTACH programmes, schedules and awards to invite greater participation from schools and the general public.

2600-200 BCE HARAPPAN GRANARY

A beautiful brick-walled granary was discovered at Rakhigarhi village in Haryana, a site of a Harappan excavation. Situated at the confluence of Ghaggar and Chautang rivers it must have been a major grain producing area. The granary has rectangular chambers with floors made of rammed earth and plastered with mud. Interestingly traces of lime (chunnam) and dried grass found at the granary site leads one to believe that Harappans might have used this method for warding off insects and moisture for grain storage. There are about 2000 Harappan sites in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Kangra

Convenor L.N. Aggarwal was accompanied by Chapter Members when homage was paid to shahid-e-azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev Singh - the luminaries of the 1857 war who died bravely as heroes ever more. Shaibidi Divas (23rd March) was celebrated jointly with other NGOs Jan Chetna, Jan Jagaram and Viyopar with the lighting of the lamp in Kotwali Bazar, Dharamshala.

Kangra Chapter member Janmajay Singh Guleria was bestowed the Himachal Kesri Award by Chief Minister Vir...
Bhadra Singh, in recognition of his success in promoting the intangible heritage of Kangra folk songs and music.

Chapter Members joined hands with other NGOs like Him Akshay Urja, Viyopar Mandal, Jan Chetna and others to celebrate 5th June, World Environment Day. Convenor L.N. Aggarwal addressed the students who had gathered in numbers with their teachers, explaining the dangers of degradation of environment and measures that ought to be taken. The poster and declamation competitions that followed reflected a fair measure of the children’s awareness of the serious implications of degradation and conservation.

The Chapter’s sustained efforts to enlist official support for the greening of Shimla finally elicited a positive response. The State Government agreed to deploy a unit of the 133 Infantry Battalion (TA) Dogra for the greening of the city that was steadily losing its verdure. The Department of Art, Culture and Tourism is entrusted with year long celebrations of this former summer capital of India on its 150th anniversary. The Chapter will be participating in this long event that commenced on 24th April and will terminate on 1st January 2015. Convenor Ved Sud proposes to promote an awareness programme focusing on deteriorating heritage values reminding people about “Shimla back to Simla” in spirit though not in name!

JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Guide Book on Srinagar was formally released on 9th June at Srinagar.

DAL LAKE
- a source of income and an asset of the local people

JHARKHAND

State Convenor Ricky Suri informs that a set of Heritage Walks were conducted for students of Hill Top School, Telco, Jamshedpur in early April. They were told it is hard to verbalise the importance of heritage in a society obsessed with the value of everything only in monetary terms. Each narrator made a power point presentation to his group. While Jamshedpur is a beautiful city and has seen phenomenal growth due to its wealth of minerals and
planning to make this circular Fort a protected monument. If he is genuinely interested in preserving this heritage site, Dr. Khot could bring pressure on the authorities for clearing the fort walls that are presently covered with an overgrowth of vegetation. State Convennor Ashwathnaratan has been requested to pursue the matter with the authorities and to ensure there is no ugly encroachment on the plot. Building a residential complex for IT officials is not the ideal solution but allotment of an alternative plot is the answer - after the Belgaum Fort is declared a protected site which is in the offing.

KERALA

Thrissur

TISCO, it has left behind a lot of unattended history. Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh and volunteers from the NGO Kalamandir accompanied the students to nearly 20 sites. At the end of the trip, when one of the students was asked what he would do on returning home, he smilingly said that he will teach his parents! Undoubtedly it seems to have been both an educative and memorable walk about for the young people.

KARNATAKA

Dharwad

Convenor N.P. Bhat has been following up on the plot in Belgaum that the Income Tax Department has planned to acquire. It is located opposite the Belgaum Fort, but outside the stipulated 300 metre zone. The Belgaum Fort however is not a protected monument to date. The IT Department was thus able to physically take possession of the plot by evicting private bus operators who had encroached upon the site, and build a compound wall. The bus depot cause is espoused by Dr. Nitin Khot who gathered that the State Government is

There was great enthusiasm on 5th June, World Environment Day when Members gathered together for the planting of saplings commemorating stalwarts of Malayalam literature. Renowned personalities were invited to plant their favourite trees.

The Chapter set the tone for a meaningful event with the Convenor M.P. Surendran highlighting “Love for environment is not just about planting trees. It is about expressing our love for nature and about the importance that this love for nature is part of us. Farming is not only harvesting but it carries also a rich tradition. “Both Shri Rakesh OM in his welcome address and M.P. Sunderam in his presidential address highlighted the importance of tree planting for preventing further degradation of environment, and its co-relation to sustenance of life on this planet.

A series of presentations were made at the Seminar that followed on varied subjects like the Correlation of Kerala’s Agriculture and Cultural Traditions by Dr. Molly Joseph; an illustrated talk on the Geographical and Ecological Aspects of
the Western Ghats by Abdul Basheer; and a summation of the prevailing environmental scenario by Dr. Santhakumaran. Members of INTACH, particularly Prem Manasvi, Shri Rakesh and Shri Vinod worked tirelessly for the success of this event.

The Regional Winner from Thrissur of INTACH's My Living Icon competition was honoured with a memento by Secretary of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi R. Gopalkrishnan. The event was widely covered by the media.

**Trivandrum**

Shri Shaji K. is appointed the Convenor of the Trivandrum Chapter. He will be assisted by Ms. Thalmi B. as the appointed Co-Convenor. A warm welcome to INTACH family is extended to them both.

**PATTANAM'S PAST**

The Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) is collaborating with Oxford University School of Archaeology in excavating the Pattanam site dating back to 10th century BC. Its trade links with Rome were at their peak during the 1st-4th century BC. UK experts plan to use airborne techniques such as LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the surface characteristics. Prof. Chris Godse, Chair of European Archaeology and an expert on landscape studies and Eurasian connections, is of the view that Pattanam was part of a river delta, the presence of sand bars and islands is indicative of its growth as a trading post. Of special interest to India, KCHR might just discover if Pattanam was the lost port town of Muziris ? Under the MOU a team would also go to UK to excavate at Dorchester. Dr. PJ Cherian, Director KCHR is of the view that such exchanges enrich mutual understanding of archaeological traditions.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**Burhanpur**

The Chapter organized a Seminar at the Royal Fort on 18th April. Eminent personalities of the city and Heads of NGOs were invited by Convenor Major Dr. MK Gupta to join INTACH Members for the celebrations. Co-Convenor Hishang Hawaldarji spoke about the importance and history of World Heritage Day and the theme for 2014. Senior Member Nand Kishore Devdaji drew attention to the Mughal period Kundi Bhandara water distribution system which still exists in Burhanpur and merits heritage status. The event was conducted by members Nayan Bhai Kapdiyaji and Vaid Subhash Maneji with the special assistance extended by ASI Chief Rakesh Shendeji.

**Jabalpur**

The Chapter proposes to commemorate Rai Bahadur Dr. Hiralal (1867-1934), considered the father of Heritage Studies in Central India, by publishing a major body of his work. His writings relate to the then Central Provinces and Berar and cover subjects of history, archaeology, inscriptions, manuscripts, art, literature and linguistics. His four volume magnum opus on Castes and Tribes of the Central Provinces of India is a valuable reference book for socio-anthropological studies and for law
The Conference opened with a talk by Trustee/Director of the Dr. Bhaud Jadi Lad Museum Tasneem Mehta titled The Museum as Muse: Creating New Contexts for Old Collections. She shared her own experiences in transforming the DBDL Museum from a mere repository of 19th century artifacts into a dynamic contemporary institution. She spoke about the challenges encountered in reinterpreting a colonial collection in the light of post-independent discourse, analyzing and redefining early modern aesthetics in Bombay that is now Mumbai.

With this introduction, the Conference took off on ways and means of developing South Asian art collections in future, the choices to be made to introduce contemporary relevance to the collection, and to define the role of trans-national exchanges.

Lectures & Workshops

The Chapter held its usual series of lectures and workshops. During this quarter the major ones were: Beyond the Circle: A Study of Roadside Shrines in Mumbai by Vidya Kamat on 5th April; Contemporary Indian Art through the Lens of Asia by Dr. Parul Dave-Mukherji on 26th April; and Sethusamudram Project by art historian Suresh Jayaram on 10th May.

Filmit Festival

Filmit India Workshops in coordination with HECS were held at Oberoi International School on 1st, 3rd & 12 April, at the Dr. BDL Museum on 5th and 12th April; at the Little Angels Sapling on 17th April; at United Way Mumbai on 25th April.
**Summer Workshops**

The BDL Museum held a series of Summer Workshops, an annual feature for young people during the holiday month of May. The Museum hosts a number of other exhibitions and programmes for the people of Mumbai in addition to INTACH related activities.

**Pune**

The Chapter marked the 10th anniversary of Warsaa, the Heritage Shop the first of which opened in Shenwarwada of the city on 6th April 2004. To mark the occasion, an inaugural art show was hosted at the Monalisa Kalagram in the city. Traditional arts and crafts were also put on display and sale during the daylong event.

A series of workshops and heritage walks were scheduled during the holiday month of April. It was an assorted array of programmes to appeal to a cross section of interests like narration of Ajanta Tales, Dagina workshop (jewelry), Ganjifa art, mask making and walks for heritage shopping, Cantonment area, Nageshwar precinct, etc.

A livelihood Development Programme for Tambats (copper smiths) focused on marketing and infusing seed capital for their products to tap a bigger market. Originally the Tambats belonged to the Konkan, but migrated to Pune during Peshwa times attracted by their patronage of craftsmen and traders. There are nearly 800 Tambat households living in Kasba Peth area of the city, with many families entirely dependent on this trade. Under the aegis of DC Handicrafts, artisans have developed contemporary sensibilities with the help of Pune’s leading designers. The Pune Chapter’s workshop will improve quality, help with planning and implementation, lacquering of products, and thereby enhancing sale through new markets and major exhibitions. The formation of a cooperative Tambat Handicrafts Sanstha is the final objective of this INTACH project to ensure equitable benefit to all its craftspeople.

**MIZORAM**

Mizoram is now on the country’s archaeological map with the Ministry of Culture declaring 9000 sq.m. area as a site of national importance. Hundreds of ancient menhirs embossed with figures of humans, animals and weapons were found at Vangchhia village, Champhai district. The village lies on the banks of the Tiau river that separates India from Myanmar.
The villagers call the site Kawtchhuah Ropui meaning a great gateway and have been protecting these monuments some of which are tall as man.

The Chapter with the support of the Art and Culture Department has been studying the menhirs of the land that could shed new light on the history of the Mizos. They have sought the help of the Archaeological Survey of India for interpreting the embossing on these stones. The community followed an unwritten, oral tradition until the script developed a little over a century. While there has been no significant breakthrough in deciphering the text, the Ministry’s notification declared the menhirs, as well as the grounds on which they stand, the surrounding caves and forests as protected. Similar menhirs have also been found in the Chin Hills of Myanmar according to historian B. Lalthangliana.

**ORISSA**

**Bhadrapur**

Convenor D. Mohanty convened the 16th General Body Meeting of the Chapter, under the chairmanship of Chapter Advisor Dr. Sanatan Mohanty on 8th June. A Core Committee was formed to assist in the listing and documentation of Jaganath Sadak, an ancient heritage site which will be supported by Central Office. Next, the intangible heritage of Moghal Tamsha and its documentation is likely to be taken up. The draft bye-laws of the proposed Jaganath Pani Jatra (Opera) Academy is being sent for approval of Central Office. The Heritage Wonders of Bhadrak is being translated into Odia and will be published shortly to create greater heritage awareness among the people.

**Bhubaneswar**

This year Bhubaneswar Foundation Day was celebrated with an exhibition titled *Down Memory Lane* comprising 57 visuals of important events from 1945 (when the concept of an institution was initiated) up to 1970. Indologist-curator William Dalrymple gave an hour long talk on *Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi* (1707-1857) with pictorial examples to explain the paradox of art flourishing amid a weakening polity that was typical of North India during the decline of dynasty.

**Mayurbhanj**

Convenor Dr. Prabodh K. Mishra informs that the Mayur Bhanj Chapter held its Annual Day Function on 18th June.

**LATE CHANDRASEKHAR KAR**

Conservationist Chandrasekhar Kar spent most of his life studying marine turtles in Gahirmatha on Odishan coast. He is credited with putting its Olive Ridley turtles on the world map at the first such conference held in 1979 at Washington, USA. At home he brought their mass nesting site near Devi River mouth in Puri to notice along with FAO consultant HR Burstard. He stopped the smuggling of turtles to the Kolkata fish markets. Earlier this year he retired as Senior Research Officer of the State Forest & Wildlife Department. His colleagues believe no one else has ever fought for the Ridleys as passionately as he did. And ensured that the Ghahimatha Marine National Park was notified and the rookery sustained. He is also the co-author of *Bhitarkaika, The Myth and Reality* which has a lot of information on Indian sea turtles. His passing away at the age of 58 is a great loss to wildlife conservation.
PUNJAB

On World Heritage Day, State Convenor Sukhdev Singh reminded the people of Punjab about the rich tangible and intangible heritage of their state, its history and linkages with the Vedas and Sanskrit traditions. He said blind adoption of modern developmental strategies were obliterating the ecological balance and bio-diversity of the land. On this occasion he wanted people to take “a pledge to save our architectural, natural and material heritage and all other traditions of intangible heritage except those which are not livable value systems….the people of Punjab must assert their right to have clean environment, ecological balance, open and clean spaces in cities, and access to their collective cultural heritage”. A clarion call for cities all over India!

The Heritage Walk of Amritsar conceptualized and promoted by the Chapter, and later taken over by the Punjab Government, received the Rashtrapati Award. This particular

RAJASTHAN

Shri Hari Singh Palkiya, a Life Member of INTACH for the past 28 years and Kota Convenor, is appointed the new Rajasthan State Additional Co-Convenor, in addition to his charge as the Kota Chapter Convenor.

He takes over from Thakur Ranvir Singh who has given untiring service to INTACH and its Chapters over many years, which is greatly appreciated by everyone at Central Office.

VULTURE RESTAURANTS

A vulture restaurant to provide them with supplementary food is running successfully at Dhar Kalan village in Punjab. It operates by collecting cattle after a veterinary post mortem confirming natural death to ensure safe food. It is a new concept to augment the population of the scavenging birds which help to keep the environment clean by feeding on carrion. The village has attracted four vulture species including the Griffon and Himalayan vultures in large numbers. Environmentalist TK Roy affirms that the vulture restaurant of this village has also augmented the vulture population in neighbouring States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

For centuries these large ugly birds have been doing a beautiful job of keeping cities clean. The restaurant concept came because of the steady decline of vultures feeding on carcasses of domestic animals that had been administered toxic drugs. SAVE, South Asia’s Vultures from Extinction in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) have also been running captive breeding centres.

The programme for the months of May and June were released in advance at the meeting of the Amritsar Chapter Executive Committee held on 21st May detailing lectures, heritage walks, etc. This is a good practice to adopt for all Chapters in order to maximize public participation in INTACH activities.

Ajmer

Pushkar Fair

Ashok Tak at Pushkar
Chairman received a letter from a camel decorator in Ajmer who has been participating in fairs like the best known Pushkar Festival of Rajasthan and others in Gujarat. He keeps alive the dying art of camel decoration for which he has won many prizes for excellence. This year on World Heritage Day he organized an exhibition under INTACH banner that was inaugurated by Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh. Chairman feels such people should be inducted into INTACH and encouraged to associate with its activities. There is talent to be tapped in every region, only sometimes it comes to the Chapters’ attention when it immediately needs to be encouraged.

The decline of the Great Indian Bustard is another cause being taken up by the Chapter. The Convenor alongwith Co-Convenor Rajesh Garg presented a poster to senior officials of the Forest Department, suggesting development of grasslands at bustard dominated sites where human and livestock movement should be banned.

The Chapter convened a meeting addressed by Goodwill Committee Secretary Jasveer Thakur who said the Government has issued instructions that big industry should spend 2% of their net profit on public interest issues. Hope floats for the conservation work that needs to be taken up at the Rangji Temple of Pushkar!

Jaipur

The Chapter joined hands with the Jaipur Virasat Foundation and Gunjankhana on the occasion of World Heritage Day, 18th April to raise public awareness about Jaipur’s diverse cultural heritage. Governing Council Member cum Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar and other Members circulated their telephone numbers inviting confirmation for the scheduled heritage walk, in order to attract a maximum number of participants. It was conducted by the Director of the Jaipur Virasat Foundation Vinod Joshi commencing from the New Gate and following an interesting route through Film City, Thatheron ka Raasta, Natanion ka Raasta, Maniharon ka Raasta culminating at the City Palace. Director of the Maharaj Sawai Man Singh II Museum Yunus Khimani, Padma Shree Moinuddin Khan, Padma Shree Ram Kishore Verma, Padma Shree Arjun Prajapati and Admiral (Retd) Madhvendra Singh were among the participants of this walk. The high point was Commissioner Jaipur Municipal Corporation L.C. Aswal joining the walkers. He is keen to associate with INTACH and offered whatever assistance is required for their activities. He instructed his staff to keep the lanes garbage free and promised that repair of roads and facades would be taken up along the heritage route. Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar, having worked with him earlier, now hopes to explore possibilities of taking up some heritage related projects within the walled city in association with the JMC.

Kota

The Chapter recently completed the Documentation of Bio-Diversity of the Kota Region, with the help of research scholars Dr. K.S. Nama and Ms. K. Choudhary who are also INTACH Members. The help of the Botanical Survey of India, the Wildlife Department and volunteers of the Chapter
contributed in large measure to the speedy completion of this work. It is all the more commendable after completing the documentation of Sacred Groves, Natural Heritage Sites and Heritage Trees undertaken earlier. This second documentations includes listing, identification, photography and digitilisation. The report also pinpoints the endangered species and indicates conservation strategies to be adopted, as well as future management plans to save such biodiversity from being lost to Kota. This is indeed team work of a very high order.

**Pali**

Chapter Members gathered at Somnath Shivalaya on 13th April with many former office bearers and Members in attendance. Educationist Jai Narayan Kodecha and social worker Om Vaishnav offered to take on the responsibility of public awareness campaigns. Members will help in conducting heritage walks for school students to acquaint them with Pali’s ancient and historic monuments. The 1238 Somnath Shivalaya temple is the main attraction for visitors. Convenor Arjun Singh Shekhawat is proposing a publication on this temple with the help of historians, while also promoting the historic significance of Pali. Principal Pep Singh Chauhan offered to do some research on the subject. Others present extended assistance for conducting heritage walks, and taking up the matter with the Collector for collaborative activities with INTACH Chapter. The event received good coverage in the local Press.

**Sawai Madhopur**

The Chapter initiated the listing of historical heritages of Timangarh Fort and City Palace in Karoli District on the auspicious occasion of World Heritage Day. Convenor Padam Khatri, Co-Convenor Javed Anwar, City Palace Manager Dinesh Singh Saingar, architect Nitish Jain, Joint Secretary Satish Verma were present to greet many eminent people invited to the event.

A survey team has toured Bhanwar Vikas Palace, City Palace, Timangarh, Bahadur Garh Fort, Mandrayan Fort and have listed more than 30 historical monuments.

**Udaipur**

The General Body of Mewar Regional Chapter met on 20th April at the Maharana Kumbha Bhawan, Udaipur. Chief Conservator of Forests KK Garg was invited by Convenor SK Verma as the Chief Guest, and former Vice Chancellor Prof. BP Bhatnagar as the Special Guest on the occasion. Shri Garg stressed on creating inter-linkages between INTACH and the Forest and Tourism Departments, and with the State Biodiversity Board. The meeting was presided by former administrator SS Ranawat. The Chief Speaker Dr. Satish Sharma pointed out that sacred groves, giant heritage trees, forked *khajur* trees and sites of geo-heritage like caves, gorges and excavation sites of Balathal and Leswal can be developed as heritage assets and for conducting eco-awareness drives among youth.

Important forthcoming events of the Udaipur, and sub Chapters at Rajsamand and Bhilwara were discussed. A series of presentations reviewed new initiatives taken and progress of some key projects undertaken. Co-Convenor Sushil Kumar gave the vote of thanks.

The meeting concluded with a tribute to the late Padmabhushan Jagat Singh Mehta for having been an inspiration and guiding force on the “Heritage of Mewar”, followed by a two minutes silence in a solemn homage to his memory.

During the last quarter, the Chapter also convened a meeting of the Rajsamand Sub Chapter in the Collector’s Office.
SEPIA TINTED HISTORY

“Long Exposure – The Camera at Udaipur, 1857-1957” is another major addition to the pictorial archives of erstwhile princely states, after The Waterhouse Albums : Central Provinces, and the “Dawn upon Delhi” chronicling the capital years from later 19th to mid 20th centuries. Published by the Maharana Mewar Historical Publications under the aegis of Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, the authors trace the history of the Mewar Royals through 235 selected pictures from a mammoth archive. This extensively researched work includes a vast range of material like cartes-de-visite, glass plate negatives, albumen and silver gelatin prints, painted photographs and collages depicting formal and religious occasions, apart from architecture, landscapes and former Maharajas. Some of this vast archival material is now being shared with Indian and global audiences.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Chapters including Chennai are collaborating with the Coimbatore Chapter for a grand exhibition on the theme of Ancient Commercial and Cultural Contacts between South India and the Roman Empire. Ancient Romans came to India to buy gemstones, ivory, gold, silver, copper, antimony and even wine. Coimbatore and its environs were the hub of these trading activities. A Seminar to coincide with this Exhibition will be held at Coimbatore later this year.

State Convenor Dr. Suresh will lead a tour to the Roman sites in the area for the participants and other distinguished guests. The Italian Ambassador to India has expressed his interest in participating in this event showcasing the historic links between two ancient civilizations.

SARI STORY

Tamil Nadu has a variety of old traditional saris like the Kandangi, Sungudi, Chinnalampatti and Koorai Nadu. They are now going to make a comeback through the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Cooperative (Co-optex). There are very few weavers still skilled enough to weave such saris. A revival package is being offered with incentives to member-societies and weavers to bring back these traditional saris which once commanded a large market. The only interventions would be in the areas of design and colour to suit modern sensibilities, especially suited for working women and fashions of the day.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE LAST DECADE

The Senate House restored by INTACH Chennai in collaboration with Larsen & Tourbo, the Senate House Restoration & Maintenance Trust and the University of Madras was described as a “work of genius” by Bernard Fielden. It is one of the finest Indo-Saracenic building of brick, lime plaster, with graffiti murals and painted canvas panels on ceilings, designed by Robert Chisholm. As art of the document, Chennai Chapter collated various processes related directly and indirectly to conservation, with a conscious effort to recreate a body of knowledge that will help to synchronise restoration procedures with current administrative and construction practices.

Madurai

Convenor Arvind Kumar Sankar writes about the frescoes on the roof of Sri Meenakshi Sundereswar Temple and the floor kolams (rangoli) as outstanding works of art. It was started by his mother Lalitha Sankar way back in 1979, and it has become a family tradition. A grand kolam connected by 1 lakh dots was drawn on the floor 35 years ago by a group of women near the sanctorum. He says his uncle, Professor CR Selvakumar at Waterloo University, has used his mathematical skill to develop newer patterns and kolam techniques. It is believed they bring prosperity to homes, and definitely add a cheerful welcome to the eye.

1655 CE COPPER PLATE

A 18x12.5 cm copper plate charter issued by Thirumalai Nayak who ruled Madurai during 1623-59 CE is with P.Mathiazhagan of Vellaimlaipatti village. His ancestor Pillai Thevan received the charter from Thirumalai Nayak. The inscription talks about “a parakeet figurine made of gold and silver and gold flowers” that so pleased the king that he gifted him in return a land grant and told him to be the kaval ambalam, the protector of Urappanoor village. The plate has remained in the safe keeping of the family ever since, and the family takes it out from a trunk once a year for worship. It is reported that several copper plate charters have also been found in the area.

Nagercoil

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan draws attention to a press note on the Sacred Groves of Kanyakumari District. It mentions the sustained efforts made by INTACH Members who visited more than 100 such groves and identified 100-300 years old trees. Convenor Lal Mohan spoke to the Collector regarding encroachment of groves for rubber plantation or their conversion into temples. He pointed out that disappearance is mostly due to urbanisation and increase in land value has
resulted in a marked disappearance of sacred groves over the last 10 years. Some groves have trees like the 200 year old huge banyan at Ayyanar Kavau in Chitiralkalal village, that are still worshipped. A report was submitted to the Collector recommending protection of endangered trees and the food chain of various organisms, stressing importance of cultural ethos of the people that also needs to be safeguarded.

**Thanjavur**

The Chapter celebrated World Dance Day in association with the Kalai Aayam and the Brabhan Natyanjali Foundation on 29th April at the Subrahmany Shrise Mandapam. Erstwhile prince S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle presented the Natya Peraalar to Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, a noted dancer cum scholar who is President of the Nrithysodaya at Chennai. Other luminaries in the field like Dr. V. Vardarajan from the Brahan Natyanjali Foundation and Trustee Ushanandhini Viswanathan of Kalai Aayam graced the occasion.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Allahabad**

Ms. Pragyana Mehrotra is appointed Addl. Co-Convenor of the Allahabad.

**Banda**

Convenor Haris Zaman was terribly moved by the abject poverty prevailing in the vicinity of the Kalinger Fort, Bundelkhand. The Chapter has adopted this Fort as a passion project, and is knocking on the doors of various authorities to promote tourism infrastructure that could bring some economic relief to the people of this area. Efforts of the Chapter during the last 4 years has made Kalinger plastic free and the houses in the foothill have all been painted in aqua blue. Last year the Chapter hosted a sight-seeing tour of the Fort for business house representatives from the tourism industry. This year it invited CAPS Foundation from Hyderabad to launch a training programme for underprivileged youth, sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, who can then be deployed in the hospitality business. This is commendable work!

Another feather in the cap is the Chapter’s initiative in undertaking plantation at the Kalinger Hill Fort, in association with the UP Forest Department. A police check post has been installed to ensure tourist safety. The authorities have also been persuaded to establish a museum at the foothill of the Kalinger Fort to house valuable antiquities abandoned at the Chatrasasi Museum in Banda, but this remains stalled due to legal hassles between its Trust and the owner of the disputed land.

**Lucknow**

Convenor Ms. Vipul Varshney felicitated

The Chapter organized the exhibition Splendours of Indian Architecture, curated by Dr. Saryu Doshi and exhibited earlier at Belgium and at Delhi during Founder’s Day celebrations in January this year. Convenor Vipul Varshney is herself an architect and urban planner. She thanks AHD Division, in particular Bindu Manchnada and Abhinav Ataris, for their assistance in setting up the Exhibition which attracted a large number of visitors and considerable media interest.

**Noida/Greater Noida**

Major General (Retd.) Brajesh Kumar, AVSM, VSM is appointed the Convenor of the Noida/Greater Noida Chapter. He will be assisted by Brigadier (Retd.) Harish Chandra Mehrotra, SM as the Co-Convenor. INTACH extends them a warm welcome to our midst.
A joint programme with Memorial Hall was also held on 17th May on the occasion of International Museums Day. Forthcoming, is a mega programme with Heritage Associations of South East Asia that is under planning.

**Kolkata**

The Chapter commemorated World Heritage Day with a meeting at LIMELIGHT, the Centre for Police-Citizen Connect. This heritage building, formerly the residence of Bhawal Maharaja, was restored by the Kolkata Police at the initiative of Special Commissioner Soumen Mitra and is now owned by the Police. A walk through the restored building was followed by a presentation and interactive session on the restoration undertaken. It is indeed a great way to sensitise the police forces to the importance of heritage and safeguarding it in public interest.

The Chapter collaborated with the Victoria Memorial Hall for celebrating International Museum Day 18th May. Throughout the day admission to the Museum, its gardens and the Son-et-Lumière show was free to visitors. The special attraction of the day was a mystery hunt On the Right Trail, designed by its Secretary and Curator Jayanta Sengupta. The previous day on 17th May, a number of eminent speakers elaborated on the special theme Museum Collections and Connections chosen for this year. There were short power point presentations by the Director of the local Alliance Francaise du Bengale, Stephane Amalir; by Shri Samarjit Guha of the British Council; and by architect Anindya Basu on recent practices in this regard at museums in France, UK and Germany.

CEO Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sarkar spoke on Why do we Waste Museum Collections and Opportunities?

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**WEST BENGAL**

A Meeting of the West Bengal and Kolkata Regional Chapters was held on 5th April at INTACH Office. Programmes held since last September were reviewed.

Professor Madhunati Roy, who heads the Architecture Department of Jadavpur University and a INTACH Member, gave a presentation of the Restoration Project of Writers Building complex. She invited interactions from Members present.

State Convenor G.M. Kapur launched Dr. Aditi Chatterjee’s book, requesting her to speak about the interesting contents of her book. She began by expressing her gratitude to INTACH for co-publishing her work.

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**UTTARAKHAND**

**HOW TO AVERT IMPENDING DANGER**

Green activists have warned repeatedly that dams and tunnels wreck the fragile environment of Uttarakhand, after proving that the June 2013 catastrophe was triggered by hydroelectric projects and environmental degradation of the State in large measure. The apex court had directed the Environment Ministry to constitute an expert body to assess the cumulative impact of 24 proposed projects in the pipeline on the biodiversity of the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins and the threat of a cascading chain of catastrophes in case of structural failures or even natural causes like floods. Their report rejects all proposals falling within 10 km of critical protected areas like national parks, sanctuaries, animal corridors, etc. as having a significant biodiversity impact. Project proponents have submitted only incorrect and insufficient information to date. The Panel advised that a Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment including Regional Environmental Impact and Strategic Impact Analysis be done by MoEF for all river basins. In view of Uttarakhand’s glacial sensitivity, the Panel sought to keep terrain above 2200 metres free from any hydro-power intervention.

*Ack: Akash Vashishtha, Mail Today*

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**NEWS FROM HERE & THERE**

**TRAVELS ON MY ELEPHANT**

Prize winning author of Travels on my Elephant, Mark Shand passed away recently. He visited India when he was 14 en route to Australia to which he had been expelled from his aristocratic home for smoking cannabis. In due course he returned to India nearly 25 years later on a visit. He said he fell in love with Tara, a female elephant on the streets of Bhubaneswar. He then rode Tara for about 600 miles
Excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1956 revealed remains of many ancient structures, associated with Buddha’s time or adjoining period. Many of these excavated sites are today abandoned to the fury of nature and human vandalism. Some of the remains are the Pakki Kuti Well (Buddhist ruins), the ramparts and gates enclosing the old city of Sravasti with several openings and comprising four main gates: Imli Darwaza, Rajgarh Darwaza, Naushabra Darwaza and Kandbharti Darwaza. All these remains are associated with identifiable cultures of Pyu, Funan, Champa, Dvaravati, Kedah and Srivijaya – the lost kingdoms “whose very existence only emerged from the historical shadows in the twentieth century as a result of pioneering epigraphic and archaeological research”.

Ack: Vandana Kalra, Indian Express

**BIGGEST DINOSAUR DISCOVERED**

The bones of world’s biggest dinosaur to date from the late Cretaceous period was discovered by scientists in Argentina recently. The remains are that of a 65 ft. high herbivore weighing 77 tonnes or as heavy as 4 African elephants. Even Jurassic Park film makers couldn’t have imagined this!
in the vicinity of ASI protected sites are in advanced state of decay. The 6th century BC Purvaram Mahavihar (Mahadev Kutti) is believed to be the site where Lord Buddha spent six rainy seasons. In spite of being an ASI protected site, it is in a similar state of neglect. An ancient stone pillar is now worshipped by the villagers as Shivling. A meditation centre is also under construction at the same site.

OLD TOWN, LEH

The old town of Leh, one of the most engaging cultural landscapes in the Himalayas, lying just below the 9 storeyed Leh Fort is in a serious state of despair. Long period of negligence, non availability of basic civic amenities like water supply, sanitation etc. has reduced it to a ghost town. The narrow lanes are layered with more than 100 year old houses, designed for harsh climatic needs, lend a unique identity to the town with its local materials and vernacular character. Today it is a great challenge to protect and revive this impressive old town for posterity.

KIRTI KUND, BARSANA

The Kund, believed to have association with Kirti (Radha's mother), is one of the few surviving kunds in Barsana with pucca ghat and enclosure wall, built in the middle of 18th century by Rup Ram Katara, a priest and political negotiator for the kings of Bharatpur. The Kund is presently encroached and in a state of dilapidation with broken walls, vegetation growth, and in the danger of disappearance.