The Delhi Chapter has conceptualised an exhibition Delhi – a Heritage City at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) complex from 25th September-25th December, to coincide with the Commonwealth Games scheduled 3rd-14th October this year. The target audience would be largely local residents and school children, and of course tourists. In addition to panels, models and dioramas, technological advances like interactive kiosks, plasma screens, audio-visuals, soundscapes, etc. will be deployed to make visitors’ experience a seamless journey through Delhi’s past and present. A narrative on Delhi’s intangible heritage, theatrical and dance performances, food and crafts stalls are other features that will be incorporated in what promises to be a unique showcasing of capital heritage. The exhibition will “strive to create a benchmark experiential space that presents the story of Delhi’s Heritage in an unique and engaging way” says Convenor AGK Menon.

Delhi Chapter is closely associated with the ongoing marathon efforts of Delhi Government to spruce up the capital ahead of the Games. Work at Gol Gumbad near the Lodhi Road flyover revealed a hitherto undiscovered medieval graffiti on an ill maintained wall – a small figure mounted on a horse carrying a sword against the faint impressions of a fort background. Art historians are in the process of ascertaining its age. Another
special responsibility of closely liaising with INTACH Chapters to ensure greater emphasis on natural heritage matters.

Shri R.L. Bawa, former State Convenor Haryana is assigned the work of consolidating all documentation and listings undertaken to date by INTACH; and to guide those Chapters where work is ongoing / incomplete so that a consolidated Listing on all-India basis is produced within the next three years.

The Chapters Committee has been reconstituted with 10 Members, which I will be chairing. I hope to establish a more personalised and closely knit relationship with all Chapters. I also hope individual Members are encouraged by Convenors to take a proactive role in Chapter activities; and in helping people value their heritage and save it from destruction and smuggling. I would welcome it if they want to get in touch with me periodically to share their views.

INTACH Chapters and Members have pioneered the conservation movement in India. It is a matter of great pride that they continue to take many new initiatives across the country. I would only caution INTACH Members to ensure that quality and integrity of conservation work in areas of our specialisation remains impeccable, and is a role model for so many others who have now entered the field.

Together we can make INTACH a broad based organization with due weightage given to innovative ideas and initiatives. Let us never forget that as the largest conservation organization in the country, we have a very special responsibility to fulfill by preserving one of the richest cultures of the world.

Maj.Gen.L.K.Gupta

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**ARCC II**

The Asian Regional Cooperation Conference (ARCC-II) scheduled for December 2010 has been postponed in consultation with the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) till a decision on new dates is taken for the future.

INTACH first carried out the cleaning before conservation work was taken up. The decorative portions on the parapet kangoras and the stuccos on the arch mihrab face visitors who must have offered prayers here once upon a time. Prof. Menon discovered beautiful calligraphy behind layers of soot, and evidence of blue tiles in the ribs of the dome that he hopes to replace with original blue tiles with the help of the Aga Khan Foundation. INTACH took over the restoration work of Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal, along with the Lodi period tomb at Lado Sarai, besides 24 other monuments in the Qutab complex. It is also working with the State Government for the restoration of 14 other smaller monuments which are not on ASI list.

Perhaps no other city in the world has as many heritage remains around every almost turn as Delhi streets. No wonder local communities have encroached upon their space converting some of the neglected ones into temple, boutique, toilet, etc. most unapologetically!

With the Municipal Corporation of Delhi moving to its towering new offices, its old premises at the crumbling Town Hall is likely to be transformed into a tourist attraction. The Chapter has bid for this assignment which will also entail
a proposed reuse of this 1864-66 heritage site sprawled over 16 acres of prime land in Old Delhi.

It may be recalled a Memorandum of Understanding was signed earlier this year between INTACH and the civic agency. Work on revamping Feroz Shah Kotla and Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, developing a heritage road corridor from Coronation Park to Qutab Minar that was undertaken under the MOU will be completed very shortly.

The Chapter has also prepared a new traffic plan to be enforced around the MCD 28 storey Civic Centre, which Convenor Menon describes as “a stone thrown in a pond that will send ripples in the traffic situation”. The new road map covers major areas of Old and New Delhi (Shahjahanbad, ITO and Connaught Place). Drawing inspiration from cities like London, it looks at the total city network for holistic solutions that cannot be addressed by simply building flyovers, subways and multi-lane signal free roads that still get enmeshed with long traffic snarls. According to estimates only 13% of Delhi’s population travels by cars, but occupies half the road space. The INTACH scheme proposes exclusive lanes for buses, segregated tracks for cyclists and non-motorised vehicles, user friendly pavements for pedestrians, and dedicated space for hawkers - in short, a more equitable distribution of road space. As Convenor Menon suggests “congestion should be seen as a solution and not a problem”.

There is much to be done, and work will expectedly spill into the months well past the Commonwealth Games.

**CWG Benefits**

Delhi undoubtedly is getting a capital makeover on account of the Commonwealth Games – but heritage sites that are not en route to sports venues will not get even fringe benefits. One example is Zafar Mahal, Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar’s summer palace. It is in a state of neglected misuse, haunted by drug peddlers and users. ASI proposes to start a museum transferring some of the displays currently lying in the Red Fort. There is even a proposal to transfer Bahadur Shah’s grave from Rangoon, as he wished to be buried here. The insurmountable problem of heavy encroachments cannot be solved by pious intentions – and certainly not in a few months.

The DDA biodiversity park along the Northern Ridge stands a better chance of seeing the light of day. It is proposed to rejuvenate the nature reserve, with its heritage trails, lakes and to construct eco-friendly toilets. The process of planning and implementing 87 hectares for this biodiversity park is also likely to spill into the next year/s.
So it will take some time before Delhi can be declared a Heritage City, but the process has been put in motion. And INTACH is one of the architects of this national endeavour.

Heritage Route

The Detailed Project Report Delhi Heritage Route : Humayun’s Tomb – Red Fort has been published as an impressive coffee table sized book by the Delhi Chapter. It was facilitated by the World Monuments Fund’s Sustainable Tourism Initiative, and sponsored by American Express. It envisages a shift from the narrow concerns of protecting architectural heritage to broader perspectives of conservation, aligning it with the imperatives of urban design and new strategies of sustainable tourism. Lastly, in order to bring about these ambitious changes it recommends engaging professionals as activists to resolve the complexities of problems faced by centuries of unplanned growth of Delhi. As Convenor AGK Menon states: “The comprehensive nature of the report makes it a credible document which could easily be adopted by the hard-pressed civic agencies that are distracted by day-to-day issues of management and governance”.

Going Underground

Another beautification thrust is the removal of overhead wires and cables from major roads and congested areas by power distribution companies, on the advice of the Delhi Government. Its Urban Development Minister says “They are an eyesore…… and not in tune with our vision of making Delhi a world class city”. The discoms evaded the heavy expenditure involved by citing an ancient provision of the Electricity Act whereby the agency proposing the removal of overhead wires was required to bear the cost. Recently however the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has reversed the situation, and the three discoms operating in Delhi will be spending Rs.50 crore each in the first phase to move wires from overhead to underground.

Ageing Trees

The majestic trees that line the avenues of the Delhi, dating back to the British period, are in deep distress due to physiological and physical onslaught on the green areas of the capital. Underground pipes and cables are not the only upheavals, pedestrians and vehicles too have intruded on their space leaving the majority of 2558 trees surveyed in the Central Vista physically injured, deformed, scrawled, waterlogged, or nearly dying. NDMC has undertaken a study to stop the disease and decay, but the devil is in the implementation of remedial measures listed in the study report.

Man Who Built Delhi

One reads about Edward Lutyens and Herbert Baker as the architects of New Delhi. They undoubtedly were. A well known name not often proclaimed along with theirs is that of Sir Shobha Singh, the main contractor who executed their architectural plans and built the Viceroy’s House now the Rashtrapathi Bhavan, North and South Blocks, Connaught Place, Baroda House, Modern School, and many other landmarks of today’s New Delhi. And built them to last – unlike latter day contractors! He lived and worked from 1-A Janpath where the Sir Shobha Singh Trust now operates, and displays some historic sepia coloured photographs of a gracious age.
NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

Capital Legacy

INTACH organized a two day conference on Conservation of Shahjahanbad and Lutyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ) on 17th April at the India International Centre. It was a follow up on similar seminars organized earlier to update policymakers and field practitioners on heritage practices and developments evolving in the field of heritage in other countries, and to assess their applicability to the fast paced urbanization of Delhi today. It was inaugurated by President Sanskriti Pratishthan OP Jain, a former Convenor Delhi Chapter who is well known for his yeoman service to Delhi’s heritage conservation.

The press conference held on the eve of this conference was addressed jointly by Chairman Maj. Gen.(Retd) LK Gupta, Delhi Convenor AGK Menon and Ms. Pooja Joshi of the Shahjahanbad Redevelopment Corporation. As Prof. Menon pointed out, people are aware of monumental heritage but rarely view a whole part of a city, even areas steeped in centuries of uninterrupted history, as heritage. It is only recently that this concept has been brought to the fore in the last Master Plan for Delhi, identifying six distinct heritage zones of the capital city. The two most important areas - Shahjahanbad and Lutyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ) - present challenges for heritage-centric conservation given the overwhelming pace and pressures of current developments. They are also interestingly a study in contrasts. Shahjahanbad has been declared a ‘slum’ area, and there is a lack of understanding about what its conservation entails; the LBZ on the other hand is considered an elitist ‘ghetto’. The capital’s character is perceived to be an amalgamation of the ‘City Beautiful’ concept that is American in origin, and the ‘Garden City’ comprising landscape design that is British in origin. And then there are vast segments of historic Delhi besides under benign neglect. There has been much talk about getting Delhi declared as a World Heritage City by UNESCO during the last few years. The conference was one more effort by INTACH to bring all facets and neglected issues of urban heritage to the fore, and hopefully to initiate dialogue among all stakeholders.

Attending the conference were representatives of the Lutyens Trust from London, Mr Charles Lutyens (nephew of Edwin Lutyens, the architect of LBZ) and Dr. GHR Tillotson. Those present at the conference were former DUAC Chairperson KT Ravindran, architect Arunav Dasgupta, academicians Ms. Pooja Joshi, Prof. SM Akhtar of Jamia Millia Islamic University, and Dr. Narayani Gupta of INTACH Documentation Centre. Of special interest were the presentations: Shahjahanbad-the Future of its Past by AK Jain; Encounter with Ballimaran by SK Jain; and Redesigning Chandni Chowk by Probai Basu and Prof. Priyaleen Singh among others.

Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture

INTACH invited INTO Chairman Simon Molesworth to speak at the 2nd Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture held on 18th April, World Heritage Day. Mr. Mileswoth led a delegation at the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change in December last year. The focus of his talk was climate change to be viewed as a full frontal attack on world heritage and its conservation. He said “we live in a world of human endeavour and natural genius. In India, I saw the ingenuity of human skill and imagination.....” Yes we can, certainly do something about climate change! INTACH Chapters must make this a thrust area of their activities and programmes.

Meeting with Secretary Culture

A day long meeting was convened by Secretary Culture Jawahar Sircar for discussions between the Centre and States on the implementation of the 2010 amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act. Chairman LK Gupta at the head of a team of senior INTACH officials attended the meeting. The amendment stipulates that violation or encroachment is a cognizable offence within the prohibited area of 100 meters of a heritage monument/site, and further in the regulated 200 metres area where permission is mandatory before undertaking construction and mining activities.

INTACH was requested by the Ministry to identify important monuments where the details of the prohibited / regulated areas can be worked out so that they form the guidelines for the future, and will be made applicable on an all India basis.

Integrating Divisions

In order to streamline Divisional work, operations and delivery:

The Heritage Tourism Division has been merged with the Architectural Heritage Division, headed by Prof. R.C. Agarwal, with Member Secretary C.T. Misra in charge of over all coordination with the authorities concerned.

The Cultural Affairs Division has been merged with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Division, headed by Ms. Kamalini Sengupta.
Visits to Chapters

In the month of April, Chairman LK Gupta undertook the first of his outstation visits to INTACH Chapters. At Gwalior, during the first leg of his visit to Madhya Pradesh, he urged Members to acquaint people and specially students with the city’s heritage through special programmes. He cited the successful campaign *Stop Use of Polythene* waged by Ms. Kamakshi Maheshwari as an example that could be extended to other regions.

General Gupta also visited Datia where discussions were held with Co-Convenor Vinod Mishra and other Members regarding the famed Bundeli heritage. The next halt was Orchha where there is need to reconstitute the Chapter and enhance the role of INTACH. Present on the occasion were Jhansi Convenor Brig. Jagdish Bohre and Shivpuri Co-Convenor Neelkamal. They proposed the listing of historical sites of the Tikamgarh and Jhansi Districts. The discussions during this visit also covered the Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi tourism circuit being promoted by the Tourism Ministry.

On 23rd May Chairman attended the programme on the banks of the Ganga at Varanasi, where INTACH ceremoniously donated the first of the *Chhatris* restored by the Chapter’s under its *Vanishing Symbols of Kashi* project that is being entirely financed by public donations.

On 6th June, Chairman LK Gupta accompanied by Advisor Ashis Banerjee visited Meerut at the invitation of former Commissioner RK Bhatnagar. Chairman addressed a small gathering of architects, teachers, students and business persons gathered at the SS Restaurant that hosted the subsequent dinner. This nucleus group formed a new Chapter at Meerut recently, headed by Dr. RK Bhatnagar.

The regional meeting of Andhra Pradesh Chapters at Hyderabad completed Gen. Gupta’s tour circuit of this quarter. It was attended by Convenors of Hyderabad, Kurnool, Warangal, Kadapa, Srikakulam, East Godavari, Vishakhatnam, Machilipatnam and Mehbubnagar. The minutes of the meeting are awaited.

**Chapters Committee has been reconstituted with the following 10 Members:**

- Maj. Gen. L.K. Gupta, Chairman
- Ms. Tasneem Meta, Vice Chairman
- Shri P.T. Krishnan, Former State Convenor, Tamil Nadu
- Thakur Ranvir Singh, Rajasthan State Convenor
- Dr. H.B. Maheshwari, Gwalior Chapter Convenor
- Shri G.M. Kapur, West Bengal State Convenor
- Shri Lalit Surjan, Chhattisgarh State Convenor
- Shri Dinesh Baishya, Assam State Convenor
- Dr. (Smt) C.T. Misra, INTACH Member Secretary
- Shri Ashis Banerjee, Advisor, INTACH

**Andhra Pradesh**

**Hyderabad**

Ms. Anuradha Reddy is appointed Convenor of the Hyderabad Chapter.

The XV INTACH Heritage Award-2009 function was held on 18th April, World Heritage Day as has been the tradition of the Hyderabad Chapter. AP State Convenor M.Gopala Krishnan welcomed the Chief Guest, Governor of Andhra Pradesh Shri ESL Narasimhan for the presentation of the *INTACH Heritage Awards* ceremonies. The Jury Panel, for selecting nominees comprising noted architect Syed Anwar
Aziz and History Department Head of the Tamil University in Thanjavur, Prof. G. Delvanayagam visited 24 shortlisted sites before declaring the following six heritage monuments as the winners for the year 2010:

- Sita Ramachandraswamy Devasthanam, Ammapalli Shamsabad
- Rani Mahal, Golconda Fort
- Tomb of Saidanima Saheba, Tank Bund
- Spanish Mosque, Begumpet
- Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Hyderabad
- The Sanjeevaiah Park, Hyderabad

Convenor of the Awards Screening Committee Sajjas Shahid proposed the vote of thanks. During the last 15 years nearly 90 awards and citations have been given under this much anticipated and well-attended annual event.

Smt. Vimala Narasimhan released the thematic publication *INTACH Heritage Annual*, another established practice of the Chapter for the last 14 years. Always beautifully illustrated, this year the focus was on *Silver in History* – “a shining, shimmering, molten, malleable” precious metal that has always adorned royal palaces, temples and nawabi tables equally. Michael Backman, a long time collector of Asian silver art objects states that historic trade and migration routes give a more complete understanding of the socio-cultural and historical context of the history of silver, and how it impacted craftsmanship. In her article P.Anuradha Reddy writes about many interesting facets of the usage of silver in ceremonial and religious practices, the fine filigree technique developed in the 17th-18th centuries, medicinal value attributed to it in ancient civilizations. She says “Born with a silver spoon in his mouth” is not so much a reference to wealth, but to health; so babies are often fed with a silver spoon to this day. Some of the illustrated silver artifacts in the Annual are from the famed collection in the city’s Nizam’s Museum. There are also reproduction of silver coins issued during the Qutb Shahi, Mughal and Asaf Jahi reigns in the Deccan; the filigree of Karimnagar, and rare object d’arts from private collections in this year’s Annual.

### Kadapa

Local MLA Shaikh Hussain was invited to flag the Heritage Rally on 18th April organized by the Chapter. School students set out from the Government Arts College wending their way through the city’s landmarks Mokshagundam Visweswaraiah Circle, RTC Bus Stand, Collector’s Office; terminating at the Museum near the Mahavir Stupa where they formed a human chain and raised heritage slogans. Subsequently a public meeting was addressed by the Joint Collector Girija Sankar, presided by senior INTACH Life Member MS Elias Reddy.

The Chapter published the book *Kadapa District Map* enlisting 30 important heritage places with colour pictures. Co-Convenor M. Jankiram is congratulated for this bilingual work written in Telugu and English, with Convenor S. Seetharamaiah as its Editor and Collector Shashi Bhushan Kumar as Patron.
Kurnool

Shri Osman Haroon is appointed Co-Convenor of the Kurnool Chapter.

Heritage Walk organized on 18th April from INTACH Office ended at the residence of Collector cum Patron Ram Sankar Naik. He released the quarterly newsletter *Kandanavolu Patrika* and inaugurated the photo exhibition on historical monuments and natural sites of Kurnool District. Citizens, academicians, NGOs and Heritage Club members attended the Awareness Programme presided by Convenor B.Venkateshwarlu. AD Archaeological Dept. Vijaya Kumar and other district officials present also addressed the gathering.

Machilipatnam

Shri Mohammed Silar is appointed Convenor of the new Machilipatnam Chapter set up recently in June this year.

Srikakulam

The Chapter is lauded for documenting a number of folk art forms Toorpu Bhagavatam, Bhamakalapam, Tappetagullu, Yerukala Pata, Chekkabhaajana (Sundararakanda story) etc. At the suggestion of the INTACH Intangible Cultural Heritage Division, the local Sarojini Naidu School of Arts has been requested to include 10 documented forms of local performing arts of the district in its curriculum, and be a catalyst for their revival and survival and ensure national recognition of these art forms. Convenor Dharma Rao’s personal contribution to this invaluable work on films and in writing is indeed considerable. Future generations will be able to access the vibrant forms through live renditions, and study the fundamentals of choreography, music, themes, etc. along with the range of indigenous instruments and costumes. This is one example that other Chapters could explore and render singular service to the cause of intangible heritage conservation.

Collector Nagulapalli Srikanth presided over the World Heritage Day celebrations, with the AP Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasadrao as the Chief Guest on the occasion. A brochure on the tourist attractions of Srikakulam District was released. As has been the annual practice, awards instituted in the name of heritage personalities of the State were presented for special achievements in the field of literature, dance, music, drama and social services to Smt. Swathy Somanathan, Dr. ESR Dhanvanthari, Shri Kakaraparthy Mukhalinga Sarma, Shri Yadia Gopalarao, Shri Pathika Bambu, Shri Mavuduru Jagannadha Sarma, Shri Kalki, and Shri MV Ramana Murthy. The photo heritage exhibition and the cultural programme were added attractions at this event widely covered by the newspapers.

Warangal

The Chapter celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, the occasion sponsored by the Warangal Municipal Corporation, the Kakatiya Trust and the Ground Water Department. Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao organized a workshop on rain water harvesting to mark the day, bringing out an instructive handbook with sketches on water harvesting and dependence on groundwater to supplement growing domestic and industrial needs. It briefs the public and Government organizations on various methods of collecting and storing run off water, artificial recharging
of groundwater, augmenting bore wells, and improving aquifers especially in the urban coastal areas – subjects on which he is one of INTACH’s in-house experts.

**Chhattisgarh**

State Convenor Lalit Surjan accompanied by Prof. RG Bhave and Prof. Sanyal met with the Minister for Culture and Tourism Brij Mohan Agrawal to discuss the pending Sirpur Project. It was a very fruitful meeting with the Minister agreeing to release 25% of the allocated funds by the newly appointed MD of Tourism Board. The Minister also assured the Chapter full support for completion of work, and for the Raipur Heritage Path project. He indicated that a State Archaeological Advisory Group would be set up, which will include a nominee from INTACH.

**Goa**

Ms. Dipti Salgaocar is appointed Convenor of the Goa Chapter.

**Gujarat**

**Mehsana**

The North Gujarat Regional Chapter, Mehsana participated in the International Conference on Asian World Heritage Cities organized by the Government authorities on 17th-21st April at Ahmedabad. The focus of the conference was centred on *Let’s make Ahmedabad a World Heritage City*. It provided INTACH Members an opportunity to interact with fellow conservationists from neighbouring countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Vietnam and UNESCO representatives.

Young INTACH students presented a Hindi drama on the theme of saving trees and wild animals. They were taken on a visit to heritage sites in Vadbagar including Toran.

The Chapter put up boards at strategic places like the Sun Temple in Nugar village, the Brahmani Mata Temple at Butapaldi village, and at heritage sites in Gunja village, appealing to village folks to save the monuments of their vicinity.

Convenor Javahar Mehta, as member of the Vadnagar Vikas Committee attended the meeting convened on 28th May by the District Collector. He presented a number of suggestions for conservation and development of the city as a tourism centre, and will follow up the progress with the Nagar Palika.

**Discovered in Gujarat**

For the first time Indus inscriptions engraved on natural stone were found at the Harappan site of Dholavira, a major Indus site in Gujarat. So far the script had been found on seals made of steatite, terracotta tablets, ceramics, etc. Dholavira has the distinction of yielding a spectacularly large number of Indus scripts with 10 large signs on wood stretching across 3 metres long. Michel Danino, an independent researcher in Harappan civilization, called it an unprecedented discovery as stone was a rare material in the Indus plains.

**Future Ahmedabad**

Ahmedabad was one among 34 cities to feature in the Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) at the Expo 2010 Shanghai showcasing experiments in improved urban life. Its pavilion façade designed like a traditional *haveli* at the entrance welcomed visitors to “Mahatma Gandhi’s Gujarat”. It highlighted the Sabarmati riverfront development that entailed housing for the poor who live along the banks in deplorable conditions. In addition, the BRTS (bus rapid transit system); Kankaria lake development; CNG usage by 100,000 vehicles; piped gas for cooking; Science City as the “perfect blend of information and entertainment”, the Gujarat International Finance TecCity as a one stop destination for global finance services and IT industry, etc. featured in the Gujarat Pavilion.
Haryana

Haryana Chapter has been empanelled with the State Department of Archaeology and Museums at Panchkula for survey, documentation and display of antiquities and valuable heritage assets. It will be associated with restoration/conservation work on heritage sites, buildings and monuments; digitalisation of monuments and antiquities; and designing, editing and publication of books on Haryana.

A State Chapter Committee was held at INTACH Office Delhi on 18th June presided by Smt. Komal Anand, and attended by State Convenor Dr. Shikha Jain and State Co-Convenor Prof. Kiran Joshi, State Chapter Advisor RL Bawa, Chapter Convenors/Representatives from Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Kurukshetra, Rewari, and Rohtak. Chairman LK Gupta, Advisor Ashish Banerjee, Member Jagdish Prasad Yadav, and conservation architect Tapasaya Samal were also present. The projects and activities of Haryana Chapters were reviewed. The discussions followed up on Heritage Legislation and the recent AMASR Act 2010, Listing work to be completed by the end of the year; and protection in heritage areas like Ambala through enforcement of the Cantonment Act.

Ambala

Area Commander Brigadier AP Bam presided over the Heritage Walk organized for 500 school children on World Heritage Day, 18th April. It was followed by a prize distribution for the painting competition on Heritage of Ambala held earlier. It augurs well for the Chapter that has been recently reactivated under Convenor Brig.GS Lamba.

Gurgaon-Mewat

The Chapter has finally received the NOC for Taoru, but in the case of the Chhatri at Faruukhnagar it is still pending. The Chapter hopes to build a ramp with signages in Braille at the Sheesh Mahal at Farrukhnagar as Tamana, a NGO for challenged and autistic children, is keen to adopt a heritage monument. DG ASI has been apprised that some valuable wall paintings are being lime washed, as discovered by an architecture student Shivani Kaul while doing a thesis on Farrukhnagar.

On 4th February a fund raising event was held at the Epicentre, Gurgaon sponsored by Chevorlet, BHEL, Hindware, Ansals, ONGC and Power Grid. Shovana Narayan and her troupe performed the dance drama Virasatyan – the Abode of Heritage on the occasion.

Rewari

Convenor Sudhir Bhargava accompanied by Co-Convenor Ashok Goyal and Member Dr. LN Sharma met the Governor of Haryana Jagan Nath Pahadia at Rewari and made a representation for perpetuating the memory of Emperor Hemu. It also touched on improving the Wars Memorial at Panipat and developing a memorial at Saundapur.

Himachal Pradesh

State Convenor BS Malhans is commended for his study of the mythic Jogini Falls of Bashist, along with photographs showing different views of the sacred waterfalls. A cascade of legends and myths surrounds this site near Manali. The book includes a list of Panchayats and their affidavits upholding the sanctity of the Jogini Falls. There is an equally old legal notice issued to save the hill ecology and cancel the mini-micro hydel project.

The Convenor has sent a detailed Note on the Documentation and Listing of Himachal’s Wall Paintings, a project that needs to be taken up on a vast scale to do full justice to the subject.
Jharkhand

Hazaribagh

Convenor Bulu Imam has once again raised his voice in a new book Cries of the Earth, expressing deep concern that the world today is using up 125% of the planet’s non-renewable resources whereas it was using just half that amount 50 years ago. “The lands of the poor were ruthlessly mined and industrialized by the corporate state (such as we see being done in Chhattisgarh). Elected governments are handing over power to unelected corporations and the development in India is no longer being managed by elected representatives as envisioned by the founding fathers... The obscenity of great wealth concentrated in the hands of a single individual must be forever the image of a dying world – the wealth of ten billions is held in just a hundred hands...”

This is one INTACH Convenor in the heart of a tribal belt who never minces his words – with good reason. He believes civil society must equate development not with growth but rights-based human development that provides alternative livelihood to displaced persons. Little wonder that his sustained endeavours has resulted in being nominated for the Gandhi Peace Prize to be declared on 10th July which he richly deserves. INTACH takes pride in this announcement.

From Foot Soldier to Heads of Authority

To Jairam Ramesh: Even as India is massively increasing its dependence on coal for power with new mining for coal and thermal plants, the information from respected media sources is that apart from carbon thus produced impacting on the atmosphere increasing global warming, the carbon (black soot) particles are sweeping up on the south westerly winds of the monsoon on to the Himalayas and Tibetan plateau causing large scale pollution leading to rapid melting of glaciers. As a result the threat to India’s water security is imminent and foreseeable....

To Yashwant Sinha: Cutting down all the roadside trees of NH33 from Barhi to Ranchi is an act worthy of a tyrant. A similar act has been the cutting down of forests for a new railway line. The falling water table is the result of unabated vandalism. If this is development then this country is doomed. The impact on climate and bird life in particular will be damaging and there will be no respite from heat.........

Convenor Bulu Imam

Ranchi

The Chapter brings out an attractive bi-monthly newsletter exclusively for its Members. State Convenor SD Singh takes great pleasure in devising conservation cum development plans for historical places of Ranchi, well supported by a duo team of Life Members Aroon Ranjan and Gopi Kant Mahato. The Chapter has been officially entrusted with drawing up conservation plans for the Muri Toongri, Deuri Temple, Dalbera Temple areas and the ancient Harradih Temple. It has already submitted the conceptual plans to the authorities.

Jammu & Kashmir

Shri Tsering Angchok is appointed as Convenor of Leh (Ladakh) Chapter set up in June this year.

The Chapter prepared the conservation plan for the 120 years old Shri Pratap Singh Museum in Srinagar, developing the content of historical and cultural write ups, crafts practices, and conservation protocol for the artifacts. State Convenor Saleem Beg heralded the completed work by setting up a website, inviting Minister for Tourism and Culture Nawang Rigzin Jora and his deputy Nasir Sogami Friday for the launch. INTACH congratulates the commendable efforts of the Chapter, and the contribution of an eminent panel of experts commissioned for different areas of their specialization under the coordination of Director UNESCO Minja Yang, assisted by UNESCO Program Specialist for Culture Moi Chiba.

Convenor Saleem Beg termed the SPS Museum as “the repository of the various layers of civilization” as exhibits cover the regions of Jammu, Kashmir, Baltistan and Gilgit with many dating back to early history. He hopes to make it a hub of cultural activities that also attracts children and young people to know and understand their rich legacy.

Karnataka

Bengaluru

The Chapter organized a packed day long celebration of World Heritage Day jointly with a number of organisations

National Mission for Manuscripts

The National Mission for Manuscripts has been conducting workshops on preservation of manuscripts, collecting data and publishing rare ones for which Rs.23 crores have been allocated during the current year. Director Prof Dipti S Tripathi announced at Bengaluru that a 100 manuscripts will be published which include Soundaraya Lahari of Adi Shankaracharya in Hindi, English and Gujarati; and the Bhagwata of Moghul period in its original Persian language during 2010-2011.

In association with the Karnataka State Archives a three day workshop was conducted for conserving Kadathas (its history dates back to 4th century BC) to be found in religious institutions like the Sringeri Mutt, Tontadarya Mutt in Gadag, and the Suttur Mutt in Mysore. The manuscripts were written on cloth (till the 18th century when paper became popular), seasoned with a paste made out of charcoal and powdered tamarind seeds with a limited shelf life.
like the Department of Kannada Culture, ICHR, BWS, and the task force Bengaluru Infrastructure Development (ABID) that is chaired by the Chief Minister. A group of photographers also joined hands with them, and a travelling photographic show in large formats is being planned to highlight the multi-cultural layers and portraits of Bengaluru city.

Members lamented the absence of former mentor and a very special member of the INTACH family, Ms. Pratibha who passed away last year. To be remembered by others on this special day is to have lived life fruitfully.

**Bijapur**

Shri Anand V. Joshi is appointed Co-Convenor of the Bijapur Chapter.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Burhanpur**

The Chapter seized the opportunity of the *Khandesh Mahautsav* celebrated annually at Jalgaon, Maharashtra from 28th-31st January to highlight its historic antecedents. Burhanpur was once the capital of Khandesh. Convenor Dr. Major MK Gupta, Co-Convenor Hoshang Hawaldar, Senior Members Vijat Dixit and Prakash Bhai Ladane met the Jalgaon Collector with documents and photographs to establish Burhanpur credentials, and were invited to participate in the Khanpur festivities.

The Chapter organized a high profile exhibition in Jalgaon, with charts giving the history of Burhanpur, old coins of Burhanpur of Khandesh with some dating back from Babar to Shah Alam II, and a 25 ft. long photograph capturing a 3 kms long view of the city perched on the banks of the Tapti River. Also on view were first day covers signed by famous personalities, postage stamps issued on Mahatma Gandhi, and pictures of historical monument, etc. from the personal collection of various Chapter Members. Nearly 60,000 people visited the exhibition.

**Datia**

Co-Convenor Vinod Mishra accompanied a group of INTACH Members on the visit to the ancient royal palace in the city to mark World Heritage Day. It has canopies built in memory of Bundela kings who ruled for 300 years, and left a lasting legacy of wall paintings and architecture.

Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari and Members passed a resolution to prepare a comprehensive scheme for getting Datia declared as a Bundeli Heritage City. With the permission of the State Archaeological Department, Members undertook initial cleaning, removal of unwanted vegetation, and other preventive measures in a laudable effort. It is a commendable initiative.

**Gwalior**

Governing Council Member Kamakshi Maheshwari is pleased that the campaign launched to dissuade the public from using plastic bags detrimental to the environment, found a place in the *Limca Book of Records*. At the head of a team of dedicated conservationists, she succeeded in distributing 5000 eco-friendly cloth bags and in exchange collected 4000 polybags. In the first phase of the project only some schools were covered, but many more schools would be included in the current academic year.

Given the wide media appreciation and attention that this campaign has attracted, the local authorities hopefully will extend their full support to this endeavour that concerns us all.

**Journalist’s Journal**

Dr. HB Maheshwari edited the book *Patrika Yatra* by Shri Krishna R. Parikh, a correspondent of the Hindi daily *Rajasthan Patrika*. His articles on public affairs, heritage buildings and personal interviews garnered many avid readers. So will this collection of articles and pictures, a copy of which is now with INTACH Library.
Maharashtra

Chandrapur

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur was the first to discover a historic site dating back to the Satvahana dynasty circa 500 BC at Chandankheda village in Bhadrawati Tehsil. The excavation currently being carried out jointly by the State Department of Archaeology, INTACH, RTMNU and AIHC&A has yielded some rare pottery shards, soft stone sculpture pieces, semiprecious beads, etc. and also the seal of Satvahana King Satkami. This rich archaeological site surrounded by an ancient rampart was central to the ancient Indo-Roman trade some 2200 years ago, according to Director Excavations Dr. Pradip Meshram.

Mumbai

On 18th May, World Museum Day, Convenor Tasneem Mehta drew public attention to the unfortunate state of Indian museums, pointing out that Directors have not been appointed at several important national museums. She emphatically states “A fundamental shift in government’s approach towards these institutions is required if we are to tap the enormous potential for both education and tourism that museums present. In addition, museums have the potential to become a force for social cohesion as they provide a platform for the understanding of diverse communities and the interrogation of cultural values. There are 250 million young adults in India between the ages of 15 to 25, who can either become a force for positive change or if their aspirations remain unfulfilled, they could become hugely disruptive”. She laments that there are no new museums coming up, and yet India has collections that are the envy of the world. To such a large extent that artefacts are stolen even from holy temples and dusty storage chambers! The Bhau Daji Lad Museum, of which Tasneem Mehta is a Director & Managing Trustee is an outstanding example of how the paucity of resources can be overcome through successful partnerships and a more enlightened approach to our priceless heritage. It is popular with children as a series of educational programmes on heritage subjects have regularly drawn youngsters visiting the Museum.

In another article, Convenor Tasneem Mehta poses the question:

“Why Conservation Needs More Teeth”. After the UNESCO commended restoration and documentation work completed at Elephanta Caves, no progress was made on the implementation of the plan for the island’s improvement, despite a Government resolution. Vested interests began a vigorous campaign against INTACH. only the lady sarpanch valiantly stood up to the pressures but was subsequently defeated. INTACH started a women’s self improvement programme with the help of 63 women which is still running but constantly harassed and forced to seek police protection. Plans to start a Disneyland was successfully thwarted by INTACH. But encroachments and violations of CRZ remain, and the vested interests continue to sabotage all efforts to make Elephanta a model site for heritage tourism in one of India’s best known States!

Nanded

Convenor Dr. Prabhakar Rao is the author of a beautifully illustrated book Heritage Nanded, highlighting details of the historical and cultural legacy of Marathwada. This erstwhile princely region, world famous for the Ajanata and Ellora caves, has one of the richest legacies in Maharashtra, particularly the Godavari River Valley that remains largely unexplored. As the author writes “Life is an unending dialogue between the past and the present”. The book makes a great beginning. INTACH appreciates the support of its local Patron, Collector Radheshyam Mopalwar in bringing out the publication.

Pune

Advisor NHD SK Verma visited Pune in early May when attention was drawn to environmental concerns of the Chapter. Chairman LK Gupta took up the matter subsequently with the Ministry of Environment & Forests regarding the fragile eco-system of the Western Ghats and the Pune Biodiversity Park. The Ministry indicated that an expert panel set up under its Advisor Dr. Subrahmaniyam is
currently studying all matters related to the Western Ghats in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The issues related to Pune Biodiversity Park would also be examined under the mandate of the expert panel.

The anniversary of the Warsaa heritage shop at the Ishanya Mall was marked on 16th April with a painting demonstration on the theme Pune Darshan by artist Mohan Jadhav whose pictorial book on Pune heritage was recently published.

Mizoram

This year the Chapter celebrated World Heritage Day on 19th April, as 18th being a Sunday would have been inconvenient for the majority of people being devout Church goers. The programme thus succeeded in attracting a huge gathering, with 30 representatives from the Press corps in attendance. Convenor P. Rohmingthanga reports that it featured as a major news item on TV channels the same day. The following day, most of the papers headlined INTACH aims and objectives, emphasizing the need for public awareness and support to heritage conservation in a naturally well endowed State.

Orissa

Balasore

Shri Himanshu Das has been appointed Convenor of this new Chapter in the expanding INTACH network of Orissa.

Bhubaneswar

The State Chapter Advisory Committee was reconstituted at a meeting held on 6th May, enlarging the representation by inclusion of three Convenors of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Baripada Chapters. The old hands State Convenor AB Tripathy, Anant Mohapatra (Cine & Theatre person), DK Mishra (Retd.IAS Officer), Dr. Bimalendu Mohanty (former VC Culture University), Dr. CR Das (Environmentalist) will continue to lend their expertise as Members; the only new addition to the Committee being former Principal CCF Shri F. Ahmed.

Convenor SK Bijayendra Narayan forwarded copies of the commemorative issue Aitihya bringing to a close the Silver Jubilee Year by Orissa Chapters. During this landmark year Cuttack and Mayurbhanj Chapters were rejuvenated, and new Chapters like Ganjam, Bhadrak, Koraput, Berhampur and Sambalpur came into existence. The quarterly Aitihya is published since 1991 as in house bulletins, but the commemorative issue covers the multifaceted heritage of a rich Orissa interpreting temple architecture, rethinking Odissi, vernacular paintings, tribal textiles and historic details. Listing has been accorded the highest priority by all Orissa Chapters. It maybe recalled that documentation of unprotected monuments was started as far back as 1986, three volumes of which were published by the I&B Ministry in 1991.
Odisha Heritage Day celebrations would have been incomplete without the participation of young people. Convenor Bijayendra Narayan informs that 150 students from 12 schools collected at the ancient temple cluster at Kedar-Gouri square. The Chapter prepared photographic quiz sheets of carved motifs typical to individual temples. It was an interesting challenge for both the young people and the elders who joined them to identify the location of the motif in the temples. Prize distribution ended with refreshments.

**Puducherry**

The Puducherry pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo showcased the territory’s experience under the Asian Urbs Programme on the recommendations of the World Bank, an initiative of the European Commission. Convenor Ajit Koujalgi was the designated Commissioner General for the pavilion. This project was elected among 100 entries for the first exposition of its kind on Better City, Better Life as a case study of achieving ecological and environmental goals through heritage conservation initiatives. It was the result of two year partnership between INTACH Puducherry, heritage city of Urbano in Italy, French city Villeneuve-ur-Lot, and ADEME France implemented over the 2002-2004 period. The project involved matching grant scheme, heritage walk, street restoration of a stretch of Vysial Street in the Tamil Quarter, solid waste management in the French Quarter, landscaping Bharati Park, and a charging station to serve 30 battery-operated mini taxi service. As reported in the Hindu, the project implemented in Puducherry serves as an inspiring example to many historic cities in the developing world that are struggling to save their heritage. Ajit Koujalgi avers its main message as “heritage preservation requires the participation of building owners, civil society and serious commitment from governments to provide financial assistance and enact legislation to protect heritage buildings and precincts.”

**Punjab**

**Amritsar**

World Heritage Day 18th April commenced with a Heritage Walk coordinated by Arit Lal Mannan from Jallian Bagh to the Akhara Sangal Wala covering several landmarks of the city en route. State Convenor Sukhdev Singh and Co-Convenor Hira Singh walked the talk with the enthusiastic participants. Painting and folk song competitions were other popular events on the day’s agenda.

**Chandigarh**

Advisor to Chandigarh Administration Pradip Mehra flagged the Heritage Walk on 18th April. Organised by the
Chapter along with Chandigarh Tourism authorities, a large number of participating school children covered a long stretch through the landmarks of the city terminating at the famous Rock Garden, accompanied by Chapter members and invited dignitaries.

**Patiala**
Shri Sarbjit Singh Virk is appointed Convenor of the Patiala Chapter.

**Rajasthan**

**Ajmer**
The Chapter organized a felicitation ceremony on 30th April for the regional winners and participants of the My City My History competition held at the St. Stephen’s Senior Secondary School, Ajmer, organized in collaboration with Fox History Channel. Prizes were distributed to the award winners. Co-Convener Suresh Mathur spoke about the fort built at Ajmer by Mughal Emperor Akbar. Others present on the occasion were Shri Nahar, Dr. K.K. Sharma, and the Principal, staff and 42 students of the school.

Convenor Ajay Vikram Singh forwarded a copy of the pamphlet *A Pictorial Heritage Walk of Ajmer* brought out on the occasion of *World Photography Day* 19th-20th August last year. The Chapter set up in the late eighties is now endeavoring to make people more aware of the deplorable state of heritage sites like the Taragarh Fort and *Adhai Din ka Jhonpra*, urging them to commit themselves with the words: “I take pledge to conserve and care for the heritage and that I shall not desecrate them…. The conservation of nature is in my hand. I will respect the rights of all beings. I shall work towards the protection of environment... Let us join earth hour campaign and become part of the change. Let us join hands to improve this planet”. Head Office will keenly follow the impact of this effort, that could be replicated by other Chapters.

Shri Mahendra Vikram Singh is appointed as the Additional Co-Convenor of the Ajmer Chapter.

**Bundi**
Convenor Vijayraj Singh writes passionately about the city of Bundi, surrounded by charming hills, with a history steeped in sacrifice, courage and chivalry. At the foothills of the historical Taragarh Fort, stands the grand Royal Palace uniquely constructed by a succession of rulers, housing many famous Bundi style paintings. The *Vaidyashala* and the *Saraswati Bhandar* have great significance in terms of astronomy, astrology, *ayurveda*, Sanskriti and Rajasthani literature. There are many 1000 year old heritage sites in Bundi, including prehistoric era rock paintings – much of it threatened due to lack of maintenance.

Dr. Mohanlal Soni is appointed Additional Co-Convenor of the Bundi Chapter.

**Jaipur**
Ms. Dharmender Kanwar is appointed Convenor of the Jaipur Chapter.

**Jaisalmer**
Smt. Mukut Rajiya Laxmi is appointed Convenor of the Jaisalmer Chapter.

**Jodhpur**
World Heritage Day, 18th April was marked by a heritage walk organized jointly by the Marwar-Jodhpur Chapter and the Mehrangarh Museum Trust. Convenor Dr. Mahender Singh Naggar organized a *Guru Vandana* and *Yoga Suryanamaskar* for school children and teachers. School children marching down the city roads holding banners with slogans like *Our City, Our Identity* made an impassioned statement as they passed through Fatehpol to Ranisar, Navchoukiya to Singhpol, ending with refreshments at the Mehrangarh
Durg. Mayor Rameshwar Dadheech who flagged off the march from Chokelav Garden stated that the Municipal Corporation would make a substantial contribution to protect the city’s heritage along with their development plans, with MLA Suryakanta Vyas also voicing support. Others present were Tourist Guide Association representative Sandeep Champpavat, Councillor Kriparam Saini, Mehrangarh Trust Administrative Officer Hemantrajsingh.

A number of heritage related developments have been reported in the local Press. The Janana Dyodi situated in Mehrangarh is being converted into a museum with the assistance of experts from Germany and the Mehrangarh Museum Trust with displays, entertainment and cuisine. Tourists will be welcomed with Marwari folk songs, while they stroll through the royal interiors that will introduce them to Rabbahi culture.

The State Government has sanctioned Rs.5 lakhs for the restoration work at the Ghanshyamji and Kunjbihari Temples situated in the interiors of Suryanagari, according to Additional Commissioner, Department of Devsthan. The 552nd Founding day of Jodhpur was celebrated with great pomp with citizens participating in the fancy dress and safas competitions, a camel tattoo show and other cultural programmes. Six celebrities were honoured with the Marwar Ratna Award for special services rendered to the cause of heritage.

World Environment Day celebrations on 5th June was attended by Chief Guest Dr. Trilok Singh Rathor and Special Guest Smt. Hemlata Raje, with forest officer Issac Ahmed Mughal as the Chief Spokesman on the occasion. The Environment Conservation Award instituted by Shri Prasannpuri Goswami in memory of his son Pramodpuri was presented to Smt. Manju Gaur this year, with five others receiving mementos for their work in the field of environment conservation.

Kota

Earth Day, 22nd April was marked by the Chapter with an awareness programme on the importance of Natural Forests and Tiger Habitats in relation to water conservation. 250 school children attended the morning session; while the Zila Pramukh, Chief Conservator of Forests, DFO
(Wildlife) and other environmentalists attended the afternoon session. A film was screened, followed by a symposium with the proceedings attracting wide media coverage.

**Sirhohi**

Convenor Ashutosh Patni launched a road show against the use of plastic with various sized placards exhibited in the city. They exhorted citizens to also save trees and water. At the *Gazal* concert organized on 10th April by the Chapter, the audience included many officials and senior citizens. They were enthralled by the duo Runa Rizvi and Neha Rizvi who presented famous film songs. The wide media coverage was specially encouraging to add new dimensions to the Chapter activities.

**Udaipur**

The Udaipur Chapter mobilized considerable support of both Government and non-government organizations to celebrate World Heritage Day, 18th April that was widely covered by the Press. It was a day filled with activities, starting with a Heritage Walk early morning around Monsoon Palace, Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary and other heritage sites, conducted by Dr. Satish Sharma with a Hindi commentary. Shri Manish Arora and Shri HS Dixit conducted the walk at *Gangod Bhav Kund* and its vicinity. In the evening there was a cultural programme with the participation of schools, Young INTACH volunteers talked on the city’s famed heritage. The grand finale was a programme of folk music and dance presented by the West Zone Culture Centre at the Shilpgram, with free visits to the museum and art gallery at *Bagore ki Haveli*.

A General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held on 10th May at the Maharana Kumbha Bhavan, Udaipur to which all Members, subject matter specialists and guests were invited. After reviewing the progress of ongoing projects, Regional Convenor SK Verma invited suggestions and proposals for new initiatives to be launched by the Chapter at the meeting presided by Shri Jagat Mehta with Dr. PL Agarwal, former Chairman SAIL as the Chief Guest.

Convenor SK Verma and his team mates had a series of meetings with UNESCO Team Leader and the Chief Conservator of Forests. He drafted a *Pilot Project Activities for Heritage Resource-Based Development in Udaipur* under the Pichola lake front development for the Urban Development & Housing Department, GoR. It has been forwarded to Dr. Shikha Jain, Chairperson DRONAH and Member of IHCN-Foundation of UNESCO.

The Chapter proposes to utilize available funds from Udaipur Municipal Council to restore the streetscape from *Hathipol to Gulab Bagh* via the Clock Tower (*Ghanta Ghar*) including the façade of all houses on this stretch.

**Tamil Nadu**

State Convenor S. Suresh delivered a lecture on 12th May at the Courtland Institute of Art, London on the Roman Trails in South India, a subject on which he is an internationally recognized expert. Dr. Suresh was on a three-week research visit to UK and France, for a project of the Italian Embassy.
Cultural Centre at New Delhi, to document Roman objects found in India but lodged in museum collections of Europe. The Embassy earlier published Dr. Suresh’s latest book *Arikamedu - Its Place in Ancient Rome-India Contacts*. It is known mostly to archaeologists and historians that South India had a brisk trade with the Roman Empire, the linkages extending to their African and Arabian representatives. According to Dr. Suresh, the popularly known *Sangam* poems composed from around second century BC to second century AD have references to the Graeco-Roman trade. Roman glass, gold and silver coins, pottery, medals, jewelry, and even jars filled with olive oil, have been found in western and southern India.

**Chennai**

A people’s initiative facilitated the eco-restoration of *Mookaneri*, one of the largest water spreads in the heart of Salem. With donations from the public, nearly 50 islands are being created after de-silting which had never been done for the last sixty years. The Salem Citizens Forum has been given charge of the entire operations by the Public Works Department. Apart from cleaning, 25,000 saplings are being planted. with Ficus trees, Barringtonia planted at the core to provide safe nesting, and Bamboo thickets at the edges to contain soil erosion. Mookaneri soon promises to become a major sanctuary for resident and migratory birds. All of which merits a separate INTACH Chapter to be set up at Salem very shortly.

**Coimbatore**

Convenor V.Rajkumar convened a meeting of the Regional Chapter on 27th April, hosted by Smt Shashi Ghulati and her husband at the Coimbatore Club.

The Vanavarayar Foundation supported by INTACH, Chitrakala Academy and Coimbatore Art Foundation organized a lecture on sculpture *Souls in Stone* on 22nd June at the Sri Sharadamba Temple Hall. The Kongunadu Patrika-Silver Jubilee Edition - G.D.Naidu Special was released on the occasion.

**Nagercoil**

A national seminar on the *Hills and Hillocks of Kanyakumari District* was organized on 15th May by the Chapter jointly with CREATE Trust. Divisional Revenue Officer K. Kalaiselvan in his inaugural address to nearly 100 participants and 20 NGOs stated that the district was fortunate to have so many hills, and it is the duty of every citizen to protect them. The District Forest Officer V. Sundraraju highlighted the environmental value of the hill areas, and urged INTACH Members to create greater awareness in the public so that indiscriminate quarrying can be halted and there is strict adherence to norms established by Government regulatory bodies like the Hill Area Conservation Authority, Chennai. Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan said village officers, revenue inspectors and *panchayats* should be held responsible for illegal quarrying and for monitoring the quantum of gravel earth and rocks where quarrying is officially permitted for development only in the 80 hectares demarcated area. A number of academicians addressed the seminar on different facets of geology and ecology of the hill areas, health hazards of rock blasting, paucity of regulations, and impact on environment in general.

It is not the absence of laws but lack of action which is the root cause of environmental degradation, as encountered by INTACH everywhere. A PIL was filed against the National High Authority of India to save a 48 hac irrigation tank known as the *Narikulam*. The Madurai High Court decreed in its favour, with NHAI directed to build an over bridge using pillars so that the wetland remains undisturbed. It’s the way to go!

**Nilgiris**

Convenor Geetha Srinivasan as Vice President of the 150 years old Nilgiri Library took an active part in the restoration and repair of the heritage building, with funds donated by the State Bank of India, Ooty. Chapter Member
Sachidanandan undertook the repairs, paintings of inner walls. Post renovation and repair of leakages and walls, Chapter members attended a Bharat Natyam programme presented by Anita Devi Prasad.

As Trustee of the Lawley Institute, Convenor Srinivasan organised a veena and guitar recital by Geeta and Gopal Navale as part of their summer festival on its heritage premises.

On 25th May the Collector Archana Patnaik unveiled a heritage board at the Breeks Memorial Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in memory of the first Commissioner of Nilgiris. The board disseminating information in Hindi and English was sponsored by the Chapter jointly with the Inner Wheel Club. It has made the public aware of this 1874 heritage building with its arched masonry decoration, cloister vault roof and gable decoration.

Tripura

Convenor Pragya Deb Burman was felicitated for her outstanding work in the field of art, heritage and culture at the FICCI-FLO award function held on 4th April at Guwahati, Assam. Her noteworthy contribution extends to many facets of Tripura’s heritage given her family’s historic association with the State.

Uttarakhand

Former UP and Uttarakhand State Convenor, and presently Advisor Uttarakhand Chapter, Dr. Ranjit Bhargava was awarded the Padma Shri this year in recognition of his services to environment and wildlife protection. He was

Valley of Flowers

The Valley of Flowers, as it is famously known, is overladen with many coloured flowers blooming at the height of 3600-3900 metres in Garwal District. When the wind blows they move in unison like rolling waves, a virtual treat to the eye. One of the most popular tourist sites of State, the route however lacks signages en route or guides to negotiate one’s way through granite mountains ringed by snowy peaks, as experienced by Kerala Convenor K Mohan and his fellow travellers. Here is a readymade job for the State Chapter in view of the fact that the Valley of Flowers is a designated World Heritage Site.
formerly a Member of the Governing Council. INTACH takes pleasure in this recognition accorded to one of its own, and extends heartiest congratulations to him.

Uttar Pradesh

Banda

The Chapter introduced a unique knowledge-sharing system aimed at spreading awareness of an ancient calculator – the abacus. It is 2500 year old, and an effective method of sharpening young minds to calculate, enhancing the ability to do mental arithmetic. It has been established that by the use of this learning method, children between the age group of 5—14 can activate their brain neurons. The programme received an overwhelming response in Banda, already 150 students have enrolled for training. More than eight schools are associated with the Chapter for encouraging and promoting ancient abacus learning among students. Smt. J. Zaman, who is also involved in other student activities designed by INTACH like heritage walks, plantation drives, etc., is the programme coordinator for the Abacus Learning Programme.

The Chapter’s efforts in its vicinity with regard to Save Birds Mission floated by Advisor NHD, is successful largely due to the energy and enthusiasm of Convenor Haris Zaman. It captured national attention through a good coverage on Zee News.

Lalitpur

Union Rural Development Minister of State PJ Aaditya inaugurated the exhibition Our Heritage and We, commending the Chapter’s endeavour to highlight the magnificent Bundeli history and heritage. Convenor Santosh Sharma described the event as a awareness programme, that would kick start the listing of heritage sites all over the district. District Collector Ranveer Prasad added that every effort would be made by the authorities to link them to tourist circuits. Present on the occasion were Co-Convenor Rajnish Chadda and a sizeable number of INTACH Members, personalities from the cultural, academic and journalism fields, apart from the steady stream of visitors all through the three days exhibition.
Meerut

Dr. RK Bhatnagar is appointed Convenor of this new Chapter set up on 6th June during the visit of Chairman LK Gupta and Advisor Ashis Banerjee.

Orai

Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar drew attention of the highest authorities to the coins minted on the occasion of the birth anniversary of atomic scientist Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha. The Chapter has brought to the notice of the Security Printing & Mining Corporation that the Rs.10 coin minted by them is imprinted wrongly as “1909 - 2008-2009” - shocking to coin collectors. The Chapter mobilized public support for re-issue of the coin. (It might be mentioned that such erroneous coins and stamps carry a high market value after a few decades!)

Convenor Purwar calls upon everyone to plant at least one Tulsi in their home. He says our ancestors understood the value of the Tulsi, that emits oxygen 24 hours and purifies the air. It has always been considered sacred in our ancient lore, practices and scriptures; and has many medicinal qualities.

Varanasi

On World Heritage Day, 18th April a media appeal released by the Chapter called upon the public to protect the heritage of the eternal city. A meeting was also held with the Commissioner of Varanasi, Municipal Commissioner, VDA and Nagar Nigam to draw attention to the poor state of heritage management, and were assured by the authorities that plans are at an advanced stage of finalisation.

Following a vigorous membership drive during the last quarter, the Chapter has 40 new Members joining the INTACH family. Convenor Kalyan Krishna also writes about 57 donations received for the restitution of traditional Chhatris under the project Vanishing Symbol of Kashi. The first of the Chhatris was ceremonially donated to the public by Chairman Maj.Gen.LK Gupta on 23rd May at a programme organized on the banks of the Ganga.

The environment awareness programme Save Mother Earth with a series of lectures covered three schools to date, with more to follow. Rs. 45,000 was collected by the Chapter for restoration work undertaken at Dharamkura revealing exquisite designs and carvings. Other works undertaken are Umraogiri ki Bavali at Jalasen Ghat, and a halt to garbage dumping at the Sangam of Ganga-Varuna at Rajghat. The Chapter now proposes to launch a tree planting drive, simultaneously eradicating wild growth threat to heritage buildings through application of local Hinga solution; documentation of restoration work, and introduction of heritage walks.

West Bengal

Kolkata

On World Heritage Day 18th April the Chapter conducted a Heritage Walk, one of its most popular programmes with the public.

Sri Rathin N. Deb graciously hosted a meeting of the Kolkata Regional Chapter on 22nd May at Sovabazar Rajbati. Members thus had the opportunity to survey the on going restoration work at Thakurdalan undertaken by the estate owner Shri Radha Kant Deb Bahadur.

Convenor GM Kapur received a proposal from Ms. Rebecca Bragg for the restoration of the derelict Darjeeling Cemetery. The Principal Accountant General, West Bengal has entrusted the restoration of the wooden staircase in the Treasury Building pulled down by the CPWD to INTACH. The Serampore Johnnagar Baptist Church has appealed to the Chapter for funds since the KMC is currently not undertaking any restoration work outside the city municipal limits, unlike the case of Serampore cemetery when INTACH undertook the restoration work at the behest of KMC.

Convenor GM Kapur is undertaking the publication of The Making of the Indian Landscape by Dr. Aditi Chatterji with the approval of Central Office. Another publication to be funded by INTACH is the Bengali edition of Hands on Heritage for Heritage Clubs. Co-Convenor Kanchana Mukhopadhyay requested Members to provide old maps and nautical items if available for the Marine Museum which is being set up by INTACH at Cuttack. The Chapter
is now associating itself with NGOs as part of its Urban Regeneration initiative, with individuals taking the lead in areas of their residence.

**Santiniketan**

Santiniketan, the home of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and the renowned Visva Bharati University, has been nominated by ASI to be inscribed the next World Heritage Site if the nomination is accepted by UNESCO. Santiniketan was earlier called Bhuvanadanga and owned by the Tagore family, a little known detail.

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**Chapter Guidelines are under revision. Suggestions are welcome.**

**Dear Life Members**

Thank you for your dedicated efforts towards conservation of heritage. With INTACH’s growing network and increasing number of members, we are pleased to announce that we are in the process of issuing new photo-identity cards for Life members. We request you to send two stamp size photographs along with full name and life membership number at the earliest - By Post.

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**Tribute to Tagore**

The first edition copy of Rabindranath Tagore’s poem *Geetanjali* published in 1910 and priced at Re.1/- is one of the possessions of an avid collector BN Uniyal. At a time when West Bengal was celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Nobel Laureate, Uniyal’s private collection of Tagore’s memorabilia is an exceptional homage to the great man. He says “The Geetanjali in Bangla barely sold then. In fact, the English translation did better and sales picked up only after Tagore was awarded the Nobel”. There are well over 10,000 books collected over 50 years in Uniyals’s library, including the *Golden Book of Tagore* printed in 1931 as a tribute to the poet on his 70th birthday; others being Hariet Munroe’s early 20th century journal *Poetry* that first published songs from the *Geetanjali* in 1913; an autographed copy of *Geetanjali and Fruit Gathering* printed by Macmillan in 1919, etc. Some of the books have handwritten notes of Gurudev. One of the yellowing pages reads

“I dedicate this book to my boys of Santiniketan who have freed the fantasies of youth that was hidden in the heart of this old poet…..” a sentiment deeply reflected in some of Tagore’s novels as well.

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**Chapters May Please Note**

Every effort is being made by the Central Office to give maximum support to Chapters, so that INTACH objectives are achieved on an all India basis. It is however earnestly requested that all Chapter should adhere to established norms of financial propriety and self regulation in their functioning.

Reimbursements cannot be claimed on a post-facto basis after incurring expenditure - unless prior approval has been obtained from the Central Office.

Audited accounts statement from Chapter as on 31st March every year is required to be submitted - before administrative support @ Rs. 15,000 to State Chapters and Rs. 12,000 to Chapters for the next financial year can be released.

Top priority may be given to listing of Architectural and Natural Heritage Buildings/Sites during the next 3 years.

Please indicate the approximate number of heritage buildings/sites yet to be covered in your urban and rural areas, with estimated expenditure.

Before proceeding with listing, information regarding listing already done by sister organizations should be identified/obtained – to avoid duplication of efforts.

Listing work in your area of jurisdiction should be backed by a soft copy of the listing on a CD/DVD.

Allocation of funds will only be made on the basis of information received from you – so an early response would be appreciated.

Special allocations have been made State-wise for preservation of heritage buildings and monuments by the Government of India reference the Finance Commission Report. Chapters should follow up with their respective State Governments and explore how best to utilize these funds suitably on relevant projects – seeking assistance of Central Office if required.

Chapter Guidelines are under revision. Suggestions are welcome.
The Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI) has received Rs.20 lakhs from Micro Links, a multinational manufacturer of printing inks and allied products with subsidiaries in USA, Austria and Singapore. The grant is to be utilized for museums survey and conservation of wall paintings in Gujarat; and of rare books and valuable manuscripts of the famous Hazrat Pir Mohammad Shah Library & Research centre at Ahmedabad. Funds have been earmarked for capacity building of ICCI with new equipments, advance training in Germany for one of its technical staff; and for workshops on conservation of oil paintings. DG ICCI Dr.OP Agrawal greatly appreciates the support of Micro Inks, and is hopeful that other corporate and philanthropic organization will be encouraged to support ICCI’s missions.

Five panels in fresco style painted by eminent artist Sudhir Ranjan Khastgir in the 1940s were transferred from the Old Art Doon School building which had to be pulled down. Painstakingly removed in quadrangular pieces by Senior Conservator Ashok Upadhyay along with underlying lime plaster layers, they will be re-fixed on the walls of the new building when completed. Similarly three panels at the Rose Bowl Amphitheatre of the school by the same artist were transferred methodically to a new location – cleaned, restored and reintegrated.

At the request of the Uttar Pradesh Government, ICI Lucknow Sr. Conservators DN Srivastava and Ashutosh Bajpai undertook the restoration of seven large murals at the Vidhan Bhawan, Lucknow. They also restored an old model of the building constructed about 90 years ago.

Through the Ministry of Culture, Shri Gaj Singh of Jodhpur succeeded in getting a team of Polish conservators to restore the murals in art deco style at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, originally

**Stolen Statue Discovered**

A 1000 year old 11th-12th century statue of two deities discovered at a temple in Baran, Rajasthan was reported stolen in September 2009. Despite this artifact being registered in the Interpol database of stolen goods, it was sold once by an international auction house based in London and New York. When finally located on a website by historian Dr.K.Mankad, who has authored several books on Rajasthan sculptures, it was discovered that the statue was being readied for shipment from New York to England to be auctioned again! Alerted, ASI sent the copy of the FIR filed last year with a description of the statue to Interpol, to bring back the statue.
the Specialized Textile Conservation Unit (STCU) to preserve the vast textile heritage of India. Dr. OP Agrawal welcomed the guests at the inauguration on 17th June at the ICCI Delhi Centre. An introductory talk on textile conservation by Sr. Conservator Smitha Singh was followed by a visit to the Lab. It will cater to government organisations and private owners, museums and art galleries. It will also promote awareness programmes on heritage textiles through workshops, seminars, exhibitions, publications and development of a library on the subject. This will further help in documentation, development of lost traditions, and cross-disciplinary projects in textile studies.

Chairman LK Gupta said this rare initiative adds one more area of specialization to ICCI Centres. He felt Chapters should publicise this information as it is a facility not easily available in most parts of the country.

The ICCI with the support of the Micro Inks Limited, Gujarat announced the opening of the Specialised Textile Conservation Unit (STCU) to preserve the vast textile heritage of India. Dr. OP Agrawal welcomed the guests at the inauguration on 17th June at the ICCI Delhi Centre. An introductory talk on textile conservation by Sr. Conservator Smitha Singh was followed by a visit to the Lab. It will cater to government organisations and private owners, museums and art galleries. It will also promote awareness programmes on heritage textiles through workshops, seminars, exhibitions, publications and development of a library on the subject. This will further help in documentation, development of lost traditions, and cross-disciplinary projects in textile studies.

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The salient features of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010 are:

- ASI and INTACH will work together to undertake a survey of heritage sites that are under the protection of the Central Government.
- The survey would include a Technical Inventory which would show all structures including those in the surroundings (with elevation and façade), landscapes, drainage systems, roads and service infrastructure (including electric poles, water and sewer pipelines).
- Provision shall be made for identification of all unauthorized constructions that may have come up in prohibited areas after June 1992.
- Photographic and digital documentation will also be undertaken as part of the survey.
- Funds for undertaking all surveys will be provided by ASI to INTACH – to note and take necessary action.

INTACH is thus formally entrusted with a great responsibility, and Chapters too have a role to play.

The varied heritage of Islamic culture has been captured in a photo exhibition by art historian Benoy K. Behl during his 31 years long photography profession. Besides iconic monuments like the Taj Mahal, his collection has pictures of mosques, mausoleums, forts, palaces, madarasas, and dargahs of Muslim dynasties set up in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kashmir, etc. Shri Behl states: “In the cosmopolitan environment that developed across India, many architectural innovations were seen. Guilds of craftsmen, who had hitherto worked on Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments used their talents to serve the new Muslim patrons” It is the confluence of local artistic talent and the cultural links of Muslim rulers of India with Persia, Arabia, Central Asia and North Africa that gives Islamic architecture some of its exquisitely unique and varied features.
The cutting of existing trees is rampant all over India for widening and improvement of highways and roads. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has drawn up the Tree Plantation Strategy, in order to maintain uniformity in the new plantation, and undertake compensatory afforestation as stipulated under the rules of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 when civil construction work is completed.

A copy of the Tree Plantation Strategy was circulated to all Chapters. As the eyes and ears of INTACH, it is incumbent upon them to draw attention of the concerned authorities of their region in case any violation of the prescribed strategy comes to their notice..

Advisor NHD SK Verma, a former member of the Indian Forest Service, states that climate change, energy crisis, melting glaciers, desertification, spread of pollutants and water crisis are subjects of shared concern of all knowledgeable people. In one of his first communications addressed to all Chapters he emphasised that INTACH provides “our chance to tap the wisdom of our forefathers to improve life today, especially related to our precious natural heritage......hence, join hands in conserving the natural sites, eco-systems and precisely delineated natural areas of special value to the environment and heritage”. He adds “conservation efforts should start with you and me and each member of our family to save water, energy, biodiversity and natural resources” starting from home, neighbourhood, town, city, country. With each one doing his little bit. Chapters should start networking with local activists and NGOs; undertake listing

**International Day for Biodiversity**

May 22nd, International day for Biodiversity declared in 1992 is not widely known. In 2010 a serious retrospection of the issues involved is grabbing world attention. India which has 2.4% area of the world’s land mass, contains 8.1% of its biodiversity. It is recognized as one of the 17 like-minded Mega Diverse Countries. The public perception of biodiversity in the form of scenic nature and wildlife neglects the ubiquitous presence for example of community conservation efforts such as sacred groves to be found all over the country, and other widespread distribution of biodiversity within and beyond the ownership of forest departments. Several overlapping mandates in India has made the management of biodiversity extremely complex. The endeavour should now be directed towards new opportunities to involve communities in conservation; and assist displaced persons through skill re-training and employment options linked to conservation.

Ack: Yogesh Gokhale, Energy & Resource Institute

**Human Values**

Douglas Meeks has stated a universal truth that belongs to both the philosophical realm and down to earth reality. He writes “The land is in trouble…the land is not insensitive, it can be hurt. Land is not inexhaustible, it can be depleted. Land is not immortal, it can die. When the land is misused, unmercifully pounded, poisoned with chemicals and mindlessly exploited, it makes its justified protest. The only protest that land can make, however, is to die”.

From: Agriculture and Human Values by D Meeks

of areas like sacred groves, wetlands, lagoons, mangroves, reefs, green lungs and water bodies. Not to forget interaction with the local authorities as well. Shri Verma has also suggested five easy ways to save birds from heat and thirst. This is particularly relevant in view of the recent studies conducted by the BirdLife International and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) revealing that in the course of just one year 2008-2009 the number of endangered bird species in India has risen from 149 to 154, and even the common sparrow is not easily sighted today. BNHS has strongly urged the Government to mitigate this alarming situation through special programmes for protection of birds and their habitat.

Shri SK Verma visited the Pune Chapter on 26th May. The difficulties being faced in establishing the Pune Bio-Diversity park as a sanctuary for ecological species was discussed at length with Convenor Arti Kirloskar and other members. The listing of natural heritage sites and especially sacred groves in the fragile Western Ghats has been finalized. Efforts will be further strengthened by networking with other NGOs like Kalpavrisksha and Tree Watch. It is proposed to have a Zonal Meeting of Southern region on natural heritage during the next quarter, and subsequently in other regions.

Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar has published a monograph distilled from long experience of dealing with water issues in Delhi. While resource endowment of rain water, ground

**Feather in the Cap**

Currently the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 prohibits the killing, and export of articles made from the feathers of the national bird, popularly known as the morpankh. The Environment Ministry proposes an amendment relating to not only killing but also illegal trapping, trading, and transport of the peacock much in demand universally for its vibrantly coloured feathers.
water, surface water flows, topography and temperature have a wide range of variation all over India, the holistic water policy measures for future urban security of Delhi has pointers that are applicable to other geographical areas. The experience of unconventional projects and political hierarchy provided a learning curve, enabling the Division to gain a unique perspective in dealing with current water security issues and how they can be crystallized into policy recommendations.

**NEWS FROM ICHD**

Director Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD), Smt. Kamalini Sengupta is one of the 20-Member Round Table constituted by the HRD Ministry for “protection and preservation of indigenous traditional knowledge and endangered languages”. Union Minister Kapil Sibal who chaired the first meeting on 26th May, directed that follow up should be undertaken by the specially constituted core committee being set up shortly. After the death of the lone speaker from the Bo tribe in the Andamans, the Government has now taken this proactive measure of constituting a Round Table comprising scholars, researchers and experts to protect the 190 Indian languages on the verge of extinction, and woken up to the reality that along with languages a vast body of indigenous knowledge would also be lost to the nation.

It may be recalled that INTACH took the initiative in October 2009 to organize an international conference of language experts and academicians, drawing attention to the UNESCO Atlas of World’s Languages enlisting languages that were in danger of disappearing. In particular the conference delegates expressed grave concern at the inordinately large number of Indian languages that featured high on the UNESCO list. The ICHD has appointed an intern, a PhD scholar from the JNU Linguistics Department to work on a short term research project on Tai Ahora language and manuscript losses in Assam.

The earlier project of compiling Naga folk stories, supported by the Ministry of Culture, is in the process of final consolidation by Tara Douglas of the Adivasi Trust, London. Another MoC aided project nearing completion during this quarter is documentation of block prints of Pethapur in north Gujarat.

The Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) has formulated a new scheme for Scouting, Documentation/Validation and Patenting/Piloting and Upscaling of Rural Technologies and Innovations. This scheme is available for scouting traditional skills in the areas of traditional practices, medicines, organic/natural dyes, etc with the objective of preserving traditional knowledge for future generations. It is also to protect poor, weak traditional/tribal societies against the marauding forces and commercial interests who create exclusionary regimes to the detriment of vulnerable groups under the garb of protecting intellectual property rights.

The CAPART Scheme thus opens new avenues to INTACH Chapters to seek financial support for projects in the fields mentioned above. Convenors who have not received relevant papers of CAPART sent earlier may please write to Central Office.

**NEWS FROM HECS**

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) has maintained a steady pace of activities, seizing every opportunity proposed by Chapters to held workshops and promote heritage awareness.

**Delhi Workshop on F.N.Souza**

HECS organized a half day workshop on 12 April 2010 conducted by Dr Shobita Punja, Director, HECS at the Lalit Kala Akademi to celebrate the birth anniversary of renowned painter, late Francis Newton Souza. Students from four Delhi schools participated in the workshop; the children displayed their art work inspired from F. N. Souza ‘Heads’.

*At Delhi*
World Heritage Day Celebration

Poster Making Competition for school children was organized to commemorate World Heritage Day, 18th April on the theme ‘Save our Heritage’ and the sub-themes included ‘Save our Natural Heritage’, ‘Save our Built Heritage’, and ‘Save our Living Heritage’ in which 35 schools from Delhi and Gurgaon participated.

Gangtok Teacher Training Workshop

A two day teacher training workshop on Heritage Awareness was held on 22-23 April at Gangtok. 33 teachers from 19 schools attended the workshop.

Commencing with a welcome address by Convenor P. K. Dong, Shri G. S. Lamba talked about the local heritage of Gangtok. Field visit to Raj Bhawan, Enchey Monasteries as well as an old house built in 1931 was made to sensitize teachers towards heritage education and conservation. The workshop concluded with the valedictory function where teachers shared their two day workshop experience.

Trivandrum Teacher Training Workshop

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Co-Convenor Shaji Krishnan. Inaugurated by Director, Department of Treasuries, E. K. Prakash, the two day teacher training workshop on 4-5 May on Heritage Awareness was held at St. Roch’s School, Trivandrum with 41 teachers from 24 schools in attendance.

Trivandrum Teacher Training Workshop

Prof Eugene N. Pandala Co-Convenor Kerala State highlighted the characteristic features of the State’s heritage. Prof N Ramaswamy spoke about the palaces of Trivandrum and the restoration of some of the palaces including Padmanabhaswamy temple and complex. Field visit to Kuthiramallika Palace was conducted under the able guidance of Prof Ramaswamy. The workshop concluded with the valedictory function chaired by the Maharaja of Travancore.

Retrospect

Fox History Channel - INTACH Collaboration during the closing months of 2009 could not be covered adequately with photographs.

At Dehra Dun

Heritage Walk for 200 students at Forest Research Institute, flagged off by IG Police R S Meena, was conducted by the Chapter with the help of six enthusiastic walkers.
At Hazaribagh

Students from DAV School participated in the Walk organized by the Chapter at the historic Buddhist Park, Canary Hill where pre Gupta archaeological remains were found.

At Amritsar

A large number of students visited Jallianwala Bagh, Quila Ahluwalia, Gurudwara Saragarhi and other places. It made them better aware of Amritsar’s heritage and history.

At Aurangabad

200 school students from 8 local schools like SB High School, Sharda Mandir undertook the Walk conducted from Delhi Gate to Naubat Darwaza, conducted by the Chapter.

At Visakhapatnam

The Chapter took 150 students from six schools back to the origins of the city, the backwaters and the trading town. It was an important learning experience as most young people were unaware of the history of some of the places visited.

At Madurai

134 school students of Mahatma Montessori and Rotary Laharry had the privilege of learning about the historical background of their ancient city.
through the heritage walk organized by the Chapter at Arrittapatti.

At Hyderabad
Walks were conducted by the Chapter in collaboration with COVA. Students carried placards saying *I Love my city, my history, preserve my heritage*. They started from Charminar and ended at Chowmohalla Palace, where the students interacted with INTACH and COVA Members before writing their essays.

At Bhubaneswar
Two walks were conducted attended by 225 students from 34 schools. They covered the Mukteshwar, Bhaskareswar and Bindusagar areas highlighting this most popular heritage zone of the capital city.

At Gwalior
Two walks were conducted by the Chapter. 62 students were taken through Gopal Mandir-Gurduwara-Moti Masjid and Theosophical Society. The second walk for 120 students covered Moti Mahal, Baija Taal, Jal Vihar and Italian Garden.

At Lucknow
Walks were organized in collaboration with the Army Public School to the Residency Lucknow, for students accompanied by 6 teachers. It brought alive the importance of this region during the historic 1857 war of independence.
**At Delhi**
The walk was organized on 19th November covering Mehrauli Village Settlement, Humayun’s Tomb and Nizamuddin Dargah with inputs from renowned historian Charles Lewis, Delhi Co-Convener Dr. Swapna Liddle, well known architect Ratish Nanda, as well as Delhi Chapter’s heritage walkers.

**At Puducherry**
Walks were conducted along a heritage road called Vysial Street, selected for the Asia Urbs project (a collaborative venture with French and Italian cities). As many as 750 students participated in these walks.

**At Mumbai**
The walk was organized at South Mumbai by Sifra Lentin for four schools. The route was chosen to expose school children to the colours, richness and even idiosyncrasies of their city’s heritage around Colaba and Horniman Circle.

**At Chennai**
Around 350 students from 11 schools guided by Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr Suresh visited historical landmarks such as Marundeeswarar Temple, Santhome Bascilla, Fort St. George and Royapuram Police Station on the Heritage Walk.

**At Pune**
The walk organized in old Pune for 60 school children covered landmarks like Shaniwarwada, Kasba Ganpati Mandir and T Tambat Ali among other sites of this historic city.

**At other Chapters**
Walks were also conducted by Rohilkhand, Goa, Bhopal, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Udaipur, Warangal and Srinagar Chapters.

**NEWS FROM IDC**
The INTACH Documentation Centre under Dr. Narayani Gupta has started a new project of documenting over 160 Maps/Plans/Drawings that are currently with the Architectural Heritage Division.

The IDC has commenced feeding Listing Data into the new library software programme, and simultaneously transferring it to the INTACH website. Digitisation of newspaper clippings and other archival material will also commence shortly.
Qutab Minar

The World Heritage Site Qutab Minar is currently the most visited monument of Delhi, and with a new Metro station the footfalls will most definitely increase. But it can lose its WHS status if plans for illuminating this iconic monument with solar powered panels in honour of the Commonwealth Games are not tweaked to some extent. It may be a part of the long term scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to which the ASI has acceded – but it does not meet the rigorous UNESCO conditions. Its Delhi based Director Armogum Parasuramen has drawn attention to the impact of such interventions on the visual and physical integrity of the heritage sites. He advised that “clear guidelines on such technical interventions” must be sought from the Paris based World Heritage Centre. It may be recalled that in 2007 UNESCO threatened to strip the Humayun Tomb of its WH status due to the proposed tunnel link from the Jawaharlal Stadium to the CWG Village that was then sensibly aborted. This case too calls for some sense and sensibility.

Deep Blue Sea

It was in 1977 that oceanographers working in the Pacific depths stumbled upon a lush ecosystem crammed with mussels, crabs, eels, snails, clams and tube worms — “a cornucopia of abyssal life built on microbes that thrived in hot, mineral rich waters welling up from volcanic cracks……. and serving as a basis for whole chains of life that got along without sunlight”. Scientists have now identified hundreds of such deep sea habitats in the Gulf of Mexico, and presumably they exist in the depths of other oceans as well. The founding microbes of this food chain feed on seafloor emissions like methane and sulphide smelling of rotten egg, but toxic to land animals. But now we have oil spills! Oceanographers are prepared to dive into inky depths and check out how the creatures of the dark are holding up. After that, there may well be another management conflict - between encouraging oil development and protecting the undersea ecosystems.

Change of Heart

It needs to be understood how some timber smugglers in the Pir Panjal Range of Kashmir are turning into tourist guides. There was a time when they waited till nightfall to get on a horse and set off to axe the deodar, kail and fir trees. The threat of arrest and jail did not deter them from earning a bare two meals a day for the family. It is their knowledge of the forests that has made them good guides, and turned them into happy family men earning at least Rs. 3000 a month. As one such guide explains: “If we get more trekkers, our lives will change….The Government doesn’t understand our poverty. My imprisonment didn’t deter me as it was a question of survival…..” There is a lesson here for all forest areas in the country.