INTACH Founder's Day

INTACH Founder’s Day, 27th January this year was the best of times for INTACH Staff - who on occasions keep the Central Office going under the worst of pressures! The programme was thoughtfully drawn up just to remind them that it is not always about work only. They are an integral part of the office whose services are valued as they facilitate the day-to-day work of key Divisions at Central Office.

INTACH Staff on a Heritage Walk

INTACH Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting at INTACH Central Office was held on Saturday 26th March, the last Saturday of the March - as is the established precedent during the last few years.

Chairman LK Gupta welcomed INTACH Members and staff, thanking them for making the institution a “joyful experience”. For him personally it had also been “a year of challenges, a year of learning to harness the best possible talent to sustain our network....

Our membership and Convenors are ageing and we need to attract younger lot of enthusiasts and crusaders, the kind when we started in 1984”. said during his regular visits to Chapters the younger faces are outnumbered by the older ones, and that Convenors often complain about the lack of engagement in Members of the Chapter. “This is something we all have to think about. I think the Annual Meeting like today is the best place to mull over and throw open issues for debate to arrive at a way forward”.

The Chairman congratulated the Chapters on the great deal of good work he had seen during his visits. “There is a discerning

Continued on page 4

Viewpoint:

Protecting the Unprotected - INTACH’s Mission Revisited

- Ashis Banerjee, Advisor, INTACH

I left INTACH at the end of March 2001 at the end of my term as Member Secretary and returned in mid April 2010 as Advisor. In those nine years I had negligible contact with the organization. So my return has given me an interesting opportunity to review the progress of an institution with which I had been closely affiliated. Among the many things that I have noticed I will highlight two that are important from the perspective of this article.

The first is that the Chapters network has grown and become more robust. INTACH has been lucky to find imaginative and
the complexities of heritage conservation work.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the talk by Laila Tyabji on the activities of Dastakar, the fountainhead of crafts and arts promotion. It gave birth to the concept of the Dilli Haat, that has spread to more venues in Delhi and many other cities.

Young INTACH Heritage Club Members were not forgotten. HECS organized a student programme where they recited poems and sang to their hearts’ content.

Once all the visitors were gone, it was once again time for the Staff to have some fun and games. They bandied themselves into two teams – Dharovar and Virasat – to compete in a quiz competition conducted on topics related to heritage and INTACH. While everyone received a memento, the winning team members from Dharovar were awarded gifts from the INTACH Heritage Shop.

A landmark day of high spirits concluded appropriately with a high tea.
committed Convenors in the Chapters who have broken new ground. Credit for much of this must go to our present Chairman, Maj. Gen. Gupta who as the Head of the Chapters Division, used the enhanced resources available to Chapters in a most efficient manner for many years.

The second is the steady stream of publications that took place in those years, many of them based on conferences held on different subjects. Credit for this outreach through publications goes to Shri S. K. Misra, the former Chairman of INTACH. These publications help us to provide continuity to INTACH’s ideas and open them to debate and improvement.

Among the publications that are uppermost in my mind are Care for National Policy for Heritage Conservation and Management (2002), Heritage and Urban Renewal (2009), INTACH Vision 2020 (2005), Heritage Conservation and Urban Development (2005). I also have in mind Shyam Chainani’s Heritage and Environment: An Indian Diary (2007) and a recent issue of the journal Context (Vol VII, Issue 2 Autumn/ Winter 2010) published by DRONAH which is a special issue on JNNURM.

The reason I mention these publications is that they all bring into focus the field of conserving India’s ‘unprotected heritage’. It is pertinent to note in this context that efforts made at the level of Chapters, the continuous efforts at upgrading and adding to listing of heritage properties and the work of generating awareness through seminars and conferences has brought recognition to INTACH all over the country and abroad. And yet there is this feeling that INTACH has not really been able to deliver enough on its most important goal of bringing under a regime of protecting the ‘unprotected’ heritage of India. What we mean by ‘unprotected’ is that part of our heritage that does not come under the protection of law. Most INTACH members are aware that roughly 9000 heritage properties are protected under law by the ASI and the State Archaeology Departments. Some more properties are protected under local regulations in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani and a few other places.

Thus, INTACH’s mission to establish a system of protection for the unprotected heritage has remained largely unaddressed.

I would like to draw the reader’s attention to the broad framework for the protection of built heritage (protected and unprotected) that has emerged in the country. Given below are very brief references to the framework:

The AMASR (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains) Act (Amended 2010) which takes special note of the need to enforce a legal regime on the 100 meters of prohibited and 200 meters of regulated area around a national monument. It provides for surveys, the adoption of by-laws, monument by monument, and the setting up of an umpire body called the National Monument Authority. In historic areas, the buffer zone around the protected site may contain privately owned heritage properties which would therefore be impacted by the new amendment.

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities that seeks to identify and record a larger number of monuments and antiquities than presently protected.

The Heritage Commission (Bill) that will seek to encompass the UNESCO World Heritage Charter to which India is a signatory. The Commission will look at both tangible and intangible built and natural heritage and create a Register of Heritage. The definition of heritage has been expanded here moving beyond monuments to mixed cultural and natural heritage sites and cultural landscapes in concord with UNESCO’s definitions. This drastically expands the range of heritage that will be governed by national policies and regulations.

A Committee has been convened by the ASI to evolve a National Policy for Conservation and its first meeting was held on 24th March 2011.

The State Archaeology Acts that are modeled on the older version of the National Act.

Heritage Regulations (originally drafted by Shyam Chainani and circulated to all States by the Ministry of Environment and Forests) that have been adopted by a few local bodies and have been available to other local bodies for over ten years.

Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites in India adopted at the INTACH National Convention, November 4, 2004, also referred to as the INTACH Charter.

As time passes we will probably have more laws, regulations and charters to define emerging frameworks. The question that INTACH as a whole, and perhaps the entire conservation community, will need to discuss is whether after all efforts we are moving ahead fast enough to protect the heritage, particularly the ‘unprotected heritage’ before it disappears under pressure of renewal and development. Where are the roadblocks?
Perhaps we have not done as much listing as we could have, especially in non-urban areas. Perhaps we have not been able to persuade local bodies and urban development departments that there needs to be a regulatory and enabling framework for the ‘unprotected’ heritage to be preserved. Perhaps we have not been able to reach out to the owners of ‘unprotected’ heritage properties and convince them of the need to preserve. Perhaps we have not tried to understand their problems sufficiently.

Even if we could persuade the owners they will still need technical advice, they will need incentives and they will still need the resources. I feel that we need to think these issues through at a micro level as we continue to campaign at other levels.

In the meanwhile INTACH can focus intensively on ‘unprotected’ heritage buildings that are in public ownership, build partnerships with Municipal Corporations, Town Planning Departments, with the Public Works Departments and such agencies that have a bearing on the unprotected heritage. We at INTACH will have to take a strong interest in the work of the National Mission on Monuments, the Heritage Commission (once it is constituted) and the Committee for National Policy on Conservation because their deliberation have a direct impact on INTACH’s mandate for the ‘unprotected’ heritage. It has to be borne in mind that no amount of funds that INTACH can generate will be able to address the ‘unprotected’ heritage unless the Government at several levels helps legally and materially.

The other area that INTACH could strengthen is partnership with the State Archaeology Departments. Today these departments have the financial resources but not the necessary expertise to attend to all their properties. It should be part of INTACH’s mandate to step in and provide that expertise at the State level.

I will conclude by suggesting that we revisit some of our own vision statements and see how we can fulfill them. We should look out for the initiatives that are emerging at the level of the national Government and engage with them. We should work as partners at the State level. And we must review whether our efforts at conserving the unprotected have been sufficiently comprehensive.

Members of INTACH (as well as those who are not yet Members!) are invited to take this discussion forward by writing to us or emailing us at advintach@intach.org

Annual General Meeting... Continued from page 1

Chairman complimented some of the stalwarts of INTACH who left INTACH during the last year like Shri Martand Singh who had been a driving force of the organization since its inception in 1984; former DG ICCI.

Chairman invited all Members to help spread the heritage conservation message, to create awareness amongst people, encourage others including Corporates to actively participate in INTACH activities. He said it is important that civil society does not wait for government initiatives but adopts Gandhiji’s inspirational approach ‘Be the change you want to see’.

A two minute silence was observed in memory of many Members who passed away during the year 2010-11 : Founder Members Sriraj Meghray and Shyam Chainani (Mumbai); Life Members DB Tonde (Cuttack), Shri. M. Srimululu (Mahabubnagar), Dr. Mahesh Kumar Mishra (Datia), VC Josef (Cochin), SP Mehra (Kanpur), Smt. Inderjit Khurana (Bhubaneswar), Rajkumari Karuna Mahtab (Burdwan), Shri Arjun Singh (Delhi); and Ordinary Member Bidhu Bhushan Choudhary (Santiniketan).
The Architecture Heritage Division and the Heritage Education and Communication Service heads made presentations on the major on-going projects and programmes of INTACH to the gathering.

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta invited proposals from Convenors, as in her capacity as Chair, CII Committee on Heritage she could explore the possibilities of funding for them. She advised that it was important to structure their proposals from the corporate point of view in order to ‘sell’ the idea successfully as funding is an uphill task. She said listing and mapping the cultural landscape were core areas to lock into Government priorities. Convenors should try to also tap the sense of social responsibility that is awakening among Corporates.

Financial Controller Jagdish Chandra announced the results of the General Election to the Governing Council, and declared the following as elected (in order of number of votes secured):

**Founder Member Category**: Shri Krishen Khanna.

(Only 3 nominations received and elected unopposed)

**Life Member Category**: 
- Prof. A.G.K. Menon
- Dr. O.P. Agrawal
- Ms. Tasneem Mehta
- Shri Ashok Singh Thakur
- Ms. Komal Anand
- Shri Lalit Surjan
- Shri V.K. Kapur
- Ms. Nandita Lahiri
- Ms. Kamakshi
- Dr. Shobita Punja

**Ordinary Members Category**: 
- Shri Ashok Singh Thakur
- Ms. Komal Anand
- Shri Lalit Surjan
- Shri V.K. Kapur
- Ms. Nandita Lahiri
- Ms. Kamakshi
- Dr. Shobita Punja

The Annual General Meeting is a very special occasion as it provides Members a forum for Members to express their views, and seek clarification on some issues that have caught their attention. There was thus the usual decibel of voices participating in the Q&A exchanges before the conclusion of the AGM.

The Lunch that followed gave attending Members another opportunity to get to know the staff and officers of INTACH.

INTACH (UK) Trust Meeting

Chairman LK Gupta attended the meeting of the INTACH (UK) Trust from 3rd.-5th March in his capacity as Interim Chairman after the resignation of Shri Martand Singh, as approved by INTACH Executive Committee. In London he met three of the retiring INTACH (UK) Trustees to discuss prospective names of new Trustees that had to be appointed. He also interacted with the Trust’s Fund Manager.

It may be recalled that the Charles William Wallace Memorial Society registered in 1982 transferred the bequest to INTACH after its registration under the Indian Societies Registration Act in 1984. The bequest was for charitable purposes namely, advancement of education, humanities, science, technology, arts and crafts; and part of the funds were to be utilized for scholarship awards in its country to the nationals of another country. The Governing Council of INTACH decided to establish a separate charitable trust in the United Kingdom to administer the bequest of £1.28 million in accordance with the objectives outlined in the INTACH Memorandum, for which Smt Pupul Jayakar obtained necessary permission of the Government of India.

Chairman LK Gupta has now been confirmed as Chairman INTACH (UK) Trust by the INTACH Executive Committee for a two-year period at the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 24th March. Another new Member is Dr. Farhan Nizami, Founder-Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. Ms. Deborah Swallow was re-nominated; Shri Druv Sahani and Dr. David Mcgregor will continue as Members till the expiry of their terms.

During his visit to London, Chairman had a meeting with the Convenor of UK Chapter Lalitha Mallya. Discussions centered around establishing greater credibility of the Chapter, and new programmes that could be initiated to enhance its UK presence.
SATTE-INTACH Heritage Tourism Awards

This year there were five recipients of the SATTE-INTACH Heritage Tourism Award, three of whom are INTACH Convenors:

**Dr. Sethuraman Suresh, State Convenor, Tamil Nadu Chapter**

For his inspiring work on Historical Tours for Heritage Circuits. Each of his tours is based on intensive library and field research, focusing on history or art with the sightseeing, craft demonstration and even the cuisine revolving around themes like the Chola Tour, Roman Tour, etc.

**Prof. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convenor Warangal Chapter**

For his inspiring work on promotion of Kakatiya Heritage awareness through joint efforts with students, citizens and stake holders. Tourism promotion activity launched by him at four Kakatiya monuments – Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal Fort, Ramappa Temple, Ganapur Temple complex create local employment opportunities.

**Shri Mukund Bhogale, Convenor Aurangabad Chapter**

For his outstanding work in listing and documentation of some cities of Maharashtra like Aurangabad, Nanded, Amravati, Solapur, Wai, and Satara. Conservation of Aurangabad’s historical gates water and distribution system (Nahars) created greater public awareness of heritage, including young school students’.

The other two recipients: Mr. Steve Borgia, Chairman & MD Indeco Leisure Hotels Pvt.Ltd, the only Indian Hotel Group to win the distinguished Global Eco Tourism Award; and Shri Vijayanath Shenoy for his innovative work for the Hasta Shilpa Heritage Village that restores and documents rural crafts.

**Chairman Visits Chapters**

During this quarter, Chairman INTACH Maj.Gen. LK Gupta visited Jabalpur on 3rd-5th February, Kollam on 16th-17th February, and Varanasi from 22nd-27th February.

At Jabalpur, Chairman met INTACH patron Commissioner Prabhat Parashar. A two-volume listing has been completed in collaboration with the Bhopal Chapter. It was the initiative of INTACH that led to the ban on excavation activities at Tripuri, the earliest site of the city. Traces of human settlement have been found at Jabalpur antiquated to the Stone Age. The areas around Hathiagarh mound precisely demarcated by ASI is to be notified shortly. The Chapter took timely action to safeguard the Manasa Devi sculpture by filing a FIR against vested interests trying to build a temple on the site. An equally successful effort led to the ban on quarssing at Bheraghat, Madan Mahal Hills and Lametaghat. At Katni quarrying is banned around the painted rock shelters of prehistoric times. In collaboration with the Forest Department, steps have been initiated to stop illegal felling of trees in the dense forests of Kundam and Sihora tehsils.


At Kollam, Chairman met the Kerala Convenors at the meeting organized by State Convenor KJ Sohan and Kollam Convenor Prof. Eugene on the evening of 16th February to review work and activities in progress at the various Chapters.

The following day on 17th February the Chapter organized a Regional Seminar on Heritage Resource Centric Sustainable Eco Development: Challenges and Responses with Chairman INTACH LK Gupta as the Chief Guest. Co-sponsored by General Convenor Viswanathan of the local Agricultural, Horticultural and Zoological Society,
the Mayor Ms. Prasanna Earnest inaugurated the Seminar that had been conceptualized by Principal Advisor NHD SK Verma. The latter made two important presentations to outline the priorities of eco-tourism. Advisor cum Chapters Head Ashis Banerjee chaired one of the sessions and made a presentation on Natural Heritage Resources-Integrated Heritage Tourism that is particularly relevant for Kerala. The Convenors and Co-Convenors from Cochin, Kollam, Kasargode, Kozikode and Thiruvantapuram participated, with citizens and students attending in large numbers.

At Varanasi, Chairman had extensive discussions with Convenor Usha Kohli and Members regarding initiatives to be taken by the Chapter for cleaning up the Ganga. It is a herculean task that has been lingering for many years at the hands of different agencies. It is clear that it can only be facilitated with extensive partnership arrangements and Government funding, without which the Ghats cannot be considered for inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage Site listing.

Chairman had a meeting with the Varanasi Development Authority. He is of the view that a guide map should be developed for the Vishvanath Temple. The site of Chunnar quarry from where material originated for erection of the Ashokan Pillar featured in the general discussions on Varanasi, the eternal city. A Sub-Chapter was mooted to be set up at Sohan Bhadra which has a 1400 years old tree at Fossil Park in Salkhan Village. Researchers from America, Europe and other countries have visited these priceless fossils called Elgi fossils that might tell the story of earth’s creation, but currently lie in a shattered state. The Park is three times the size of the Yellowstone Park in USA that earns thousands of dollars!

Review of Divisions

Review Meetings of each Division periodically has been instituted. It will be a continuous process whereby assessments of current projects/programmes are undertaken and new perspectives are formulated for cohesive action by the Divisions.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee chaired by former MS N. Mohanty met on 21st February. The budget for the financial year 2011-12 was approved. The Committee also advises on investments of INTACH funds.

Dear Members,

We are updating Email Id’s at the Central Office. Kindly send us your Email Id with any changes to be effected so that the data-bank can be updated.

Information with your Name and the Membership Number may please be addressed to chapters_intach@yahoo.co.in attention Ms Payal Joshi.

Also Join us on Facebook by logging on to INTACH website www.intach.org

Dear Convenor/Co-Convenors,

You are kindly requested to keep in mind that Virasat is a quarterly newsletter, and information that falls only within the stipulated quarterly period i.e. Jan-March, April-June, July-Sept., and Oct.-Dec. must reach by 25th of the closing month of that quarter. Information pertaining to previous months has to be omitted sometimes most regrettably due to space constraints if reported at a later date. There will be no grounds for complaint if Chapters ensure that information is posted latest by the 15th of March/June/September/December i.e. the closing month of the given quarter. Preferably with photographs and not B&W press clippings which do not reproduce clearly.

Thanking you – Editor.
Andhra Pradesh

Anantapur

“Indian Culture and Heritage” was the subject of an essay and an elocution competition held in English and Telugu for different class groups on 23rd January. Nearly 400 students from 20 different schools enthusiastically participated in the event organized by Chapter Members Lanka Prasad, Sri Srinath, Sri Nabirasool, Ravindra Reddy, Ramesh Narayana, Sri Subramanyam, Sri Muralikrishna hand Co-Convenors NR Chandrahas Reddy and Sri Ramkumar. Chief Guest All India Radio Station Master RV Rammurthy distributed prizes during the celebrations on INTACH Founder’s Day, 27th January. Personality Development Trainer K.Krishna was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Folk songs by NSS students from SSBN College and classical dance by A.Supraja were the highlights of the cultural evening in conclusion.

On 6th March the Chapter conducted a programme Mana Samskruthi highlighting the traditional customs including Telugu poems, kavithalu, folk songs and dances. It attracted considerable media coverage. All participants came dressed in traditional Andhra dhoti jubba for men and saree or voni for women. Five eminent Telugu poets were honoured on the occasion.

Kadapa

The Chapter celebrated New Year with greetings from District Collector Shashi Bhushan at his bungalow, and a visit by noted Bangalore industrialist Srinivasa Rao. On 12th January, National Youth Day the Collector...
presided over the meeting and cultural programme for youth who came in a procession. With equal enthusiasm nearly 500 students participated in a second procession on 27th January via heritage monuments to celebrate INTACH Founder’s Day. It concluded with a meeting at Kalakshetram attended by nearly 1000 people. The Chief Guest Prof. Ramachandra Reddy, Vice Chancellor of Yogi Vemana University administered the INTACH pledge, with a public appeal to value and preserve heritage structures. Participants of the elocution, quiz, essay, painting, cricket and music competitions were awarded prizes.

Another event that attracted popular attention was the sizeable photo exhibition during the All India History Seminar held at Yogi Vemana University. The documentation of Kadapa Heritage has been assigned to senior faculty members of the University Prof. Dr. Sambasivareddy and Prof. Dr. V. Ramabrahmam, and journalist Pavan Kumar by the Collector.

Convenor S. Sitharamaiah, Co-Convenor Janakiram and Senior Member Elias Reddy received Director of Archaeology Prof. Chenna Reddy, and it Deputy Director Siva Nagireddy, and Asst. Director Museums Sri Ramana at the INTACH office on 4th February, and accompanied them on a visit to the Minars of Kadapa Nawabs. The site is highly endangered by heavy vibrations caused by generators installed by the Telephone Department. The matter was promptly brought to the attention of the District Collector.

In recognition of the excellent work of the Chapter, the Convenor S. Sitharamaiah was appointed as one of the State Consultative Members. The other two INTACH representatives on the Consultative Committee are the worthy Convenors of Warangal and Srikakulam.

The District Chapter in coordination with the Taj Youth Welfare Association (TYWA) conducted an awareness programme at NR Peta on 25th January, National Tourism Day attracting a large gathering of young and old people. Industrialist TG Bharat was the Chief Guest at the event presided by TWA President Shaik Chand Basha. A Heritage & Historical Photo Exhibition arranged by the Chapter was a major attraction.

Certificates were distributed to women trained under the nine months Tailoring & Embroidery Programme. Mimicry artiste Anjan Babu was felicitated.

On 27th January, INTACH Founder’s Day, Life Members gathered at the District Tourist Office to finalise the representation to be addressed to the District Collector for providing a black top (BT) Road around the Konda Reddy Fort. The Chapter proposes to adopt one village in

**Kurnool**

The District Chapter in coordination with the Taj Youth Welfare Association (TYWA) conducted an awareness programme at NR Peta on 25th January, National Tourism Day attracting a large gathering of young and old people. Industrialist TG Bharat was the Chief Guest at the event presided by TWA President Shaik Chand Basha. A Heritage & Historical Photo Exhibition arranged by the Chapter was a major attraction.

Certificates were distributed to women trained under the nine months Tailoring & Embroidery Programme. Mimicry artiste Anjan Babu was felicitated.

On 27th January, INTACH Founder’s Day, Life Members gathered at the District Tourist Office to finalise the representation to be addressed to the District Collector for providing a black top (BT) Road around the Konda Reddy Fort. The Chapter proposes to adopt one village in
each of the three Divisions of Kurnool District i.e. Kurnool, Namdyal and Adoni where heritage awareness and rural tourism programmes will be conducted specially for students and teachers.

Representation has been made to the Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Minister TG Venkatesh Garu to flood light the Konda Reddy Fort and to construct a flood protection barrier around the Tungabhaddra River. Meanwhile documentation of heritage sites, trees, monuments and temples has been taken up by a team headed by Convenor B.Venkateswarlu and Co-Convenor Osman Haroon.

**Srikakulam**

The Chapter conducted a training programme for documentation of manuscripts on 11th February, in association with the National Mission of Manuscripts (NMMA) that was coordinated by its Director Prof. S.Subrahmanyam and presided by the State Coordinator. Ten candidates from Orissa and six from Andhra Pradesh were trained in documentation procedures, and learnt about various types of manuscripts, languages and their classification. The resource persons were AP Press Academy member Nalli Dharmarao, Dy.Inspector of Schools Oriya Mahesh Chandra Samant, and Dy.Director Manuscripts Library of Hyderabad Sri Subrahmanyeshwararao. At a public meeting Prof. S.Sreepada Rao appealed to all sections of society to cooperate in the National Mission. The noted scholar of manuscript, Secretary of Upanishanmandiram was honoured on the occasion.

A.P. Secretary Tourism Jayesh Ranjan appointed Convenor Dharma Rao Dusi as the district coordinator for documentation of monuments and antiquities of Srikakulam District, and final consolidation of the work. *Mandal* level grass root committees comprising *mandal* education officers, *tehasildars* and senior journalists were formed with the Collector as Chairman as per guidelines issued by the NMMA State Coordinator KV Rao.

**Warangal**

Convenor Pandu Ranga Rao was nominated as one of nine member Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of Indian Digital Heritage (IDH), Hampi for a three years term. The PAC will monitor, suggest mid course corrections and advise best course actions for the success of the IDH-Hampi project, a research and development programme initiated by the Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS) Division, Gol Department of Science & Technology.

Prof. Pandu Ranga Rao prepared a brochure for the seminar on *History, Engineering and Architecture of Kakatiyas* - one of his sustained efforts to stimulate public interest in Kakatiya heritage.

**Assam**

Rampant and illegal felling of valuable old trees in Assam has been hitting the headlines recently. Considering the rich bio-diversity of the State, the Chapter’s efforts in tracing valuable old trees like the 300 year old Banyan and *Bakul* (*Rendia Ulzinsa*) at Mayong in Morigaon district and Majuli in Jorhat district are of great significance. There is also a 700 year old historic *Bakhar Bengena* tree at Bakata in Sivasagar district. It is estimated that there are over a 1000 century-old trees in Assam that are neither recognized nor thriving, and the Chapter hopes to take full responsibility for their preservation. Several experts and botanists like Saranga Ranjan Patagiri appreciated this ‘green launch’ by INTACH that targets Kamrup, Kamrup Metro, Jorhat, Morigaon and Lakhimpur districts. It would go a long way in saving the State’s bio-diversity as over 40,000 trees had already been destroyed in the name of construction of the four-lane East-West Corridor in Assam without undertaking any replantation, according to Shri Patagiri.

INTACH documentation will cover every aspect of the trees including origin, historical background, botanical characteristics, beliefs, legends and temples associated with them. Convenor Dinesh Baishya expects once the heritage tag is accorded to such valuable trees, the
Forest Department and Municipal bodies could be held responsible for their maintenance and preservation. The Chapter is congratulated for taking up the Listing and Documentation of Natural Heritage Sites and Heritage Trees in great earnest.

**Bihar**

**Patna**

The Chapter organized a meeting on 27th January, INTACH Founder’s Day at the Government Ayurvedic College campus, Kadamkuan. Its Principal Dr. (Smt) Indu Mishra welcomed the large gathering of students, faculty and public, apart from INTACH Members. Convenor Prem Sharan addressed the audience highlighting the aims, objectives, achievements and future programmes of INTACH. Prof. Dr. OP Jaiswal, former head of Ancient History Department, delivered a talk on Heritage and Ayurveda lucidly describing the evolution of Ayurveda from Vedic times and recalling the contributions of Jeevak, Charak, Shushrut, and others was followed by an interactive session with the students. Co-Convenor of Patna Chapter Dr.DM Singh who is also Superintendent of Government Ayurvedic College Hospital proposed the vote of thanks.

**Delhi**

**Metro and Heritage**

The Chapter targeted people commuting on Metros by installing a total of 63 interpretative signages at major Metro stations, reminding them of the city’s rich cultural heritage in their midst. Two lines colourfully depict the nearest heritage sites along with historical texts in Hindi and English at eye-catching locations on 4x8 sunboard panels give information of the distance from the station to the sight for the convenience of prospective visitors.

At present there are 42 panels at 12 stations on the busy Yellow Line: Central Secretariat, Udyog Bhawan, Race Course, Jorbagh, INA Market, All India Medical Institute, Green Park, Hauz Khas, Malviya Nagar, Saket, Qutub Minar and Chattarpur stations - with signages of the Raisina Hill complex, India Gate and its environs, Lodi Garden, Safdarjang’s Tomb, Darya Khan Lohani’s tomb, Masjid Moth, Hauz Khas complex and buildings around it, Jahanpanah with Lal Gumbad, Bijay Mandal, Siri Fort, Khirki Masjid, Satpula, Begampuri Masjid, Qila Rai Pithora, Qutub complex, and the Mehrauli Archeological Park. At certain stations a composite panel depicting Delhi’s three World Heritage Sites has also been installed.

Khan Market, JLN Stadium, Jangpura, Lajpat Nagar, Nehru Place, Kalkaji, Jasola, Sarita Vihar, Tughlaqabad and Badarpur stations on the Violet Line have 21 signages of heritage sites, including Lodi Garden, Purana Qila, Nizamuddin Dargah, Humayun’s Tomb, Khan-i-Khana’s Tomb, Bahai House of Worship, Kos Minars, Tughlaqabad Fort and Badarpur Sarai.

The project was the brainchild of INTACH Member Ranjit Mathur, a retired railway officer. Historian Swapna Liddle immediately offered to help and contributed pictures and material for the texts; with Consultant and Heritage
Interpreters Anjali Bhartari providing the content and design. This small team worked in close co-ordination with INTACH and METRO authorities on the placement of the signages that have so delightfully brightened up the stations. For the Delhi Chapter it was a rewarding opportunity to showcase Delhi’s rich heritage. This major enterprise supported by Delhi Metro which funded it will go a long way in sensitizing Delhites to value their heritage.

**Another Facet of Delhi**

It was the attempted assassination of Viceroy Lord Harding in 1912 that introduced “security” to what was essentially a provincial town of Delhi. In keeping with its new found status as the imperial capital, a small police post with 2 head constables and 9 foot constables was set up when construction started at Raisina Hills. Additions were made when the Viceroy’s House (Rashtrapati Bhawan) and the Secretariats came up. Cars and trucks steadily rose in numbers which caused by a few cars but many more tongas, bullock carts, horse drawn carriages, palanquins, and the large number of beasts of burden and pedestrians. The situation worsened especially when princely India representatives arrived in a cavalcade of fancy cars to attend the annual session of the Chamber of Princes. While in 1924 constables used muskets, by 1937 there was demand for .303 bore rifles with magazine, and the Viceroy’s House got .455 bore revolvers. Other VIPs wanted their share of protection and status symbols like amlets for their drivers to pass without being stopped or a small blue flag with a red dot. The status symbols have steadily progressed. A 100 years later we have red beacon cars, moved from musket to A-47, but today hardly any letters are sent to the Commissioner for better traffic management to keep up with the changed times and traffic!

Incidentally, the New Capital Committee set up in 1926 passed a resolution warning people against the practice of spitting on walls and staircase of buildings and delicately failed to mention the unmentionable. The capital of New Delhi is 100 years old this year – perhaps the characteristics of the people are too deeply ingrained?

**A Heritage Walk in Lodhi Gardens was organised on 5th January for the 14-member group of experts from the Belgium Chapter. Following a presentation by the Chapter, there was an interactive session with INTACH Divisional Heads which gave them a perspective of the multiple fields of heritage conservation and projects undertaken by INTACH.**

The Indian Express under its Schools Initiative took students of Ramjas School to Feroz Shah Kotla on heritage walk. INTACH guide service briefed them on interesting facts and incidents concerning various Muslim rulers that brought history alive more than text books do. As one student remarked “This walk was a great experience for me, because it totally changed my narrow perspective about history and monuments”.

**Condolences**

Life Member Triloki Nath Saraf passed away on 10th January. An avid reader of Virasat he took an interest in INTACH activities even at the age of 90 years old. We send our heartfelt condolences to his son Rakesh Saraf and other members of the family on the loss of their dear one. And our good wishes for the future.

**Haryana**

State Convenor Shikha Jain awaits a response from the Chief Minister to make a presentation on the proposed Freedom Fighters Museum. A NMMA SLIC Meeting was held on 4th March at the Secretariat, Chandigarh under the chairmanship of PS, Archaeology and Museums. It is proposed to develop 3 new heritage museums at Ambala, Farrukhanagar and Narnaul in coordination with their respective Convenors. Convenor Sudhir Bhargava reported that he is actively pursuing conservation works at Solah Rahi, Rewari with the new District Collector. Convenor Ratan Lal Saini informed that the Mohindergarh Chapter is extending support to the local authorities in organizing workshops at Birbal ka Chattra.

**Ambala**

The Special Issue on Ambala published recently by the Haryana Chapter does full justice to the Chapter that has made a significant impact on the people since 1985. Historically known as Umbala, it was the abode of the Aryans in 3000-2000 BC, fell into the hands of successive invading armies who plundered the lands en route to Delhi. In more recent times Ambala played a significant role in Freedom Fighters Movement. Now it is a different kind of march forward - creating awareness and pride in all its historic heritage among the public, especially among school children. The Chapter is also active in
listing its rich legacy of the ages. It is proposed to revive
the lost art of durrie making and phulkari dupattas for
which Ambala was once famous. As the District Convenor
Brig. GS Lamba puts it “We have of course miles to go and
heights to climb”.

INTACH Founder’s Day was marked with a on-the-
spot painting competition. Listing of 6 sites has been
completed to date. With the restoration of main work at
Rani ki Chhatri complete, the monument is out of danger.

Gurgaon-Mewat

The Chapter’s call to participate in a Living Run on 5th
February was very inviting. Generously supported by a
number of well known organizations, the invitation on the
website read : “Do you know where Guru Dronacharaya’s
Ashram is in Gurgaon? Learn about several heritage sites
in Gurgaon and what we can do to preserve them…. Come
and run to preserve our Heritage – parents, students and
teachers – the more the merrier.” The response as expected
was more than enthusiastic. The registration was free.
The start and finish was at Leisure Valley in Sector 29, at a
huge national flag. And participants could choose to run
5, 10 or 15 kms according to their own pace.

Jammu & Kashmir

Convenor SM Sahni reports on a workshop organized
by the Jammu Chapter on INTACH Founder’s Day, 27th
January at Amar Mahal. It was attended by State Convenor
Saleem Beg, former DG Archives, former Development
Commissioner of Town Planning, Director Horticulture
and eminent members of civil society, research scholars
and educationists. While the focus was on Amar Mahal
and its components like the staff houses, swimming
pool, gate house, etc., other heritage buildings like

Faridabad

400 years old Navrang Rai Sarovar, where Vaman Dwadshi Mela is held
during Dassera

Holy Redeemer Church, first church built in 1848 when the
British moved to Ambala
Hari Niwas, Ranbir Mahal and Karan Mahal were also discussed highlighting the importance of Cultural Resource Mapping. Captain Diwan Singh, former ADC to the erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh briefed the participants on the background of historical buildings. It was emphasized that help of scholars from Jammu University will be sought to complete the mapping at the earliest. It was also decided that any structure of architectural value which is about 50 years old would be mapped besides other heritage buildings within the stipulated time.

The workshop was widely reported in the print and electronic Media and enhanced public awareness of heritage awareness programmes undertaken by the J&K Chapter.

**Jharkhand**

**Hazaribagh**

The Tribal Women’s Collective (TWAC) is preparing an exhibition *A Disappearing World* to be held at the Brunei Gallery in London commencing 14th April, under the aegis of Jharkhand Chapter. There will be seminars on art, ancestry and tribal identity; their displacement and growing resistance against mining, etc. about which Convenor Bulu Imam will be reporting in due course.

**Karnataka**

**Anegundi**

Convenor Shama Pawar informs that a new Village Tourism Committee with Grampanchayat President and 3 GP Members and community representatives are actively involved in different areas of rural tourism projects in Anegundi. It is proposed to setup *Anegundi Santhe* to showcase the local culture, craft and food. Soft adventures and children’s workshops are a part of the concept to develop village tourism and make it a destination for family holidays.

**Bijapur**

Convenor Dr. Krishna Kolharkulkarni organized a unique City Guide Training Programme for 25 auto drivers and tongawalas on 29th-30th January. The inaugural function, inaugurated by Shri Jirgal CPI, was both well attended and interesting. President of the Auto Drivers Union Ashok Rathod presided over the proceedings. Dr. HF Yogappanavar gave several examples and his own experiences with drivers, urging them to take care of both their personal health and their public behaviour. Dr. Sheelakant Pattar gave a vivid picture of Bijapur culture; while History Professor Dr. Shekhdar spoke about the history of Adilshahis of Bijapur. Dr. VM Bagayat made a presentation on the art and culture of the Adilshahis. Vithal Tankasali explained details of city monuments with a power point presentation that aroused considerable interest. The word spread on the second day with about 50 more auto drivers arrived wanting to be included, but they could only be accommodated in a repeat programme sometime later. On the second day the drivers were taken by a hired bus around the city to visit about 30 monuments along with a trained guide who briefed them on how to interpret them to tourists. Working lunch was provided on both days.

At the certificate awarding function, Deputy Commissioner SS Pattanashetty lauded the success of this programme. He recommended that the Administration, Tourism and Archaeology Departments should join hands with INTACH to educate many more auto and tonga drivers, often the first point of contact for tourists, so that they act as Bijapur’s cultural ambassadors.

Hundreds of students from BLDEA Women’s College participated in the Heritage Walk organized jointly with the Arya Trust and the Heritage Club of BLDE SB Arts and KCP Science College. It was flagged off from the Siddeshwar Temple by Deputy Commissioner SS Pattanshetty who walked with them part of the way. President of the Arya Trust, historian Dr.HG Daddi explained the importance of the monuments en route like the Sikander Shah Tomb, Barakaman, Asar Mahal, Karimuddin and Mecca Mosques before conclusion of the walk at Gagan Mahal. He said...
“Bijapur district is blessed with hundreds of rare monuments built by Adil Shahi kings. It is every citizen’s primary duty to protect and preserve these historical sites, which represent the grand cultural heritage of this nation. It will be impossible to reconstruct such imposing buildings, if we lose them now. Therefore, students must pledge to save this precious cultural property”. Speaking about the encroachment of monuments in the city, Suptd. of Police DC Rajappa said he would discuss issues and measures to be taken against violations with the DC to facilitate tourist entry.

Madhya Pradesh

For Attention of all Convenors

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has come out with a new progressive Tourism Policy. It constituted a State Level Tourism Development Committee, in order to ensure stakeholders’ participation and to tap the vast experience of the travel fraternity. This Committee, chaired by the Chief Minister, is expected to provide vision, leadership and convergence.

INTACH was invited to nominate a senior representative as one of the Members. Madhya Pradesh Chapters may please take note of this new development. It sets a precedent that can be effectively cited by INTACH Chapters in other States when an opportunity presents itself.

Burhanpur

Co-Convenor Hoshang Sorabji Hawaldar assisted a UNESCO team that surveyed the historical sites of Burhanpur. Convenor Maj (Dr.) MK Gupta is taking a keen interest in the Lost Garden of Khajuraho and attended the seminar on its heritage plan.

Datia

It is laudable that Chapter Members have been conducting heritage awareness programmes in the rural areas of Datia regularly since the last six months, led by Co-Convenor Vinod K. Mishra. A sizeable number of rural people gathered at the sites for these programmes and ‘discovered’ Ashoka period inscriptions, Kevlari village
of Gupta period, and the wonder of prehistoric rock paintings.

**Gwalior**

After the commendable listing of 400 heritage buildings of Gwalior, Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari ‘Jaisal’ initiated the listing of natural heritage, groves and sacred trees worshipped by the local community. He estimates that there are more than 100 such trees. Local media is fully supportive of this heritage drive. The Chapter was given approval for establishing a wall painting conservation centre in Gwalior, with the Convenor in charge of administrative work, and Senior Conservator Sri Arvind looking after the technical aspects. Moti Mahal has allotted two rooms for this centre where training will also be imparted to budding conservationists.

**Indore**

The Chapter is endeavouring to revive the historical canopies Chhatribagh of the Holkar dynasty constructed in memory of the royal family. It was Maharani Devi Ahilyabai who installed statues of her in-laws, husband and son under divine canopies. The tradition influenced other Maratha rulers of Malwa, Sindhiya and Pawar since 1780 where new architectural configurations were evolved. The canopy of Harirao Holkar is the only one constructed on the banks of river without a boundary wall. The canopies of Subedar Tukojirao-1, Malharrao-11 and Tai Saheb from the architectural point of view look like huge temples constructed on 3 ft. platforms on which human figures, battlefield scenes with wild animals or pictures of gods-goddesses are engraved. INTACH has undertaken the renovation of the entire courtyard of this complex jointly with the Khasgi Trust and the Madhya Pradesh State Archaeology.

The Indore Chapter has also revived the Sanghi Music Festival much to the delight of its music loving citizens.

**Jabalpur**

Chairman LK Gupta held a Chapter Meeting on 3rd-4th February during his visit, after meeting its patron Commissioner Prabhat Parashar. Addressing the gathering he said “Existing education system is completely based on Learn to Earn process, but must include a complete syllabus to make school and college students aware of the values of their native place”. This would encourage future generations to respect their towns and states and contribute to their preservation. He also expressed disappointment over the loss of historic ponds in the city, and the 20 that remained were in a deplorable state. Mayor Prabhat Sahu and Senior Advocate Rajendra Sharma emphasized the historic importance of Jabalpur and appealed to INTACH for support.

Chapter Secretary Prof. RK Sharma announced that an exhibition would be organized under the joint auspices of Gondi Public Trust, Agarwal Sarvaganik Pustakalya and INTACH during Kumbh where rare items like hand written holy epics Geeta, Ramayana and Mahabharat and other ancient manuscripts related to tribal life and traditions, handicrafts of women, and art works of noted artists would be put on display.

An independent website of the Chapter www.intachjabalpur.org has been launched to provide heritage information to enhance public awareness of their cultural assets.

**Khajuraho**

Convenor Geert Robberechts visited Khajuraho along with 12 Members of the Belgium Chapter during his visit to India from 3rd.-19th January. Convenor Brijender Singh escorted the group around the 1100 year old temples with what was described by them as a “crash course in Hinduism and Buddhism with their respective world view and way of life, almost getting himself in trance”. At Rani Bagh, the showpiece of their project, the group was
welcomed by the 81 year old lady owner with drummers. They discovered that local farmers well understood the dynamics of ‘conservation agriculture’ due to the sustained efforts of Navdanya specialist Swatantra Kumar. A widely distributed book in English and Hindi on this subject was written by Johan d’Hulster who visited Khajuraho subsequently.

Mandla
During his tour of Jabalpur, Chairman LK Gupta visited Mandala to inaugurate a new Chapter. Shri Girija Shankar Agrawal was appointed Chapter Convenor, with Shri Ramesh Chandra Pathak as the Co-Convenor. Mandala, located on the banks of River Mahanadi, is a well known tribal district in Madhya Pradesh and even has a tribal museum run by the Gondi Public Trust. At a meeting with the Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Gen. LK Gupta had the opportunity to reiterate the need for uniform laws for both protected and unprotected heritage in Madhya Pradesh. The Mandla Chapter Meeting later in the evening was attended by the Commissioner, the Collector, and the Mayor of Jabalpur.

Mumbai
Convenor Tasneem Mehta participated as faculty at the World Economic Forum on 26th-27th January in her capacity as the Director, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum - indeed a rare opportunity for a representative of INTACH. In the interactive session over dinner entitled The Budding Artist, discussions centred around on how best to support budding young artists to realize their full potential. The following day she took delegates on a Art Walk as curator of the Indian Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Congress Centre.

Maharashtra
Advisor Asish Banerjee attended the Maharashtra Chapters Meeting on 19th March at Mumbai. He was also present at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mumbai Chapter held during his visit to Maharashtra.

Chanderpur
A group of eight Chapter Members visited Sri Lanka 14th-18th February on a conducted tour of the neighbouring country. The visits to Polonurva Dambula, Anuradhapur Sigiriya, Nureliya Candy gave them an opportunity to look at these historical places and experience the culture and lifestyle of the people. At Candy they offered prayers sitting under the Bodhi Tree at the Anuradhpur Stupa, and saw the only tooth of Lord Buddha that has been preserved there. They also visited the capital city of Colombo during this exhilarating tour conducted by Chanderpur Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur and Shivpuri Co-Convenor Neelkamal.

Shivpuri
Convenor Harsh Mittal, Co-Convenor Neel Kamal Maheshwari and Chapter Members visited various heritage buildings and natural heritage sites of Shivpuri.

In 1906 this forested area was declared the summer capital of Gwalior State because of its lush green cool beauty. A 100 years old tree of Mitragyna Parvi Flora Faldu (Kadam) still stands here today in a temple complex, under the tender care INTACH Member Ashok Mohite.
Pune

The 5th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival was held at Pune 13th-21st February with the theme Save Biodiversity, with the active participation of Convenor Aarti Kirloskar and Chairperson Vijay Varma. Vasundhara brings together people and forums on the same platform that the Earth needs our help. It exhorts people to contribute each in their own way towards making a difference in protection of natural heritage, either through activities or through effective communication. Apart from daily nature walks, participants were offered a wide choice of nearly 100 short films and documentaries from 25 countries, cultural programmes, eco-friendly products and photography exhibitions.

The Collegians Green Conference was another important programme of this nine days’ annual fest ably organized by Festival Director Virendra Chitrav and Co-Director Anuj Khare.

The Chapter joined hands with Rotaract Shaniwarwada to organize a treasure hunt starting from its Warsaa heritage shop on 27th February, inviting INTACH friends and family to make the most of an enjoyable Sunday before the summer heat takes over. Different teams of Punekar discovered there was more to their fast growing Pune than its spanking coffee shops and multiplexes while they roamed discovering the Wadas, Peths, Ghats and Gullies lying in neglect at heritage corners of the city – with the help of clues, code words, cryptic messages and symbols. The race ended with prizes distributed by Shri Ninad Bedekar at Vishrambaugwada to those winners who had visited at least 10 locations. The Chapter is heartily congratulated for this original approach to involve people!

Orissa

Bhadrad

A General Body Meeting was held on 25th January chaired by Advisor Dr. Sanatan Mohanty to review activities and assess new suggestions mooted by Members. Heritage sites like Chitanya Mandir at Geltua, Hatakeshjwar Mandir and the Gurudwara at Sangat were identified for special attention. The Sub Committee for Culture and Religious Heritage was requested to include other valuable heritage sites for listing even if they are less than a 100 years old. Convenor Digambar Mohanty informs that a number of Sub-Committees comprising 4-5 Members each have been formed to look after each segment of activity including media relations, literary heritage, public awareness, etc. Each Member has been requested to enroll at least two new Members. Children, parents, local art school and the Media have all become more aware about INTACH and its activities due to the series of drawing and painting competitions and other events on heritage subjects held by the Chapter last year.

Bhubaneswar

Chilka Lake was once the economic centre of Kalinga empire as there were a number of ports located at
the mouth of the rivers flowing into the lake. It is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia. The Chapter headed by Convenor SK Bijayendra Narayan (Japani) is making every effort to coordinate its activities with the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) created by the State Government to document all aspects of tangible and intangible heritage including rural practices and religious activities around Chilka. Last year a seminar had been organized to discuss an action plan identifying the responsibilities of the State Government, the CDU and INTACH.

**Cuttack**

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Gopal Ballav Patnaik released the listing of unprotected monuments of Cuttack city on 27th January at a meeting of the Cuttack Chapter. Convenor PK Misra informs that in the second phase the Chapter proposes to take up the listing of monuments in Choudwar, Cuttack District.

**Sambalpur**

Heritage Week was celebrated by the Chapter in collaboration with the local Kendriya Vidyalaya and the Attabira College in District Bargah. After an interactive session, the students accompanied by their teachers visited the Vimeleswar Siva Temple at Huma where they participated in a heritage walk and a clean up operation of the surroundings.

There seated under a tree Co-Convenor NK Patnaik talked to them about the aims and objectives of INTACH activities, and the importance of heritage conservation. Convenor SSBP Chapter Dr.BB Mishra and Member Dr.DK Padhi elaborated on the architectural and historical importance of the Temple.

**Puducherry**

It may be recalled the Chapter grabbed eyeballs at the Shanghai World Expo with its exhibits on *Asia Urbs Programme*, making INTACH proud of this most successful international collaboration. This Exhibition opened for the Puducherry public from 27th January through February at the local Ashram Exhibition Hall.

**Punjab**

**Kapurthala**

Prof. SS Aujlaa conducted a workshop for a large gathering of INTACH Heritage Club Members at the Kamala Nehru College for Women, Phagwara to mark INTACH’s Founder’s Day. They took an oath to preserve the culture and heritage of the country. The students of the Bawa Lalwani Public School, Kapurthala also celebrated with
equal enthusiasm and gusto. They organized a heritage exhibition. Members of the School Board and special guests were deeply impressed by the layout and efforts of students to recreate Kapurthala heritage. The young people took an oath in the presence their Principal Jaspal Gill and Kapurthala Co-Convenor Sanjiv S. Bawa to uphold on ground what they had created on paper. The Membership drive instituted at both these educational institutions should be successful as the event attracted considerable media coverage.

**Patiala**

The Chapter felicitated students of numerous Patiala Schools at an annual function held at Shivalik Public School on 19th February. Prizes were awarded to the winning participants of various competitions. They listened with rapt attention to the Chief Guest Commissioner Gurinder Singh Grewal’s account of his experiences in preservation of historical buildings. He censured demolition and defacement by religious zealots in the past. State Convenor Prof. Sukhdev Singh gave a detailed account of INTACH work with special reference to Punjab; while Patiala Convenor Advocate Sarbjit Singh Virk exhorted students and citizens to participate in INTACH projects and activities in the city. Former diplomat RS Bhinder as Co-Convenor of the Chapter briefed the Press on the initiatives taken to rejuvenate heritage activities in Patiala.

**Rajasthan**

State Co-Convenor Thakur Ranvir Singh laments the desecration of the ancient Chandrawati civilisation at the foothills of Mt. Abu. For several years idols lay scattered and art dealers sold stolen artifacts in international art bazaars. It was easy pickings for several officials and private collectors as well. At the insistence of INTACH, and the efforts of the Bhilwara MP VP Singh Badnor, the State Government took the initiative to build an art shed on site, but that did not stop the pilferage of several pillars and inlays that continued to disappear. It allotted 198 bigha of land to the Rajasthan Industrial Investment Corporation, allowing industries to come up on the ruins of an ancient civilization. After the visit by an INTACH team, Thakur Ranvir Singh observed “Imagine, a whole city’s magnificent structures were brought down, to source stones for the railway line..... It is no less than a criminal act”.

Chandrawati civilisation first suffered the onslaught of Mohammed Ghazanavi. The second major blow was dealt by Allauddin Khilji, and the third by the British railways. The State Convenor feels it is now “modern day Khiljis” who are the marauders of priceless heritage – even though the authorities are well aware that Rajasthan is a treasure trove of ancient heritage judging from the large tourist inflow each year. Heritage conserved and promoted through tourism brings economic prosperity to the local people. The State Government has taken note of INTACH’s numerous protests and interventions and has initiated steps to stop the rampant vandalism.

**Jaipur**

Convenor Dharmendar Kanwar surveyed the entire length of Jaipur’s City Wall on foot covering 30 kms over a period of four days entrusted to him as one of the members of a committee constituted by Rajasthan High Court headed by Collector Naveen Mahajan. It recommended to the Divisional Commissioner that all
construction within 15 feet of the old city walls shall be curbed. The High Court has already issued notices against illegal construction in the old city, and the people’s hopes for an encroachment free city have revived. According to the INTACH report only 25% of the wall exists, with many illegal encroachments in areas like Nehru Bazaar, Sanjay Bazaar, Chandpole, Brahmmpuri Road, Ghat Gate, etc., and there is total lack of public awareness of their historic origins. Some of the walls have been simply incorporated into houses. A nine member committee has now commissioned a fresh survey to prepare a comprehensive report, with photo/video documentation by a professional architectural firm, including the status of heritage and protected monuments inside the Walled City. The Committee observed that each area of the old city had different requirements, and if conservation work kept in view the intrinsic character of the wall and drew up a master plan, the heritage look could be restored.

A presentation was made by Ms. Amita Soni Tongaria of ICCI on the role, functioning and specialization of different ICCI Centres in India. The participants learnt about modern techniques and material used in art conservation, appropriate techniques to be adopted for problems of deterioration and for storage of art works. Research in indigenous materials, collaboration with different artists of the region, preventive conservation, and interaction at regular intervals for updating skills are some of the expected follow up on this workshop.

A 14-Member group led by INTACH Belgium Convenor Geert Robberechts visited the Jaipur Chapter on 8th January.

The listing of heritage trees has been undertaken by two different groups. INTACH Members are involved in listing of birds, trees and buildings at Central Park, where it is proposed to put up metal boards with the logo of both JDA and INTACH. The Convenor visited Sambhar on 29th January accompanied by art historian and advisor Dr. Chandramani Singh. They met Ms. Bhanwari Devi and officials from Sambhar Salts. Contact was established with officials from Tourism, Art and Culture, Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) and the Nagar Nigam to collate information and prepare reports on various issues that could be taken up with the Government.

**Kota**

The Chapter is restoring six historic Gates of Kota - two at Surajpole, two at Ladpura, and one each at Patanpole and Kishorepur - jointly with the Urban Improvement Trust of Kota. The Rajasthan Government sanctioned Rs. 48 lakhs to undertake traditional restoration work on the medieval wooden structures and their repairs. Convenor K. Hari Singh has constituted a subcommittee for periodic inspection and supervision of works-in-progress. Only traditional construction material like lime is being used. The Chapter had been demanding restoration of the heritage gates for the last 15 years. As Convenor pointed out “the gates are still a part of the great tradition and...”
history of Kota but have faced wear and tear with time so they deserve to be restored and repaired”. After restoration the work of decoration will be taken up by the Kota School of wall paintings. INTACH Member Kailash Chand Sarraf has announced to the Press that he would bear the expense for the painting on the gates.

**Marwar-Jodhpur**

On a philosophic note Convenor Dr. Kum. Mahendersingh Naggar states that it is difficult to evaluate human life in the world, but if one looks at aspects of practical and working knowledge one encounters what is called the Geetra proverb. Geetra recalls glory and fame of a bygone majestic era while Bhitra refers to constructed buildings of historic importance pervaded in the geographic structure. In this context he mentions a British scholar who rightly said that monuments are iron beams which link one generation with the other. It is therefore our fundamental duty to conserve ancient heritage, and draw attention to the conventions and traditions associated with buildings of archaeological importance. It makes people like Liyakat Ali Sahib get involved. He is a local resident who donated a small sum for purchasing water pots to be placed on trees in the Rao Jodha Environment Park so that birds do not fly thirsty!

The Convenor cites examples of how heritage is obliterated by ‘uneducated’ workers. For example the stones bearing impressions of women’s hands who committed Sati on the inner wall of Chandpol were cemented over. The once beautiful Bawan Kachheri in the heart of the city now stands with broken doors, littered garbage and walls bespattered with gutka stains. Unbelievable that it houses a number of offices run by Jodhpur administration, with no proper conservation ever having been undertaken!

**Nagaur**

The Chapter successfully completed the project to floodlight the Ahichhatragarh Fort, Nagaur on the eve of New Year, with the financial support of Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur. The Collector Nagaur and Chairman Municipality graced the inaugural function, along with a host of officials from the Nagaur Development Committee and District Administration. Co-Convenor Himmat Singh Rathore informs that special student programmes on heritage conservation with painting, musical concerts, poetry recitation, etc. were organized throughout the month of January & February.

An essay competition was held on Visit of Nagaur Fort, following a visit organized for school children, with MMT providing stationery and refreshment. The first three winners of the essays in Hindi and in English will be awarded prizes and certificates.

**Pali**

The Subhash Calendar was ceremoniously released jointly by the Chapter and the Shri Godwad Cultural Research Institute (CRI) at Laxminarayan Temple, Birwa village in Bali tehsil to mark New Year 2011. The Chief Guest Principal Ramlal Mohbarsha and Block Education Officer Lalaram Prajapat, Convenor Arjun Singh Shekhawat, CRI Chairman Karansingh Chauhar, Barwan sarpanch Mangilal Rajpurohit participated in the event. Shri Mohbarsha spoke about Godwad, the centre of Pali District, its culture and literature famous for the migrant Rajasthani form. Chairman CRI Karab Singh Chauhan announced that the Institute would take up various public utility works along with compilation of Godwad...
history and organize seminars on its cultural heritage. Shri Prajapat was loudly applauded for a poem recited in Rajasthani.

INTACH Convenor AS Shekhawat said that the Subhash Calendar was dedicated to the memory of former Convenor, late Subhash Rawal. Co-Convenor Rakesh Rawal elaborated on the heritage awareness programme to be launched in future to cover all heritage sites including citadel, fort, wells, bawrie, temple, tomb, etc. Asalgarh, Mandigarh and Songarh have been selected for inclusion in a research work of 11th century by founder member Bhanwar Singh Rathore. INTACH nominated the Convenor as Panchayat Committee Incharge and Jitendra Singh Rathore as Desuri Panchayat Committee Incharge.

**Sawai-Madhopur**

Convenor RC Jangid organized two heritage walks in Jhumjumi and Mandana at Shekhawati.

The Chapter also organized the Ranthambore Festival from 27th-31st January at the Rajbagh Stadium to promote development of traditional art and heritage, in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Rajasthan. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State Namonarayan Meena. More than a 100 artistes from five districts – Sawai-Madhopur, Karoli, Tonk, Jodhpur and Jaipur - participated in the event widely covered by the local Press. A souvenir Sanskriti was published after the five days successful festival with the thrust on promoting rural art and heritage.

**Tamil Nadu**

**Coimbatore**

The Coimbatore Clock Tower, with its clock specially imported from England, was built in memory of philanthropist and social activist Rao Bahadur AT Theroovengadaswami Mudaliar (1855-1923). The Chapter headed by Convenor Kalaivani Chengappa and Co-Convenor S.Ramchandra Prasad restored, listed and

Mayor R. Venkatchalam and Commissioner Anshul Mishra unveiling the plaque of Coimbatore Clock Tower. On extreme tight: Convenor Kalaivani Chengappa
rededicated the Clock Tower to the citizens of Coimbatore on 25\textsuperscript{th} January.

Mayor R.Venkatachalam and Corporation Commissioner Anshul Mishra unveiled the plaque engraved with its history. Founder Convenor Shashi Ghulati presented a citation to the Mayor at the gathering of Councillors, Corporation officials, INTACH Members and the Media.

**Nagercoil**

Our congratulations to Convenor Dr.RS Lal Mohan and to all the Chapter Members for getting the Kanyakumari District Collector’s Award for protecting the ancient heritage of the region. The presentation on 26\textsuperscript{th} January at the Republic Day parade grounds was received by the Convenor, with a citation lauding the commendable service rendered by INTACH.

Convenor Dr. Lal Mohan held an annual meeting of the Chapter in February inviting the District Forest Officer Sundera Raju as the Chief Guest. His presidential address appealed to the State Government to protect wetlands and to implement the Hill Area Conservation Authority (HACA 2003) regulation to stop illegal quarrying activities. The hills of Kanyakumari are being indiscriminately blasted for making rock dust used for construction in lieu of river sand. One lorry load river sand costs Rs.60,000 whereas rock dust costs Rs.20,000 only – with a little extra paid for bribes! Nearly 1500 lorry load of rock dust are sent daily from a hill in Kaliyal village, Tamil Nadu to Kerala. The people need to be made aware of their unique natural wetlands, and that the Government has declared 36 hills as protected. A mass movement is required to protect them - otherwise the district could run dry.

A recent study conducted by the Chapter with the help of Dr. Jeyasekaran Trust, Vivek Laboratories and Pollution Control Board brought to light the contamination of temple tanks with pathogenic bacteria declared hygienically unfit for human use including bathing, after taking samples from many of the 60 temple tanks in the city. Once patronized by the Travancore kings, many of them are more than 500 years old. These tanks are natural harvesting systems and the contamination can easily seep into the food chain. The Chapter issued a press release urging the Dewasam Board and the State Government to draw up a master plan for cleaning up the tanks on urgent basis.

**Nilgiris**

A Tribute to Tagore was organized to celebrate his 150\textsuperscript{th} anniversary by the Chapter jointly with the Nilgiris Sarbojanin Durgotsab Committee (NSDC) on 19\textsuperscript{th} February at Ootacamund. President NSDC Dr.Rajiv K.Srivastava IFS welcomed the distinguished guests that included Collector Smt. Archantha Patnaik, Shri Ashok Kumar, and others. Former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr.MR Srinivasan as the Chief Guest also addressed the gathering.

Convenor Tanjore Cultural Centre Achintyalal Roy spoke about the life and works of ‘Kabiguru’ Rabindranath Tagore. The Nilgiri District paid homage to a man who was not only a great patriot but also a popular novelist, poet laureate, playwright, musician and painter. Chief Guest Dr.MR Srinivasan spoke about the relevance of Tagore in modern times. A good collection of photos of Tagore’s ancient home Viswa Bharati and his family members, his sketches and paintings, exhibited on the occasion evoked memories of a man of many parts who continues to inspire generations of Indians. The evening concluded with a cultural programme, rendition of Tagore’s poem Africa by Renu Roy, Rabindra Sangeet by Swati Bhattacharaya to which Shomita Mallick danced gracefully.

A Japanese Tea Ceremony led by its instructor Sasaki Sohkei based in Daiku Miyazaki, Japan, accompanied by seven Japanese ladies, was part of the programme. All the accompanying etiquette and grace was much appreciated. Former Ambassador to China CV Ranganathan elaborated on the various nuances of traditions of ancient civilizations like India and China that are well tuned into the finer aspects of life. Nilgiris Convenor Geetha Srinivasan gave the vote of thanks.

The Udagamandalam Head Post Office, Ooty was declared a Heritage Post Office in February. Nilgiris Collector
Archana Patnaik inaugurated a Divisional Training Centre at the Post Office to celebrate its heritage status. Jointly with the District Administration a Heritage Walk was organized as part of the celebrations, and white caps with Ooty heritage printed on them were distributed to the participants.

The stamp on Postal Heritage Buildings was released at INDIPEX 2011 World Philatelic Exhibition at Delhi inaugurated by President Pratibha Patil.

Thyagarajaswamy Temple

Thanjavur region is a treasure trove of paintings, many decorating vast pillared halls of its numerous temples that have fascinated renowned Indologists from overseas. Prof. David Shulman visited year after year and saw these paintings virtually disappearing before his eyes! In an act of desperation he brought photographer VK Rajamani who lay on his back to capture each panel mapped by Shulman at the Thyagarajaswamy Temple. After 8 years of petitioning by another enthusiast Ranvir Shah, industrialist and Founder-Trustee of the Prakriti Foundation provided the funds for restoration. An INTACH team of dedicated conservationists from the Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre worked hard for three years on the 17th century paintings of the Temple’s Devasiriya Mandapam. It was opened to the public this January. A book released on the occasion documents and explains the paintings, and chronicles their restoration. The first copy of The Mucukunda Murals, covering legends in rich detail with stunning photographs by Rajamani, taking readers from the Ocean of Milk to the Heavens and to Tiruvarur, was offered with an aarti at the sanctum. According to the inspiring Prof. Shulman “We all were drawn to the work at Tiruvarur. But also, all of us here have the privilege of being chosen to do this work”.

back in place or at a prominent spot in the city. The lamp post was erected in 1885 to commemorate founder editor of Madras Law Journal Ramasamy Mudaliyar’s visit to London, at the head of a delegation of Indian leaders, seeking redressal for the people’s grievances against the British Government.

With the opening of the new Collectorate and many Government Departments moving to the new complex, hope floats again. It is being pointed out that Nattami Kazagam, the notified district Panchayat building has heritage value and would be an ideal place for housing the Philately Museum deemed one of the rarest of its kind by ICCI. The Museum has a collection of stamps on Mahatma Gandhi released both in India and other countries. The continuous INTACH representations seem to be bearing fruit, INTACH Members were called for a meeting with Addl. Director to discuss the matter and submit a proposal for rejuvenation of the Museum, and perhaps setting up a centre for historical and cultural research.

The Mani Goondu, an old Clock Tower on the Indo-Sarcenic building has long been the pride of the people in Salem. It was built by the noted Mysore Palace architect Sir Vishveshvaraya in 1924. It has a historic past associated with its

Salem

State Convenor Suresh and Dr. OP Agrawal had made representations to the authorities about the deplorable condition of the Government Museum and Mahatma Gandhi Philately Museum, with no result owing to non availability of space in Government buildings. In one of the communications to Principal Secretary & Commissioner Museums Salem, Co-Convenor TS Sridhar drew attention to the fact that artifacts lay unprotected and exposed in an open space without walls inviting vandalism, or were rudely stocked inside and inaccessible to the public. Raising concern over the sudden disappearance of an archaic lamp post installed at the intersection of the Shevaipet roads, the Chapter jointly with the Salem Historical Society made a representation to the Corporation and district administration to put it
first occupant the Salem Bank, and visitors like Gandhiji and Rajaji during the days of the freedom struggle. Later it was taken over by the Indian Bank whose management readily agreed to the Chapter’s suggestion that steps should be immediately taken to preserve this heritage property. A technical study and feasibility report prepared by Dr. Saileeshwaran of National Repair and Restoration Company, a well known conservation architect firm, has resulted in restoration work being initiated at this site in the heart of the city in association with the Chapter. The first phase being just cleaning and barricading commenced on 25th March with a simple ritual.

**Thanjavur**

The Chapter in association with the Marabu Trust participated in the third *Festival of Sacred Music* organized by the Prakriti Foundation from 4th-6th March in Thiruvaiyaru on the banks of the Cauvery. It was a veritable feast of sight and sound for music lovers of the city. On the first day Chapel *bhajans* were sung by a group led by Fr. Joseph Thattarachery at Chettiar Chatram, followed by a violin concert by Sri Ganesh and Kumaresh. On the second day sacred chants were sung by Sri Nadaka and Smt. Gopika at the Pushya Mahal Ghat, followed by a performance by Yodhakaa. On the final day the audience was regaled by the Madras String Quartet at the Panchanatheeswara Temple, followed with a concert by vocalist Shri TM Krishna.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Banda**

On 26th January the Chapter hoisted the national flag at the site of the Kalinjar project. On the following day, a student of Abacus learning, that has been instituted by the Chapter, took the initiative to organize a monument painting show on INTACH Foundation Day.

**Kanpur**

Co-Convenor Shobhana Kaushik informs that an approximate estimate of cost and time for preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for renovation of Gandhi Bhawan was submitted to the Kanpur Development Authority. The KDA has requested revised estimates, tweaking the estimates as per their constraints and a speedier completion of the project. Commissioner Kanpur Amit Kumar Ghosh flagged off the Heritage Walk with the participation of nearly 600 students of the Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre holding placards. Also present were District Magistrate Mukesh Meshram, DIG Prem Prakash, Principal of SPSEC Reeta Midha and other faculty members.

**Lucknow**

The Chapter steered by Convenor Usha Kohli celebrated Founder’s Day, 27th January with a Heritage Walk that coincided with the celebration of a renovated Hazratganj. More than 300 people attended the function at the Jehangirabad Palace that included local luminaries, INTACH Members and children. Former ICCI Director General Dr. OP Agrawal was felicitated on his *Padma Shri* award on the occasion. State Co-Convenor RN Bhargava and Shri Ranvir Singh as UP State observer attended along with historians Yogesh Parvin and Ravi Bhatt. Dr. OP Agrawal spoke about INTACH activities, while Prof. Yogesh Parveen held forth on the history of Jehangirabad Palace and Hazratganj. Co-Convenor RN Bhargava feels only a mass heritage movement can overcome conflicting vested interests and make people take pride in their world famous Awadhi culture and cuisine. He believes the future lies in involving schools and colleges as a “blue chip investment”, as they are the future “dharowars” of our heritage assets.

The much appreciated coffee table book *Lucknow – A Treasure* by noted architect Vipul Varshneya is an ode to the architectural traditions of Mughal, Nawabi and Colonial India. They are the silent tomes of brick and mortar that witnessed history. The book attempts to recapture in words and images the allure of a bygone era.
as “the soul of Lucknow lies in its history and heritage”, in its multi facets like soulful ghazals, fragrance of itar, call of muezzin, flavours of Awadhi cuisine, musical strains of Thumri and Kathak, chimes of temple bells, exquisite Laknavi fashions, and many intangibles that give the city a uniquely Indian identity. The contents are also a tribute to the passions and aesthetics of the people who created one of India’s ‘many splendoured’ cities.

In the closing weeks of last year, the Chapter had some unusual visitors. It honoured Jaimini Circus artistes of Kenyan origin residing in South Africa at the residence of Conveor Dr.Hari Mohan Purwar. Circus is a living heritage that was a regular event in most cities once upon a time. But now a dwindling art form even in bigger cities in India.

On INTACH Founder’s Day an exhibition of coins and postage stamps was inaugurated by Postage Collector A.Sufeek Khan and Superintendent Police. Chapter Members added an extra dimension to the exhibition by organizing a competition, with 47 participants receiving awards and certificates. Project Manager Ayub Khan thanked all the persons who had contributed to the success of the event.

However, Begum Hazrat Mahal, a legendary figure for Lucknow, lies in a dilapidated tomb on Darbar Marg in faraway Khatmandu. It was different in 1962 when Pandit Nehru took a photograph and sent it to her great grand children! A recent visitor Dr.Ranjit Bhargava who has taken up issues related to India’s heritage sites abroad drew attention of the Uttar Pradesh Governor that the state of this tomb is a matter of “national shame”, and has also urged Chairman INTACH to follow up on the matter. The tomb is in a broken down condition, encroached in the north by a photocopier, in the south by a stationery shop and on the east by a water lifting pump of an adjacent building. Empty ghee containers serve as flower pots, with garbage littered all over the tomb site. “If the soul of Lucknow lies in its history and heritage”, then it seeks redemption in Khatmandu.
**Varanasi**

For the longest time thick layers of *chuna* and paint applied for decades clung to the outer surfaces of *Mir Ghat*, Dharmakup. The Varanasi Chapter took upon itself the cleaning and restoration using both bare hands and pressure machines. Missing parts of the temples like *amlakas* (the round top of the *shikara*) were re-made with *chunar* and fixed on small temples. The work on flooring with sand stone pieces to replace the old uneven bricks was taken up to complete the first phase of restoration. Meanwhile the *chhatari* project continues.

**West Bengal**

**Kolkata**

Director of Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan Reimar Volker and Secretary Tourism Raghavendra Singh inaugurated a website www.intachcalcutta.com) launched by the Regional Chapter in January. Also present was Mayantara Pal Choudhari representing the State Heritage Commission. State Convenor GM Kapur said that INTACH hoped to spread greater awareness about local heritage through this website. It offers information with pictures of people, places and palaces; reports on heritage addresses in the city; besides information on INTACH activities as a non-profit organization. There is also a video section with a clip on the restoration of Johann Zoffany’s *The Last Supper* at St. John’s Church. Many more clips will be added in due course, regarding which Shri Singh suggested a linkage with the tourism department website. Mr.Volker said the website offers “a keyhole view” of the city especially to visitors from outside.

Shri GM Kapur chaired a public discussion on *Heritage and Conservation-Awareness, Action and Accountability* by Chairman AusHeritage Vinod Daniel and maritime heritage expert Anthony Crawford held by the Kolkata Regional Chapter in association with the History Department, Loreto College. The other participants were Director of Indian Museum Anup Motilal and Prof. Baisakhi Mitra of the Museology Department, Rabindra Bharti University.

**Santiniketan**

Convenor Subir Adhikari sent photographs of greeting cards and calendar brought out by the Chapter, reproducing drawings by Patha Bhaban students. They were released by Shri Hitabrata Roy at his residence on 22nd December, on the auspicious occasion of *Pous Mela*. Presiding over the function, Shri Subimal Ghosh lauded the high standard of the newsletter *Patrika* published by the Chapter.

The Convenor sent a resume on the Itonda Temple, and announced the resumption of restoration work after a long gap with funds now made available through the efforts of Chairman LK Gupta. Director Archaeology, West Bengal Nandan Roy and other senior officials of the Directorate visited the site on 15th January and saw in detail the work completed to date probably for the first time. Mascon representative Ashish Mukherjee participated in the discussions. He was requested to send the status report of the restoration work done till date of visit, and the further projected restoration work that needs to be taken up.
NEWS FROM ICCI

Director ICI Lucknow Mamta Mishra attended the conference on Conservation of Modern and Contemporary Painting. One of its special sessions on 3rd-4th February was devoted to conservation of manuscripts at Kolkata. She presented a paper on Conservation of Highly Damaged Manuscripts on the basis of those received from Shri Hemkunt Sahib Gurudwara. Another presentation she subsequently made was on Paintings of Ajanta – Their Significance and Conservation Aspects at the International Conference on the Role of Fine Art up to the 6th Century AD held on 4th-5th February. From the Delhi Centre, Shri Sarojkant Misra made a presentation on Conservation of Acrylic Paintings.

ICCI Projects

The Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI) Centres have become well known for their reputed laboratories and have established credentials through their expertise.

ICI Lucknow undertook a number of projects like conservation of wooden ceiling and ivory work at Har Raj Ji Mahal at Jaisalmer; of archival records at Jaipur; survey of museums and wall paintings in Gujarat; conservation of fresco paintings at the Holy Name Cathedral in Mumbai, and a report on conservation of animal skins for an army centre.

Conservation of Watson Textile Collection samples, art objects of sandalwood, and of illustrated manuscript Firdousi-Shahnama is on-going at Mumbai Centre.

Preventive conservation work on the collection at Shree Yogi Nareyana Indology Centre, Bangalore is on-going with training being given to two persons of the Centre.

The Jodhpur, Kerala and Kolkata Centres have conserved a number of oil paintings and miniature paintings.

Academic Upgradation

Upgradation of expertise is a sustained training programme periodically scheduled at all ICCI Centres.

ICCI Delhi started a lecture series as part of its in-house skill enhancement. The first of the lectures commencing February was on Ethics in Conservation by KK Gupta; followed by Removal of Pressure Sensitive Tape by Smita Singh; Retouching Materials by Gigi Jacob; Identification of Photographic Materials by Ajay Bharadwaj; Anatomy of Paper by N. Hagamurthi; and Consolidation of Miniature Paintings by Amita Soni Tongaria. More topics are scheduled to be covered in the coming months.

Conservators Sandeep Bisht from Delhi and Shruti Asoka from Bangalore attended the Thangka Conservation Workshop held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahhalaya at Mumbai.

Delhi Centre Coordinator Smita Singh attended the round table meeting on Textile and Display held 1st-3rd February at the National Museum, Delhi.

‘Sari State of Affairs’

Principal Director ICCI Nilabh Sinha states “The scope for textile restoration in a country like India is immense” and the Delhi Centre is perhaps one of the few labs in the country making a mark in the field. Centre Coordinator Smita Singh who is in charge of the recently set up specialised Textile Conservation Unit at Delhi states that textile conservation has been around in an unorganized way for a long time. “In fact, the Mughals were the first to document textile preservation techniques. Ancient wisdom of storing ornate clothes in neem leaves or periodically exposing textiles to sunlight to avoid fungus are wardrobe wisdom imparted by the Mughals”. She recalls a sari she conserved and restored that had the entire royal family woven on the pallu; another of her works involved restoring a Peshawari kurta that was brought to her by a 68 year old man who had inherited it from his great grandfather.

A grant from Micro Inks has been instrumental in upgradation of ICCI laboratories: acquiring technical skills, hosting workshops, survey of museums and wall paintings sites, equipment purchase, etc. Recently the Delhi Centre acquired a Leica S6D Stereozoom Microscope for scientific studies related to art conservation. This microscope imported from Germany was on ICCI wish-list for a long time. It is useful for cross sectional analysis of paintings on different substrates like oil painting,

Saree with family portraits, before conservation, Delhi Centre.
acrylic painting, wall painting, identification of fibers, etc. An attached flexible arm allows the works to be studied both on horizontal and vertical surfaces.

A painting by Raja Ravi Varma, earlier restored at Delhi Centre in 2004-25 was re-sent in February 2011 for re-evaluation of the earlier conservation work. On examination, it was found to be in perfect health with no restored area needing further attention.

Delhi Chapter has proposed a desi facelift for statues standing in the Coronation Park, Delhi for which approval is pending with the Delhi Development Authority. A special multani mitti (mud pack) applied to marble surfaces is not a new thing in India, it was used on the Taj Mahal for years to restore its gleaming marble surfaces. Mud draws out the polluting sulphates and carbonates, helping the yellowing surfaces to regain their milky white look. This is the first time that statues, including the 58 feet King George V would be given any kind of makeover. More than a hundred years of constant exposure to the vagaries of nature has resulted in many of the statues developing cracks. Coronation Park, which is referred to by some irreverent people as the “junkyard of history” deserves better as it holds some great memories of capital history including the three grand Durbars of the Raj.

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) celebrated its 8th Annual Day in February. It proposes to publish at least 50 rare unpublished manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Dravidian, Sanskrit, etc during the current fiscal year. In this series manuscripts like Diwanzada composed by Shah Hakim during 18th century first Urdu Diwan, and the Persian Chahar Gulshan giving an account of the reign of Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah II, will be made available to the public. Director NMM Dipti Tripathi states that around 45,863 manuscripts have already been digitized for the National Manuscripts Library to be set up by the Ministry of Culture. Since 70% of the manuscripts are in Sanskrit, teaching and learning of the language need to be promoted at schools and colleges.
**Bhawal-di-Baoli, Rajasthan**

A Detail Project Report had been prepared earlier by the Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) for the conservation of *Bhawal-di-Baoli*, Bundi. The project funded by Prince Charles’ Charity is now being taken up for restoration which entails dredging the well and improving the overall structural appearance of the *Baoli*. The Bundi Chapter has been assigned the execution of the conservation work on the *Baoli* under the technical supervision of A H Division.

**St. Anne’s Church, Goa**

Work on 17th century St. Anne’s Church has been going on since 2008 funded by Govt. of Goa. The restoration of missing parts of the plinth as well as platform retaining wall have now been carried out, and the missing stones and pilasters work also reset. Window frames have been provided in all church windows.

**St. Estevam Fort**

The restoration work of St. Estevam Fort initiated in Nov. 2009 is also funded by Govt. of Goa. The conservation of missing battlement wall having canon loops is now complete along with the laying of roof of the main chamber of the fort. The ramp, an arched opening, and the deteriorated flooring on the west side have been restored to their original character.
**Reis Magos Fort**

The restoration of Reis Magos Fort funded by Lady Helen Hamlyn Trust is steadily progressing since 2007. Two chambers intended for organizing Exhibitions and Conferences are structurally complete along with the repairs to various components of the Fort like the battlement wall, electrification of chambers and public amenities.

**Salimgarh Fort, Delhi**

Salimgarh Fort built in 1546 AD on the island of the River Yamuna was built by Salim Shah Suri, son of Sher Shah Suri. It is an important architectural and archeological landmark of historic Delhi and integral to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Red Fort complex. It evolved over periods of history from inception to colonial period when a railway line was introduced by the British rule, till today when it is a memorial to our independence movement. This project is an exemplary case of conflict of interest between two sectors deemed of national importance by the Indian constitution, i.e. protection of archaeological sites of national importance by the Archeological Survey of India and the development of the Indian Railways.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Risk Mapping on Salimgarh Fort for the proposed realignment of a new railway line covers analysis like environmental observation in and around fort, pollution status study, vulnerability assessment of the Fort with respect to natural hazards (earthquake, flooding, wind, etc.) and social risks (road and railway accidents, vandalism, etc.).

**Old Secretariat Building, Punjab**

The Old Secretariat Building at Faridkot is one of the most important heritage buildings of the district and a classical example of fusion between Colonial and Indian Architectural styles. Inaugurated by Raja Harindar Singh Brarbands Bahadur to mark his coronation on October 17, 1934 it currently houses the District & Session Court, Subordinate Judicial Courts, Consumer Court and Commissioner’s Office.
The Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be executed by INTACH whereas site development, electrical works, lay out of LAN, plumbing works and sewerage line will be handled by PWD, Faridkot. The first phase initiated on site is making progress.

The Sainik School in Kapurthala, one of the districts of Punjab, was originally the palace of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh designed by the well-known French architect M.Marcel on the lines of the famous French Palace of Versailles.

AHD took up some emergency work due to problems that need immediate attention like plumbing, roof repair, plinth protection and checking water seepage, etc. These works include structural retrofitting of porches, repairing of wooden staircase of the western entrance, and waterproofing of the terrace. Competent agencies have been identified for repair work for wooden staircase, structural retrofitting and water proofing of the terrace.

**Shahi Samadhi, Punjab**

The conservation work in the Shahi Samadh of Kapurthala, a funerary site of former rulers of the princely State and their families was successfully completed. Site development work is to be taken up.

**Ujjayanta Palace, Tripura**

A reuse proposal for Ujjayanta Palace at Agartala (an erstwhile palace of Maharaja of Tripura) was submitted to the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Tripura. It is proposed to develop it as a Heritage Museum and cultural centre with various thematic galleries such as historic period room, cultural heritage gallery, personality gallery, etc.

**Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan**

The ivory and precious gems studded in the wooden ceiling of the Fort at Jaisalmer were missing in many areas of ceiling. The damaged ceiling covered in soot also needed cleaning. Dr. O.P. Agarwal (ICCI) had sent a restoration team headed by Ashok Pandey from Lucknow to treat the ceiling in November 2010. The process however was found to be cumbersome, entailing waste of material and manpower.

Subsequently INTACH team visited the site, and inspection was carried out in the presence of Chairman Girdhar Smarak Trust Braj Raj Singh. It was collectively decided, on the recommendation of Ashok Pandey, to dismantle the decorative ceiling panels, after photographic and physical documentation before removing these panels. Experienced jewelers of Jaisalmer were also called in to...

Workers engaged in conservation work at Shahi Samadh, Kapurthala, Punjab
examine the ceiling before dismantling, but no precious stones were found except ivory.

The ceiling panels made of country wood (rohira) consist of three decorative panels with two wooden beams in between, intricately carved and decorated with ivory inlay (fixed to the panel with nails) in multiple geometric patterns. The heavy panels required around 12 labourers to move them around for executing the restoration work.

Meeting on Heritage Site - Chettinad

Creator-Mentor-Developer, INDeceo Leisure Hotels Steve Gorgia made a presentation with slides on Heritage Site - Chettinad on 18th February at Central Office, highlighting the significance of Chettinad. Its heritage is being rapidly demolished due to development and lack of adequate protection. Not only does this region have a high yielding tourism potential, but more importantly an immense and distinct intangible heritage in the form of rituals, costumes, lifestyle, cuisine, etc. He felt it called for INTACH involvement to impress on the State Government the need for a comprehensive listing of Chettinad and a framework for heritage protection regulations and development controls. Former Secretary Tourism Sujit Banerjee who attended the meeting suggested INTACH should adopt a pro-active approach. While the collation of existing data can be done from various sources like UNESCO, INTACH jointly with the Ministry of Tourism must prepare a heritage development framework with a listing that includes possible pilot projects.

It was decided that AHD will take the initiative to develop a preliminary plan at the cost of Rs.1 lakh offered by WTTC representative. The cost of a detailed heritage plan is projected as Rs.25 lakhs, the balance amount has to be raised from various sources like Tourism Ministry, PATA, INDeceo, etc. Meanwhile INTACH will extend assistance to Mr. Steve Gorgia in setting up the proposed Chettinad Museum in the heritage building he has selected for the purpose.

Lecture & Interactive Session

AH Division organized two lectures cum interaction sessions for developing best practices in the filed of conservation. On 22nd March a third lecture Conservation of Protected Monuments - Taj Mahal, A Case Study by Shri Navin Piplani, Director, Centre for Conservation Studies, York Centre, UK was organized by Principal Director Prof. RC Agrawal at the multi-purpose hall, Central Office.

Forts as Camping Sites

“Forts and Palaces”, jointly compiled by conservationist Anita Baig and architect Joginder Singh, classifies forts, and palaces within forts, as per their age with some of the legends attributed to them. It has several interesting photographs of little known forts of Vedic and Mahabharata times, of Sultanate, Gujar and Maratha rule, rock carved hill forts, etc. There is a concluding segment on constructions by the Portuguese, French, Danish and British. Ms. Baig has made a pertinent suggestion for preserving this unique heritage legacy of the country. She says “Our forts have to be invigorating, they can’t be static buildings. A way of introducing people to them would perhaps be to make them camp sites”. What an idea for tourism and educational institutions!

Conceptual design for the galleries: personality and cultural heritage gallery
The new amendment to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Act has frozen any type of construction work or repairs around heritage structures. It ensures no more NOCs are given indiscriminately.

The respective competent authorities in each State are now expected to send eligible proposals for repairs/construction to the National Monument Authority (NMA), targeted to be set up by April. To date there are only 174 listed monuments in Delhi, while so many unlisted ones at corners and bends of city streets lie unattended. At many small monuments in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park and places like the Qutab Enclave encroachments have taken place many years ago with people having made homes inside the sites? That poses another set of problems!

Then there are companies like Delhi Transco, the state owned power transmission utility causing irreparable damage to centuries old trees in Lutyens Delhi, while laying underground cables in the heart of cash rich NDMC area of the city – supposedly according to guidelines set by heritage authorities. The trees are an integral part of the capital layout. Without much anchorage trees are bound to fall in the monsoons to come – one by one till there are none!

According to a Ministry of Culture estimate there is an acute shortage of at least 10,000 attendants to protect monuments falling prey to rampant vandalism – including at the three prominent World Heritage Sites in the capital city. The walls of the recently restored Qutab Minar is already defaced with graffiti. Lack of 24x7 security has even led to drug peddling on premises of monuments. This is the story in almost all States. Apart from so many trainable people from the unemployed pool, there is a vast army of ex-servicemen who retire much earlier than 58 year age – who could be tapped perhaps? The constraint is not the Budget, but the will to act.

The Archaeological Survey of India is in talks with the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to introduce Braille devices and signages at heritage sites. Only Sarnath Museum and Sanchi have this facility at present. Expertise on further development has been sought to take this initiative forward, and help the visually impaired to experience heritage at many more national museums and historic sites of the country.

The National Advisory Committee for Natural Heritage was convened by Principal Advisor Natural Heritage Division (NHD) on 5th January at Central Office. Its members are INTACH Chairman LK Gupta, Member Secretary CT Misra, Advisor A. Banerjee, Environmntalist and Senior Advocate MC Mehta, former DG Forests SK Pande, former PCCF Rajasthan Abhijit Ghosh, and two members who could not attend owing to prior commitments AK Mukherjee who was overseas and Dr. YL Nene from Secunderabad.

The role of the National Advisory Committee is to identify priority areas for development of projects in natural heritage conservation and to recommend action plans, strengthen regional cooperation, exchange information on salient issues, and bring them to the attention of the authorities for cooperative action. Five main thrust areas identified are Listing and Documentation of NH sites; Protection and Management of Natural Heritage in compliance with Government Policy; Heritage Movement; Action Plan for Ecology with participation of local communities; and Legal Awareness through voluntary activist platforms. Senior officials of INTACH also invited attended the inaugural meeting.

Chairman recalled that before the inception of NHD, an awareness programme for protection of Ganga-Yamuna had been organized in 1984 by ND Jayal. Currently INTACH Chapters of Udaipur, Pune, Nagercoil, Lakhimpur Kheri and Hazaribagh are actively involved in activities related to natural heritage resources of the country, in protection of forest lands and wetlands, and filing PILs when necessary. INTACH now proposes to add greater momentum to such campaigns by sensitising Chapter
Convenors all over India and seeking local people’s involvement. The first priority is documentation leading to notification that alone ensures legal protection.

Chairman announced a Life Time Achievement Award to be given annually to a person actively involved in saving natural heritage. The first for 2011 is being conferred posthumously on “eco-warrior” Shyam Chainani who battled as a legal expert on environmental matters for INTACH over many years.

Principal Advisor SK Verma made a presentation on Conserving Natural Heritage – Issues and Challenges highlighting the definition of Natural Heritage that must include physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, considered as outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view. He elaborated on INTACH projects in progress where the main focus is on inventorisation of historic natural heritage sites for eco-tourism, so that urban renewal is dealt along with heritage-centric sustainable land usage.

Member Secretary CT Misra has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment, seeking support for INTACH efforts towards environmental conservation and for providing budgetary support. DG Forests has requested Principal Director NHD for a status paper to be sent for consideration. INTACH will prepare factual reports of critical areas, along with recommendations that could impact Government policies.

**Documentation & Listing**

Physical documentation and listing of heritage sites is progressing at a number of places undertaken by the Manipur, Assam, Haryana, Leh Ladakh, Udaipur, Pune, Jaipur, Gwalior, Jhandi and Banda Chapters. Principal Advisor SK Verma is meticulously guiding these Chapters on listing of natural heritage sites and age old trees that entails surveys, collection of baseline maps and data compilation of study area. Invariably it also means finding a volunteer team for the preliminary field work as well.

**Conditional Clearances**

It may be recalled the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification issued in 1994 was revamped in 2006. The Kalpavriksh Environment Action Group points out that during just the last 18 months the approval rate under EIA notification averaged 97 projects in a month for 4 sectors under Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) review – with evidence indicating “a near casual approach to the compliance of conditions by project authorities even though violations are evident”.

In the case of the mega Posco operations in Orissa, the sustained protests by people of Dhinkia panchayat in Jagatsinghpur District, and a huge list of irregularities discovered by an officially appointed committee, led to the withdrawal of permission granted in 2007 and their operations were grounded. Now however Posco operations have been cleared by MoEF stating the strategic, economic and technological importance of their projects - despite their ecological and social impacts - stipulating 28-32 conditions to be adhered to by the company. Will it be different in this particular case? Here is something that needs to be closely watched by the local people!
**NHD Projects in the Pipeline**

In preparation of environmental status report on Sambhar Lake, reconnaissance survey has been carried out and data from secondary sources assembled. Project Management work was initiated at the CGPL Mundra, Gujarat, with 2000 saplings planted as a start. The proposal for biodiversity mapping and greenbelt development for Tata Co. Maithon, Jharkhand was approved. DDA has approved the on-channel treatment of polluted water flow in Palam Drain, Delhi. The Orissa Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project for the World Bank is being taken up in collaboration with M/s LASA as the lead partner. The inception report for conservation of the three lakes at Raipur, Chattisgarh in association with M/s EGIS India has been submitted. NHD has also been requested to advise on the wetland rejuvenation plan for Galanh village in Gaziabad District.

An exhibition on water was organized for the Delhi Jal Board on the occasion of World Water Day, 22nd March.

**SAVE**

Believe it or not we need vultures in our lives – of the avian kind only! Director BNHS said without the removal of the killer drug Diclofenac, it would be difficult to recover the vulture population. Prof. Ian Newton, Chairman of the international consortium *Save Asia’s Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)* states “In terms of urgency, this is probably the greatest bird conservation problem in the world…….It is the first time that a veterinary drug has been implicated in a major conservation problem and we need to take it seriously. It involves not just the loss of three species but also a huge environmental hygiene problem”. SAVE was launched in February this year – they have a role in cleaning up the earth.

**An Exemplary Endeavour**

Wetlands can double up as common lands for farmers and conservation hotspots for a wealth of biodiversity. In a tiny pond in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, cracked clay covers a dry wetland floor. Though dry, the pond bustles with activity. Children and adults alike work away chunks of clay by hand, and painstakingly carry them to waiting bicycles to be ferried away. For wetlands in the Gangetic plain this “disturbance” spells life. Every year, monsoon water surges and cattle activity churns up these ponds in the floodplains, creating a rich slurry, settles down and clogs the floor. This centuries old tradition speaks of a civilization literally living off the land, timing human activities to the seasons. Lotus, silt, clay, molluscs, wild birds, roots, tubers, vegetables, reeds for thatching roofs and of course water – the list of resources provided by these common lands are unlimited - sustaining tens of thousands of cattle and people who cannot afford fields to harvest, and buffer the effects of droughts and floods.

Today wetlands even in thickly populated states like UP and grasslands are the most threatened of ecosystems in the country. Corruption, growing human population, demand from industries, mechanized farming have converted many such ‘green covers’ for private and commercial use. At last a lifeline was cast by the Supreme Court on 1st February, eve of *International Wetland Day*, ruling it illegal to transfer common lands for any other use, private or commercial, and called for restoration of areas lost in the past.

**NEWS FROM HECS**

Director Ms. Purnima Datt is in overall charge of the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in addition to her existing responsibilities, consequent upon resignation of Dr.Shobita Punja who was selected CEO National Cultural Fund, Ministry of Culture.

**Teacher Training Workshops**

**At Jammu**

A two-day teacher training workshop on Heritage Awareness was held in Jammu on 7th-8th March with 41 teachers from 24 schools participating. The first day’s venue was the University of Jammu; the second day the workshop was conducted at the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society. The workshop included a heritage walk to the Amar Mahal Museum and the Mubarak Mandi area.
At Dehra Dun

A similar teacher training workshop on Heritage Awareness was held at Dehradun on 21st-22nd January with 33 teachers from 17 schools participating. It commenced with a welcome note by Dehradun Convenor Lokesh Ohri, and included a heritage walk to the Gurudwara of Guru Ram Rai for the participating teachers, conducted by Shri Ohri and Ms. Anjali Bharthari who interpreted the mural paintings and structures within the complex.

Filmit India Film Festivals 2011

HECS organized the Filmit India Film Festivals across 4 cities in India – Delhi, Goa, Chennai, and Kolkata – to mark the end of Phase III (2010-11) of the programme. On 1st February at Delhi, renowned film and theatre personality, Ms. Sushma Seth and filmmaker cum conservationist Mike Pandey were the Chief Guests at the event.

On 2nd February at Chennai, the Chief Guest was A.N. Jaganatha Rao a well-known photographer and wild-life film maker.

On 4th February, the programme was held in Panjim, Goa, with Dr. Isabel Vaz, Director, Masterseed Art Company and Professor of English as the Chief Guest.

On 12th February at Kolkata, the Chief Guest was S.V. Raman, Cultural Consultant to the Victoria Memorial Hall.
Some Comments on Filmit Experience

‘Interesting’ and ‘Unforgettable’ are the words to describe the Filmit. It made us aware of Kos Minar, when we made a film on it. Never thought, a monument with such a wonderful history, was even present in our vicinity. Holding the camera was amazing,, specially the times when our camera was recording. We rededicate ourselves to the preservation of the global heritage of mankind, which through ‘Filmit’ has got ingrained in our heart, soul and mind.

Magic of Film Making – the Filmit Way

Come with us they said;
To a world of imagination;
Film the spirit of Goa;
And show us your own creation through the web.

Heritage sites we visited;
Up hills and down we travelled;
Challenges laid ahead of us;
But we overcame them with team work.

As a narrator I summed it;
As a team we then filmed it;
We now thank you INTACH;
For this memorable experience.

- Regina Mundi School, Dabolim Goa

Fox Felicitation of National And Regional Winners

INTACH in collaboration with the Fox History Channel organized the felicitation programme for the national winners on 18th January. The certificates were awarded by Chief Guests Dr. Shobita Punja, Head, National Culture Fund; Prof. A.G.K. Menon, Convener Delhi Chapter and Ramon Chibb, Senior Vice President-Content of Fox History and Entertainment Channel. Five national winners, seven runners up and six regional winners from Delhi were honoured.

National Winners who will be the narrators of their films:
- Raksha Rai- Sakewa- Traditional Dance
- Ayush Ganapathy- Puliyada Family
- Tauseef Ahmed - History of Aurangabad
- Rohini Mohan - Mattancherry and the Pardesi Synagogue
- Shristi Soni- Soul Of Benaras

North Zone

The Rohilkhand Chapter organized the felicitation Programme on 17th January to felicitate two regional winners, presided by block in charge Archana Gangwar.

The Mathura Chapter organized an award ceremony function on 2nd February. Mr. Pradeep Mathura, MLA, was the chief guest.

West Zone

The Chandrapur Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony on 3rd February, with Dr. Manoj Sharma, Superintendent of Police as the Chief Guest.
The Shekhawati Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony on 10th February with 114 students from 9 schools were present.

Shri Mohan Goenka, who has played a major role in the restoration of havelis in Shekhawati, was the Chief Guest. Shri Arvind Pareek and Shri Madhu Khemani were the Special Guests.

The Mehsana Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony at Vadnagar on 12th February attended by 120 students. It included a one day workshop on heritage conservation conducted by Jawahar Mehta and M.V Joshi of the Archaeology Department.

The Pune Chapter conducted the felicitation ceremony on 16th February. Ms. Madhavi Kapur, educationist and children books author Deepak Dalal, were the Chief Guests to give away the awards.

The Udaipur Chapter held its felicitation end February in the City Palace complex.

The Aurangabad Chapter organized the ceremony on 3rd March. The Chief Guest, Rajasthan State Convenor Shri Gaj Singh, encouraged the students to care for their city’s heritage. He appreciated the initiatives taken by INTACH, and gave his blessings to all the students for taking part in this programme. Convenor Mehender Singh Naggar announced the regional winners for best essay competition: Aanchal Rajguru on Traditional Embroidery of Jodhpur; Rachana Nirwan for Courageous Women of Village Khejdala; and Gulurukh Siddhu for The International Kite Festival.

The Dahanu Chapter held the award ceremony on 26th March with Ms. Dolly B. Irani as the chief guest.

Central Zone

On 16th January, Shivpuri Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony. Ms Geeta Diwan, Principal Happy Day School and Ms Kamakshi Maheshwari distributed the awards.
On 4th February, the programme was held in Panjim, Goa, with Dr. Isabel Vaz, Director, Masterseed Art Company and Professor of English as the Chief Guest.

On 5th February, Gwalior Chapter held its felicitation and the students were commended by the Governing Council member Ms Kamakshi Maheshwari.

On 15th February, Jabalpur Chapter organized the ceremony at the local Arya Samaj Dayanand Sabha Ghar with Dr D.K. Khare, Joint Director Education (M.P.) as the Chief Guest.

On 2nd February the East Godavari Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony for 126 students. Shri G. Srinivas IPS Supdt. of Police was the Chief Guest. The highlight of the function was the police band. A demonstration of police drills and hurdles also enhanced the programme.

On 11th February the Vishakapatnam Chapter held the programme at the VUDA Childrens’ with Ms Indrani Jaggarau an eminent educationist presiding over the ceremony attended by 500 students from 17 schools.

On 31st February, the Chennai Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony at which noted social worker and educationist Mohankannan was the Chief Guest.

**South Zone**

On 2nd February the East Godavari Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony for 126 students. Shri G. Srinivas IPS Supdt. of Police was the Chief Guest. The highlight of the function was the police band. A demonstration of police drills and hurdles also enhanced the programme.
**East Zone**

On 31st January, Bhubaneswar Chapter organized the felicitation ceremony with Padma Vibhusan Dr. Mahapatra as the Chief Guest.

On 12th February, the felicitation by the Kolkata Chapter was held at the Modern High School for Girls.

On 16th March, Sikkim Chapter organized the felicitation programme attended by 150 students at the famous Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok. The Chief Guest was Additional Secretary, Department of Culture and Heritage, Sikkim, R.T. Lepcha.

**Chopin Music Festival, Chennai**

The Chopin Music Festival was held in Chennai on 11th January. Shri Anil Srinivasan gave a wonderful performance and delivered a lecture on the violin and the similarities between Indian and western music to over 160 students from 11 schools present.

**Best Heritage Club Award 2010-11**

The Best Heritage Club award went to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Public School, Hyderabad, selected because of their sustained dedication to the cause of promoting India’s rich cultural heritage within and outside the school premises.

The Best Heritage Club award also went to the Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai, because of the unique initiatives undertaken by the club including promotion of heritage awareness, adopting rural schools, and opening Heritage Clubs in rural schools.

The First Runner Up Award went to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Puducherry; and Modern High School for Girls, Kolkata. The Second Runner Up Award went to Akshara School, Kakinada; G.K.D Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore; and Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai.
Projects of Intangible Cultural Heritage Division

A major part of the recording on the on-going Jogi Singers of Haryana is complete.
Also on-going is the documentation of the Teyyam project in Kerala by the team engaged by ICHD.
Dr. Sandra Albert completed 70% of the book on Ayurveda for AYUSH. ICHD awaits further release of funds from AYUSH to complete the work.
The editing of the book on Kannada recipes is almost complete, as well as the illustrations. The Mysore University clearance has been obtained for the publication so that there are no copyright issues. Some of the recipes are being tried out both at Dharwad and Delhi.
The ICHD Consultant Ms. Nerupama Modwel re-submitted the project proposal for the Buddhist Circuit in the Himalayan regions to the Ministry of Tourism as suggested, and a response is awaited.
Two proposals from Tara Douglas, Secretary, Adivasi Trust, U.K., one for holding an illustrations workshop in the North-East in August-September and another for collecting folklore from Manipur are under consideration.
A note for the higher-powered committee on Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs) in the Ministry of Culture regarding collaboration between INTACH and ZCCs has been prepared for submission.
An Advisory Committee for ICHD (and HECS) was constituted, and the first meeting was held on 17th March.
A proposal was sent to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) for publication of an English-Lepcha dictionary, as well as translation work on some ancient Lepcha manuscripts.
A research project on Shahjanabad is being undertaken by a folklore student/researcher who is currently an intern with INTACH.

Cultural Events/Lectures

The film Bhavai, on folk theatre group of Gujarat was screened on 21st January at the Multi-Purpose Hall, INTACH.
A Lecture Indian Crafts – Our Past is also a Vibrant Future was delivered by Laila Tyabji on 27th January, INTACH Founders’ Day.
An interesting lecture by Dr. Bulbul Tiwari on Epic Spectacles/ Mechanical Reproductions of the Mahabharata since 1891 was held on 4th February.
The film Hola Mohalla was screened in the Multipurpose Hall on 11th February.
On 18th February, the first part of the performance of Prabandh Gayan and percussion instruments by Pandit Harish Chandra Pati was held. It was followed by a percussion Jugalbandi by Pandit Harish Chandra Pati, Dr. Kumar Rishiitosh and Shri Fakkroddin Ghaffari at the INTACH Amphitheatre. The second part of the evening was a performance by Jogi Singers of Haryana for the first time on stage, with participation of their oldest and the youngest artistes. The performance by both the classical and folk artistes was much appreciated. ICHD thanks the Rohtak Chapter Convenor who was instrumental in bringing this troupe to Delhi.
On 11th March film screening was held on Yakshagana, the Folk Theatre of Karnataka.
Heritage Site – Chettinad : A presentation by Steve Borgia, CMD INDeco, Leisure Hotels on 18th Feb
Conservation of Protected Monuments – Taj Mahal, A Case Study on 22nd March.
Director, Centre for Conservation Studies, UK organized by AHD. 22nd March

Gifted by Shobhit University

Indian Civilisation through the Millennia, a publication of the Shobhit University, Meerut was presented to the INTACH Library by its Vice Chancellor Dr. Anoop Swarup

ASI Outreach

A Site Exhibition opened at the western gateway of the Humayun Tomb in March at the initiative of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The latter in partnership with ASI and co-founder Sir Dorabji Tata Trust is presently engaged in major conservation work at site. This permanent exhibition is in two sections, the first covering the history of the monument, and the second explaining the interventions in conservation of both the buildings and the gardens. There are illustrations and snapshots by eminent photographers, accompanied with texts easily comprehensible to children and laymen in English and Hindi, curated by eminent historian and INTACH associate Dr. Narayani Gupta. In this
year of the 150th anniversary of ASI, it would be a fine idea if similar outreach is undertaken at all the World Heritage Sites in India. No guided tour can offer the permanence of a graphic explanation in such detail to a large influx of people who unfaillingly visit these sites.

**Chowmahalla Palace**

The *UNESCO Award of Merit* was presented by its representative Takahiko Makino for the restoration of the Chowmahalla Palace. It provides the public only a glimpse of the lives led by the ruling family of Asaf Jah. The citation presented to a member of the family Esra Jah notes that the restoration work had rescued an extraordinary complex after years of abandonment, and reopened it for contemporary civic use as a cultural oasis in the heart of old Hyderabad. INTACH was involved in setting up a temporary laboratory to train local art conservationists on how to look after the precious Chowmahalla collection.

**Mughal Descendants**

One Mirza Changez lives in Pahari Imli beyond Delhi’s Jama Masjid, a white beard old man who claims descent from Chengiz Khan and the Mughals. He has a library of Urdu, Persian and Arabic books and many paintings of the Mughal era waiting to be discovered. Another Mirza Chengiz, who some claim to be one of the sons of Bahadur Shah Zafar, escaped to Mecca after the 1857 revolt to return a pauper and spent his last years on the steps of Jama Masjid in a wheel chair. Another Mughal descendant Begum Tehmood Jahan, who died little known 15 years ago, had the privilege of being invited by Jawaharlal Nehru and honoured as the granddaughter of the last Emperor of India. It is reported that there are some Mughal descendants living near a red light district of Kolkata, and some in Hyderabad, Agra and Lucknow. The ‘Last Mughul’ himself lies in an unmarked grave in faraway Rangoon, and the way wheels of fortune turn is best expressed in the pathos of his words “*do gaz zamin bhi nahi mili kua yaar mein*” (even two yards of burial ground was denied to me in my native land). When the grave was discovered decades later, Netaji Subash took a pledge to free India from British rule at this site. Efforts to relocate the grave go against orthodox Islamic injunction on the subject, it is said.

**Pages of History**

In a small flat in Rohini, Delhi lives a retired manager of a public sector bank Narendra Kumar Sondhi in proud possession of a veritable treasure trove of Delhi’s history. Over forty years he collected old books, manuscripts, coins, miniature paintings and sculptures while taking tourists around Delhi monuments during a stint as guide, or while frequenting the weekly second hand book market at Jama Masjid. His most prized possession is a Lahore based publication of the 1911 Delhi Durbar that he acquired in 1968 from a junk dealer for the princely sum of Rs.20!

Our cultural czars in the Government should double-quickly wake up to the fact that he wants to sell this collection to someone who will cherish it and preserve it for our future generations. Failing which are there any takers?