**Heritage in Young Hands**

“Out of the past is built the future. We must learn the elements of our being, the blood, that courses in our veins; we must build an India yet greater than what she has been.”

- Swami Vivekananda

The premise of heritage education is founded on the belief that heritage belongs to everyone and heritage education explores this significance. Promotion of the core value of heritage consciousness is the central focus of INTACH’s heritage conservation endeavours. To carry the youth with us is the best link between the past and the future.

Recognizing the importance of heritage education, INTACH set up the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) division in 1998. This year we would complete 15 years. HECS spreads the message to enlighten the public of their constitutional role as ‘Trustees of Heritage’.

Through heritage education, the youth develop historical consciousness and made aware of the value of preserving this heritage for their own future. Different types of training programmes have been designed by HECS for specific target groups like school and college teachers, students, professionals, city and local authorities, INTACH Chapters and the general public.

HECS thanks the Chapters as without their support it would not have been able to reach out to the youth across the country. Teacher workshops and setting up of heritage clubs has been possible with the sincere hard work of Chapter.

**INTACH Heritage Relief & Restoration Fund**

In the wake of the Uttarakhand national calamity, the INTACH Heritage Relief & Restoration Fund (IHRRF) was set up to ensure speedy action in future when a critical exigency arises. INTACH think tank realized the significance of a framework to transfer funds to places affected by natural disaster like the ravages witnessed in Uttarakhand. To date nearly Rs. 11 lakhs have been collected through contributions from INTACH UK Trust, INTACH funds, Executive Committee Members with the staff also contributing Rs. 85,000. An appeal was sent out to our extended family of Chapters, and the Relief Fund would be greatly enhanced by their response from across the country. INTACH hopes this message spread through our membership also attracts some public contributions.

Member Secretary CT Misra speaking to the Press announced that a 3-member reconnaissance team from INTACH, along with members of the Dehra Dun Chapter, would be sent to the Himalayan State to assess how many of the 930 heritage structures in Uttarakhand (as per old INTACH Listing) survived the calamity. She said “After the Uttarakhand disaster we realized it is important to have a fund that is targeted at restoring not just temples but antiquities and museums as well, and as of now we don’t know how many of them have been washed out”. She clarified heritage structures include houses of historical significance, certain architectural and natural features and temples. Subsequently a INTACH team went in September after some delays caused by heavy rains, dilapidated roads, power failure and fresh landslides reported. The Archaeological Survey of India confirmed

**UTTARAKHAND**

The ROAD Less Travelled – PATHS to Recover

Resilient eco-systems regain their equilibrium even after a major disturbance, a process known as homeostasis. However, in human dominated landscapes, where humans have often contributed in some measure to the disturbance, to retrace one’s steps by the same path to the previous situation would be a crowning folly. The impact of the mid-June cloudburst in Uttarakhand was magnified by a combination of human greed and malpractices which put thousands in harm’s way.

Over the years the State is substantially culpable for having ignored the fragile
that the Kedarnath Temple structure is in a fair state of conservation, with some dislodged stones on the façade, and no physical damage to the temple interiors. It is not an ASI protected monument, so they will be providing only technical advice on the conservation of this 11th century iconic temple.

The priority concern of the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund is generally the rescue and rehabilitation of people. INTACH therefore is of the view: “ASI has a specific role in their own area and they will look after ASI protected monuments and funding will come from Government…. But there are many traditional temples and houses – who is going to look after that?” INTACH can fill this lacuna and make a significant contribution.

The scale of the disaster that struck Devbhoomi is inextricably linked to rampant structures built amidst a fragile environment, and to some extent the vagaries of unpredictable Nature. As long as the trek to the Char Dhams, the source of the holy Ganga and its tributaries, was a true pilgrimage these sites had retained their pristine sanctity. For more than 1300 years no footprints had been left on the traditional routes along mountains from Yamunotri to Gangotri to Kedarnath to Badrinath. Vandana Shiva, Founder of the Research Foundation of Science, Technology and Ecology states:

“We have mixed up pilgrimage, a sacred act of devotion, with mass tourism. A pilgrimage is undertaken with very small ecological footprint, and a heightened consciousness about the sacred earth…..we need to stop consuming our sacred sites”.

Today however our footprints have become too heavy on the recklessly constructed roads over-laden with other consumer oriented facilities – with hardly any culverts and drains in sight. Moreover debris is dumped into riverbeds due to hydroelectric projects and dynamiting of mountains.

Let us pay heed to the predictions made by seismologists the world over. A much greater catastrophe is only waiting to happen anywhere along the Himalayan belt. It is based on surveys that show a massive land mass inexorably thrusting itself under the Eurasian plate. The area of maximum impact would be the Himalayan region. No one can predict

Nainital - An example of dangerous building in Uttarakhand
the precise time or exact location – but long term precautions must be taken to minimize loss to life and environment.

The Gujarat based All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) that has worked on relief and rehabilitation programmes after major national calamities like 2002 earthquake, 2004 tsunami, 2005 Kashmir earthquake and Assam floods believes rehabilitation in all cases entails involvement of private sector, large and small, local and international, in partnership with State authorities and civil society organisations. The decision to set up the INTACH Relief & Restoration Fund is in consonance with this, and a well considered and far sighted initiative. INTACH Natural Heritage Division has been involved since a long time on various issues affecting this Himalayan State. Its Principal Director compiled “some thoughts on the possible reconstruction of the fragile State” which INTACH has shared with both the Central and the State Governments.

Donations to INTACH are exempt from Income Tax to the extent of 50% of the donation under Section 80-G of Income Tax Act 1961, based on the certificate given by INTACH.

UTTARAKHAND
The Road Less Travelled – Paths to Recover  Continued from page 1

mountain geology; allowing unbridled construction of dams, tunnels and roads in weak geological zones using explosives and allowing building construction in vulnerable areas and hazard zones. Lack of regulation, reluctance in enforcing existing regulations and greed allowed chaotic townships to develop around sacred shrines in order to profit from the burgeoning pilgrim traffic. Today forest cover is increasingly composed of planted pine trees which yield timber, turpentine oil and pine needles; oak forests, whose root system binds the soil cover but do not offer overt commercial benefits, have declined substantially. The change in tree communities from alpine to tropical is perceptible even at higher altitudes.

Hotel and house builders who built on river edges to maximize economic advantage are also culpable. And of course all stakeholders were one when it came to encouraging unregulated movement of hordes of pilgrims placing immense pressure of population and traffic in the delicate upper reaches.

Suggestions have poured in to implement sensible recommendations offered in the past. Hazard zoning based on geological and geophysical inputs is a basic task for the short and medium term. Most essential is an alternative development model to balance hydro-potential with
environmental concerns, and adequate livelihood opportunities with the integrity of eco-systems. INTACH, whose survey team was located in the ‘eye of the storm’ at Gangotri – Harsil – Maneri - Uttarkashi during 14–22 June 2013 has some pertinent observations and recommendations to offer.

Since 1980 approximately 45,000 hectares of forest land have been diverted in Uttarkhand, 68% of which was after formation of the new state in the year 1999. The maximum was for construction of roads followed by hydel projects and transmission lines. It is not surprising that areas worst affected by floods – Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Pitthoragarh are the areas where most forest area was diverted for non-forest purposes. Re-forestation with native species – that not only thrive well in this region but also aid soil and water conservation - should be part of the policy on conservation of forest and environment.

Expanding settlements in the upper reaches places immense pressures and cannot continue limitlessly. Uttarakhand must have a population distribution policy with bulk of population located in the terai plains (that have urbanizable lands), restrict growth of towns in mid-altitudes and construction above tree line except in exceptional cases. The policy must be built around stringent town planning and building regulations, economic incentives and disincentives of location, encouragement of livelihood opportunities in the low altitudes through directed State investment. In this context the State also needs to revisit the policy of allowing 3-5 storeyed construction in the hills, scale down building norms. Building rules of the plains cannot be allowed in hill terrain. Building of private townships with JCB machines employed to gouge out hillsides should not be permitted above 1000m AMSL. Having inflicted an irreversible toll on the mountain, the bulk of these investor houses lie empty year round. Spatial planning must be extended to the village level to prevent haphazard growth. An urban arts and landscapes commission must be set up to prevent ‘uglification’ of pristine hillsides. The anaemic Town Planning Department needs to be adequately staffed and empowered, rather than restrained from acting.

Another side-effect of such building activity is the use of tube wells to support such ‘townships’ at higher altitudes. These are deep bores and serve to dry out soil moisture and springs downstream with consequent ill-effect on vegetation and slope stability. Tubewells should not be permitted above 1000m AMSL and only in valley floors and plains.

Lateral (east-west) all-weather roads need to be constructed south of the Gangotri glacier and at mid-altitude to enable lateral movement between various north-south axes. In the recent disaster, movement to the unaffected Yamunotri axis would have enabled greater survival and faster relief.

Damage due to torrential flow in rivers cannot be contained by shallow abutments. Roads need to be built away from the highest flood levels of rivers. Outer bends of rivers, which receive the maximum impact of stream driven boulders, should be identified for strengthening.

‘Prachin’ shrines need to be restored to the original state of majestic isolation to regain their sanctity. Ugly service towns resembling flies on a honey pot, be relocated in planned fashion a goodly distance away. In recent years devotees zeal is ‘modernizing’ these ancient sites with garish colours and bathroom tiles dilute their antiquity. This opportunity should be taken to restore the aura of antiquity to these ancient temples.

Several old walking tracks have been abandoned in favour of roads. Disused pathways are still available and with engineering inputs these can make for
an alternative evacuation network. At other times they can constitute trekking routes bringing economic contribution to inaccessible hamlets. The disused Almora – Kathgodam route for example readily comes to mind.

It is well-known that Environment Impact Assessment [EIAs] are ‘managed’ so as to ensure that projects get through. Safety assessment from geological dynamics and impact on geological environment is not given due emphasis. As per EIA notification of the MoEF (2009), all State Highway Projects especially above 1,000m AMSL and all projects located at altitude of 1,000m AMSL and above are required to undergo EIAs but this is more observed in the breach.

The State should adopt an approach of strategic environment assessment (including biodiversity assessment) on a valley-wise basis nipping undesirable projects in the bud. In the wake of current crisis one should not shy away from decommissioning a few projects to prevent future disasters.

There is a large ex-servicemen population in the state, a disciplined human resource. These men could be effectively trained in disaster management, rescue and relief.

The reticence to regulate shows up in other vital areas. Strip development is rampant in the state choking roads and the minimum right of way laid down for the road hierarchy under UP Roadside Act is never enforced.

It is necessary to evaluate the current status of dams to assess the loss of storage capacity, revise the life span figure, and reassess the utility of the worst hit projects, decommissioning them where warranted.

Given the state's topography, geology and climate, hazard zones are widespread. Preventive measures are necessary if damages and losses are not to continue to retard the state economy. For eg. - in the Nainital Lake there is a real possibility of the massive hills on the north-east sliding into the lake.

Rope bridges, advanced helipads and landing strips, emergency stocks and shelters in the upper reaches should become a permanent feature, ready for use at short notice.

The state tourism policy should be guided by the principles of sustainable tourism.

Business as usual cannot continue - let us get it right this time and ensure that the caterpillar metamorphoses into a butterfly and not a moth.

– Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division, INTACH
News from Central Office

UNESCO Awards

The 2013 UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation brought good tidings, recognizing the heritage efforts of INTACH associated conservation architects. Earlier in the year a panel of international conservation experts deliberated on 47 entries received from 16 countries across the Asia-Pacific Region. Chair of the Jury, Tim Curtis stated: “We were particularly encouraged to see our broadest ever geographical range this year, spanning from the Cook Islands in the Eastern Pacific Ocean to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the far end of West Asia”.

The restoration of the Lal Chimney Compound, Mumbai received the Award of Distinction. The Royal Bombay Yacht Club Residential Chambers received the Award of Merit from UNESCO Culture Unit. Winners are selected annually on how projects reflect a clear understanding and application by various criteria such as articulation of the spirit of the place, technical achievement, appropriate adaptive use, contribution to the surrounding environment and the local community’s cultural and historical continuity. Eligible projects have to be of more than 50 years vintage, and in viable use for at least 1 year. The programme recognizes the efforts of individuals/organizations that have successfully restored and conserved structures of heritage value for adaptive reuse. INTACH congratulates its conservation architect Vikas Dilawari associated with the Mumbai Chapter for the above award winning undertaking.

The restoration of the principal Chedi (reliquary stupa) in Wat Prayurawongsawas Worawihan Temple in Bangkok received the top award.

Inclusion in Companies Bill

Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra met Corporate Affairs Minister Sachin Pilot regarding conservation funds from corporate houses. It was suggested that it should be made a part of corporate social responsibility. A formal proposal would be put up to the Ministry, since this aspect is not reflected in the Companies Bill which was recently passed in Parliament. The Companies Bill has not listed anything on conservation of heritage under cultural activities.

Dr. Misra pointed out “In the list this important obligation on the part of corporate houses is missing. Corporate social responsibility is part of the Directive Principles of State”. If the Corporate Affairs Ministry accommodates this suggestion, INTACH would be in a better position to tap more resources and expand its role in matters of conservation and preservation of historically significant heritage on a larger scale. It would trigger more domestic and foreign tourist footfalls that regenerate local economy – currently a matter of some concern to all people.

NGMA Exhibition

For the first time the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi held a photography exhibition of two eminent ‘camera women’. Inaugurated by ace photographer Raghu Rai on 16th September, Director Rajiv Lochan said that it was a first attempt to bring photography into the realm of mainstream modern art display. Through a Lens, By a Mirror, The Parsis by Sooni Taraporevala offered sweeping glances of the Parsi community between 1977-2013. She is the award winning screen writer of Salaam Bombay fame. She feels Parsis are a diminishing and minuscule group that need to be recorded for posterity. ‘Photographs freeze time and survive death’, she said. Her grandfather, grandmother, great uncles and aunts took with them an entire world of a bygone era that needed to be captured on celluloid.

The second exhibition A Certain Grace The Sidi : Indians of African Descent was by Ketaki Sheth. It was on a trip to the Gir forests where she first encountered this secluded community in the Sidi village of Jambur in Gujarat. They are a marginal Indo-African tribe that survive in some pockets of the country like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, etc. having completely embraced the language and culture of India. Sheth’s impressive 65 monochrome portraits bear witness to their community life – the Sidi at home, at work, in celebration, in prayer, at births, deaths and marriages.
News from Material Heritage

INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI)/Material Heritage Division (MHD) initiated a number of important projects. On the basis of a de-tailed process report (DPR) for conservation of art collection and other antique objects, work is being taken up at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Another DPR for the proposed conservation work at the Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi has also been drawn up.

The conservation of art collection and other antique objects of Chemde Monastery near Leh - the first time a monastery made such a request - was discussed at the meeting held with the CEO Tourism, Ladakh.

Microinks, associated with INTACH textile laboratory, suggested that its current year’s grant be utilized for some conservation activities in Gujarat. Conservation of wall painting by Nand Lal Bose at Kriti Mandir, Vadodara, which has important paintings from the history of Indian art, was short-listed.

ICI Lucknow efforts are to generate projects of material as well as architectural conservation with the Avas Vikas Parishad, Lucknow, the Hussainabad Trust and the College of Art & Tagore Library, Lucknow University.

A condition status report of the mural paintings in Sri Nagarathar Annathana Madam, Kondrakudi Murugan Temple, Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu was submitted by the Bangalore Centre.

Odisha CM has entrusted ICI Bhubaneswar with the building of a large aquarium within the premises of the Jobra Museum, Cuttack. The ICI Centre is also undertaking the conservation of ancient monuments and temples of Odisha, funded by the Government, under the 13th Finance Commission in coordination with the State Chapter and AHD.

Training & Capacity Building:

A French intern underwent 6 weeks programme on conservation of paintings at the ICI Delhi Centre. Some interns have been absorbed and are working under supervision. The research on Indian adhesive commenced along with a training program on wall painting conservation at Mangyu, with 4 trainees at site.

Meetings were held with the National Museum Institute and the Delhi Institute of Heritage Management, the premier institutions in India, for developing specific long and short term student programmes for training students in scientific conservation methods. One such 7-days training course was organised at the ICI Delhi for 20 students, with focus on preventive conservation and curative conservation of paper.

ICI Delhi

The wall paintings at the Mangyu Gompa in one of the most picturesque villages in western Ladakh had suffered extensive damage due to heavy rains and flash floods. This 11th century temple, belonging to the Alchi Nang Bar Nang Zad temples group, is situated at a height of 3500 meters. It has four shrines dedicated to the two armed Maitreya Buddha, Sakyamuni, Avalokiteshwara and the four armed Maitreya Buddha. The walls are adorned with beautiful wall paintings with both Kashmiri and Tibetan elements.

Previous attempts at restoration undertaken by the locals with
ICI Lucknow

Two beautiful oil paintings titled Shiva and Ganesh along with three carpets were received from a private collector for conservation treatment. It involved cleaning of the paintings, removal of stains, filling of loss of areas and finally re-toning on the losses.

Conservation of Regimental Colours

The Lucknow ICI team conserved 26 artifacts like paintings, photographs, regimental colors, alligator, stuffed lion, etc. in the ongoing project at the Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh that commenced at site in April. There are 12 Regimental Colors in a highly fragile condition. Four of these have been restored to date.
ICI Bengaluru

M F Hussain gifted a 151 x 145cms painting *Lady with a Lotus* to the owner, the distinguishing factor being the artist's signature in Kannada. It arrived at the Centre torn and brittle due to wrong storage, bad handling, water seepage and insect attack. The conservation processes entailed controlled humidification and flattening; removal of dust and dirt, and paper reinforced adopting the Japanese traditional technique with Japanese Kozo paper. Japanese wheat starch paste called 'ZinShofu' was used as adhesive. Adhering to the ethics of conservation, the reintegrated area was kept a shade lighter than the original tone so that one could recognize the reintegrated area upon close observation.

ICI Jodhpur

The Centre conserved an old handwritten book titled *Hastayurved*, a study of science of elephants, originally written by a pre-historic saint Palkapya Hrishi, that has come down through generations under Indian oral-recitation tradition. This 202 paged book is written in Sanskrit by Maharaj Baagh Singh of Karjali, son of Maharana Sangram Singh II of Mewar (AD 1710-1734). The last page of the book ends in red ink stating that the book was written by Sitaram Mishr, and completed on Chetra Krishna 12th Sunday, V.S. 1811 (AD 1754)

The book was found in a very fragile condition, the paper very acidic, brittle and torn in places, and writing matter missing due to termite infestation. The conservation treatment involved pagination of the sheets; stitches opened for dry cleaning and structural strength given to individual folios with one side lining of Japanese Lense Tissue using gluten-free starch. Care was taken to maintain the original method of binding cover and stitching.

Stolen from even Gods

Recent thefts show that smuggling racket in antique idols continues to thrive in India. The CBI recently recovered 17 bronze idols of the Buddha worth Rs.450 crore in the international market within a week of their being stolen from the Patna Museum. In the past there have been many such seizures from international airports in India. Smugglers have even produced replicas before the ASI advisory committee and obtained clearance for exporting the original! An official admitted that there have been instances of antiques going out of the country on the pretext of exhibition, but duplicates have returned to India. With smugglers getting bolder the ASI, the final word on antiquities, needs to outsmart them with carbon dating techniques.
ICI Kolkata

A fibre glass painting spread over 10 panels sized 48” X 64” by Anjolie Ela Menon was first gifted to the Statesman, and later to the Kolkata Metro Railway to be installed prominently at the Esplanade Metro Station. It took 5 years for the ICI Kolkata to get permission to restore this painting of a typical railway platform scene. The cracks on the fibre glass had been previously restored in an unscientific way. Different areas of the painting had become warped with cracks in several portions. After conservation, the painting now adorns the Esplanade Metro Station with a low heat emitting back lighting.

Stolen Heritage

Collectors and curators at the third International Brussels Oriental Art Fair triggered an interesting debate. Is it right to sell ancient artifacts from countries that have a reputation for not having many or any of their national treasures on record. It works to the advantage of dealers and art smugglers, and continues to strip Asian civilization of their invaluable heritage? Hannah Beech in her article Spirited Away on art thefts in India, Cambodia and China quotes a conservator from the London Institute of Archaeology: It’s commonly accepted by those of us who work in the field that 80-90% of the material on the market is illicit. There is no registering/listing of India’s cultural property thefts; and proof of unhindered passage of goods is readily available in many art object outlets overseas. A Brussels based freelancer Sudha Anantharaman rightly asks: Is relying on listings in the Art Loss Register an adequate excuse for selling another country’s ancient treasures with no qualms at all?

Visions of Mughal India

British artist Howard Hodgkin acquired a collection of Indian paintings during the last 50 years on visits to India. “These pictures have been chosen because they touched my emotions, and not for any scholarly purpose. It is a collection made by an artist” he says. They were brought together by the National Museum Cardiff at Wales in an exhibition recently, after travelling to other venues. The exhibition comprises refined naturalistic works of imperial Mughal court, subtle coloured paintings of Deccani sultanates, and vibrant frames of Rajput kingdoms with scenes of court life, hunting, and royal portraits.
ICI Odisha

ICI Odisha, Bhubaneswar is preparing a Detail Project Reports on behalf of the Odisha State Chapter for conservation and ambience development of 25 important sites of ancient monuments and temples of Odisha assigned by the Dept by the State Archaeology with funds received under 13th Finance Commission Grant. Many of the 25 ancient temples and monuments include important religious places with live deities and performing rituals such as Akhandalamani Temple, Aredi at Bhadrak, Nilamadhav Temple at Kontilo, Nayagarh, Mangala Temple at Kakatpur, Puri. DPR of 10 important sites was submitted to the Govt. of Odisha; and execution at 6 sites has started by the Odisha Conservation Centre. Scope of work also includes construction of enclosure walls (if not present) around the monument (if demarcation is available), landscaping, lighting and development of facilities such as kitchen block, yajna mandapa, etc.

ICI Mumbai

Anglo-Indian Sadeli mosaics, an ancient craft, is said to have been introduced from Shiraz in Persia (now Iran) to India; its chief centres are Ahmedabad, Baroda, Mumbai and Surat. The materials used are ivory and horn (plain or coloured) black ebony, red wood, tin or silver. They were cut into faceted rods bound together to give the maker a number of angled pieces to create pattern variations by combining the materials in different ways. The ivory was sometimes dyed green or blue to give an extra colour.

The majority of such wooden boxes inlaid with ivory are in stable condition at the Bahu Dadji Lal Museum, Mumbai with the inlay work on a few boxes chipped and strips of ivory cracked. ICI Mumbai used tiny swabs of cotton along with mixture of solvents for cleaning under magnification, followed by consolidation with Paraloid B72 in Sulphur-free Toulene.
**Think Local, Act Local**

Rivers are lifeline for cities, why turn them into sewage drains when they offer so many revenue generating opportunities through housing, tourism, nature conservation, etc. Cities have a huge recharge potential if the base of drains are brick lined and not cemented to ensure natural ground water recharge. A UN Report indicates that only 10% of India’s dirty water is treated, and often drinking water that ends up in households is contaminated. It points out Hazare’s Ralegan Siddhi as a sound water conservation model. That dams provide clean power has been established as a myth, because India’s 450 hydro projects happen to be the world’s worst methane polluters compared to other countries. The International Rivers Network says there is enough evidence to show large dams are a major source of climate change and pollution. Focus should be laid on smaller dams and check dams.

**Water Bodies : An Asset**

Water bodies from urban areas are disappearing at an alarming rate, it is reported. The Union Urban Development Ministry had advised States to identify lakes and ponds in urban areas and to notify them in municipal land records as “Assets”; and take steps to restore and preserve them. The Ministry also asked the States to expand the definition of water bodies to include storm water drains, baolis (step wells), trenches around old forts, as well as storage constructed around religious structures. What is required is a comprehensive review of catchment areas and regular maintenance work, confronting encroachment that leads to disruption of recharge flow, and banning dumping of waste and debris that chokes them dry. The Ministry directed: “The urban water bodies should be designated as a separate land use classification that is legally tenable. It should be done in parallel with the protected areas as defined under the Environment Protection Act and the Forest Protection Act to prevent their encroachment and destruction”.

**News from Natural Heritage**

The Natural Heritage Division (NHD) and Earthwatch Institute India are implementing a four year project on the conservation of water in Delhi. Under this project an event is organized every month where volunteers get hands-on exposure and training in water quality monitoring. This helps ito develop a data bank to augment the conservation of fresh water in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), and to train ‘Citizens Science Leaders’.

**Wake Up Call : Sand Mining**

Sand Mining continuously hit the multi-media headlines during this quarter, especially when a duty-minded SDM was suspended for uncovering illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh. It literally opened a Pandora’s box in many other States as well. Illegal miners have violated every green norm as widely reported in Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Delhi. In fact it is an old story in many sites, many States. A long standing Supreme Court Order clearly states no sand mining can take place without environmental clearance, unless States formulate their own rules based on Centre’s recommendations. The Environment Ministry also recommended that no sand mining should be permitted without prior environment impact assessment (EIA); sand should be removed from depths of more than 3 metres; there should be a distance of at least 1 km between 2 blocks; and the lease period not exceeding 5 years. However, illegal mining continues to thrive given the nexus with mining mafia, and the high demand for sand required in new infrastructure projects. There is no record of prosecutions or convictions.

Let the public be informed: Sand Mining causes structural imbalances in riverbeds, loss of groundwater recharge potential, it forces rivers to change course, increases erosion, and affects ground water tables. It has an adverse impact on the habitat of micro-organisms including plants, animals and aquatic life. It can lead to flooding of human habitation, and pose a threat to bridges, barrages and embankments. Environmentalists and water conservation experts have pointed out that the economic impact of illegal mining far outweighs the economic benefits if any. Sand mining puts people’s life and habitat at serious risk!
News from Architectural Heritage

Compendium of Good Practices

The Compendium of Good Practice was initiated by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with INTACH Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) within the framework of the PEARL (Peer Experience and Reflective Learning) initiative to carry out documentation of Good Practices of Conservation / Management / Restoration / Regeneration of Cultural Heritage in Indian cities. This will not be confined to heritage structures and monuments but also include:

- Regeneration and renewal of heritage areas and precincts.
- People’s participation and initiatives for overall enhancement of services
- Revitalization of historic market place
- Integrated renewal of a historical area/precint around an important monument
- Community participation in heritage management
- Specific institutional frameworks/structures established by local Government to support preservation/awareness of heritage (including heritage walks) etc.

The final objective is to identify and assess the five best practices and disseminate information on innovative projects in the form of a Compendium of Good Practices in Cultural Heritage and made available for reference on the PEARL portal/website under the ‘Knowledge Support for PEARL’ (a program supported by Cities Alliance).

Gopal Mandir, Ujjain

The iconic Gopal Mandir is a 200 year old landmark of Ujjain city. Constructed by Bay Jabai Shinde in the 19th century, it is beautiful example of the Maratha style of architecture of great cultural and associational value. Presently, it is under the ownership of the Scindia Devasthan Trust of Gwalior. The building has deteriorated due to a range of issues such as structural cracks, vegetation and water seepage but overall it still has remarkable structural strength. AHD conservation proposal firstly will ensure that no further damage happens to the building; and secondly certain emergency work is undertaken immediately. It will be followed up with a detailed conservation plan subsequently.

Archaic Laws

Delhi Urban Arts Commission Coordinator AGK Menon states “It’s time to wed the needs of the monument with the demands of residents. One must take the cue from European cities like London where a modern building has come up next to St. Paul’s Cathedral”. ASI is mulling over the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, last modified in 1992 in view of developmental pressures, public expectations and soaring tourism. Urban Designer KT Ravindran adds: “The current law often acts as deterrent for development around the protected zones. If you do not allow people to develop their surroundings, even maintain their buildings, what you get is 100-metre area around the monument which will be devoid of any real values”. The moot point: are heritage laws archaic and the opposite pole to development? Experts feel there is need to re-examine the Acts to preserve what is left of heritage.
Raja ka Mahal, Jaisalmer

The Raja ka Mahal, originally a King's palace is now a museum. The building is a seven storey palace with beautifully carved balconies and crowns of pagoda shaped cupolas. The highest point of the fort (about 70 feet high from the top of bastion), was affected during the Bhuj earthquake in 2001 and 2009, with structural cracks and water seepage having increased over the year. AHD emergency and other conservation work of the palace is being funded by the Prince Clause Foundation, World Monument Fund, and Giridhar Smarak Trust. The work of retaining wall stabilization has been completed with the help of CINTEC anchors at regular intervals along the height to provide a continuous reinforced band to increase strength of back fill.

Kaliadeh Fort, Ujjain

The Kaliadeh Palace, one of the most artistic palaces of Ujjain, was built by the Mandu Sultans on the banks of the river Shipra. It is said that the palace was built at the place of an old Sun Temple. Two Persian inscriptions on one of its long corridors state Emperor Akbar and Jehangir visited it. The palace suffered many destructions and damages over time but in 1920 it was restored by Madhav Rao Scindia and ownership transferred to Scindia Devasthan Trust. Emergency measures, water proofing of terraces and domes is currently being carried out by AHD.

Nimtita Rajbari Ruins, Murshidabad

The Rajbari, situated in Nimtita village, 10 kilometers from Murshidabad, is a grand palace and architectural marvel of its time. It is in a dilapidated state, accelerated after the demise of Sabita Roy Choudhury, the last descendant Satyanarayan Roy Choudhury who built the palace. The grand facade facing the Ganga stands as a sad reminder of what was once a majestic combination of Greek, Victorian and Mughal architectural styles. Only the rear portions remain today. Satyajit Ray filmed his three famous movies: Jalsaghar (The Music Room), Devi, and Teen Kanya, at this location.

Lost and Not Found

The Union Ministry of Culture claims 47 monuments out of 92 termed missing in the latest CAG Report have been traced by the Archaeological Survey of India. But what about the balance 45 monuments? The audit that started in 2012 involved physical inspection of 1,655 national monuments out of 3,678 under ASI protection. Seven major museums under the Ministry of Culture were also audited. The report also found 131 antiquities stolen from monuments and 37 from museums. Where are they?

Some of the important monuments found missing even after ASI survey are Bara Khamba Cemetery, Inchla Wali Gumont in village Mubarakpur, Kotla and 3 domes near Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi; Kos Minars at Shahbad and Mujessar in Haryana; old European Tomb near Pune; Temple Baran and Inscription Nagar in Rajasthan, to mention a few. Bihar tops the list of States with 11 missing monuments, with Uttar Pradesh a close second. The CAG pointed out poor maintenance even at iconic sites like the Taj Mahal and Red Fort; apart from innumerable cases of encroachment and unauthorized construction inside heritage monuments.
Quiz Programme

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) organized the annual inter-college INTACH Heritage Quiz on 20th September in Delhi, and on 27th September in Bangalore at PESIT. They were professionally conducted by Quizcraft, a leading quiz company. In the face of an all encompassing monoculture that is taking root among the youth especially, valuing and knowing our rich heritage is very important. What better way to engage their attention than this kind of competition?

More than 50 prestigious colleges participated. Prize winners and finalists won books from Hachette who sponsored the quiz. This series of competitions have added impetus to one of INTACH’s primary efforts – to make youth more aware of the value of national culture and material heritage. The programmes will be telecast on DD Bharati.

Documentation

ICHD has commissioned a project to document the oral history of World War II in Manipur, with Hemant Katoch as the Chief Coordinator. It involves the collection of oral testimonials of survivors to fill the gap in historical accounts of the war in Manipur, and to capturing their experience at a time of unprecedented turmoil and change. Hemant Katoch is also working on a series of educational tours to promote the historical significance of the Battle of Imphal. It was the turning point as significant in Asia as El Alamein in Africa and Stalingrad in Europe was for the Allied Forces.

ICHD is documenting cultural practices of the Barrak Valley tribes in Assam. This Valley has been the meeting ground of people belonging to different ethnic groups – Bishnupuriya Manipuri, Mizo, Reang, Hmar, Vaiphei – communities and cultural entities. Most of them are Bengali speaking Hindu and Muslim communities, with each Tribe having its unique cultural identity. A holistic mapping exercise of some of these groups is underway.

The documentation of the ethno-cultural practices of four tribes of Andhra Pradesh – Bagata, Porja, Konda Dora, and Kodhu – of Paderu and Araku Valley of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh was completed.
Silence of the Tongues

A 115 years ago, the first Linguistic Survey of India by an Irishman Abraham Grierson recorded 179 languages and many more dialects. For the first time in a new linguistic map, the Bharat Bhasha Vikas Yojana attempted to record every single language in India numbering 780 including those spoken by less the 10,000 people – unlike the 2001 census of the Linguistic Survey of India which had listed only 122 languages. The recent Chronicle compiled in 68 volumes spread over 35,000 pages was dedicated to the nation on 5th September, the birth anniversary of Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, celebrated as Teachers’ Day. This was the largest ever survey of languages conducted over 4 years involving about 85 institutions and roping in many linguists, anthropologists, sociologists, cultural activists and over 3000 language speaking volunteers.

If Hindi is spoken by around 40 crore people, Majhi has just 4 practitioners living in Sikkims’s Jorethang valley. A total of 7 languages are spoken in Haryana and Punjab; 50 odd are spoken in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Assam each; while Arunachal tops with the largest number of 90 languages spoken in the State. Hardly 300 persons speak Burushaski, a language carried to Kashmir by immigrants from Gilgit-Batistan bordering Afghanistan. The survey stumbled upon languages never before recorded like Gorpa spoken by the fisherman community in Dadra & Nagar Haveli; or Phulej, Majhi and Thani among 15 languages spoken in Sikkim. In fact many languages, except Kohli spoken widely in western coastal regions are slowing losing the status of mother tongue.

Interestingly, some of the country’s lesser known languages are today amongst the fastest growing because of the passionate support they received from their speakers. These include the Bhil group of languages – Byari, Ahirani, Mewati and Lepcha which grew an impressive 71% between 1991-2001. Byari for instance spoken mostly by Muslims of the Karnataka and Kerala coast has a vocabulary drawn from Malayalam, Tulu and Arabic. Even the Indian Sign Language (ISL), which has an estimated 5 million users, has a wider reach than some scheduled languages like Bodo and Sanskrit, as per the survey.

Over the last half century 220 languages were lost. It s said “the death of a language is more than an aesthetic loss. It marks the disappearance of a living codex of a culture”. Empowerment of the people is easier by restoring their mother tongue.

Valmiki’s Ramayan

A rare terracotta figureine with the Ramayana theme was discovered by noted archaeologist DP Sharma, originally from Nachara Khera in Haryana. It is now lying at the Jhajjar Museum. This rare terracotta find has Ram, Sita and Laxman figurines with a Brahm inscription which reads that while travelling at Panchavati, Ram met a vulture (Jatayu) who gave certain clues about Sita who had been abducted by Ravana. Another such terracota figure was discovered at Kausambhi narrating the abduction of Sita, is now at Allahabad Museum. Dr. Sharma feels all such artifacts should be kept together in one museum.

Kailas in Cambodia

An ICCR photo exhibition Kailas in Cambodia by parliamentarian Tarun Vijay traces archaeological links between India and the South East Asian region. The World Heritage Preah Vihear located between Northern Cambodia and NE Thailand, with entrances on both sides was claimed by both countries, till handed to Cambodia by the International Court of Justice. The Temple known as Shikareshwar, meaning lord of the peak representing Kailas, abode of Shiva, was originally built by the Angkor king Yasovarman in 9th century AD. There are 5 gopuras, and the mandapa of the central temple depicts Shiva dancing on the head of an elephant-demon. A number of other Hindu Gods adorning the temple indicate the cordial relations that existed between Buddhists and Shaivites – for us to ‘Look East’ with new perspectives.
Many Faces of Ramayana

The two month long exhibition Rama Katha – The Story of Rama through Indian Miniatures opened in August at the National Museum exhibiting rare Ramayana miniatures for the first time. Painted by Indian artists of the 17th-19th centuries, there were many faces of the Ramayanain miniatures: The Portrait of Rama (Basholi style, 1730 AD) and sage Narada requesting Valmiki to write the story of Ram (Kangra style, early 19th century), blue-skinned Rama in the crowded court of King Janaka breaking the bow of Shiva during his swayamvara of Sita, some solos of Ram, Ravana and Hanuman, among the 101 exhibits. There are varied interpretations of a much revered saga in many genres like Pahari style from the mountains; Rajasthani and Malwa of Central India, Provincial Mughal from Budelkhand, Deccani classical from Bijapur and classical folk style of Kalighat – representative of the many modifications that this most revered religious literature has undergone since it was created sometime in the 5th-4th century BC. Ram and other heroes of the epics are eternal role models to millions of Indians. To confine them within the boundaries of chronology or geography to prove historicity is pointless and unnecessary.

In November the exhibition will travel overseas to the Royal Museum of Art and History at Brussels.

Post Script: If you read the Ramayana and Mahabharata as history, you will find lots of mythology. If you read them as mythology, you will find lots of history.

– A.L. Basham

News from Heritage Education

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) conducted a series of Teachers Training Workshops, an ongoing programme at several INTACH centres during this quarter across the country in collaboration with the concerned Chapters.

Delhi & Gurgaon

In collaboration with the Sanskriti Kendra, Anandagram a one-day teacher training workshop was held on 19th July at the Kendra for 48 schools from Delhi and Gurgaon. Dr. Shobita Punja, CEO of National Cultural Fund (NCF) held a session with the school teachers on museums as a resource by showing different museum artifacts showcased in the gallery and interpreting how they were made and used. Delhi Co-Convener Swapna Liddle and Founder of Sanskriti Kendra, O. P. Jain stressed on the importance of protecting and adopting a monument. Resource person from Sanskriti Pratisthan Shubra Tandon touched on various projects and initiatives such as museums, pottery centre, and residential facilities, etc. in order to enhance sensitization among people.

School students documented any one natural heritage and one lesser known monument, Dilli Ki Shaan. A series of Documentation Cards containing the heritage features of Delhi were circulated by HECS to each of the Delhi schools.
**Vishakapatnam**

**Delhi Content Workshop by Feisal Alkazi 2nd August, IIC Delhi**

INTACH-IIC organized the FILMIT technical workshop attended by 22 prestigious Delhi schools. Resource person Wesley Jefferson Technical Expert from UK and Indian film makers Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas urged students to think creatively and gave useful tips about using the camera, etc.

**Kolkata**

The Kolkata Filmit was held at Lakshmipat Singhania Academy, supported by State Convenor GM Kapur, Co-Convenor Nayantara Palchoudhuri and Kolkata Co-Convenor Kanchana Mukhopadhyay. Resource person Abhra Aich, a well known film maker showed a few of his documentaries such as *Matri Bhumi* and *Superman of Malegaon*.

In collaboration with Convenor P.V. Prasad a two-day teacher training workshop in Telugu was held on 19th-20th July for teachers from 18 schools at the Sri Prakash Vidyamiketan, Uplands. The teachers were very appreciative of the bi-lingual *What is Heritage Kit* and the resource book *Hands on Heritage*. They also received a Telugu book on the local traditional *Festivals and Fairs* celebrated in Andhra Pradesh.

**Filmit India Workshops**

**Delhi**

Another on-going programme of HECS Filmit India, Phase 4 held a series of workshops:

Feisal Alkazi, a theatre personality and educationist discussed how to make interesting films and shared his experience while making his first INTACH film, *Discovering My City* in the 1980s.

**Delhi- interactions with students, 7th August**

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**Bojjanna Konda**

Bojjanna Konda a famous Buddhist site situated in a village called Sankaram, meaning a monastery in Pali language, was inhabited for almost thousand years up to the 700 AD. The site has many images of Buddha carved in the recesses of the hill, three chaitya hills, votive stupas, caves etc. A coin of Satavahana dynasty and a gold coin of Samudragupta dating to 4th century were excavated here.

**Vishakapatnam Workshop, 12th-13 July**

Dr. Ayyagari Prasanna Kumar was the chief resource person. A heritage walk was organised at *Bojjan Konda*. Convener P.K Prasad and his team of enthusiastic Members contributed largely to the success of this workshop. Bojjanna Konda a famous Buddhist site situated in a village called Sankaram, meaning a monastery in Pali language, was inhabited for almost thousand years up to the 700 AD. The site has many images of Buddha carved in the recesses of the hill, three chaitya hills, votive stupas, caves etc. A coin of Satavahana dynasty and a gold coin of Samudragupta dating to 4th century were excavated here.
Goa

The Goa Filmit technical workshop was organized at Sharada Mandir School, Co-Convener Fatima Gracias introduced the participants, followed by a welcome address by Principal Sharmila Asthamkar. Mr. Wesley Jefferson, discussed the stages of film making, story board method of making films, and also showed the participants a short film on Yorkshire.

Mumbai

Mumbai Chapter organized Filmit Workshop at Bhau Daji Lal Museum attended by eight renowned schools. Mr Wesley Jefferson made the students work on a presentation of the city’s rich heritage.

The workshop concluded with a visit to Byculla Municipal Secondary School for an orientation programme.

Chandigarh

Filmit workshop was organized at St.Kabir’s School, Chandigarh with Mr.Wesley Jefferson and Purnima Datt as resource persons. The programme was launched by Geetika Kala, Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Punjab and Convenor Virinder Kapoor; and attended by Co-Convenor Vivek Attray and a number of INTACH Members. The students shared their ideas and worked in groups to make a film together with editing sound, etc.

Chapters awarded for Harit Sankalp : Care for Nature

HECS takes this opportunity to thank all the Chapters for their commendable efforts and their commitment to INTACH’s educational programmes.

Nine Chapters - Jabalpur, Aurangabad, Jammu, Kodaikanal, Visakhapatnam, Ambala, Mizoram, Morena and Mayurbhanj - have been awarded by INTACH for showing remarkable dedication and commitment in terms of the programme organized, the number of entries received, as well as the timely submission of the reports. Heartiest congratulations to Chapters for their good work!

Heritage in Education

Hundreds of Delhi school children took an oath to be heritage leaders at the Red Fort earlier this year. They are participating in Heritage Walks being conducted by INTACH, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the NGOs Space and Itihas, in conferences organized by the Popular Front of India. The events are accompanied by slogan writing, sketching, poster making, various competitions, etc. UNESCO has endorsed the theme Heritage of Education on World Heritage Day, and perhaps it will feature in the extra-curricular activities of many school activities across the country.

Hyderabad

Filmit India workshop was held at the Meridian School, Hyderabad. One student spoke about how he was saved from a cobra by a loyal dog, while another talked about his experience of visiting a temple in Manali. A young filmmaker Pranav Pingle Reddy gave a brief on how to make movies on built heritage, giving tips on shooting and use of animation. The workshop ended with a short film by Pranav Reddy on caring for children with disabilities.
Chennai

Filmit Chennai workshop was conducted at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh gave a brief introduction, and Abhishek Das presented the themes for this year’s films and showed some short films to discuss students’ responses.

The Principal of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, Kalpalatha Mohan conducted a workshop for Principals and Teachers of Chennai Schools (mainly Government Schools) on 26th July in Dakshinachitra. The need to introduce Heritage Clubs was explained to them, and also the kind of activities that could be organized for students, with a power point presentation. They were urged to enroll and avail of the Heritage Club activities organized by INTACH.

News from Training Centre

The INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building (ICCTCB) in collaboration with the Chennai Chapter conducted a 3-day Heritage Conservation Training Workshop for the faculty and lecturers of Architecture Colleges in Chennai in June. Hosted jointly with the School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University; Office of the Public Works Department, Chennai; and MEASI Academy of Architecture, the objective of this specialised course was to create a better understanding of issues and construction techniques in traditional materials. It would enhance technical skills in building restoration, and impart an overall perspective of issues in Heritage Preservation and Conservation. The knowledge gained will be further disseminated to students of architecture schools and brought into mainstream building construction classes.

There was a special session on understanding and conservation of lime in historic buildings. Experts from Bangalore and Puducherry shared their knowledge and experience on conservation, material heritage and
urban architectural heritage. Field visits were also arranged to demonstrate on ground the practical challenges and issues related to the conservation of heritage buildings in Chennai. The workshop elicited a positive response from both participants and experts. Asst.Prof Tahil Ezhil G, MARG Institute of Design and Architecture Swarnabhoomi said Lecturers and site visits bridged the gap between theory and practicality. Asst. Prof M. Shanthini, Rajalakshmi School of Architecture felt the Heritage Walk was more interesting and gave an opportunity to interact and learn many interesting facts about heritage buildings. Architect Priyanka Talreja from Mumbai expressed thanks “for the wonderful experience and friendly atmosphere!”

At Myanmar

ICCTCB Principal Director Navin Piplani gave a presentation on Investing in Heritage Cities: Stimulus for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihood at the ASEF Experts’ Meeting & Public Forum in Yangon, Myanmar. It was a platform for knowledge sharing on sustainable urban conservation policies and practices in Asia and Europe, to foster stronger networks among heritage professionals across the two regions. Around 30 experts from 18 member countries of ASEM participated as panelists representing civil society organisations, as well as public officials (representing both governments and international organisations). Experts from Asia and Europe including Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Phillipines, UNESCO Bangkok, Singapore, China and India also participated in the meeting.

Director Piplani ICCTCB presented a paper on Heritage-led Urban Revitalisation: Economic Benefits and Beyond, Case Study from India’. It addressed two key issues: What could be the role of heritage in creating attractive cities for people as well as businesses; and can heritage be a resource and potential basis for creative economy? His overview: “The ASEF Experts’ meeting was critical in enabling knowledge exchange between Asian and European experts with diverse backgrounds, by offering opportunities to discuss and interact amongst participants and organizers” later featured in the ASEF newsletter.

Director ICCTCB, Navin Piplani is congratulated on his appointment as the Vice-President, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Training (CIF). This Committee promotes international cooperation in the field of training and education in the protection, conservation and revitalization of monuments and sites, and the built heritage in general, in order to advance greater understanding in the recognition of such heritage, technology, management, and doctrine. It advises on the development of ICOMOS programs in this field.

The proceedings of a major international conference titled ‘Imagining Conservation: The Next Twenty Years’ has now been published by the University of York, UK. The Conference was organised at York last year in July to discuss various issues, challenges and potentials related to the three key themes of education, training and practice in the conservation of cultural heritage. They provide a critical framework for the analysis of issues and case studies, underpinning the potential approaches to conservation for the next twenty years. An edited volume of the papers presented at the Conference, compiled by Navin Piplani in his capacity of Director of Studies and Hamlyn Feilden Fellow, Centre for Conservation Studies, University of York, is available at ICCTCB office, Delhi.
ANDHRA PRADESH

Hyderabad

The Banjara Industrial Heritage Walk regularly conducted by descendants of founder Hakim was appreciated by Convenor Anuradha Reddy after witnessing the lively participation of young people. He had set up his first unit Kharkhana Zinda Talismath at Moti Market Kacheguda area and to this day it works in an excellent condition. The operations are manual, with quality control and supervision of a high standard. Anuradha writes “We opened a sealed bottle produced in 1920 for 6 annas and the contents were intact”. The Management recently sent many of its products for Uttarakhand Relief.

The SVCA-INTACH Design/Conservation Planning Workshop on Design Intervention in Historic Precincts of Gulbarga was conducted both at Hyderabad and Gulbarga from 9th-13th September on various facets of heritage conservation, urban design methodology and design intervention. It was attended by 40 students from the School of Planning and Architecture, JNAFAU and Sri Venkateshwara Coll. Participants judged by a jury received certificates from Convenor Sajjad Shaid.

Srikakulam

Convenor DV Dharmrao visited Basel to attend its 44th International Art. Nearly 4000 artists representing more than 100 countries gathered together with their works exhibited in 320 art stalls that had been set up. Shri Dharamrao participated in the scheduled dialogue with many stalwart curators, painters and critics. He visited the special Picasso Museum, the Bayler Museum, Historical Museum and the Antiken Museum in Basel.
CHHATTISGARH

Convenor Lalit Surjan was Chief Guest at a programme of the Institutional Member NITTTR, Bhopal. Its Director Dr. Vijay Agrawal regularly organises prestigious lectures for orientation of faculty and students, inviting participation of the general public. In his keynote address Lalit Surjan elaborated on how heritage conservation connects with environment and history, and an effective tool of learning and enrichment of human life.

Two short films were screened on India’s Heritage. A copy of Bayan-e-Bhopal produced by the Institute was presented for INTACH Library.

Sarguja

On the occasion of Sadbhavana Diwas, commemorating the anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, Convenor OP Agrawal and Co-Convenor Dr.Sachin Mandilwar held a function at the ‘Rashtrapati Bhavan’ in Pandunagar village. The bhavan is thus called because the first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad stayed at this abode in 1952. During this visit he rehabilitated the Pandu tribe, and thereafter the village was known as Pandunagar.

The students of Holy Cross Women’s College, Ambikar and the local people together planted 66 fruit trees to mark that many years of India’s Independence. Chief Guest MLA TS Singh Deo presented a shawl to 95 years old Smt. Gendibai as she was a witness to the events of 1952.

CHANDIGARH

The HECS Open Future – Filmit India was inaugurated by Punjab Principal Secretary Tourism Geetika Kalha, with several local dignitaries in attendance.

Two short films were screened on India’s Heritage. A copy of Bayan-e-Bhopal produced by the Institute was presented for INTACH Library.

Sadhvana Diwas, Sarguja
DELHI

The Chapter’s replica of the Arch of Labna, a Meso-america ornate structure built by the Mayans in the Yucatan region, Mexico now stands along with several other public art pieces that adorn the 20 acre Garden of Five Senses in Delhi. The project conceived by a former Ambassador Julio Faesler of Mexico to India, is an expression of the close diplomatic ties between the two ancient countries. It was formally inaugurated by the Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on 15th September.

Monument Laws

Members of the National Monument Authority (NMA), Director of the School for Planning & Architecture (Bhopal), ASI officials and representatives of INTACH met on 24th July to discuss the new Heritage Bye Laws under framing, and how best to balance heritage protection with developmental activities. The advisory group deliberated on the Ahmedabad experience, a city that earned a place on the UNESCO’s tentative list of World Heritage Cities last year. It is useful reference in preparing monument-specific heritage bye-laws for Delhi which has as many as 174 ASI protected monuments; and for documentation under finalisation to get Delhi a World Heritage City tag.

Humayun’s Tomb

The restored UNESCO World Heritage Site, Humayun’s Tomb, at Nizamuddin Delhi, was officially declared open to the public by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and The Aga Khan on 18th September. Master craftsmen were flown in from Babar’s old country Uzbekistan to train young workers for the restoration by the Aga Khan Fund. The young trainees came from many places – a chemistry graduate from Moradabad, a water reservoir mason from Bihar, a school dropout from Delhi, and many others like them. It took 2 years to match the turquoise colour of the olden day tiles, but after six tireless years they all know how to make Mughal-style handmade glazed ones. Head Mason Attar Singh of AKTC’s project said “we’ve given more than a slice of our lives to this place”. It was indeed a mammoth makeover – 1 million kilos of concrete manually removed from the roof, 2,25, sq ft of lime plaster applied, 40,000 sq ft of stone paving from the plinth lifted and reset, and stones weighed 2,500 kilos. A sitar recital by Ustad Shujaat Hussain Khan was a beautiful tribute to the fine restoration work.

Always Amiss

The exercise to save the trees in Delhi as directed by the National Green Tribunal deadlined 8th August caused more damage than conservation. In the process of removing the cement that had ‘entombed’ the trees, the workers cut off the lateral roots and removed the soil around them! Trees have begun to tilt, and their fall is inevitable if not this monsoon surely the next – unless damage control is immediately instituted. It is clear no supervisory staff was present while the earth movers and tree cutters wreaked the damage. It is fortunate that large swathes of the city trees have not been ‘de-choked’ notwithstanding the 8th August deadline!

GUJARAT

State Co-Convenor Sanjeev Joshi was the Lead India finalist for Gujarat for its maiden venture in 2009. In September this year he led an eager group to the walled city areas, armed with maps and plans encapsulating the formation of Qila-e-Daulatabad as it was known during the rule of Gujarati Sultanates till the reign of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. The hub of one of the institutions created by the Gaekwad is the Central Library, giving insight into how a visionary ruler believed in getting the best for his city – be it glass flooring of the library from Belgium or getting William Borden from USA to plan an exemplary library. Sanjeev Joshi feels it makes sense to promote the walled city “as it offers an interesting mix of life – right from bazaars to religious places to schools, institutions and even small manufacturing units. It offers amazing diversity in compactness”. A highly successful Colloquium was held on Architect Robert Fellows Chisholm who designed 9 listed landmarks of Baroda city, supported by the State Chapter and by VMC/VMSS – Municipal Corporation. Ten colleges participated in a major photography competition covering Chisholm’s buildings and structure workshops, with the latter engaging students of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics.

Mehsana

Convenor Javahar Mehta visited the Brahmani temple of Shitla Mata located
in Buta Paldi village of the District. He noticed encroachment around the temple and a platform being misused by local residents, although it is an ASI protected site. With the support of the village Sarpanch INTACH gave a proposal for conservation of the temple, that was immediately taken up by a receptive Director Ravat of Archaeology. Without immediate remedial measures, the temple might not withstand the next monsoons as the bricks and stones are denuded from its basement.

Marine Eco-Sensitive Zone

The Ministry of Environment declared India’s first marine eco-sensitive zone around Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat. Stringent environmental regulations will apply for developmental works in 36 villages and several rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea, prohibiting any industrial activity in the region. The notification clarifies that change in land use for any recreational, commercial or industrial development or expansion of existing ones will not be permitted excepting for residential purposes. Stringent air pollution laws will be applicable to existing jetties.

HARYANA

Gurgaon

Convenor Atul Dev is all praise for the “green fingers” displayed by Life Member Mridula Baidwan. It was her labour of love that took her after retirement to the family’s ancestral property in Dharamshala where she planted 1000 flowering bushes, shrubs and trees before returning home to Gurgaon. Soon she missed what had been left behind. In her own words “I started dreaming of trees and flowers all over my Gurgaon neighbourhood. My obsession drove me to uproot my most treasured exotic plants from my own garden and transfer them to the beds in the complex. My satisfaction was immense, I recall. My neighbours refused to follow suit, however, they were persuaded to contribute funds to the greening of the complex. It was then that I set to work with the help of a gardener and planted more than 100 trees throughout the complex - Almaltas, along with Bougainvillea, Hibiscus and Magnolia. The result - I was co-opted as a Vice President of the Welfare Association, in charge of beautification of the complex!” The neighbourhood’s regular passers-by soon noticed her daily toiling away in the morning heat. It had a rippling effect when people began to discover the beauty of a greener surroundings sprouting around them day by day. Local shopkeepers and upmarket galleries readily agreed to her suggestions about improving their complex. A foreign landscaping company recently appointed by DLF Ltd to upgrade their Gurgaon development showed pictures of the entrance gate to Mridula’s residential complex as the model to follow. In a presentation made to DLF senior executives and the landscaping company.

Mridula is currently involved in an NGO ‘I Am Gurgaon’, that is developing a Bio-Diversity Park jointly with the Municipal Corporation by planting original species of trees in a rocky area. The joint project is well on its way to the impressive target of planting 1 million trees, having already planted approximately 30,000 trees.
Like her, INTACH is both thrilled and proud that one of its Members has made such a difference to involving the public in environmental protection. On most mornings this retired corporate honcho can still be found at the Bio-diversity Park doing her share of the job. INTACH extends it hearty congratulations to Mridula Baidwan – an example hard to follow!

**Kurukshetra**

The Chapter held a regional *On-the-Spot Poster* competition on the theme *Indian Heritage and Women Empowerment* on 31st August. Over a hundred students from 12 schools of Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat and Ambala districts participated in this inter-school event. They made excellent posters on different aspects of natural, cultural and architectural heritage of India. Convener Prof. Dr. A.R. Chaudhri welcomed the Chief Guest Prof. K.C. Ralhan, Registrar of Kurukshetra University and Chapter Advisor Suresh Chowdhry. Principal Geetika Jasuja of DAV Public School addressed the students and reiterated the importance of heritage.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**Jammu**

A workshop cum launch of heritage properties enlisted in Jammu was organized by the Chapter at Amar Mahal Palace on 11th June. Inaugurating the event, District Development Commissioner Ajit Kumar Sahu appreciated INTACH efforts in documenting the heritage sites of Jammu, a city of temples. He highlighted the historic value of properties like palaces, shrines and other heritage buildings as reflecting different stages of civilisational growth of the State.

Convener S.M. Sahni explained the salient features of enlisted properties, and elaborated on the Chapter’s initiative in restoration plans of Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex, Mega Pilgrim Tourism Project, Bhimgarh Fort Reasi, Jandifort Hiranagar, Lakanpur Fort besides conducting heritage awareness programmes in various educational institutes. The faculty and scholars of Jammu University, representatives of the Tourism Department, Food Craft Institute, Dogra Art Museum and PWD participated in the workshop. President Hospitality Industry Jammu, Kuldeep Wahi explained the importance of heritage shrines and other complexes from the tourism point of view - it boosts the local economy and brings greater prosperity to the people.
JHARKHAND

An intern from the Delhi School of Social Sciences at the Kalamandir took the initiative to organize a walk “to leave your footprint on the Heritage Path” on 30th June. Participants viewed buildings on Bistpur Road from a historic perspective like the 1930-40s Tilak Pustakalay, a major hub for all book lovers; the Mazar of Baba Chuna Shah, a divine messenger; the 1907 Tisco Gate of complete cast iron; etc.

KARNATAKA

Dharwad

The Chapter forwarded the above pictures of a 400 years old Adilshahi well, dug in the wilderness for quenching the thirst of its marching army. Locally known as the Argad Bhavi (literal meaning ‘well of the wilderness’), it was later used by the Maratha and British soldiers.

A Living Tradition

8th September Sahyadri Day originated in 1983 when people from villages around Salani in Uttara Karnataka undertook a 8-km trek to lay siege to a tree felling site in the Kalase forests. The Appiko movement (hug-a-tree) was launched by Pandurang Hegde and grew in strength over the next 3 months with the chant ulisu, belasu, balasu (“save, grow and sustain”). Soon the movement spread to other districts with forest dwellers challenging the tyranny of the authorities bent on clearing the native tropical fields for monoculture plantations. This spontaneous social action led to a moratorium on green felling across the Sahyadri range of Western Ghats. Ever since it has become the vanguard of ecological conservation movement that opposed the seventh dam on the Kali river in Karnataka, raising its voice to save the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, taking on the controversial Nylon 66 project Goa, or supporting the Chalakudy river campaign in Kerala. It has matured into a politically correct movement in contesting development priorities in southern States. Its adherents believe that only by marking Sahyadri Day can the ethos of the movement become a potent tool to counter violence against nature because the contours of environment versus development have shifted in favour of individual gains as opposed to collective well being of communities.

Ack: Sudhirendra Sharma, The Hindu

KERALA

Calicut

Convenor K. Mohan reports that better sense has prevailed, and the Kozhikode Corporation now proposes to convert their old office premises into a museum, as pursued by the Chapter.

The Chapter’s newsletter Pathemari is a fund of information covering different facets of Kozhikode heritage and a commendable publication.

Two students Alexandra Pawlowska from Poland and Renata Redovanovic from Beluras thanked the Chapter for facilitating the documentation of traditional houses Nalukettu and Ettukettu during their study visit to Kerala.

On 16th August a Historic Walk was organized starting from Mahatma Gandhi statue junction where 7 streets converge near the seashore. Participants wended their way through historic areas of the city passing many of its iconic streets like Silk Street where the Chinese
did business as far back as 1405. They crossed other landmarks like the French Enclave and a Dutch weaving factory (presently Beach Hospital) and the Portuguese Jail (now the Taj Hotel). The Convent Road of this ancient port city skirts the Italian missionaries workshop, and the Mother of God Cathedral built by the Portuguese in 1599. The British built the Civil and Criminal Courts in 1789 where a 150 year old traditional Trading House still stands. The Empty Gunny Street is another surviving warehouse of Dutch origin. The walkers visited the cocoanut sorting place that exports the products to North Indian cities today. The oldest Beach Hotel is dated 1890, and the All India Radio station was once the Italian Missionary Training Mission. The walk ended at the Basel Manager Bungalow now demolished for holding exhibitions. MLA Pradeep Kumar who accompanied the walkers promised to support a Maritime Museum on the seashore if INTACH Chapter can draw up a project report for consideration.

Condolesnces
Curator of the State Department of Archaeology, Dr. Mohanan Nair passed away on 8th August. He was an active Associate Life Member of the Trivandrum Chapter, and regularly helped in organizing heritage walks. He will be much missed by his colleagues and friends A wreath was laid on behalf of Chapter Members. May he forever rest in peace. INTACH extends heartfelt condolences and good wishes to his bereaved family members.

MADHYA PRADESH

Mandla
Convenor Girja Shankar Agarwal and INTACH Members visited an old talab at Ghagha village located between Jabalpur and Mandala. They found the remains of an old temple, supposedly the Sun Temple built 400-500 years ago. There has been much digging at the site in search of murtis but none found. Some discovered in 1995 belonging to the Sun Temple presumably are placed in Mandla Museum. INTACH team with the help of local citizens cleared the site of shrubs and over growth.
MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai

In collaboration with the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust, a series of Lectures, Workshops and Exhibitions were organized that are now a well honed and ongoing feature of the Museum headed by INTACH Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta.

Lectures & Programmes

- **Craft of Primitivism: The History of Institutionalization of Culture in Modern India** by Santhosh Sadanandan on 24th August. The lecture revisited Debates around craft and the nation, questioned the construction of primitive discourse by analysing instances of the institutionalization of craft like the founding of Santiniketan and National Craft Museum.

- **Devi Darshan: A Gift of Love** by Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala on 31st August. She explored the reciprocal aspect of darshan, the Indian concept of seeing God in the act of worship, employing the psychoanalytical concept of Kaja Silverman of “ethics of the field of vision” as a reference point to analysis of cultural practices related to Devi worship.

The Museum and Chapter jointly donated a computer to the West Byculla Marathi Secondary School. On Independence Day, everyone who visited the museum was asked to write and illustrate what freedom means to them and turned them into a bunting that decorated the Industrial Arts Gallery.

- To celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi guests made their own Ganesha using clay on 30th August.
**Exhibitions**

- *Missives* by Ghiora Aharoni was a series amalgamating aspects of imagery, ritual and language, constructing a narrative of memory, courtship and desire, both gestural and symbolic, across a spectrum of time, culture and his own family history. Love letters written by Aharoni’s mother when she was an adolescent in Israel in the late 1950s, was interwoven with ceremonial Punjabi Phulkaris, to form a metaphorical counterpoint.

**Visit**

Nirupama Rao, Ambassador of India to USA visited the Museum on 26th July.

**ODISHA**

The Chapter was requested by the Odisha Government to take up heritage awareness at grassroots level starting with the *Panchayat*, once the scheme prepared by the Culture Department is approved. The MOU signed with the State Government for conservation and restoration of 28 ancient monuments by the Bhubaneshwar Conservation Centre, will be executed under the overall supervision of the State Convenor AB Tripathy.

All Odisha Chapter Convenors, Members and State Advisory Committee met on 23rd July to discuss the above matters in greater detail and other administrative issues.

**Balasore**

Convenor Himanshu Das and Co-Convenor Uday Ranjan Das organized Founder’s Day celebrations on 5th September at the Udyog Bhawan, Chamber of Commerce & Industry. It commenced with an invocation by the students of the Kalakheta Music School. Convenor Mayurbhanj Dr. Prabodh Kumar Mishra, a former Vice Chancellor of North Odisha University, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He pointed out that prominent display of sign boards at public places and heritage sites were needed. Eminent author and poet Dr. Braja Nath Rath and author/theatre personality Indu Bhushan Kar were felicitated; as well as Indu Bhushan Kar for his contribution to the industrial development of the district.

The Chapter inaugurated the first issue of its house magazine *Parampara 2013* with a series of articles on different facets of *parampara* like dance, ancient sites, historic details, etc.

**Baripada**

Chapter Members visited the pilgrimage centre of Alekh religion, with its 100 years monastery of sadhus at Merumath. They also visited Saraskhetra for the annual *Rath Yatra* on 14th July.

The Chapter organized plantation of fruit bearing trees at the Government Girls’ High School, Ranibhole and at the New Government High School at Pathuri. A lecture on global warming and the importance of preserving natural heritage of Simlipal Biosphere Reserve was well received by students and teachers of both institutes.

**Bhadrak**

At a meeting presided by Sub-Collector Prof. Dr. Sanatan Mohanty, State Convenor Amiya Bhushan Tripathy released the book *Heritage Sites of Jajpur*. He said “preservation of heritage...”
sites is a fundamental right of everyone. A complete cultural map of our State can be prepared if we care to protect and preserve the heritage which is being threatened with extinction”. Other dignitaries - Sub-Divisional Magistrate Padman Roy, District Welfare Officer Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy, history researcher Dr. Ekadashi Padhi, Reader in Public Administration Kamlakant Swain - shared some of their views on the many splendourous facets of Odisha heritage.

Another book Odishar Kala : Kruti O Kirti by notable artist Ashok Kumar Mohanty was unveiled ceremoniously at ‘Dibyam’ on 18th August. Chapter Advisor Prof. Sanatan Mohanty, President of Odisha Lalita Kala Academy, Shiba Prasad Panigrahi and the President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Dr. Bijayananda Singh graced the occasion. Chief Speaker Dr. Duryodhan Das who reviewed the book was full of praise for the contents describing different art and cultural forms of the State.

Convenor Digambar Mohanty and Co-Convenor SM Farooque extended warm thanks to all Chapter Members for their contribution to this event, which concluded with a recitation of Vedic mantras by Ghanasyam Lenka.

**Cuttack**

INTACH jointly with IDCO undertook the prestigious restoration work on Mughal era edifice Qadam-e-Rasool (meaning Footprint of the Holy Prophet), entrusted by the State Tourism and Culture Department. Built by the then deputy Nizam of Odisha Nawab Shujauddin Mohammad around the first quarter of 1700, its holy relic was brought from Najab in Arabia according to historians. Replete with minarets and marble floors, and a golden globe, it is one of the marvels in Odishan-Islamic architecture spanning over half a square mile. And much revered by both Muslims and Hindus.

**Sambalpur**

Convenor Dr. BB Mishra attended the Hurakhanda Parishad on 17th October, of which he is a Member. In interactions with the Chairman of the Sambalpur Development Authority (SDA), he suggested due attention be given to habitation and encroachment for assured protection of monuments, while
Convenor Mishra also attended the State Convenors’ Meet held at Bhubaneswar on 23rd October. It provided an opportunity for all Convenors to present their views and programmes. The four-tiered Atyha Suraksha for heritage protection under the State Youth Policy was discussed, and it was suggested that historians should be persuaded to join hands with INTACH for its success.

Condolences

Central Office was belatedly informed of the tragic car accident that snatched away the life of 62 year old Life Member of the Sambalpur Chapter on 26th June. A former History Lecturer, and subsequently involved in his family’s mining business, he remained a promoter of tourism and protector of environment all his life. He was also an ace photographer. INTACH extends it heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family that must come to terms with his sudden absence in their midst. Our prayers and good wishes are with them.

RAJASTHAN

Ajmer

Akbar Fort is known as Ajmer Core or Old City housing more than 30 temples, havelis and mosques. It has many heritage precincts, but is also a busy business centre with on-going trading and commercial activities. A Heritage Walk has been designed to impart not only architectural and historical details of heritage structures but also of its markets, ittar gali, local cuisine outlets, etc for a more complete experience. Another complete experience is the Heritage Walk of Pushkar, with its traditional houses and food delicacies, against the backdrop of the Sarovar and Aravali mountains.

Ajmer was founded by King Ajaypal in the 12th century, and was then called Ajaymeru, an impregnable seat of power surrounded by a mountain chain. A team of students from the Delhi School of Planning & Architecture visited Ajmer to study the Kishangarh heritage and culture.

Convenor Vikram Singh, and Co-Convenor Rajesh Garg formally welcomed Collector Vaibhav Gulriya as a new INTACH Member at the Chapter’s monthly meeting held in September. He assured his patronage to INTACH, and announced funds would be provided annually for celebrating Ajmer Founder’s Day.

Bhilwara

The Bhilwara Sub-Chapter, under the supervision of Udaipur Chapter, held its inaugural Meeting on 3rd August to which several voluntary organisation were invited under the chairmanship of Convenor SK Verma. He stressed on partnership with voluntary and official organizations suggesting some projects of cultural mapping and field survey of living heritage.

PUNJAB

Faridkot

The District Cultural Society celebrated Aagman Purb commemorating the spiritual Baba Sheikh Farid-ud-din-Masud Ganji-i-Shakar which is an annual event supported by the Chapter. His 112 Shalokas and 4 Shahbads conveying a message of peace, goodwill and oneness of mankind has inspired many generations.
Shri BL Jaju is the newly appointed Bhilwara Co-Convenor. He drew attention to the heritage sites of the district such as Bagore, Badnore Fort, Asind, Mandalgarh. Shapura is the centre of Phad paintings made with natural hand made colours, and when painted on walls it is called Patt Chittrakari. The area is also well known for wooden toys and Gair dance.

Jaipur

Heritage lovers and residents have raised objections to the construction of the Jaipur Metro project, proposed from Badi-Chaupar to Chandpole as it would completely change the cityscape of the Walled City. Convenor Dharmendar Kanwar states “the heritage fabric should not be disturbed without surveys as once it is damaged it would be difficult to be restored. We were assured that the metro stations will not be constructed on surface but the JMRC has to be very careful not to tamper with the heritage during construction”. At stake is one of the most visited heritage cities and an international tourist destination, a integral component of the ‘Golden Triangle’. Experts have suggested an environmental baseline date as present status of physio-chemical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the study are relevant to the proposed Metro corridor. A resident of Chandpole whose house falls along the route feels it would be a cardinal error to touch the old structures without precautionary measures. Perhaps the Government should consider rehabilitating owners of shops and houses to avoid risks and losses as the proposed underground tunnel will be dug through congested areas of the old city.

Nagaur

Ek Ped Ek Jindagi (One Tree, One Life), a long standing programme of the Chapter, is now in its fourth year. Supported by the Bhaskar group of newspapers, the peak monsoon month of July usually gives a head start to the programme.

Tamilnadu

Heritage tours to different historical and archaeological sites in South India have become so popular over recent years that the list of tour participants reads like a Who’s Who, with names of Government officials, Consular diplomats, businessmen and sportsmen, and even some film stars, says State Convenor Suresh Sethuraman. Tours organised for school and college students are equally popular. Recently Dr. Suresh personally conducted the tour From Chalukya to Vijayanagara – a Millennium of Art and Culture Development covering Badami, Aihole, Pattadakkal and Hampi in Karnataka, tracing art affinities of these sites with those of Cambodia which he had visited on a study tour some years back.

Dr. Suresh presented a paper on The Role of National Trusts in Heritage Legislation – The Indian and the American Experiences at Entebbe, Uganda held during 30th September - 4th October. The paper is based on the study undertaken as a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow at Washington, DC in 2011.

Madurai

Smt. Leela Venkataraman was invited to the Kolam workshop by Convenor Arvind Kumar Sankar. She and her associates were the first group to decorate the Balaji Temple in Tirupathi during 1979-80. From then on they have been drawing new Kolam patterns at various temples including the Meenakshi Sundareshwar Temple in Madurai during the annual Chitral festival held in April. Leela Venkataraman addressed the children of Rajan School disclosing the amazing fact that with a mere combination of 5
dots joined together with 5 rows one can draw up to 40,000 different beautiful patterns. The fundamentals of drawing were inspired by classical Carnatic Music. It is believed Kolams bring prosperity to homes. Everywhere in Tamilnadu women draw kolam on a ground swept and cleaned with water, using white rice powder before sunrise.

A series of cultural programmes were held during Madurageetham season during September, supported by several local organisations. Higher secondary school children went to M.S.Subbulakshmi’s house and sang her popular melodies on her birthday. Raaga Varnajaalam was a lecture demonstration by Gomathinayagam from Chennai on how certain popular cine classics have the shades of Ragas. There was a presentation of Kamakshi Navavarnam by Smt. Kausalya Shivakumar at the Shri Shraadambal Temple. The original Navavarnam kritis, composed 200 years ago by Muthuswami Dikshithar also featured in the event. Anuradha Krishnamoorthy gave a vocal concert with interesting anecdotes Eppadi Paadinaro. The grand finale Azhiyaa Kaaviyam on 23rd September was a Carnatic Music concert by Lakshsmi Rangarajan.

Nilgiris

The Nilgiris Chapter has established a record in successfully banning all use of plastic items. It was the result of a multi-pronged campaign - talking to schools, holding exhibitions, promoting alternatives to plastic goods, targeting shopkeepers to provide eco-friendly carry bags, etc. Convenor Geetha Srinivasan with co-sponsor Inner Wheel Club of Ootacamund recently erected a bilingual display board at the Ooty Lake listing the evils of plastics and other non bio-degradable materials which was inaugurated by Collector Archana Patnaik who has been a great patron of the Chapter. She also attended the release of Get Size Wise, a programme organized by the Chapter. The author Dr. Sheela Nambiar, a gynecology consultant and obstetrician, has written about lifestyle including right mental attitude, body composition, ‘emotional eating’ and the importance the “four pillars of health – stamina, strength, endurance and flexibility”. It was a proud moment for the Library said Hon.Secretary R. Nambiar as many distinguished medical people also attended the function held at its premises.

Thanjavur

Convenor S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle informs that Kalai Aayam Foundation supported by South Zone Cultural Centre, Tamilnadu Government organised ilangathir’2013 - Youth Festival from 12th-14th August, with the State Bank of India as the Title Sponsor. Dr. E.N. Sajith, Director South Zone Cultural Centre provided the entire campus of South Zone Cultural Centre for this Festival. Convener S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle, SBI Assistant General Manager R. Kasturi Rangan, and several local philanthropists also contributed to the success of this event promoting traditional arts and young artistes.

The Festival was inaugurated by Dr. T. Padmanaban, Director of Tamil Aayvu Maiyam and its Trustee Ushanandini Viswanathan. More than 500 students from various colleges throughout the State and from Pondicherry participated. Eminent Scholars in the field judged the competitions in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Short Films, Photography, etc. Dr. E.N. Sajith, Director, South Zone Cultural
Centre, was quite impressed with the involvement of college students in the programmes that concluded in a grand finale of dance and music.

Dr. V. Vardarajan, President of Brahan Natyanjali Foundation presented the 34 Ilangathir 2013 Excellence Awards given to outstanding students in each category of the competitions. The Best Institution Award was given to the Govt. Music College, Thiruvaikur for their overall performance; and Multitalented Award was given to Ms. K. Priyanka of Tamil University by Kalai Aayam Foundation.

Nagercoil

A book Heritage of Kanyakumari District was released by the Chapter eliciting much appreciation of all the guests on the occasion.

Convenor Lal Mohan at book release, Kanyakumari. On rt.: Dr Sumitra Raghavan
UTTAR PRADESH

The UP State Chapter has come up with an innovative idea that each Member should organize an informal meeting at his/her own initiative, with the object of developing a rapport with different groups of people. An attempt should be made to involve members of the colony, encouraging them to join INTACH activities and conservation efforts. Two such meetings held to date in May and July were successful and enhanced the contribution of Members. A number of thrust areas were identified like follow up with the UP Government on expediting Heritage Regulations, improvement of the Khudia Ghat complex, documentation of unprotected monuments, exhibition of Lucknowi crafts, and launch of INTACH UP State website.

Lucknow

The Chapter organised Lucknow ki Sarzameen in collaboration with Lalit Kala Academy, Regional Center on the dying art of calligraphy that once thrived in Lucknow during the Nawabi period. A few artists undertake this laborious art today like Vishnu Narain Agarwal, Syed Azeem Haider Jafari and Pankaj Gupta who participated in the exhibition displaying Islamic Calligraphy (Tugra – the pictorial representation of Aayats of Quran-e-Shaif. Though Khatey-Kufi (first script of calligraphy) was evolved by the Arabs in the pre-Islamic days, the art of ‘pen craft’ with various styles of calligraphy like Magrabi, Mashraki, Tulth, Nashkh, Taleekh, Nastaleekh reached great artistic heights under Mughal patronage. Other provinces in the Muslim belts also witnessed rapid growth of calligraphy, and in the subsequent decades brought them fame and fortune. Some Islamic calligraphers in Lucknow are well known for the traditional art of Islamic Calligraphy to this day.

Vishnu Narain Agarwal’s work maintains the purity and originality of each style, based on classical literature. Black ink from a centuries old herbal formula is used, and hand-made earth colors made from vegetables, minerals for coloured ones. The paper is also hand-made from silk fibers or English hand-made paper, with pure gold and silver for ornamentation called Afshan and Halkari processed in the traditional way. The brushes are hand-made using the tail fur dropped by the squirrel and mongoose.

Syed Azeem Haider Jafari trained under guru shishya parampara from Vishnu Narain Agarwal. Well versed in Urdu, Arabic and Persian, he undertakes calligraphy classes at some institutes and workshops. He demonstrated his Condolences

State Convenor
Dr. Maheshwari informs with deep regret the sad demise of Brig.(Dr). J.K. Bohare after a long struggle with illness. He says “each of us not only grieves at the passing of a tremendous individual but also for the loss his family suffers”. He retired from the Army as Brigadier and settled in Jhansi serving the community as INTACH Convenor of Jhansi Chapter. During his tenure many important projects like Listing of Heritage Buildings, Natural Heritage Listing, etc. along with community participation and awareness programmes were launched. The Chapter “prays for rest and peace for his soul and extend full support to his wife and two daughters”. INTACH sends them its condolences and good wishes.
skill and was applauded by visitors and guests. His latest series of paintings, based on the heritage and traditions of Lucknow, focus on its dying arts like cock fights, dastan goi, kathak, etc. apart from heritage buildings sketched with black pen.

The paintings of Pankaj Gupta are inspired by the art of kite flying that was patronized by the Nawabs of Lucknow. To this day people fly kites on the banks of River Gomti, from rooftops, embankments and even pavements.

Convenor Vipul Varshney organized a cultural programme Avadhi Sham-Uske Naam, a Sufi Qawwali presented by Haider Bakhsh and his group on 20th September at Paryatan Bhawan which was inaugurated by Minister Aruna Kumari Koi. Lucknow qawwal started with the famous Ghulam Rasool, inspired by Amir Khusro. Some of his followers like Bade Mohammed Khan and Nathan Peerbux migrated to Gwalior and created a new gharana. Another form Tappa was invented by Shori Miyan, a descendant of Ghulam Rasool. The Chapter’s effort is to promote and preserve this cultural form which has fewer patrons today.

Orai

Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar informs that a 10 member team of Chapter Members led by Dr Ashok Agarwal went on a European tour of Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy and the Vatican. Such recreational cum study tours broaden the vision and knowledge about heritage preservation. The Chapter had organized a similar tour earlier to Sri Lanka, Thailand and Cambodia.

Identify, Introduce & Encourage

With these 3 short ‘mantras’, Dharohar Darpan, a newsletter of UP Chapter suggests that a giant leap forward can be taken. Tabulated below are some of the ideas to sustain cultural awareness and sensitise people, teachers and the young:

- Encourage story telling (epics, family history, folklore, anecdotes, etc)
- Identify festivals, their meaning, decorating home in traditional way, eating customary dishes, etc.
- Wear traditional costumes and invite friends and family to celebrate together
- Listen to traditional songs and music with them to mark the occasion
- If possible, visit home in a native village so that children can see for themselves how traditional ways of life survive in our countryside
- Teach children their mother tongue, talk about old way of life, customs, etc.
The Bawali Rajbari is being transformed into a heritage hotel and resort through an adaptive reuse project to promote heritage tourism. Bawali derives its name from the Bauli community that originally lived here collecting honey from the surrounding forests.

The Mondal family was gifted a group of 15 villages within the Sunderbans area by royal charter when Basudeb Ram, an influential official of the Mughal Army put down insurgency in different parts of Bengal. His successors expanded the zamindari between the Mughal and British times, building good roads, water bodies, etc. They built the first temple installing the deity Sri Sri Radhakanta Jiu probably in 1772 at Maheswarpur; and other Mondal descendants built an array of Vishnu temples at different places subsequently, prompted as the story goes by an ‘Oracle’ who conveyed divine messages in their sleep.

Convenor GM Kapur writes that in recent years “no protagonists emerged to help the family restore the resilience of their ancestors. They lived like marsupial creatures gyrated with old perception and culture, basking in stale glory of the past and engaged in family feuds – a tale of many estates. The current restoration is a welcome initiative supported by the Chapter.

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Marathas who invaded Bengal during that period. In fact, the Maratha Ditch, presently Lower Circular Road, was dug by the British to keep invaders at bay.

24th August

The Regional Chapter in association with the Chowrenghee Rotary Club and the St. John’s Church authorities organized a function for unveiling rare paintings and lithographs of the Church, now open to the public. A 6 member team of INTACH conservators restored many oil paintings and lithographs of St. John’s Church, including the prized Zoffany’s Last Supper. Among photographs, there is an interesting group shot of bishops from India, Burma and Ceylon with the archdeacon of Calcutta and the church’s benefactress Mary Cooper dated 1935. Rt. Rev. AK Biswas and CEO Prashar Bharati Jawhar Sircar and INTACH officials addressed the gathering on the evolution of Calcutta and its checkered 323 years history.

At a Chapter meeting, Raj Bhattacharya from Mylestones and Journeys, spoke on the initiative taken for converting heritage mansions. Rono Palchoudhuri, shared his own experiences in converting his ancestral haveli. Ritwik Ghosh spoke about Calcutta Walks and their role in creating heritage awareness, acknowledging the contribution made of INTACH Chapter.

A group of 11 Scottish Cemetery Registrars, of immense archival value, are being restored by the Chapter. Established in 1826, the cemetery at Park Circus is the only Scottish one considered by many Scots as a “piece of Scotland in Kolkata”, and is now under maintenance of St. Andrew’s Church. They carry records dating back to 1826 when they first came to Calcutta as administrators in the East India Company. The first entry tragically is that of 16 month old Ann Emily Shaw.

News from Here & There

Rashtrapati Bhavan

Visitors to Delhi are always keen to see the President’s House, the highest constitutional office of the land. President Pranab Mukherjee made the premises more accessible to the public with substantial portions of the Bhavan now open for public viewing vide prior internet booking for security clearance and passes. It inculcates a sense of educated national pride, especially when young people are given a chance to explore its rich historic and architectural heritage. A series of digital initiatives, historical speeches like Nehru’s Famous Tryst with Destiny, documentaries and newsreels like the Death of Mahatma Gandhi and on other luminaries of the Freedom Movement have been added to the new Rashtrapati Bhavan website: (www.presidentofindia.nic.in). A catalogue of 1,525 rare books and a digital photo library are welcome additions that mark President’s first year in office.

Menon’s London Home

VK Krishna Menon’s long association with London was commemorated by the British Government. An English Heritage blue plaque was placed at No. 30, Langdon Park Road in Highgate, the house where he first lived in 1929-31 long before he moved to other locations, and finally to the heritage mansion of the Indian High Commissioner to UK as its first occupant many years later.

During World War II Menon served as an air warden around Camden Square, in 1955 he was made a freeman of St. Pancreas, the second person to be given that honour after George Bernard Shaw. India and the UN still remember him as a formidable man, quite unafraid of controversy or for making the longest speeches.

Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel are among other Indian leaders previously honoured with English Heritage tags.

The Last Post

The humble telegram by which we all survived, long ago before the telephone/telex and SMS age, died a natural death.
on 15th July 2013. Telegraphy was invented by an American, Samuel Morse using an early version of the Morse Code with operators converting words into numbers and receiving operators reversing them back to words. It was in 1850 that the first Indian telegraph line was laid along a 43 km. stretch from Alipore to Diamond Harbour in Calcutta by a Irish surgeon of the Bengal Army. In the next few years the crescent shaped network spread to Agra, Bombay and Madras. The telegraph has had its peak moments of history. The shortest telegrams were sent by Oscar Wilde and Victor Hugo to their publishers – just a few question marks, to inquire about sale of their books!

The longest over 16,000 words was sent by Nevada State Legislature to President Lincoln in 1864. The Zimmermann Telegram is believed to be the reason for US joining World War I. Most recently long queues were reported in front of telegraph offices across India on 15th July – as many wanted to be counted among those who sent the last telegrams in India.

In Prison Backyards

The convicts serving prison sentences will soon be helping to revive the fast shrinking population of the revered Ashoka tree. It is a massive project launched by the National Medicinal Plants Board at the Yerwada Jail, Pune and at the Bhubaneswar Open Jail with their captive manpower. The trees bark, leaf and fruit provide much sought after ingredients in Indian traditional ayurvedic medicine; its dried flowers are considered useful for treating diabetes, its bark for scorpion bites, etc. Legend has it that Lord Buddha was born under the Ashoka tree; Lord Mahavira renounced the world in its shadow; and Sita first met Hanuman after her abduction by Ravana in the Ashoka Vatika. From February to May, its orange-scarlet flowers transforms the tree into a startling beauty to the eye. Prison hands will now make the trees flourish.

SOS : Heritage at Risk

- The 11th-12 century Kalyan Chalukya Temples in Hooli, near Saundatti, Karnataka are deteriorating at an alarming rate in the last 3 years. Dharwad Chapter efforts to get the ASI or the Karnataka Department of Archaeology & Museums to take them over have not fructified to date.
- An ancient temple at Panaiyapuram near Villupuram in Tamil Nadu is under demolition by the National Highway Authority for four-laning of Vikiravandi-Kumbakonam-Thanjavur section of NH-45C. INTACH drew attention of NHAI that no construction and development is permissible within 100 metres, reference amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 2010. No response or action has been taken to date.
- The chimney of Mewar Textile Mills, Bhilwara in Mewar region deserves to be preserved as a heritage site as it is a prominent old landmark of the city. The mill was closed and its lands sold by the Rajasthan Government, but its products were once known all over the country. People want the chimney to be preserved as “a textile mark of the town”. Action awaited.

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