**MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN**

INTACH has acquired a new momentum during the last year, and a fresh persona. We are deemed as an “institution of excellence” by the Government of India. I see this as both a great responsibility and a greater challenge. We have to become the prime movers and shakers of the heritage conservation movement in the country. In this onerous task, we need all the help we can get from our Members, to contribute in small or big ways, according to their capacity, so that we can live up to the great expectations from us.

I might mention another important development. The INTACH UK Trust was dissolved as per the Resolution passed by the Trustees of INTACH UK Trust, and the corpus was returned to INTACH India. This additional Fund is earmarked largely for research, capacity building and training activities which are INTACH’s key mission priorities.

I look back upon 2013 as the Year of Stability for INTACH. And I look ahead and perceive 2014 as a Year for Consolidation. There is a major problem looming on the horizon, it is estimated that 40% of India’s population is more than likely to move into urban areas in search of better opportunities of life and living in the coming decade. INTACH urgently needs to engage with conservation engineers and city planners. I recently met the President of the Council of Architecture constituted by the Government, and...

**30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

27th—30th January, 2014

The 30th Anniversary of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) on 27th January – was a landmark day to look back with pride, but also to look ahead and re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of national heritage awareness. The lighting of lamp, and Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite Vaisahnavjan sung by Anshu Thapliyal sanctified the new INTACH Oath, taken jointly with State Convenors attending the celebrations. The new Pledge reflects what INTACH is committed to achieve in the years to come:

*To cherish and protect our common heritage; to care for the conservation of the local environment; to spread concern and sense of belonging amongst the local community; to respect our own culture and that of theirs; to encourage creative expression and inspire young minds to develop secular and cultural values; to uphold INTACH’s goal and mission to conserve heritage.*

INTACH Chairman L.K. Gupta succinctly outlined the agenda for three days of interaction with Convenors and INTACH staff as a time for “hearing each other, absorbing, adjusting and readjusting to the idea of INTACH.” Referring to the greatly enhanced Corpus, he strongly felt “we must do full justice to our new capacity to...
it was decided to coordinate with its National Institute of Advanced Studies as an institutional partner. It will greatly boost the initiatives being taken by our many Chapters, and the listing and awareness programmes in progress across the country.

On the occasion of *INTACH Founders Day* we held a meeting at Delhi of all State Convenors. We invited suggestions on modernizing our infrastructure and upgrading human resources.

New ideas are equally welcome from individual Members. We need more Members who can selflessly devote their time and money, and come together to constructively contribute - practically and voluntarily - to save our natural and cultural heritage. We will then be at the cutting edge of the heritage conservation movement, ready to take up challenges in step with a fast changing environment.

New vistas like geo-heritage buried underground, and rapidly being built over by new infrastructure, have to be addressed. In fact many new challenges will keep coming up that we must also confront. INTACH will need to take the lead to make the cultural connect with people. This is a vastly unexplored activity that needs to be crystallised with a concrete plan of action.

The world sees India as one of the 21st century key cultural engines which can provide sensitive and sustainable growth model. Can we do it? Can we become a crack conservation force to be reckoned with, and a voice to be heard? It is not only a question of expanding our network, we need to associate with government agencies and fellow-organizations, to garner public support, in order to intensify our efforts.

As I said earlier, I also place a great deal of importance on individual INTACH Members, to listen to their suggestions made on the basis of their experience or expertise We would welcome them if it adds to our efforts in breaking new grounds.

---

**Chairman**
battle now as a primary concern and involve legal minds if necessary.

General L.K. Gupta concluded by saying “It will be proper for me, at this stage to say that our country cannot have growth that our people are looking for unless there is a cultural connect – INTACH should provide that lead in making this cultural connect. Our next young generation is yearning to make this cultural connect. The world also sees India as one of the 21st century’s key cultural engines which can provide sensitive and sustainable growth model”.

Member Secretary C.T. Misra in her address stated “INTACH has always aspired to be a Think Tank on heritage and conservation matters”. In order to take this idea forward she touched on one of the most important initiatives taken-setting up the INTACH Heritage Academy “which will act as a think tank and also train students, community and chapter members, government officials and technical professionals”. It encourages research and hands-on training.

The Academy obtained recognition under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for conducting skill training in the culture sector. At the international level, Dr. Misra announced the designation of INTACH as a ‘Hub’ to develop concepts and programmes for the Creative Economies by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) for both these regions. This indeed is a great recognition of INTACH’s standing with an international outreach in future. She emphasized that technical issues like listing, documentation, heritage regulations and community outreach remain the pillars on which INTACH stands. Listing in particular incentivises governments to protect heritage. Dr. Misra hoped State Convenors will “take the learning of the ensuing dialogue back to the field where these issues must play themselves out”.

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta warmly congratulated the Convenors saying “INTACH stands tall because of you”. She said 17 million youth will be voting for the first time in the coming elections, and they can also become INTACH’s new constituency with an important role to play in all facets of development, heritage and culture. She highlighted the importance of globalization and technological revolutions for communicating and effectively engaging people with counter views to “secure the Indian heritage by preserving the past and not succumbing to industrialization and urbanization” in the face of burgeoning migration from rural areas.

The 30th Year Anniversary was marked by signing an agreement with the Google Cultural Institute that will bring 1200 Delhi monuments on-line. A 2014 Calendar was released with a pictorial cover showcasing various INTACH initiatives, with a few quotations. The one of Gautam Buddha is most applicable to INTACH: “All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world”.

In the prism of INTACH’s Vision 2024 are:

- Linking benefits of heritage with lives and livelihood of local communities.
- Re-aligning the objectives of heritage and conservation, and broadening the knowledge base in the field.
- Promoting advocacy and strategic research, by undertaking pilot projects
- Generating greater awareness and connecting people to their heritage through education programmes.

The best practices showcased by different State Chapters and their passion projects undertaken could well be a triggering inspiration for other INTACH Chapters on our forward march.

**RANGOLI**

The auspicious rangoli always adds a splash of colour to festivities, and 27th January was no less than a festival for INTACH staff. Colours were mixed with innovative ideas, and resulted in a most decorative welcome to all who had come together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of INTACH. The Natural Heritage Division showcased the national bird - the peacock - beautifully designed with waste material. Delhi Chapter drew a depiction of the Ashta-Disha, symbolic of INTACH’s conservation efforts on many fronts. They won the first and second prizes respectively. There were other colourful compositions that merited consolation prizes.
**EXHIBITION**

An exhibition was mounted by the AH Division on abandoned cities and pre-historic forts in the first millennium AD. It was curated by Dr. Sarayu Doshi and Ms. Bindu Manchandani.

Dr. Doshi spoke about the Splendours of Indian Architecture. She said a vast and ancient country, with a long and continuous cultural tradition spanning more than 2500 years, has an ethos constantly enriched by people of different races and religions who have lived together for generations, with each group practicing its own religion and way of life.

The exhibition documented India’s achievements from prehistoric times to the end of the first millennium CE through its temples, forts, palaces and cities. After the tenth century, waves of Islamic armies invaded India and established their rule during the twelfth century. Later they extended their supremacy from Delhi to other regions of India. As conquerors, they built tombs and mosques following Islamic architectural traditions, but incorporated several local elements in their structural and decorative design.

During the Mughal period, architecture reached its most magnificent expression, exquisitely combining Islamic and Indian attributes. The **char-bagh**, a key feature of Mughal architecture was represented in the form of a scale model and occupied a pivotal position in the exhibition.

Later in the sixteenth century, lured by the lucrative spice trade, Europeans made their way to India and brought their own architectural traditions and built churches and public buildings in European style. Gradually some Indian stylistic characteristics such as verandahs, curved roofs and decorative motifs crept into their structures. Later, the British architects evolved the Indo-Saracenic style, an eclectic idiom which articulates various stages of fusion between the European and Indo-Islamic styles.

The encounter with Modernism is evinced in the enthusiastic acceptance of the European Art Deco style in Mumbai, especially in its cinema halls as also in the urban structures of Chandigarh city designed by the world famous architect Le Corbusier. Today, Indian architects, inspired by global trends, design buildings in international styles.

*Ack: Dr. Sarayu Doshi*

---

**TASTE OF INDIA**

There was much to tickle the palate and eye too. Many staff members brought traditional cuisine from their respective regions. It was not all chicken and biryani, or the seasonal sarson ka saag and makki ki roti, that won prizes or much lip-smacking appreciation. There were other specialties like Indo-Japanese vegetarian macaroni salad, lemon orange cheese cake, with the first prize going to Aastha Tiwari for a delicious entry called Kafli from Uttar Pradesh.

---

**QUIZ COMPETITION**

As the day drew to a close, it was time for some fun brainstorming. Naturally, it was all about INTACH @ 30 years for Quiz Master Kunal Savarkarand. The contestants included INTACH staff and everyone in the audience who dared to raise his hands or voice. It was a free for all which resulted in one of the most interactive sessions of the three day celebrations. The adrelne flowed with much enthusiasm!

---

**CULTURAL SHOW**

A musical finale brought the curtains down on the Foundation Day celebrations. Renowned artiste Gaurav Mazumdar performed on the sitar; and a bhajan was sung with classical music by Anshu Thapliyal.
STATE CONVENORS MEET

A meeting of all State Convenors was convened at Delhi, to coincide with INTACH’s 30th Anniversary Foundation Day. It facilitated a brainstorming exercise covering issues of ongoing concern and INTACH vision for the future with their participation.

INTACH Chapters have long been involved in Listing and Documentation, formulation of Heritage Bye Laws and Regulations, Outreach Programmes, Urban Environment and Activism, Heritage Awareness and Education, Passion Project, etc. Some important underpinnings to these issues were highlighted by the Speakers who addressed the Meeting. Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta pointed out that Listing and Documentation is not an end in itself, it must be followed by Legislation. Member Secretary CT Misra highlighted new initiatives like setting up of the INTACH Heritage Academy for capacity building to create expertise in diverse fields of conservation.

INTACH Legal Consultant Nayantara Rao underlined the first step to enactment is mapping what exists. It was reinforced by another practicing advocate and Central Government Standing Counsel, Jayant Tripathi that laws to be implementable must take into account people’s aspirations to be effective and enforceable. Conservation architect A. Vijaya, a key member from INTACH engaged in preparation of bye laws, shared her experience detailing the complexities governing various categories of monuments. Urban Planner SP Shorey spelt out the steps Convenors could take when a heritage building, forest, lake or any other national asset is threatened. Supreme Court lawyer Shyam Divan frankly admitted it was an unequal situation as heritage regulations are relatively soft and ranked below in legislation, in right to property, etc. but the absence of law does not mean courts cannot be approached. The success of many PILs filed by INTACH have proved encouraging.

Some Convenors spoke about the existing heritage regulations in their States. Shri Gaj Singh said while heritage regulations are yet to take shape in Rajasthan, the State is a success story when it comes to heritage tourism. Based on Delhi experience, Prof. AGK Menon said INTACH role entails adapting to multiple working layers like the state, polity and citizen in the socio-economic cultural coontext.

Other sessions covered Heritage and Outreach Programmes chaired by Chhattisgarh Convenor Lalit Surjan. Prof. Narayani Gupta, member of Heritage Conservation Committee of Delhi, spoke on culture as a tool for urban development, with emphasis on bringing the ‘natural’ and later the ‘intangible’ into urban structuring.

CONDOLENCES

INTACH Founder Member Francis Wacziarg is no more. A man from many walks of life, his passing away on 19th February elicited a fund of memories from his large circle of friends and admirers. He had come to India after the Paris uprising in 1968, as a young socialist very much opposed to the Vietnam War. Much like his father who went off to Cuba to escape Nazi anti-Semitism. Although he had spent his early years in many countries of the world, Francis fell in love with India and stayed on to become an Indian citizen.

Chairperson of Dastakari Samiti Laila Tyabji who knew him for decades said “unlike so many Indophile foreigners, he actually adopted and invested in this country he so loved”. His steadfast friend and business partner of Neemrana Hotels, Aman Nath said “a karma yogi can never become a capitalist”. He established the economic viability of heritage properties, and was an inspirational force behind the “Incredible India” campaign launched by the Ministry of Tourism. They gave him the Life Time Achievement Award fortuitously earlier in February this year.

Francis’s association with philanthropist Dominique Lapierre’s Charities in India, his commitment to investing in the well being of rural communities around his hotel chain, pioneering a band of Indian opera artistes through the Neemrana Music Foundation, were a few of his many expressions of love for his adopted country. He would say “I’m more Indian than you because I have sworn by the Constitution to be one”.

INTACH will greatly miss his absence from its Governing Council and its Executive Committee. Members like him are not easily replaceable in any organisation. We send condolences to the Wacziarg, Nath, Chopra, FW Group and Neemrana family. With a heavy heart.
Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam, Jharkhand made their respective presentations that were greatly appreciated by Chairman L.K. Gupta.

Chairman INTACH articulated a more forward-looking and inclusive vision for the coming decade. There should be emphasis on linking benefits of heritage with lives and livelihood of local communities as a prime factor of heritage conservation effort. He said objectives must therefore be realigned accordingly with issues of sustainable development and management of urban and rural heritage. It entails promotion of advanced and strategic research to broaden the knowledge base in the field. Lastly, it necessitates a continual focus on generating heritage awareness and connecting people with their heritage which Chairman reiterated.

After the many social events bringing the INTACH family closer together, at the end of the Meet Convenors had much food for thought to take back to the Chapters in their respective States.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

INTACH AGM was held on 23rd March, the third week of the month as is the usual practice. Chairman’s message was read out in absentia due to unavoidable circumstances in which he shared some of his thoughts and vision for the future. (See Pg.1 Guest Column).

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta addressed the gathering, sharing her vast experience of conservation work. She gave some important pointers for the newly appointed Convenors who had been invited to an orientation programme preceding the AGM. She stressed the importance of regular meetings, enlisting Members of repute and experience, listing and documentation as the pivotal points of their activities. She said training programmes, now being taken to Chapter locations for capacity building, is viewed as a critical area of INTACH’s efforts to strengthen our organisation. She announced that Regional Conferences for Chapters will be held towards the end of the current year.

Members Secretary Dr. C.T. Misra outlined some of the important developments of the past year. Particularly, the effort made to follow the mandate of INTACH by reaching out to those stake holders who are involved in engineering, architecture and construction activities within the private and government sectors. There has been an overwhelming response from them to the training courses conducted by the INTACH Heritage Academy, she said. INTACH has also interacted with foreign delegations from Spain and Netherlands on conservation training and cultural mapping. The exhibition Splendours of Indian Architecture at Lowen, Belgium curated by Governing Council Member Dr. Sarayu Doshi was a great success, and will be travelling to Spain. Dr. C.T. Misra concluded by thanking all the Members present for their commitment, passion and support. She said INTACH has always been a lean and efficient organization dedicated to creating a nation-wide awareness on conservation. “With the infusion of new funds in our Corpus we should not change our perception and manner of functioning and remain an organization of repute, of dignity, of equality, and of dedication”.

HECS publication 10 Years of Heritage Education was released at the AGM, with congratulations to the HECS team for this interesting and educative collection.
Material Heritage Division (MHD) is concentrating on capacity building programmes for all its INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) staff members. Workshops and seminars were conducted for upgrading knowledge and bringing about uniform conservation treatments across all ICI Centres. Research based studies on conservation of paintings, wall paintings, textiles, paper etc. have acquainted the staff with the latest trends in conservation and scientific investigations. Students from the NMI and DIHRM were also engaged in short term programmes for hands-on-conservation training.

ICI DELHI

The ICI Delhi houses world class conservation facilities in major areas of conservation objects, paintings, textiles and paper. The Centre also undertakes building material and wall painting conservation projects in other parts of India. These serve as training grounds for conservators and enhance MHD’s capacity building. Working groups are also undertaking research and training in these areas of art conservation.

The aim of scientific research is to implement rational conservation strategies for problems threatening cultural heritage, to provide a forum for research and conservation education. Also, to collaborate with outstanding research expertise with Indian and overseas academic institutes, study groups and visiting scientists hosted by the department. ICI conservationists can thus pursue innovative research in techniques, methods and materials of art, and develop new materials for conservation of art works (even those used abroad but not tested on Indian art) for preventive conservation, development of conservation treatment for mortar, aging lime textiles, evaluating use of cyclododecane for treating Indian art, etc.
The main problem of treating bleeding inks in modern manuscripts, a nightmare for conservators, is being tackled with ease using cyclohexadecane.

As seen above, this research is in progress and the results will be disseminated through various workshops and publications for adoption by conservators.

ICI KOLKATA

A previously restored oil painting from Sitala Nath Swamiji Temple Trust had multiple problems of conservation ranging from loss of support, tears in the canvas, fungus, abrasions, warping, cracks in the paint layer, holes, stains, etc.

Once rid of all previous unscientific interventions and stability achieved, a full lining was given to impart mechanical strength to the ageing canvas. Reintegration of lost areas was done only where required with acrylic colours before giving a final layer of protective coating.

ICI MUMBAI

A dagger with grooved iron blade and crystal handle displayed at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum suffered active corrosion on both sides.

Its beautifully carved handle was broken and joined with red shellac discolouring the otherwise transparent handle. It was observed that shellac is extremely hard and it was necessary to dip the handle in warm water for the shellac to become loose and removable. After much experimentation the transparent crystal handle was joined taking care to avoid micro bubbles forming in the adhesive during its curing time.

ICI LUCKNOW
The Centre worked on conservation of oil, paper and miniature paintings and photographs depicting the culture of the Nawabs of Awadh at the Picture Art Gallery, Hussainabad Trust, Lucknow. A site lab was established within the Gallery premises. ICI conservation was highly appreciated by locals and government officials, and this important collection received great media coverage.

Two lithographs and a photograph were received from 16th Light Cavalry, covered with dust, dirt, and stains due to wrong mounting techniques and re-touching materials, fungus spores, bullet hole, discoloration of paper, loss of area were all present. The litho print was also pasted on acidic paper and wrongly framed. The treatment included dry brush cleaning, removal of stains and deacidification, etc. and finally reframing of lithographs.

The ICI Lucknow treated three tiger skins and two leopard skins received from 5th Kumaon, Faizabad. The deterioration identified on the animal skins were dirt deposits, loss of hair due to biological growth, old repairs, fungus, tears, broken teeth, loss of moustaches and hair near neck and other areas. A strategy for conservation was carefully drafted which involved fumigation for eradicating active biological agencies, removal of old lining cloth, chemical cleaning, dressing of skin from back side to soften it, consolidation of hair roots and lost hair area grafted with artificial synthetic material, stitching of skin wherever required and finally packing in especially designed steel boxes.

The Centre also attended to the 12 feet metal sculpture of
the late former Chief Minister of U.P. Shri Veer Bahadur Singh. It was covered in dirt, bird droppings and paint on the sculpture. After stabilizing the metal a protective coating was given to withstand atmospheric pressures.

ICI BANGALORE

ICI Bangalore recently conserved 18 paintings belonging to Ms. Shirin Chaube dating from 1921 – 1928. They were signed with the nickname Bibi.

A connoisseur might observe a significant Hussain/Picasso influence in the paintings of Bibi, a self taught artist for whom it was a casual hobby. After journalism in Seattle and editorship of Eve’s Weekly, the family moved to Bangalore, where she continued her artistic pursuits encouraged by her renowned architect husband Amir C Jairozbhoy who won international awards for designing homes in Bangalore. These extremely talented people are no more. The paintings, in the care of their son who lives in US, were transported to India for conservation. It was a pity that these exquisite paintings could not be viewed by a larger audience.

ICI JODHPUR

The Centre received an oil painting of Lord Krishna in a fragile and extremely damaged condition, suffering from loss of canvas, flaking and stains. A conservation strategy was drafted for chemical cleaning with a judicious choice of solvents before filling lost areas and retouching with reversible mediums.
ICI Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Centre under the technical supervision of AHD started conservation work of important protected temples and monuments under State Archaeology, with overall administration of State Convenor, AB Tripathy. To date 11 temples and monuments are under conservation, the important ones being the Akhandalamani Temple, Aredi, Bhadrak, Somanath Temple, Bishnupur, Nimapada, Swaraj Ashram at Cuttack and birth place of the legendary Madhusudan Das at Satyabhamapur, to mention a few.
PAPER CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The Centre is continuing with preservation of important rare volumes at Manibhawan, Gandhi Sangrabalaya, Mumbai; of Salsette Catholic Society, Bandra; records of Estate Office at Viswabharati, Shantiniketan; and important collection of LIPIKA Manuscript Library of Shantiniketan Viswabharati - after renewal of agreement supported by the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

Work on the records at the Delhi State Archives; Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai; and the Magnetic Observatory collection at Alibag is ongoing.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

New IE Guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Culture for holding International Exhibitions, both incoming and outgoing, by Private as well as Government Museums. It covers exhibitions of antiquities/art treasures or any other art treasures. The principle of reciprocity should invariably be insisted upon for every request for organising an overseas exhibition.

For Incoming Exhibitions the concerned host institution/museum should firm up the proposals, and then seek the approval of the International Ministerial Committee on Exhibitions (IMEC) of the Ministry of Culture. After working out the Modalities, the approval of the Board of Management/Trustees or other administrative authority must be obtained. A formal agreement must be entered into with the ending institution on mutually accepted terms and conditions.

For Outgoing Exhibition for overseas display, proposals should be routed through the IMEC under Chairmanship of Secretary Culture, submitting all details in the prescribed proforma. It is incumbent on the IMEC to appoint a Nodal Agency representing the Government to act as a liaison between the host and lending institution to facilitate matters and ensure the safety and security of the transported antiquities.

Guidelines have also been issued for Category II Exhibitions not involving Antiquities and Art Treasures but other art objects, photographs, posters, digital prints and other such items for which approval of IMEC is not required, nor that of the National Screening and Evaluation Committee (NSEC). After working out the insurance values of the incoming/outgoing exhibition, it is advised that a formal agreement should be entered into by the lending/borrowing institutions.

Tabulated details may be obtained from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Some of the provisions may be relaxed on a case to case basis as and when required, with the prior written permission of the Inter Ministerial Committee on Exhibitions of the Ministry of Culture.

NEWS : NATURAL HERITAGE

The Natural Heritage Division (NHD) held a Seminar on Sacred Groves & Water Bodies in Shrines of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on 22nd February at Nagercoil, Janakumar District chaired by NHD Advisor S.K. Verma. Convenors of most districts of these States attended the Seminar along with their State Convenors. Nagercoil Convenor R.S. Lal Mohan had requested many specialists to present papers at the Seminar, abstracts of which were circulated to the participants. Many stake holders of sacred groves and temple tanks, NGOs, and college students apart from INTACH Members attended the Seminar.

The well known ornithologist Dr. Robert Grubh in his Presidential Address lamented the decline of the bird fauna indicative of depletion of natural heritage and an unhealthy environment.

Shri S.K. Verma emphasized the need to protect the biodiversity of the Western Ghats which extend to Kanyakumari District, and are the habitat of thousands of species of animals and plants. There is great concern among
both administrators and the scientists about the status of the species composition of this region, he said. A scientific session of the Seminar discussed sacred groves and hotspots of plant biodiversity. While highlighting the vanishing biodiversity of important horticulture plants of Kanyakumari District, with special reference to ‘Fruit Trio’, Dr. A.D. Sobanaraj, the former Principal of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil pointed out that the monoculture of rubber plants has dealt a heavy blow on the biodiversity of the district. He also said once there were more than 350 varieties of mangoes, 300 varieties of jack fruit, 40 varieties of plantains and 60 varieties of paddy in the district, but now only a few varieties are left. “The fragile Natural Heritage is the product of millions of years of evolution and should not be trampled under the ruthless feet of so called development”, said Shri Sundararaju who presented a paper on heritage palms enumerating its various species like Caryota urens, Arenga wightii, Corypha umbraculifera, etc. The heritage palms of the district are considered to be the ‘princess of the vegetable kingdom’.

Dr. T. Rajendran’s paper on the ‘Rare Medicinal Plants and the Medical Heritage of Kanyakumari District’ was vividly detailed with a power point presentation. He described various medicinal plants and their use in curing multiple diseases. He also circulated a booklet on the subject. His exhibition of the medicinal plants was much appreciated.

Dr. P. Samraj, former Principal Scientist of ICAR and Dr. Archana Das from Training Centre, Thadikarankonam in their paper titled ‘A few Sacred Natural Heritage Trees of Kanyakumari District’ covered the common heritage trees of Kanyakumari District that should be protected by ex-situ and in-situ conservation programs by raising them systematically in botanical gardens.

Managing Trustee of CREATE Trust, R. Ponnambalam in his paper ‘Heritage paddy varieties of Kanyakumari District and how to rejuvenate them’ said before 1956 the Kanyakumari District was considered a granary of Travancore state with paddy cultivation in 50,000 hectares. Nearly 700 traditional strains were moreover drought, flood, storm and disease resistant. Serious efforts are being made to rejuvenate them though some varieties have disappeared.

Dr. R.S Lal Mohan and Mr. T.S Sundaram in their paper, ‘Temple Tanks of Kanyakumari District and their present status’ enumerated 50 temple tanks of the district belonging to Dewasam Board, HR & CE and private parties. Some of them are more than 100 years old. The temple tanks help to maintain ground water level and are a resource for drinking water. Most of the tanks of Nagercoil Town are highly contaminated with E-coli and Pseudomonas Argenosoma, and even sewage mix in the Kasi Viswanatha temple tank of Vadasy. The temple tanks of rural area were less contaminated. The outlet and the inlet of the tanks are closed due to encroachment and leads to stagnation of water in the tanks. The occurrence of the bacterial contamination was depicted by histogramme and graphs. Nearly 46 % of the tanks are contaminated and unsafe for even bathing. Bio remediation was suggested to cleanse the tanks on urgent basis.

Former Executive Engineer PWD M.R. Mohan in his paper, ‘Heritage water conservation systems of Kanyakumari District’ described important water conservation systems of the district. Large scale encroachment, pollution, aquatic weed growth, lack of man power, corruption are considered to be the bottle necks. Lack of funds, over exploitation in the upper reaches, unauthorized construction by the local bodies have affected installation of efficient system of distribution.

Dr. R.S Lal Mohan in his paper on the ‘Natural Heritage of Natural Heritage irrigation tanks of Kanyakumari District, their problems and solutions,’ pinpointed a litany of maladies like silting, eutrophication, encroachment, lotus cultivation, fish culture, unscientific sand removal, conversion to other uses, non implementation of rules and regulations, prolonged legal remedial process, urbanization, high land value, low rain fall, etc. as the main problems.

Dr. Robert B. Grubh, Director, Institute for Restoration of Natural Environment, Nagercoil in his paper ‘Heritage Bird Fauna of the District with special reference to the problems faced by them’ said that some birds species like Black Bittern, Water Cock and green billed Malkoha may appear to be rare because of their habits. The spot billed Pelican, Painted Stork and Great Indian Horn Bill however are in diminishing numbers; while the White Backed Vulture and Stork-Billed Kingfisher have become extinct mainly due to human disturbance, environmental contamination and depletion of ecological needs.

Professor P. Jai Singh, former, Principal and Professor of Zoology, Marthandam in his paper ‘State of Wild Life Heritage of Kanyakumari District’ attributed the monocultivation and human settlements as the main reasons for the degradation of wild life habitat.

While discussing the ‘Marine Living Natural Heritage of Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu’, Dr. Lazarus and R. Chandran, from the Institute of Environmental and Social
Education, Nagercoil. Highlighted the depletion of various marine animals including fish, sea turtles, whales, dolphins and the dugongs, due to pollution in inshore regions and destructive fishing like trawling.

Dr. M. Immanuel, Former Geologist, of Assam Oil Company highlighted the heritage sand dunes of Kanyakumari District and their importance, and the 100 ft. huge coastal sand dunes along the Rajakkamangalam coast. He indicated the presence of turtle nest in the sand dunes though it was denied by District Forest Officer. It almost appears as if there is a pre-planned design by vested interests to destroy these dunes in connivance with vested interests. It is opposed by the local people as they know only too well that it gave them protection during the 2004 Tsunami.

Environmental Educator S.S. Davidson Sargunam in his paper *Heritage of Kaani Tribe of Kanyakumari District in the Western Ghats* described the lifestyle of Kaani people and the problems faced by them socially and economically.

Trivandrum Co-Convenor K. Shaji, senior advocate Ahmed Khan and Chairman Pasana Sabha, PWD A. Vins Anto felicitated the speakers. Nagercoil Co-Convenor Dr. Sumithra Raghuvaran offered the vote of thanks. The seminar ended with some recommendations which will be forwarded to the concerned departments for necessary action.

**INTACH OFFICE TO BECOME A GREEN BUILDING**

Buildings consume nearly 40% of energy generated, particularly air-conditioned office buildings that are significant consumers of fossil fuel based energy and thereby green house gases. Ideally, buildings should be net producers of energy i.e. generating more than they consume. Buildings therefore need to be retrofitted. While INTACH has been propagating the need to reduce ecological footprint of buildings the time has come to practice what it preaches. For a start, Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar, NHD has drawn up a plan to incorporate environment friendly measures at INTACH Central Office premises.

The Office is spread over 2000 sq.m of land with a building footprint of 600 sq.m. It is proposed to make the complex into a “green building” through environment friendly and sustainable activities. Indian Green Building Council defines “green buildings as one which uses less water, optimises energy efficiency, conserves natural resources, generates less waste and provides healthier spaces for occupants, as compared to a conventional building.” The Division plans to reduce the ecological footprint of the building complex, and demonstrate a replicable example for others.

Some initiatives planned by the Division:

- Installing 30 kw. of solar photovoltaic panels on the roof to meet requirement for lighting, fans, small equipment like coolers, photocopiers, etc.
- Reducing heat intake by insulation of west and south facing surfaces, and improving cross-current ventilation.
- Setting up a leaf composting unit to recycle leaf litter in the premises by a composting machine
- Carrying out terrace farming in about 70 large pots which will insulate the roof surface. The plant mix will be fruits, medicinal herbs, etc. nourished by in house compost.
- Setting up a paper recycling unit to consume large quantities of used paper generated in and around the office, which can be converted into diaries and pads.
- Harvesting rain water (near the gates).

It is proposed to implement this plan during the coming financial year. Only solar photovoltaics will be phased over 3 years in view of the large investment of Rs. 27 lakhs required.

**2nd FEBRUARY, WORLD WETLANDS DAY**

India is a signatory to World Wetlands Day Convention adopted in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran giving a framework on how wetlands need to be protected and resources used wisely. Wetlands are the only eco-system that are unique in the process of conversion – much like a sponge submerged in water; slowly releasing water when water levels are low, releasing vegetative matter that provides food for fish, filtering sedimentation, decomposing vegetative matter and converting chemicals into useable forms. In fact wetlands work as kidneys to meet requirement for lighting, fans, small equipment like coolers, photocopiers, etc.

It is therefore shocking that all 26 sites in India designated as wetlands of international importance since the Ramsar Convention have been plagued by uncontrollable development and illegal encroachments, including well known lakes like Loktak in Manipur, Chilika in Orissa and Wular in Kashmir. The 20 year old *National Wetlands Conservation Programme* has nothing to show for funds spent on protection of 115 wetlands in protected areas. Most States remain non-committal in protecting wetlands, worsening the plight of unprotected wetlands. For example only 10 out of Bengaluru’s 262 lakes hold water, Ahmedabad has built up on its 137 lakes, Delhi’s 625 identified water bodies exist only on paper. On *Wetlands Day 2nd February* this year, hordes of environmentalists and bureaucrats gathered at Harike Lake at the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers in Punjab. The 60% reduction in its water holding capacity is cause for serious concern for people dependent on irrigation waters of the Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan since the lake is the source of the canal.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2014 is *Wetlands and Agriculture*, as this year is also the *United Nations International Year of Family Farming*. Alas, pious tears and lamentations will not fill up our lakes, but serious action might.
The Union Territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli (DNH) recently took several initiatives for conservation of historic buildings and sites. INTACH was entrusted with the mapping of the cultural heritage for the Union Territories, and three conservation projects in Diu. This Portuguese domain (DNH) until 1954, Daman and Diu until 1961, has left a perceptible impress on the traditions, religion, architecture, cuisine, etc. A comprehensive cultural mapping is being carried out jointly by four Divisions of INTACH - Natural, Intangible, Material and Architectural Heritage.

Detailed project reports (DPRs) have been submitted for two projects in Diu, for conservation and adaptive reuse: the Saint Francis Assisi's Church and Convent and the Saint Thomas' Church.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE MAPPING, UP**

The Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project of the World Bank in association with the Uttar Pradesh Government entails identification, comprehensive listing and mapping of both tangible and intangible heritage assets in the Braj Corridor and the Buddhist Circuit using Geographical Information System (GIS). AH Division was awarded the project by World Bank, for which two teams comprising conservation architects and a GIS expert to prepare the mapping were deployed for each circuit to complete the work in 3 months.

**BUDDHIST CIRCUIT**

The Buddhist Circuit is considered the ‘cradle of Buddhism’ for centuries due to its association with Buddha’s life. The circuit is dotted with monuments, relics and legends that epitomise the birth, decline and the resurrection of Buddhism. The destinations identified for detailed study include Sarnath – where Buddha delivered his first sermon, Sravasti – where he retreated every monsoon, and Kushinagar – where Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.

The Buddhist circuit team surveyed 40 sites in Sarnath, 39 in Kushinagar and 59 in Sravasti of historic importance.

**WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH AWARD**

INTACH restoration of the Balaji Ghat is the recipient of the World Monuments Watch Award in recognition of exceptional efforts making a positive change in the course of 2012 watch cycle. President Bonnie Burnham writes “The ongoing efforts to conserve Balaji Ghat demonstrates an important moment of collective action to reclaim the significance of the site and restore it as a source of community identity”. INTACH whole heartedly congratulates the AHD team!

The award includes US$ 5000 contribution towards the continuing conservation of the Balaji Ghat. WMF Program Manager Mark Weber will work with the team to determine the scope of the work for WMF funds during his upcoming visit.
comprising temples, monasteries, stupas, viharas, meditation centres, archaeological ruins and open spaces.

AGRA – BRAJ CORRIDOR

Braj, as a cultural region, is highly significant due to its association with the legends of Lord Krishna. The Braj Corridor includes major sites associated with his life. Its landscape represents a synthesis of cultural and environmental heritage, and has been the subject of poetry and paintings in medieval and late medieval times. The living traditions of Braj are encompassed in its unique dialect, folk dances and songs, and folk arts and crafts. The towns identified by AHD for survey in the Braj Corridor are Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon, Barsana, Govardhan, Gokul, Mahavan and Baldeo. They surveyed 56 sites in Mathura, 61 sites in Vrindavan, 34 sites in Gokul, 24 sites in Mahavan, 11 sites in Baldeo, 37 sites in Barsana, 38 sites in Nandgaon and 42 sites in Govardhan. Most are located along various parikrama routes and include architectural, natural and intangible heritage of various typologies.

AFCP (US AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION)

The Documentation of Balaji Ghat, Varanasi was successfully completed at the end of last year. An exhibition of panels, a Teachers Training Workshop, and cultural programme were some of the highlights. Mr. David Mess and a US Embassy official Mandeep Kaur inaugurated the exhibition at Balaji Ghat showcasing the Documentation Project of Balaji Ghat...
Palace, depicting the present condition of the structure, its structural evaluation, and reuse proposal as well as the implementation mechanism.

CRAFT, COMMUNITY AND HERITAGE CELL

The Crafts, Community and Heritage Cell (CCHC) in collaboration with Chapter and the State Department of Art & Culture organised the Stone Workshop for artisans of Tamil Nadu from 7th-11th March at Puducherry. Ten artisan, in

ANCIENT MINT CITY

The Archaeological Survey of India discovered a 7th-10th century ‘ancient mint city’ at Majra, in Rohtak district of Haryana recently. An ASI team recovered over 30 coin moulds, 10 mint crucibles used to pour metals into moulds and larger sized ones used for melting metals. There is sufficient evidence to indicate that this site was used for minting coins during the period of the Gurjar Pratihara, Indo-Sassanian and Shahi dynasties. The site is likely to be completely wiped out soon because of the on-going real estate construction activities. ASI might succeed in getting a temporary ban for salvaging more leftovers of history. Ironically it is because of the three huge electricity towers erected that has spared the site from getting totally demolished by now.

LOOKING THROUGH A THIRD EYE

Architectural historian Andreas Vollwahsen travelled through India during the 50s and was “overwhelmed by the immense wealth of forms, decorative ornaments and sculpture” in Indian architecture. The photographs he captured were exhibited by Tasveer titled Andreas Vollwahhhsen- Living Architecture at the Delhi Oberoi during Feb-March this year. Seeing the grandeur of Indian architecture through a third eye offered an insight into the laws and principles behind both ancient and Mughal architecture. Rather than being just an aesthetic appreciation of monuments, Andreas says “It makes it all the more delightful to penetrate through these externals and to inquire what canons or laws governed the work of architects, especially the medieval Indian architecture with its numerous Hindu temples”. About Mughal architecture he says “the square was the mystical, absolute, basic form that did not permit any variation in construction. It could also be more easily embellished with abundant decoration”. His photographs convey the geometric principle underlying Indian architecture of the past - quite lost to the cement and glass architecture of our times.
It is hard to replicate the exact design on each stone over it. It is hard to replicate the exact design on each stone so artisans had to learn different techniques to create a variety of textures. A national award winning stone artist particular A. Thulasingam, P. Ramkumar, R. Ezhumalai, N. Suresh, S. Muthuswamy, N. Ramesh, K. Babu, R. Murugan, P. Sakthivel, S. Sakthivel, learnt a new vocabulary for converting river stones/pebbles into art pieces by sketching and carving using different techniques to understand hardness/softness of stones and material behavior, so critical before even one starts drawing or chiseling

Shri Murthy headed this workshop and helped participants in upgrading their skills.

The workshop, conducted at the Gandhi Thidal Plaza on beach road, succeeded in catching the eye of a huge crowd almost every day. It also ensured direct reaction from the public about their work.

Apart from the workshop, the CCHE staff documented the traditional building techniques like Madras terrace roof, walls with lime and brick mortar, use of lime for weather proofing, oxide flooring, Athungudi floor tiles, etc. of the region. In the process, exploration of these techniques facilitated meeting various experts of these technologies. Information regarding artisans/contractors who are practicing these techniques was also compiled.

A template has been prepared for collecting data on traditional building crafts. Director Bindu Manchanda and Anshu Ahuja attended a seminar on National Craft at Ahmedabad. A dialogue was initiated with CEPT University for resource and knowledge sharing for preparing a Directory.
Recently many European tourists have been visiting various Indian States to see tribal groups living in content despite their limited resources. They are exploring home stays in the lap of nature to experience the plethora of cultural diversity, flora, fauna, food etc. especially of North Eastern States. They are fascinated by the traditions of people living on the fringes of wilderness, their weavings, wildlife, paintings, tattoos, and lifestyles. There has been some objection to tour operators exhibiting tribes as objects of entertainment. Many States have now laid down rules for tribal tours. The most important regulation is to have tourist guides who are sensitive and educated about local culture and taboos, and know how to coordinate and connect with the community. Animal herds at dawn or downing rice beer at supper time can indeed be a cherished intangible experience of a lifetime, not to mention the breath taking landscapes of tribal India.
TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP

Teachers Training Workshop is an on-going activity conducted by Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS). During this quarter workshops continued to be held at several new locations.

SHEKHAWATI HAVELIS

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Shekhawati Chapter organized a two-day teacher training workshop at Jhunjhunu for teachers from Jhunjhunu, Mandawa, Nawalgarh and Pilani at the Rani Sati Devi Temple. The Chief Guest Jaipur Convenor Dharmender Kanwar spoke on the rich history of Shekhawati region particularly of Jhunjhunu. Also Chapter Convenor Jangid drew attention to the many challenges faced by the authorities in restoring these paintings and asked teachers to support awareness of this unique local heritage. The innumerable havelis of Shekhawati have come to be known as Rajasthan's open-air art gallery because frescoes are painted on the walls of ornate havelis across the region. One sees the influence of Persian, Jaipur, and Mughal schools of paintings with European elements in these frescoes many dating back to the early 19th century. There are scenes from mythological stories, local legends, hunting safaris and from everyday life. Some have incorporated imported motor cars and airplanes of the colonial era. Co-Convenor Krishna Kumar explained the architectural styles of the havelis on site, the two courtyards mardana and the zenana being a standard feature.

CASE STUDY: RURAL-URBAN WORKSHOP

In collaboration with the Mayurbhanj Chapter, HECS organized a two-day teacher training workshop at Baripada for teachers of Mayurbhanj district at the Rotary Club Pensioners Hall, Baripada, Odisha. It included a study of
the rich biodiversity of Simlipal Tiger Reserve. Dr. A.K.
Nayak, Regional Chief Conservator of Forest and Director,
Similipal Tiger Project spoke on the rich natural history of
Baripada. Similipal is the fourth largest tiger reserve in the
country. Further nuances of Chhau and Jhumar dances were
covered with scintillating performances by some students.

**Coimbatore, 23rd-24th January**

The Coimbatore Chapter and HECS organized a two
day teacher training workshop at Bharatiya Vidyabhaban
Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore on 23rd-24th
January. A field trip to the old State Archaeology Museum

at Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, owned and maintained by
the Government, was also conducted by State Convenor Dr.
Suresh who briefed the teachers on the seven museums of
Coimbatore.

**Guwahati, 1st February**

Assam Chapter in collaboration with Rashtriya Madhyamik
Siksha Abhijan and HECS organized the teacher training
workshop for 46 teachers covering 10 districts of Assam at
Hotel Hornbill, Guwahati. Convenor Jayanta Sharma spoke
on the local heritage and gave insights into the rich culture
of the region. A Film Director Manik Borah, known for his
films on Heritage and Monuments, urged the teachers to
participate in preserving the rich tangible and intangible
heritage of Assam. Director HECS explained the resource
material and contents to the teachers, and discussed ideas
on various student related activities, to take up by forming
heritage clubs.

**Jamsedpur, 25th-26th February**

In collaboration with the Jharkhand Chapter, HECS
organized a two-day teacher training workshop from 25th-
26th February at Jamsedpur at the Russi Modi Centre of
Excellence, Singhbhum.

Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh talked about the importance
of heritage clubs in schools, stressing on what students can
do to preserve the past and how the youngsters will benefit
from knowledge outside classrooms.

**CHOLA ERA THAVA**

The State Archaeology Museum
at Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore
has preserved a 1000- year old
‘Dosa thava’, from Chola period
among their display!

A site visit was conducted to the 1916 St. George’s Church,
built with fire bricks rejected by TISCO. The nearby
vernacular architecture was designed by Robert Wells. The
layout of housing zones, hostels for workers and lal banglas for
executives was explained in detail by heritage conservationist
Biplab Ghosh.
FILMIT FESTIVALS

Kolkata, 31st January
A Film Festival was held at the Sri Sri Academy with students and teachers participation. The Chief Guests were eminent film editor Prodipto Bhattacharya, film director Nandita Ray and Shivaprasad Mukhopadhyay, who have jointly directed many popular Bengali movies like “Ichche”, “Aleek Sukh”, “Muktodhara” etc. Convenor G.M. Kapur talking about the country’s heritage. He was applauded on being selected as Heritage Hero of Kolkata.

Delhi, 7th February
The Festival was held at India International Centre with Chief Guests danseuse Shovana Narayan, Dr. Shobita Punja, Ms. Sanjana from National Film Development Corporation, theatre personality Feisal Alkazi; eminent film makers Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas and Delhi Co-Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle in attendance.

Mumbai, 10th February
Students and teachers participated in the Filmit Festival held at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust. Chief Guest Vikramjit Roy, Head of Production, NFDC observed that films made by students showed their creative expression, the themes being simple and beautiful. He encouraged them to push the boundaries and experiment with films, and promised NFDC would extend any kind of help required.

Goa, 11th February
Students in their own interesting ways of learning including mime, speech, poems, etc. shared their journey. The chief guests were dancer and theater artiste Arundhati Chattopadhyaya, and Ad-maker Mahesh Bhatt who talked on technical aspects of film making and the use of tripods.

Hyderabad, 13th February
The Film Festival started with a short ‘mushaira’ performed by the host Delhi School of Excellence on the Qutub Shahi dynasty. Convenor Anuradha Reddy introduced the Chief Guest Dr. Yashoda Thakore, a renowned dancer and director of Rinda Saranya Kuchipudi Dance Academy. One of the most remarkable movies made by students was on an Irani Café.

Chennai, 18th February
The Festival held at Sri Sankara Vidyashrmam, Thiruvanmiyur was graced by State Convener Dr. S. Suresh
who lauded HECS for the Filmit series highlighting unique aspects of heritage. One of the students made a film on great grandfather Sri Roupnarayan Chaturvedi, an author and a famous poet.

The Chief Guest documentary filmmaker Manohar Devadoss confessed his excitement on learning that a group of college students had made a documentary film on his life which was a great experience for him.

One of the most interesting films from Chennai was on a turtle named Nayani.

**MY LIVING ICON**

In continuation of the last quarter, *My Living Icon* competitions were held in the 60 Chapters in the months December-

February at - Aurangabad, Gwalior, Mizoram, Mehsana, Ajmer, Bilaspur, Jammu, Kodaikanal, Trivandrum, Patna, Shekhawati, Machlipatnam, Darjeeling, Jamshedpur, Bijapur, Nagaland, Rohilkhand, Kangra, Amritsar, Bhadrak, Sikkim, East Godavari, Ahmedabad, Nagercoil, Solapur, Jamnagar, Bagalkot, Jaipur, Rajasmani, Udaipur, Chennai, Rajppla, Calicut, Faridkot, Dharwad, Visakhapatnam, Santiniketan, Ambala, Hazaribagh, Pune, Marwar/Jodhpur, Balasore, Orai, Chandrapur, Bhubaneshwar, Brajbhoomi, Jabalpur,
Kolkata, Bhilwara, Salem, Gurgaon, Thrissur, Raipur, Banda and Mohindergarh. HECS thanks all these Chapters for their sincere support and painstaking efforts.

**Heritage Panel Discussion**

A *Panel Discussion for Colleges* was organized on 25th March on various aspects and issues of heritage based development initiatives, strategies for promoting it. Some case studies were also presented. It was chaired by Delhi Convenor Prof. A.G.K. Menon, a well known conservationist with other members of the panel being IDC Consultant Dr. Narayani Gupta, ASI Director of Archaeology Dr. D.N. Dimri, and journalist Malvika Singh and Shri Aman Nath.
The INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) organized a Museum Studies course from 17\textsuperscript{th}-21\textsuperscript{st} February at Central Office. Participants were introduced to the concept, history and development of museums, exploring key issues related to cultural heritage conservation, interpretation, presentation and curation. Various types of museums, their role in the contemporary Indian context, were discussed. A wide range of systems, lighting, etc. New technologies, media and ideas that can be incorporated into museums, critical aspect of risk preparedness and collection management during and post-disaster were some of the subjects explained in detail during the course.

Resource persons invited to deliver the talks included faculty members and researchers from the National Museum (NM), National Museum Institute (NMI), National Museum Conservation Laboratory, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Museums Association of India, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Material Heritage Division (INTACH), and practitioners in the field. It was attended by participants from diverse backgrounds including musicologists, curators, conservators, collectors, museum owners, students of architecture and museum studies, and administrators.

**AT LUCKNOW**

A 3-day training Course for Engineers was organized on 24\textsuperscript{th}-26\textsuperscript{th} February at Lucknow in collaboration with UP State Chapter and the State Dept. of Culture, and jointly with the UP Housing & Development Board for 84 government engineers. It was inaugurated by Minister of State Culture & Women’s Welfare Arun Kumari Kori.

The programme was much applauded by the Minister, Commissioner Infrastructure & Industrial Development Alok Ranjan, Principal Secretary - Culture Rajan Shukla,
Housing Commissioner Dr. MKS Sundaram, and other officials.

Principal Director IHA Navin Piplani, in his keynote address, outlined the context for the workshop, identifying the issues related to the conservation of historic buildings and the lack of formal education and training for engineers working in this field. Structural Engineer/ Conservation Consultant Abhishek Singh made presentations on practical challenges and issues of structural conservation in historic buildings. AHD Conservation Architect Ruknuddin Mirza outlined a range of philosophical approaches to conservation in India. This was followed by a more technical session on analysis of rates and preparing specifications for conservation projects by AHD Consulting Conservation Engineer Ms. S. Karapagam Bala. On the last day a special field visit was organized to understand on ground the work being carried out at Alambagh Kothi. The visit proved to be another...
excellent learning experience entailing practical examination of different aspects of conservation work under execution.

The course had a great impact as important decisions were subsequently taken by Principal Secretary Culture and Commissioner of Housing & Development Board to set up a Heritage Division in the Board. Development specifications for conservation works would be developed for inclusion henceforth in the State Schedule of Rates by the PWD. “Conservation Engineering” will now be recognized as a specialized formal education and training programme.

**AT JAMMU**

Discussion during the field visit to Mubarak Mandi

A Workshop and Training on Conservation Techniques was organized jointly with the INTACH Jammu Chapter on 10th–12th March at the University of Jammu to sensitise participants, particularly architects and engineers working with local development authorities and the State Archaeology, to the issues of heritage conservation.

The Inaugural Session was chaired by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Kiran Wattal who congratulated Convenor S.M. Sahni, Convener and the Jammu Chapter Members for their initiative in organizing this Training Programme. He assured his full support and co-operation to INTACH for undertaking projects that preserve the cultural heritage of Jammu in the fast changing urbanized scenario.

The workshop was attended by town planners, architects, chief engineers, academicians and former technocrats. IHA Principal Director Navin Piplani welcoming the Chief Guest and the invitees/participants, introduced the faculty members and other resource persons - Prof. R.J. Vasavada - Professor and Head, PGP in Conservation Studies, Ahmedabad; Principal Director AHD Divya Gupta, Director, School of Architecture and Landscape Aditya Singh, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu; former J&K Development Commissioner Town Planning Vinod Malhotra; art historian Lalit Gupta; former Executive Engineer, J&K Public Works Deptt. Darshan Gupt; former Head of Urdu Deptt. University of Jammu Prof. Zahrur-ud-din; and Director, Centre for History, Culture & Ladakh, University of Jammu Prof. Anita Billawaria.

A Field Visit was followed by the Valedictory Function at Mubarak Mandi Jammu. INTACH Member Kuldeep Wahi gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the workshop.

**PUBLICATIONS CELL**

The Making of the Indian Landscape by Dr. Aditi Chaterji, a set of 2 volumes, was released at the Convenors’ Meet in January. History of Rathambore by Javed Anwar of the Sawai Madhopur Chapter is under production. An agreement signed between INTACH and Aryan Books facilitates the periodic printing of such books that are first reviewed.

The Publication Cell is also updating brochures of the various INTACH Divisions, the recent ones being profile brochures of IDC and IHA Divisions.
ANDHRA PRADESH

Hyderabad

Convenor Anuradha Reddy presented *Mexico Maya*, a pictorial audio-visual, to the Historical Society of Hyderabad at Salar Jung Museum on ancient sites and museums of the country based on her recent trip to Mexico that was facilitated by the *Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia*. There is a fascinating similarity in the lores, mysteries and cultures of India and Pre-Hispanic Mexico.

Ms. Reddy accompanied 75 architecture students on an educational tour of *Qutab Shahi Tombs* to introduce them to Islamic history and its architectural forms. At Golconda Fort, K.K. Mohammed of Aga Khan Trust, in-charge of its restoration work, further elaborated on Islam and the students made sketches as part of their course submissions.

Srikakulam

Convenor Dharmarao Dusi, a Member of Tourism Development Committee of the District, took up the preservation of 11th-12th century inscriptions at Arasavalli *Sun God Temple* at one of the meetings of the Committee. The Collector, who is also INTACH Chief Patron, gave top priority to the subject and instructed the A.C. Endowments and Executive Officer of the Temple to take immediate steps to build a wall on which the text should be inset on granite. It will make the inscriptions both visible and intelligible to all visitors, and create public awareness about the antiquity of the temple and promote tourism.

There was a continuous demand for the coffee table book *Srikakulam, a Story on Stone* published by the Chapter.
in 1996. The revised edition, sponsored by the Collector carries an additional 40 pages of researched material with photographs.

A Heritage Club was inaugurated at Government Degree College Pathapatnam. Principal Dr. Madhusudan Varma of this newly established College has joined hands with INTACH to enrich the extracurricular activities with a heritage component

Visakhapatnam

Vizag has some of the most beautiful natural formations and heritage sites like the million year old Bora Cave and Buddhist monastaries like Thitlakonda and Bavikonda. The Chapter reported a guide training programme in collaboration with the District Tourism Promotion Council. Convenor Rana Sama is awaiting the completion of amenities and other facilities to be provided at tourist sites to fully explore tourism promotion with an awareness blitzkrieg of these archaeologically sensitive sites.

Warangal

The Chapter has forwarded the second volume of Listing of Warangal District Monuments to Central Office. Chairman L.K. Gupta appreciated the quality and supervision of this compilation by Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao, and congratulated the Chapter team for its work done diligently and at a very reasonable cost.

CHHATTISGARH

Sarguja

The Chapter organized a series of lectures at Ambikapur under the aegis of the local Bharatiya Sanskritik Nidhi on places of historic importance, highlighted with a talk by Raipur based historian Prof. Lakshmi Shankar Nigam. MLA K.S. Singh Dev was the Chief Guest on the occasion, and State Chapter Secretary Rajendra Chanak the Special Guest. Co-Convenor Sachin Mandilvar gave the vote of thanks.
**10,000 YEARS UNEARTHED**

Excavations at a pre-historic site in Chhattisgarh has yielded 10,000 years old tools from an archaeological site at Tarighat, just 20 kms from Raipur. The tools assigned to *Microlithic* period, dating back to 8000 BC, are surprisingly made of various materials and are of various sizes. Shapes like blades, lunettes, scrapers, burins and cores indicate various activities of the people of those times. It is assumed that these type of tools were integrated with wood and used for cutting trees and skinning animals. Thousands of *Mesolithic* era tools have also been found scattered on the surface at Parsulidih.

**DELHI**

Delhi’s bid for UNESCO World Heritage status for the historical city of *Shahjahanabad* and later era *Lutyens Delhi* was finally approved for submission by 31st January. International experts were consulted to narrow down the proposal to these two capitals in line with UNESCO guidelines. According to Convenor A.G.K. Menon “both capitals were built as new cities…..and still function as living cities”. UNESCO’s final decision will be known only in June 2015. The greatest challenge in acquiring this status would be management of the two cities and imposing strict legislation for the protection of heritage structures, according to Shikha Jain, Member of the Advisory Committee, Ministry of Culture.

**GUJARAT**

**Vadodara**

A team from the Chapter’s architectural department visited the *Nazarbaug Palace*, Vadodara and met the local Municipal Corporation officials to assess the condition of the palace. They were invited to make this survey by the family of Sangaramsingh Gaekwad who inherited it after the division of all assets and property of the erstwhile royal family of Gaekwad.

**ALIF MOSQUE**

The dome of the 600 year old heritage Alif Mosque in Ahmedabad is receiving a brilliant makeover. The dome is being decorated with gold and platinum much to the pious joy of its worshippers.

**HARYANA**

**Gurgaon**

The Chapter organized a Fund Raiser programme with a unique ‘Hinglish’ play *Don't Dress for Dinner* on 15th February at the Epicentre. It was a delightful evening with performances by known stage artistes. The recently published *Haryana – Cultural Heritage Guide* was edited jointly by Shikha Jain and Bhawna Dandona. The Chapter is involved in setting up the *Gurgaon Haat*, which will become a major distraction in this city of corporate offices and malls.

**Rewari**

Since practically its inception the Chapter has been concerned about the renovation of two hundred years old water bodies. Convenor Sudhir Bhargava is now pursuing the matter with the authorities once again, as the work with local MP funds done earlier by the Municipal authorities is not adequately satisfactory.

**Kurukshetra**

The Chapter celebrated Foundation Day, 27th January at the Faculty Lounge of Kurukshetra University. Convenor Prof. AR Chaudhri welcomed the Registrar Dr. K.C. Ralhan as the Chief Guest. The Director Institute of Mass Communications, Prof. S.S. Boora delivered the keynote address on *Tourism and Indian Heritage*. Students from the
Department of Geology presented folk dances dressed in colourful costumes. Co-Convenor Dr. Mahavir Singh gave the vote of thanks.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Chief Minister Raja Virbhadra Singh visited the Bhootnathji Temple on the occasion of the International Shivrathri Festival at Mandi on 28th February. It is the oldest temple of the town and much venerated by the people as Choti Kashi. He was accompanied by an entourage of Ministers and senior government officials. After the puja they went around the temple, greatly appreciating the restoration work done by INTACH and the photo exhibition at site. Convenor Malvika Pathania was complimented for taking this initiative.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

The Chapter identified two subjects for documentation of the State’s intangible heritage. The lifestyle of Giddies of Jammu region and the nomadic tribe of Gujjars of Jammu, to be taken up with the help of historians and other specialists. Convenor S.M. Sahni initiated the conservation of Bahu Fort as it is one of the tourist attractions for visitors en route to Vaishno Devi.
Shri S.M. Sahni reports that a Spot Survey was conducted at the R.S. Pura-Suchetgarh Border to identify heritage buildings of the area. The INTACH team included Senior Conservation Architect Ruknuddin Mirza, AEE PWD Bhupendra Kumar, SDM R.S. Pura and S.S. Sambyal KAS with INTACH intern Kushagra Anand pointing out the salient features of the heritage buildings. The adaptive re-use would give an added economic boost to the area.

KARNATAKA

Bagalkot

At Bagalkot, 27th January

The Chapter celebrated INTACH Foundation Day jointly with the Department of Sculpture & Painting, Hampi Kannada University’s Badami Centre. Convenor Dr. D.G. Kulkarni welcomed the guests at the exhibition Chalukya Glimpses organized at the Archaeological Museum. It was inaugurated by visiting faculty member of Berlin University Corinna Wessels Mevissen, and presided by renowned scholar Dr. B.K. Hiremath. Co-Convenor Prof. M.F. Kuri gave the vote of thanks.

Bijapur

Convenor Dr. Krishna Kolharkulkarni visited a 12th century temple, unique for its Pakootaanch (five gopurams), which is located 64 kms from Bijapur at Yergal accompanied by former Vice Chancellor of Kannada University Hampi, Chapter Members and the head of the Architectural Department of engineering college. The Chapter’s wish to take up excavation and conservation of this unprotected temple is laudable, however it must be noted by all Chapters that any such initiative needs to be first examined by AH Division. Subsequently mandatory permission needs to be obtained from Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi.

Noted Hindustani singer Dr. Suresh B. Parvatikar inaugurated the My Living Icon competition on 5th January. She advised the young participants that “Many new things can be learnt at each stage of life, as learning is a continuous process”. Former Convenor Dr. H.F. Yogappananavar, Co-Convenor Dr. Sheelakant Pattar attended and interacted with the teachers and parents at the event.

Calicut

Regional Chapter Members toured the Teak Museum in Nilambur and gathered information about different aspects of teak tree plantations, considered the wealth of the Malabar region. This one of a kind museum in India, gives a wealth of information on the historical, aesthetic and scientific aspects of teak regarded as the choicest wood the world over.

The Museum was established at the Kerala Forest Research Institute (IKFRI) campus in 1995 because of the historical significance of the region. The first teak (Tectona Grandis) plantation was raised in Nilambur in the 1940s in order to ensure a steady supply of the wood to the English. A
translite of a giant tree in the Conollys Plot gives visitors some interesting glimpses of the activities undertaken 160 years ago. The added attractions are the traditional granary, a miniature model of Uru, a teak sailing boat, etc. A collection of 300 butterflies, moths and insects found in teak plantations is exhibited. Another section deals with physical disorders of teak, disease-causing parasites and other nursery pests. There is a library on teak, and a mini auditorium for audio-visual presentations.

**CONDOLENCES**

One of our senior most and respected INTACH Members Shri K.K. Nair passed away on 13th January. A former Principal Conservator of Forests, Kerala he helped to develop the Eravikulam National Park, a highly sensitive biosphere spot of the Nilgiris. In retirement, he was the guiding light of Calicut Chapter always offering his advice and assistance to its Members, that was both inspiring and encouraging. His home was always an open house for conducting Core Committee Meetings of the Chapter. His towering presence will no doubt be missed by them ever more. INTACH sends its heartfelt condolences to his beloved children Lakshmi and Gopal, and to other members of his family. With our good wishes for the future.

**Thrissur**

*Netronmillinam* (Opening of the Eyes) by artist Prabeesh Chammanur was inaugurated on Republic Day by District Collector Smt. MS Jaya at the DTPC Building, Palace Road. Chapter Treasurer OM Rakesh and Co-Convenor MM Vinod Kumar attended the inauguration of *Netronmillinam*.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**Chanderi**

The Chapter completed the listing and documentation of 200 historical buildings. Chanderi is a beautiful city with more than 450 historical sites and buildings, and many more listings will be done in the months to come.

Convenor Raj Kumar Singh, Co-Convenor Neeraj Jain and Member Kalle Khan organized a Quiz Competition for students of the Saraswati Shishu Mandir School; the participants were felicitated with certificates.

**Gwalior**

State Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari laments that trains running on narrow gauge between Gwalior-Bhind and another from Gwalior-Shivpuri have been suspended. The Chapter was trying for a long time to get heritage status for these trains. He points out that similar trains running between Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling and Coimbatore-Ooty have been designated as world heritage and are not only attracting tourists but earning foreign exchange. He seized the opportunity of a recent visit of 21 tourists from London.
who travelled to Sabalgarh, and also from Dholpur to Badi, on meter gauge trains, to get their opinion. Convenors from Gwalior and Shivpuri were also present during the interactions on this occasion. The general consensus was that all these trains need to be in service and merit heritage status.

**Jabalpore**

The Chapter had a number of heritage activities in the closing months of 2013 that are covered this quarter only with a few important pictures. Particularly the Voting Awareness Campaign so relevant to the immediate future.

**Khajurao**

Newly appointed Convenor Ajay Kashyap has successfully introduced the concept of *Vedic Agriculture* at Pateriya and Rani Gardens in Khajuraho. He gave a detailed presentation on the subject to the Belgian Chapter Convenor Geert Robberechts during his last visit to India. After the meeting everyone enjoyed a taste of Bundelkhand cuisine.

**Mandla**

Convenor Girja Shankar Agarwal organised two General Knowledge Competitions on 6th January as a heritage awareness programme for students, with prizes awarded to the best contestants.

On 4th–5th February musical programmes were held in memory of Raja Hryudai Shah at the Municipality Hall...
The Chapter organized a programme to release the 2014 Calendar “Heritage of Chandrapur”. Shantaram Potdukhe, ex Union Minister of State for Finance chaired the function; with District Collector D. Dipak Mhaisekar as the Chief Guest. Sanjay Thakre, Chief Conservator of Forests was also invited. Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur and Co-Convenor Surendra Singh Gautam did the honours of welcoming the eminent guests.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**Chanderpur**

The Chapter organized a programme to release the 2014 Calendar “Heritage of Chandrapur”. Shantaram Potdukhe, ex Union Minister of State for Finance chaired the function; with District Collector D. Dipak Mhaisekar as the Chief Guest. Sanjay Thakre, Chief Conservator of Forests was also invited. Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur and Co-Convenor Surendra Singh Gautam did the honours of welcoming the eminent guests.

The calendar carries the major heritage sites and tourist places from the Chandrapur District, and elicited a positive response from all. Its objective is to make the people aware of their local heritage assets, and boost tourism and the local economy.

**Mumbai**

A two day photographic exhibition *Jodhpur – Past & Present* was inaugurated by Chief Justice of Jharkhand at Mumbai to mark twenty five years of the local Jodhpur Association with the city of then Bombay. About 55 photographs taken 60-105 years ago were put on display. A prominent amateur photographer of Jodhpur, Pradeep Soni also put up colour blow-ups from the same places and same angle as the old ones in the section showing today’s Mumbai.

Also on display were pictures of modern Jodhpur and some blow ups exposed in the night, of Umaid Bhawan Palace in moon light, historical Mandore Garden and Devals, jet fountain in the background of a lighted hill, aerial view of Fort taken through hot air balloon, etc. Hundreds of persons visited the exhibition. MLA Mangalprabhat Lodha honoured Pradeep Soni. The event received wide media coverage, with many of the pictures published in newspapers, magazines, calendars and post cards.

**Pune**

The Chapter is supporting the revival of *Green Lane*, an effort to revive the cycling culture for which Pune is well known. Chapter Members were involved in planning and promoting a 48 days expedition from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, a marathon pan-India cycling trip that started on 10th February ending 30th March covering 4700 kms. The initiative taken by a young architect Ashhik Jain was supported by a few organisations and professional guides. Chapter Coordinator Supriya Goturkar-Mahabaleshwar took permission to use INTACH name and logo. The main objective is to revive a cycling culture at a time when entire cities are strangulated by traffic jams. Next campaign should perhaps be about safety measures that require dedicated city lanes for cyclists as seen in other countries.

The Chapter also conducted a walk in the campus of Pune University with an expert Dr. Mandar Datar on 29th March. The main building was once upon a time the summer resort of the Governor of Bombay Presidency during British times.

**Sholapur**

Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar and Co-Convenor Shveta Kothavale have taken up the restoration of 100 years old *Pach Kandil* lampposts at various *chowks* of the city.
They are urban elements of pre-electricity times that need to be preserved. With authorization of the local Municipal Commissioner, the Chapter is in the process of entering into separate MOUs with five different sponsors.

ORISSA

Bhadrad

A copy of Heritage Wonders of Bhadrak, a publication carrying details of 89 religious heritage sites of Bhadrak District, was received at Central Office. It carries details of their basic physical features and their structural stability. Convenor Mohanty acknowledges the assistance extended by State Convenor AB Tripathy; and that of Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy, Dr. R.C. Naik and Prof. Golak Behari Sahoo who helped in editing the compilation of heritage sites.

The region is the cradle of Odishan history with a legendary culture dating back to the time of the Puranas. Its plethora of different historical monuments belong to many cults and sects like Brahmins, Jains, Buddhist, Saivite, Vashanavite, etc. It was released on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Chapter chaired by Prof. Dr. Sanatan Mohanty on 23rd February. State Convenor A.B. Tripathy, Collector L.N. Mishra, former Vice Chancellor Dr. Omkar Nath Mohanty, and Prof. Dr. Sulochana Das graced the occasion. Gurudwaras and Masjids are latter day additions to this cultural wealth.

A seminar on Necessity of Conservation of Heritage Sites for Future Generations – Role of Students was attended by distinguished guests who participated in the ensuing discussions. Six freedom fighters of the city – Shyamsunder Behera, Balakrushna Jena, Akrur Ojha, Puna Mahalik, Sashi Bhushan Das, Parbati Sahu - were felicitated. Prizes were awarded to students who participated in the debating competition earlier.

A bus load of Chapter Members went on a day long visit to the Maritime Museum at Joba, and to the heritage sites of Languid and Dhabaleswar Pitha. Member Bhagabat Tripathy pointed out that none of the heritage sites of the district are protected. A heritage awareness workshop might help to bring this matter to the attention of the concerned authorities.

Bhubaneswar

The State Chapter organized a seminar on 3rd February to discuss conservation of the Konarak Sun Temple, jointly with the Kalinga Heritage Preservation Trust. State Convenor AB Tripathy explained various issues involved like removing sand deposits, water logging, and reportedly even thefts, etc. which has been steadily reducing this World Heritage Site to ruins. Chief Speaker A.G.K. Menon pointed out that our new draft conservation policy is Eurocentric while it needs to be changed in the Indian context. President of KHPT Anil De, author of a well researched book on Konarak,
stressed the importance of conserving this priceless heritage that is a major tourism attraction, bolstering employment and livelihoods.

Koraput

Convenor K.C. Panigrahy organised the 2014 Dongar Meet from 10th to 12th January, National Youth Day. This meet is held annually in coordination with the Tribal Museum authorities and the Tribal Cultural Research Centre of Sabara Srikheta, Koraput. It is a sustained effort to familiarize youth with the tangible and intangible heritage of this tribal area. Students from other parts of the district like Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri also participated.

Sambalpur

Convenor B.B. Mishra was the Chief Guest at the quiz competition held for Heritage Club members of Attibara College as part of the celebrations of Cultural Week. It was conducted by Co-Convenor Dr. D.K. Gour who is also Reader in History of the College.

A special meeting of Chapter was called on 7th March at Mahanadi Club at the request of State Convenor AB Tripathy. Presided by retired administrator D.K. Mishra, it bid farewell to present Convenors and welcomed the incoming appointees. Shri T.P. Panda is the new Convenor of the Chapter, to be assisted by the new Co-Convenor Shri Purohit. Outgoing Convenor N.K. Patnaik offered the vote of thanks. The programme was covered by AIR and TV, and the local newspapers.

Punjab

Chandigarh

The chapter organised a Heritage Walk at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh. Convenor V.K. Kapur was accompanied by UT Adviser Pradip Mehra and Mayor Anu Chatrath.

A Clean and Green Walk was flagged off by Municipal Commissioner Prerna Puri, with the participation of many
other bureaucrats and nature lovers admiring the 100 heritage trees around Sukhna Lake.

**RAJASTHAN**

**Ajmer**

Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh writes about the 1908 Ajmer State Museum established by the then Governor General Lord Curzon. Members visited the Museum on its 105 anniversary when Convenor pointed out some of the more important exhibits.

The outer gateway of the Akbar Fort now stands renovated by the authorities because of the continuous follow up efforts by the Chapter.

**Jaipur**

Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar sent some Jaipur diaries to Central Office for distribution. Walking down the streets of Jaipur one is accosted by 300 years of living heritage as seen in its monuments, courtyards and streets. One also witnesses the change wreaked by time! The recent photo exhibition *Jaipur Then & Now*, created by Dharmendra Kanwar and Swati Vashisht, with the vintage photography of Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh II and other 19th Century photographers like Raja Deen Dayal and Goibindram Oodeyram, and a talk by historian Dr. Kalanath Shastri, was a great tribute to the city. It will be making the rounds of various schools so that young people can take pride in the proud heritage of their city.

**CONDOLENCES**

Shri Braj Ratan Ojha, a Member of the Jaisalmer Chapter, passed away after a short illness. He was closely associated with INTACH activities like public awareness campaigns, heritage walks and in the all-important task of listing and documentation of Jaisalmer heritage. Members and friends remember him as a “perfect gentleman”, loved as much as he was respected by one and all. INTACH joins them in sending condolences to the Ojha family at this time of grief and remembrances.


**Jodhpur**

Convenor Dr. M.S. Naggar informed the appointment of Ms. Devina Shekhvat as Assist. Manager Education & Outreach for the Mehrangarh Museum Trust. She is fully conversant with INTACH work having worked with the Jodhpur Chapter earlier. She will be in charge of communicating with all Rajasthan Convenors/Co-Convenors henceforward.

**Kota**

The Chapter took the lead in the recent dispensation of Central Office announced by Chairman at the recent all-India Convenors’ Meet that all Chapters need to have permanent offices to establish INTACH presence in their respective areas. Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya confirms that an office with a paid Chapter Secretary and Office Assistant has been set up.

The Chapter is approaching the High Court after the recent judgment passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate with regard to conservation of the *Kota Fort Walls*. It has been pursuing this matter for the last 8 years.

**Nagaur**

Chairman L.K. Gupta met Minakshi Jain on his visit to Nagaur, and talked to her about conservation of the local

**MINAKSHI JAIN**

Ms. Minakshi Jain is short listed for the Aga Khan Award “in recognition of architectural excellence in the field of historic preservation, reuse and area conservation, as well as landscape design and improvement of environment”. Her work at Nagaur Fort was one among 800 nominations submitted for evaluation. The Fort and its internal and external spaces serve as a venue, stage and home during the Sufi Music Festival. At the centre of Nagaur is the 12th century Ahhichatragarh, one of the first Muslim strongholds in northern India that has undergone many alterations in subsequent eras of history. INTACH greatly appreciates that she will be taking personal interest in the conservation work of Bansiwala Temple.

**Shri Bansiwala Mandir**. Convenor Himmat Singh had earlier broached the subject with her. She has kindly volunteered to give her personal attention to the rejuvenation of this Mandir.

**Sawai Madhopur**

Convenor Padam Khatri drew attention of Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje to the deteriorated condition of the city’s historical *tehsil* building. Rather than allowing it to crumbles unto dust, he suggested that this property be leased to the Chapter for restoration and reuse as a district museum.

Co-Convenor Javed Anwar writes about a heritage excursion to Indragarh *Durg* (fort), Bhandevara Temple and the Kwalji area with more than 150 students.

**Sirohi**

The Chapter took up the issue of safeguarding *Archaeological Mounds* threatened by the road alignment being undertaken by National Highway Authority. Following an emergency meeting with the Collector in the presence of the ASI Suptd. orders were issued to execute the work strictly within the right of way (ROW) so that the Mounds are safeguarded. Convenor Ashutosh Patni and the Chapter are congratulated for their vigilance and timely action.

**Udaipur**

The General Body of Mewar Regional Chapter met at Raj Bagh Hotel, Lake Fatehpursagar on 11th January presided by SS Ranawat. Former Vice Chancellor Dr. Divya Prabha attended as a special guest. The Chief Guest, Chief Conservator of Forests K.K. Garg addressed the gathering.
State Convenor S.K. Verma congratulated Shri Aman Singh of the KRAPAVIS and the entire team on being awarded the Dalmia Paryavaram Award on 19th December. He headed the excellent work of listing and documenting Sacred Groves by the organisation.

**TAMIL NADU**

**Madurai**

Dr. Uma Kannan is appointed the new Convenor of Madurai Chapter. With a doctorate in anthropology from the Madurai-Kamraj University, she has been a social worker deeply involved in programmes for upliftment of rural women, crafts persons and the differently abled people. She is passionate about the preservation of traditional wisdom through revival of local crafts and skills. A long time Life Member of Madurai Chapter, INTACH welcomes her with many great expectations. She will be assisted by Co-Convenor P. Rajesh Kanna and Treasurer Jayesh Mehta.

The Chapter began the year on a 'starry' note. On Feb 9 INTACH Member Dr. Venkatraman, a renowned historian-cum-astronomer, enthralled the audience with *Skyswalk*, a session on ancient science of astronomy emphasizing the uniqueness of the Indian system, and comparing it with Greek myths of astronomy. It concluded with a star-gazing session.

On Feb 16, two dedicated ornithologists Kumaran Sathasivam and Dr. T. Badrinarayanan talked to the Members about *Birds of Madurai* introducing the interesting activity of bird watching. They enumerated various ways of protecting environment in order to save birds. There was a bird-watching session at Avaniapuram water-body on the outskirts of Madurai, to see many species of local and migratory birds.

On March 8th World of Women was organized jointly with *The Hindu* to celebrate International Women’s Day, with women taking part in a treasure hunt organized at the Tirumalai Naicker Palace and Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple surroundings. Women got a chance to know more about these historic icons of the city.

**CONDOLENCES**

**Member Emeritus**

Udaipur Chapter bade farewell to Shri Jagat Singh Mehta who passed away in early March. An alumnus of Allahabad and Cambridge Universities, he was one of the earliest entrants into the newly created Indian Foreign Service after Independence. He served in many prestigious Missions abroad like Europe, China, Tanzania, etc. culminating an illustrious diplomatic career as a policy planner and later India’s Foreign Secretary. Post retirement, his life was as busy as ever with lectures, fellowships, memoirs and the many volumes he wrote on challenging policy issues of the day. His social conscience made him take over the Seva Mandir, an organization founded by his father to which he was devoted. As INTACH Member Emeritus he was a pillar of wisdom for the Rajasthan Regional Chapters, presiding over many of their important meetings.

INTACH holds him in high regard and his many contributions will be treasured forever. He leaves behind a family of achievers, including his daughter-in-law Tasneem Mehta, INTACH Vice Chairman to whom we send our condolences, and to other members of the Mehta family. They held a Memorial at Delhi when many members of the Foreign Service, including the Vice President, spoke glowingly of their fond memories of Jagat Mehta as their dear friend and guide, and a man of many parts who will be cherished.
**Nilgiris**

The Nillgiri Mountain Railway, like the Darjeeling Mountain Railway, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site some time ago. The Founder Trustee of Heritage Steam Chariot Trust, Shri Natarajan held a meeting with Deputy GM of North East Frontier Railway Rajesh Aggarwal and its other adherents to discuss the commemoration of 115th anniversary of this mountain railway which falls on 15th October this year. Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. M.R. Srinivasan said its rare rack and pinion system would be of special interest to visitors. His wife, Convenor Geetha Srinivasan emphasised that the railway stations en route needed safeguarding, and strict zoning laws imposed so that no ugly structures are allowed to come up on this scenic route. Forest Department officials should visit this area prone to landslide so that soil binders and plants could be planted. The involvement of the District Administration along with tourism, railway and forest officials would ensure the success of the event.

**Nagercoil**

The Chapter organised the National Seminar on the Natural Heritage of Kanyakumari District on 21.2.2014 at the P.D. Pillai Kalyana Mandapam, inaugurated by District Forest Officer V. Sundararaju. Co-Convenor Dr. Sumithra Raghuvaran read out messages from INTACH Chairman and State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh. Convenor Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan welcomed the gathering, emphasising that youth had a great role to play by becoming the guardians of Natural Heritage. There has been much destruction of verdant paddy fields and the fertile wetlands of the district. The future belongs to them. *(For Details of the Seminar – See News from NHD)*

A highly degraded temple tank *Kasiviswanathar* at Vadasery, full of floating aquatic plants and high content of bacteria was cleaned with the help of volunteers on World Water Day. Organized by Convenor Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan and HEAL Director Siluvai Vasthian, it was inaugurated by Municipal Commissioner Janaki Raman. The staff of the Nagercoil Municipality also pitched into the effort.

The INTACH Nagercoil Chapter has recorded 3200 cannon balls from the godown of the Thasildar’s Office, Thuckalai, Kanniakumari Dist. They were used in the war between Travancore State and the British East India Company under the leadership of Col. St. Lagler 1809, after which Travancore came under the British rule. The defeated Veluthambi Dhalawai committed suicide, but his dead body was cruelly hanged publicly by the British Resident.

The cannon balls were transported to Kanyakumari in the presence of Advisor NHD S.K. Verma in February. The role of INTACH in this matter was highly appreciated, and covered by the media.

**Thanjavur**

The Chapter organised a Heritage Lecture by artist Manohar Devadoss at the Big Temple, Thanjavur on 2nd February. 76 year old Manohar Devadoss, affectionately known as “Mano” among his wide circle of friends, was involved with science, battery technology and product design. He became a gifted artist who excelled in drawing and painting. His wife Mahema was paralysed after a road accident in 1972 and passed
An exquisitely carved ivory throne was presented by the Maharaja of Travancore to Queen Victoria, and has rarely been seen in public since it was first displayed at the Crystal Palace during London’s Great Exhibition in 1851. The Queen had declared that the throne and other items in the royal collection are technically not owned by any individual but “held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation”. A royal spark ignited when Prince William recently remarked that he would like to see all the ivory held by Buckingham Palace destroyed. His father Prince Charles had earlier asked for all items at their royal residences to be put out of sight. William’s remark, welcomed by wildlife conservationists, was sharply criticized by art and antique experts as “bonkers beyond belief”. Perhaps UNESCO should have a category of World Heritage Assets that belong only to world civilisation? Or it can be returned to India!

Illustration in the Greenwell years, about boyhood days

Away in 2008. She used to say ‘Our friends tell us that he draws with his mind’s eye, I had the training and he had the talent.”

Mano suffers from a genetic disorder that slowly robbed him of his eye-sight. Yet he managed to create a stream of intricate, detailed art works for charity. His fourth book _Multiple Facets of My Madurai_ is in its sixth edition within five years.

Travancore Throne

**Lucknow**

The Chapter organized _Heritage Walk & Talk_ at Suraj Kund near Lucknow by eminent historians Yogesh Pravin, Ravi Bhatt, Nawab Mir Jafar Abdullah and other ‘Lucknowphiles’ in attendance. Around 50 students of the Amity University were also invited and entered into a sketching competition. It was a general awareness programme for young and old alike.

Suraj Kund, situated on the banks of the river Gomti, is one of the sacred ancient places in Lucknow where people have always flocked to worship and take a bath. It has 5 wells and a stone plaque indicating that at 12 noon there is a particular point at its centre known as Jyoti Kalash that is lit up by the sun. The Kund even finds mention in the Ain-e-Akbari. It was generally believed that people suffering from skin disease or eye problems are cured by bathing in its waters. In Mughal times it was called the Shamsi Talab by the sheikhzadas, and Nawab Asafadullah rejuvenated it by building new ghats. Even the Pathans respected the waters of the Kund.
The annual Vintage Car Drive was organised by the Chapter jointly with the Oudh Heritage Car Club (OHCC) on 2nd February. It was flagged off from the Imambara by Convenor Alok Rajan amidst much fanfare and excitement. Chairman OHCC Captain Paritosh Chauhan, ably supported by Secretary Sandeep Narain and Ms. Kanak Chauhan, made the event a thrilling experience for teachers and students taken on the drive to heritage sites. Eminent historian Ravi Bhatt briefed them on the architectural facets of monuments enroute – The Residency, Chhatar Manzil, Saadat Ali Khan Maqbara and Taara Wali Kotbi followed by a round of Hazratganj, Raj Bhavan, Loretto Crossing, Marine Drive and Gandhi Setu finally disembarking at the Golf Club - without all of which a Lucknow tour would be incomplete.

Mahoba

Convenor Pramod Paliwal started this newly established Chapter in earnest with a series of programmes to promote public heritage education. A lecture was held on the heritage of the district at Bara Village on 5th January chaired by social activist Shivkumar Goswami, and addressed by a number of local dignitaries. The event attracted people even from remote areas, young and old alike.

The following week a painting competition was held at Sai Inter college for students. A lecture cum debate followed at Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir College in February. In coordination with ASI Jhansi Circle, a photo exhibition and seminar on cultural heritage was another maiden effort in the span of a few months. On 11th February a general knowledge competition was held jointly with Regional Archaeological
Heritage Walk, Mahoba, 7th March

The circle office, Jhansi on ancient heritage, accompanied with a photographic exhibition.

The sustained efforts of the Chapter continued through March, with a Heritage Walk for 50 students of the Mahoba Inter college. They visited 11th century and 18th century heritage sites accompanied by College Faculty. The young people undertook some cleaning operations at sites which is highly commendable.

Orai

The Chapter is keenly interested the rejuvenation of the Mahal Shah Durg. Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar is looking for financial assistance from the D.V. College as it is under their administration; and possibly other sources may have to be tapped.

The Chapter observed Martyr’s Day at the Sahav Village with students of the Singpura School. It proposes to formalize 5th September as Martyr’s Day henceforward as part of a sustained effort to make youth sensitive to the importance of a pollution free environment. A book by Naeem Qureshi was released on historical surroundings of Gwalior.

WEST BENGAL

Darjeeling

Convenor Bharat Prakash Rai has been very active since he took over the Chapter, with focus an youth programmes.
Kolkata

The 30th Anniversary of INTACH was celebrated by the Chapter with a cultural evening at the Raj Bari at Bawali, followed by a dinner courtesy Shri Ajay Rawla. He has taken up the restoration and adaptive re-use of this heritage estate with great zeal and careful attention to authentic restoration practices. Convenor G.M. Kapur has consistently supported such conservation initiatives in and around Kolkata.

The Ambassador of Finland Aapo Polho, German Consul General Rainer Schmiedchen, noted historian Prof. Bharati Ray, Curator of the Victoria Memorial Hall Dr. Jayanta Sengupta, international photographer Antonio Martinelli were among other dignitaries present. They were welcomed in traditional style with a dhaki, blowing of conch shell and shower of petals. The owner of Rajabari was also felicitated. INTACH kites were launched. An entertainment programme Yatra, an eternal mystic love story in three different classical dance styles against dancescapes painted by Subodh Poddar brought the evening to an enchanting end.

**ANIMAL KINGDOM IN PALACES**

Karen Knorr’s *India Song*, a photographic collection exhibited at The Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata was a visual delight. One of the founding fathers of Tasveer, Abhishek Poddar sought permission of old princely families to shoot in their ancestral homes juxtaposing animals in royal settings. The exhibits highlight “a dissonance, pitching the splendour of the past against the environmental and social decay of the present……. The photographs depict scenarios that are at once other worldly and surreal. The animals are intruders and their presence playfully subverts the cultural space” says reviewer Shagufta Kalim. Karen Knorr herself further explains “The birds and mammals inserted in the photographs link the Ramayana culture of northern India to allegorical representatives of femininity and masculinity which aim to disturb the spectators’ expectations”. The collection has the backdrop of Dungarpur Palace, Jaipur City Palace, Nagaur Fort, Junagarh Fort, Mehrangarh Fort Palace in Jodhpur, Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi, Hazarama Temple in Hampi, Ajanta Caves, Jama Masjid in Fatehpur Sikri among others. Knorr’s work is held in over 30 collections across the world including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; The Museum of Modern Art, Paris; and The San Francisco Museum of Art, USA.
**Shantiniketan**

The Chapter’s annual magazine *Paribesh* was released during the onset of *Poush Mela*. It carries several essays and poems on nature and heritage.

**NEWS FROM HERE & THERE**

**MOHENJODARO FESTIVAL**

The controversial *Sindh Festival* held at the ancient site of Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan during the first week of February raised fears that it would damage this 5000 year old largest site of the Indus Valley civilisation. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari addressed a gathering of law makers, diplomats and foreign media saying; *The broad aim of the festival is to preserve, promote, and protect our cultural heritage, which is under threat. The festival is also a process where we hope to help fight for the societal space that has been ceded to the extremists*. A Pakistani archaeologist who is member of the Management Board for Antiquities and Physical Heritage of the Sindh government however said the sound and light show could damage walls, and felt “it is nothing but insanity”. Another archaeologist refused to attend the festival in protest. India can only hope the Rs.450 million festival succeeds in preserving our common heritage.

**BHAGAT SINGH’S HOME**

Also located in Pakistan is Bhagat Singh’s birthplace at Chak No: 106 GB, now in Bangey a typical Punjabi village surrounded by sugarcane and wheat fields. It is reported that the martyr’s village will be developed as a part of the campaign to preserve the region’s history and restore heritage buildings. The house where he was born still has some of his family’s belongings like his mother’s spinning wheel. Copper *parvat* and a steel closet kept safe by its owner Advocate Virk. (The native village of Sir Ganga Ram is also in the area). Nothing more is known about a proposal to name the roundabout in Lahore after Bhagat Singh, the exact spot where he was hanged.

**LAST HURRAH**

Old British tombstones still in existence at Delhi, Kolkata, etc. are also a piece of heritage. Some of the epitaphs are not without humour, or even poetry. There is one of a merchant who married four times and “buried three wives, but the fourth did for him!” Another proclaims “Good attendance was applied, physicians were in vain!”. Another soul died “Craving a large widow and family to mourn his loss”. The tombstone of a 1857 hero reads “If pigmies must squabble …..they should at least have the decency not to do so over a giant’s grave”. There is Urdu poetry for a young wife, that poignantly translates as “I’m the blossom which did not suit the garden, a reminder of someone’s two days of happiness”. 

Convenor Susmita Guha Roy at release of Paribesh
ENDANGERED HERITAGE

The Saint Andrews Church, also known as Vanakbara (or Vanakwada) Church, is located on the western part of Diu in a small settlement known as Vanakbara. It faces a serious threat from the insensitive development zeal of the local inhabitants. The demolition of buttresses and other structural elements are causing serious instability endangering the safety of the structure. The materials obtained from the demolition activities are found to have been used in constructing the school building located near the Church. Given the dilapidated condition of the church, if immediate action is not taken for its conservation and structural restoration along with complete stoppage of pilferage of building materials, the Church will collapse in the near future and a precious heritage lost forever.

BELUR TEMPLE

The 12th century Belur Temple located in Bagalkot District, Karnataka, is at grave risk. Built by Queen Akkadevi, it was once a famous learning centre dating back to the Kalyan Chalukya period. Chapter Convenors and other officials have visited the site and have assessed its architectural and artistic value, and deplore the state of broken sculptural assets. The Chapter draws attention to the urgent need for its rejuvenation and preservation.

MURSHIDABAD - FORGOTTEN CAPITAL OF BENGAL

The Marg publication Murshidabad – Forgotten Capital of Bengal is edited by Neeta Das and Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, with the generous support of The J.R.D. Tata Trust.

The city of Murshidabad on the banks of the Bhagirathi River in the 19th century had no defined limits in the mid 19th century. It was an indiscriminate mass of temples, mosques, handsome houses enclosed in pucca walls and poor hovels around the residence of the Nawab of Murshidabad. Tieffenthaler describes the twin cities of Murshidabad – Maxudabad and Mahinagar – facing each other across the Bhagirathi River.
Murshidabad and its satellite suburbs suffered a massive depopulation in the decade 1770-1780s stricken by drought and famine when it was depleted of its spirit and one-third population. The British Resident at its court sent harrowing tales of piles of bodies dead or dying to Fort William in Calcutta. It was then that administrative functions and staff shifted to Calcutta, along with bankers mainly Jains from Rajputana and Armenian merchants, artists looking for patrons, soldiers in search of work, builders and craftsmen, courtesans and musicians followed in their wake to serve the British establishment that was growing in strength and building a fortress. The rest as they say is history.

Mahinagar was renamed Azimgarh where the tomb of the troubled Siraj al-Daulah lies in the Garden of Happiness. It is where business is done to this day. But tourists visit the other side of Murshidabad where subsequent nawabs and nobles chose to build, and where the elegance of a bygone era still lingers. The Murshidabad Heritage Development Society celebrated the Resurgence of Murshidabad Heritage Festival in 2011. Many of the Society’s members however live in Kolkata not Murshidabad.

For a fascinating account of this forgotten capital of Bengal and its history, this publication is a treasure chest of information. Lavishly illustrated with pictures of old houses, portraits and paintings (some of which now belong to English museums), crafts and objects d’art, this Marg publication is a collector’s item.