Kashi, Benaras or Varanasi – a city with many names has lived through countless centuries. It is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities of the world since at least 1200 BCE - in the league of fabled Jerusalem, Athens, Rome and Beirut. Once patronized by royal houses, Varanasi with its 84 ghats and some more, remains the ultimate pilgrimage destination in life or death for many Indians. The old city grew into a semicircular sweep along the flowing Ganga and was likened to a waxing moon (ardh chandra). Today it also has a cosmopolitan touch with its crowded maze of alleys flanked by scores of temples, mosques, havelis and touristic shops. It has always been a great centre of learning for many religions like Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism apart from Hinduism. The Benaras Hindu University continues to thrive as one of India’s leading universities.

Varanasi is also a symbol of spiritualism and philosophy, associated with personages like Gautam Buddha, Mahavir, Kabir, Shankaracharya, Ramunaja and Patanjali. Its cultural landscape is thus a unique confluence of history, geography, mythology, intangible heritage, cultural institutions and urban forms. It eminently deserves to be called one of the great heritage cities of the world. And invariably figures on most Indian tourism itineraries.

Varanasi has been one of INTACH’s long standing ‘passion projects’, because historic towns offer a unique study in understanding the dynamics of indigenously determined morphologies of towns. The study also helps to establish the potential and limits of planning for contemporary towns.

From the time of Independence, development policies leaned towards prevailing western narrative and sought international conformity. INTACH took the view that India having one of the oldest and continuous civilizations of the world needed to think afresh, to protect its past heritage and historical antecedents, its diverse culture of several religions coexisting in various pockets of the country. INTACH’s association with Varanasi in fact goes back 30 years, almost from the time of its inception in 1984. It evolved the Heritage Zone concept that required urban planning to adopt conservation oriented policies.

INTACH’s focus was the Varanasi Ghats.
objective of conservation of natural, intangible and built heritage, has followed a unique model combining volunteerism, professionalism and activism. With a lean administrative apparatus at the centre in Delhi, INTACH has depended on its Members and Chapters in a federalist mode. The Chapters and their activities have remained the base of INTACH’s national profile, apart from the highly consequential position it has attained in Delhi. This federal structure is further strengthened by the professionalism brought in by different disciplines ranging from architecture, engineering, law, finance, scholarship in culture and history. Often one or more of these disciplines can be active associates of INTACH in projects. The interplay of these multiple disciplines bring in to operation a very complex set of ethics and standards pertaining to them. In most cases the ethical behaviors of a professional can be moderated by peer review and frequent oversight which INTACH Chapters and the Centre can provide. No hard and fast rules are established here but for three principles of paramount importance:

Firstly is the move legal? Secondly, is the action in public interest? Thirdly, is the action in keeping with INTACH’s founding principles and the standard practices it propounds?

In any federal structure, the obligations are not one way but two ways. While ensuring that individual activities augment INTACH’s basic tenets, it is as they represented “one of the finest ensembles of monumental architecture in India”. While the government recognized the importance of this heritage, it was thinking in terms of massive schemes that could tap foreign funds and expertise to beautify the entire stretch of the Ghats. INTACH however established a site office to undertake environmental cleaning and architectural repairs at the cremation ghats of Manakarnika as a pilot project. Its intervention sought to demonstrate a plan through constant dialogue with the local residents, with cost estimates that were only 10% of the grand proposals envisaged by the authorities. INTACH thus succeeded in establishing the concept of Heritage Zone as a basis for urban planning, and as one that offered opportunities to discover significant facets of a given environment. It was followed by a Conference of INTACH Consultants in 1989. Some of the potential heritage zones identified were Ramnagar, Panchkroshi Yatra Marg, Mughalsarai, Varanasi Cantonment, and the Benaras Hindu University – each distinctly representative of different facets of the city’s evolution.

obligatory on the part of Centre and Chapters, to also ensure that they retain a mutually nurturing relationship and that there is no cannibalisation in professional terms. Ethics demand that there should be no clash of interest in the public domain between various Members of INTACH and between Members and the institution, as the very structure of relationship is based on professionalism and volunteerism. Besides, INTACH as the mother body has the obligation to ensure a healthy professional environment in the country. The spirit of volunteerism in the participating professionals helps INTACH maintain a high level of integrity, frugality in expenditure and legitimises the dimension of institutional activism. The self-righteous position from where INTACH gains its moral strength and leadership role in the public domain to protect public interest in heritage conservation stems from these very ethical practices along with the volunteer spirit that inform its professional position. Over the last decades, INTACH has built up its credibility through these principled positions and as a result has earned the trust of the governments, the judiciary and the public at large. In order to retain its preeminent position in the field of heritage, Members of INTACH must uphold the principles of ethical action, volunteerism and professionalism.

Prof. K.T. Ravindran
September 2014

Ghat (2009), St. Mary’s Church (2009), Jaganath Temple Complex as Art & Craft Centre (2011), Tripoli Gate (2012), Balaji Ghat (2012), and Ganga Mahal (2013). A DPR for the Kasi Vishwanath Temple that is on every tourist itinerary was also worked out by INTACH. The various Proposed Project Plans of INTACH are focused on comprehensive upgrading of existing urban environment, adaptive re-use, pedestrian movement, public services, landscaping, sanitation, solid waste disposal, and tourism infrastructure with a view to river front regeneration in a sustainable manner. The objective is to strike a balance between the requirement of heritage protection and the imperatives of new developments in heritage zones – which is in line with the pronouncements of the new Government. Detailed Project Proposals (DPR) for the restoration of heritage buildings were drawn up for Tripoli Gate in Ramnagar, Jaganath Temple complex at Assi, and the collapsed Balaji Ghat.

The Scindia Devasthan Trust approached INTACH to visit Balaji Ghat and Ganga Mahal on the riverside for possible restoration and reuse of these two important sites, with documentation. INTACH work on this project was recognized with the “Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment awarded in recognition of outstanding efforts towards positive change during the 2012 World Monument Watch”. Many other INTACH Divisions have also been involved in assignments at Varanasi. The Natural Heritage Division drew up project plans for the revival of and conservation of water bodies. Historically Varanasi is interspersed with several tanks and pools, that were interwoven in the social life of the city once upon a time. Piped water supply and sewage disposal systems have diminished the importance of these much neglected water bodies. Three important kunds - Pushkar Talab, Pishach Mochan Kund and Sarang Talab were selected as pilot projects for improving access, visual aesthetics as well as improving water quality to regain the socio-cultural contribution of these kunds in the urban fabric. The DPR on the Sarang Kund commenced in 2012 but was soon held up due to interfering local pressures and encroachers. There are more than 63 historic kunds in and around Varanasi that have become cesspools and do not function as urban social spaces, they need to be revived on priority.

INTACH Material Heritage Division was involved in conservation of wall paintings and listing of manuscripts at Janana Pravah, a private institution which also has a museum with paintings and manuscripts.
The INTACH Heritage Academy conducted a practical training course on *Study, Use and Conservation of Lime* in historic buildings at the Balaji Ghat conservation site. It brought together architects, conservation professionals, engineers and anthropologists for understanding the preparation and use of lime plaster with practical hands-on training at the site.

Listing of heritage assets is one of INTACH’s major priorities. To date a *Cultural Resource Mapping* of 1200 buildings and sites of significant value has been completed in four volumes on Varanasi alone. Varanasi INTACH Convenor Kalyan Kishan and its Chapter Members have contributed largely to the success of this massive exercise. Chapter also took the initiative to revive traditional bamboo *chhatries* along the river banks and also a number of small shrines worshipped by the local people.

Principal Director Divay Gupta, Architecture Heritage Division, says all INTACH plans are “envisioned with the goal of making sustained efforts to preserve and maintain the cultural and traditional values of Varanasi while appropriating resources for its present and future needs and reciprocating to the needs of the city and its natural environment”. The Varanasi Development
Authority (VDA) involved INTACH as a Consultant for preparation of a Heritage Development Plan for Varanasi, for identification and restoration of heritage buildings and sites within the city. Foremost was the Master Plan 2011 that identified for the first time special Heritage Zones in the city for planning purposes that would well serve future developments undertaken in the city. A City Development Plan (CDP) was also prepared of the city’s culture as an integral part of its vision. Historic properties lining the ghats are in a dire state of disrepair. The strategic location of all these areas have immense tourism potential that would economically benefit the locals, and are in line with the development thrust being mooted today.

Corbusier once said that we have “come out of the history of
Kyoto-Kashi Connect

The Prime Minister’s recent visit to Japan resulted in Kyoto and Kashi becoming “partner city affiliates”. The old imperial capital of Japan will associate with the holiest of Indian cities to share best practices in heritage conservation and city modernization; they will cooperate on culture, art and academic matters. Kyoto, home to Buddhist shrines and state-of-the-art scientific laboratories is already a “smart city”. A rejuvenated Varanasi aspires to be one of the 100 smart cities envisaged for India – to be developed both as spiritual capital and heritage city at the cutting edge of technology. A MOU has been signed between the two countries to that effect, after which the two Prime Ministers fed koi fish - a Japanese tradition of carp feeding believed to bring good fortune.

Cleansing the Ganga

The Ministry of Water Resources has been renamed as the Ministry of Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Development. It is a clear indication that cleaning the Ganga is high on the list of Government priorities. To date however the clean-up campaign of the Ganga have failed miserably in spite of intermittent initiatives over the years, and despite NGO movements like the Swatcha Ganga campaign.

The Ganga river basin, is one of the most fertile and densely populated regions covering 400,000 square miles. The river flows through 29 cities with population ranging from 50,000-100,000 in each and an additional 48 towns. Little wonder that a large proportion of the waste in the Ganga is from domestic necessities like bathing, laundry, garbage, immersions and defecation. It is compounded by increasingly large quantities of industrial waste from chemical plants, tanneries, distilleries, hospitals and slaughter houses that dump untreated wastes into the Ganga. Marine life has been impacted endangering species, and surviving fish imbibing high levels of mercury. Some of the dams being constructed along the Ganga basin will submerge substantial forest areas. Wildlife biologists warn that animals will find it impossible to cope with the changed environment. During festivals, it is estimated that over 70 million people bathe in its waters to cleanse their sins (not including the Kumbh Melas) – without the realization that more sins are committed by leaving food, garlands and other wastes that pollute the sacred river. In the general belief that the river’s self purification effect and reported retention of more oxygen than other rivers will save the Ganga. Forever?

INTACH is of the view that there is lack of public awareness of the river’s problems. It needs people’s participation for any cleaning of the Ganga project to succeed. There has been failure to revive the old theological ethics of harmony with nature and the spirit of sustainability. Only civic sense can save “Ganga Maa”, a major cultural symbol of the country. There are great expectations riding for the future!
CHAIRMAN’S VISIT TO PUNE

Chairman INTACH was invited as Chief Guest for the celebrations of Revival Day at the Deccan College in Pune. It is a premier post graduate research institute for ancient Indian history and archaeology. Chancellor/President Dr. G.B. Deglurkar also invited Convenor Aarti Kirloskar and other Pune Chapter Members to the event.

Chairman LK Gupta nostalgically recollected his old association with the city both as a cadet at the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla and later as alumnus of the College of Military Engineering at Dapodi. He signed a MOU with the Deccan College (DCPRI) to work together on a mission to conserve cultural heritage. He emphasised that archaeology and architecture, when studied in a scientific way, are perhaps the most permanent reminders of the cultural wealth of every civilisation. The story of cultural heritage based on modern sciences is the need of our times to instill a sense of national identity and pride in young minds, and is a solid building block for nation building. In the past we suffered cultural denigration due to colonial exploitation and subsequently our own lack of awareness and neglect. Today developments like infrastructural and industrial projects are gathering speed on a massive scale while archeological studies are constrained by limited resources. He reminded the audience that protection of cultural heritage is nevertheless one of the constitutional duties of every citizen. INTACH is doing its bit on conservation on many fronts through its specialized Divisions. He informed the audience that recently INTACH has also launched research scholarships for study of archaeology and related fields to be availed by individuals or institutions undertaking interdisciplinary research and advanced studies.

VISIT TO RAIPUR

Chairman LK Gupta was also the Chief Guest at the workshop on Traditional Water Conservation System, Its Importance in Urban Perspective held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 22nd August. It was organized by the Chapter in collaboration with School of Studies, Geology & WRM, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University.

Chairman pointed out that the present water systems in urban areas were designed by the British during colonial times, while traditionally water was protected in a decentralized way by local people. He cited the example of Nagercoil where the National Highway Authority in Tamilnadu constructed a highway through wetlands. After 3 years the High Court passed a judgment that the Rs.5-10 crore cost of construction was negligible compared to the valued ecosystem the wetlands provided for the people. Chairman strongly felt that laws governing water bodies should not be totally controlled by the bureaucratic system and ownership should be in the hands of the local community.

He said INTACH has now gained expertise on this subject after taking up several water conservation projects in Delhi, Nainital and some in Rajasthan. It is assisting the Raipur Development Authority in conserving the city’s lakes. The authorities and the public should come together on a common platform to understand how best to shape the future to protect water sources, wells, springs, ponds, lakes and rivers which are the lifeblood of the land. Especially as Chhattisgarh has been fortunate as far as rainfall is concerned in comparison to many other States.

INTACH SCHOLARSHIPS

INTACH offers Capacity Building Grants up to INR 1 Lakh towards building capacities as individual professionals, or the Chapter or Division within which they are working. The research should be directly linked to the work that the individual is engaged with at any Division/
Centre/Chapter of INTACH It should demonstrate potential impact on conservation policy, practice or philosophy; advance knowledge of heritage conservation; or contribute to a critical and creative thinking in the field.

INTACH offers Research Grants upto INR 3 Lakhs to support advanced research in the field of heritage conservation to individuals taking up advanced and inter-disciplinary research. The application must demonstrate potential impact on conservation philosophy, practice or policy; advances knowledge and understanding of the subject; or contribute to a critical and creative thinking in the field.

Grants may be paid towards cost of travel within India, modest subsistence allowance, and in some cases where required payment of fees or expenses to approved institutions. Successful applicants are required to submit to INTACH a report on completion of their research/study visit.

Only persons of Indian nationality and domiciled/normally resident in India are eligible.

UK SCHOLARSHIPS

In accordance with the INTACH Memorandum of Association and in honour of Charles Wallace and his bequest to INTACH, UK Scholarship upto INR 5 Lakhs is offered to UK citizens to facilitate their travel to India to undertake any course of study or research that is beneficial to either or both countries. Most grants will be awarded to professionals in the early stages of their career, or to students.

Senior travel grants are also available in this scheme. The grant or a part of it could also be offered to any charitable educational institution in India to facilitate the above educational study visits.

Typical grants/subsistence allowance are available under this scholarship for post graduate studies at an Indian university; visiting fellowship for 2-3 months for mid-career professionals to gain wider experience and exposure; senior travel grants to enable established scholars and craftsmen to give lectures; conduct workshops; or for advisory service to conservation programmes.

Only persons of UK nationality and domiciled in and normally resident in the UK are eligible for the UK Scholarship. Successful applicants must submit to INTACH a report of the outcome of their research/study visit on return to UK.

Deadline for Submitting Application: The deadline for submitting applications is 30th November 2014. Duly filled application forms may please be sent to INTACH, 71 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003, India.

Or by Email to admn.iha@gmail.com (attention Ms. Devinder Malthi)

For further enquiries, contact: Principal Director INTACH Heritage Academy Navin Piplani, Tel : +91 11 24627371 / Email : prdr.iha@gmail.com

INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTES (ICI)

Odisha State Maritime Museum, Odisha

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, inaugurated the State Maritime Museum on 21st August. The Odiya biotopes exhibited in the aquarium have been studied and reproduced so that the species exhibit their natural behaviour. Odisha is home to over 650 species of aquatic animals from 8-10 unique biotopes, each endemic to their specific locations. The biotopes exhibited are of 4 major bio diversity hotspots - Chilika, Baitrani, Bhittarkanika and Mahanadi and serve as an education...
tool to visitors of all age groups. The aquarium also houses over 100 fish species from the Indian sub-continent, Africa, South America, Caribbean and Japan. The other exhibits are Japanese Koi Pond, the Mighty Amazon, Lake Tanganyika, Deep Sea World and a Digital Jelly Fish exhibit, etc. Chief Minister, an avid aquarium hobbyist himself, stated Fish are great stress busters.

The Nature Aquarium depicting *The Submerged Temple* portrays global warming and its impact on the ever raising water levels. There are over 800 tiny fishes and live plants in this system supplied with Co2 gas to enable plants to grow.

The project was commissioned by the State Water Resources Department. It was completed in 18 months in association with Still Water Aquatics, Bangalore on a budget of Rs 2.02 crores.

**ICI DELHI**

ICI Delhi conducted a series of workshops and training programmes at Delhi Centre for capacity building, dissemination of knowledge about heritage conservation. They were conducted in different areas of art conservation – paper and textile conservation as well as architectural surfaces; the methodology was both theoretical through a series of lectures and seminars; as well as practical hands-on workshops facilitated by in-house facilitators, external experts and international collaborations.

The ICI and the Switzerland Embassy organized a four day *Indo–Swiss Workshop on Art Conservation* with the participation of experts from the Bern University of the Arts and the Kunstmuseum Basel (Fine Art Museum, Basel). Conservators from India and Switzerland delivered lectures on understanding of paintings and polychrome wooden sculptures, conservation of decorated surfaces of architecture including mural paintings and paper objects, graphics, books and photographic objects. Professionals from various archaeological departments, art conservators, academicians, curators, researchers and students from National Museum Institute and Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management attended.

Swiss experts Ms. Kristina Herbst, Ms. Nicole Knobloch and Ms. Chantal Schwendener conducted practical hands on
sessions with the participants. The workshop provided an opportunity to explore new avenues of collaboration in areas of research with other institutions in Switzerland including the Bern University of Applied Arts as well as Fine Art Museum, Basel that will further facilitate interactions and exchange of ideas, and serve as a forum to showcase ICI work.

A second workshop on *Preventive conservation for library and archival collection* was organised at the Vrindavan Research Institute, UP. It was inaugurated by Chief Guest Aditya Choudhary, an eminent research scholar. Dr. MN Sharma, Director Vrindavan Research Institute, social worker and industrialist Pavan Chaturvedi and Principal Director ICI, Nilabh Sinha contributed to the proceedings covering curative and preventive conservation. The participants included not only the staff of museums and libraries where archives are housed, but for the first time the staff and personnel belonging to places that contribute to building of archival collections such as government offices, judiciary, jails, police department, revenue departments, district administrative units, religious organizations, etc.

On 9th-11th September ICI Delhi Centre organised another workshop on *Preventive Conservation of Textiles* by in-house ICI Delhi staff, professors from Lady Irwin College, Delhi, and researcher Dr. Kanika Sachdeva working in the field of textile conservation. The inaugural talk by Pavithra Muddayya of Vimor Handloom Foundation, Bangalore was on the significance of Indian textiles. Ms. Ruchira Agarwal and Dr. Sheetal Chopra discussed characteristics of various fibers used in textiles, dyeing methods and cleaning of textiles. The practical session included identification of various fibres using various physical and chemical tests by participants. Dr. Simmi Bhagat and Ms. Sonal Gaur discussed cataloguing methods and condition reports that can be used for documenting, with participants undertaking the exercises on various textile samples. ICI Senior Consultant K.K. Gupta, discussed deterioration and conservation of textiles. Ms. Divya Singhal demonstrated use of *ritha* powder for stain removal. Dr. Bessie Cecil conducted a practical session on construction of storage boxes and rolls for various types of textiles using different materials. Ms. Akanksha Rastogi demonstrated pest control using indigenous and safe techniques. The participants prepared samples of storage
boxes and pest repellent pouches. The workshop brought together college faculty and professionals from various organisations thus providing a platform for exchange of ideas and knowledge.

*Left: Practical session on stain removal by Ms. Divya Singhal*

**ICI JODHPUR**

The oil paint on paper portrait of Jaswant Singh II was received at the Centre from Jai Singh of Jodhpur in a very bad condition, dust encrusted and torn in six pieces. After conservation it was given additional mechanical support.

**ICI LUCKNOW**

Seventy rare books from the collection of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad including the Chronicle of Akbar, Calico printing, paintings of East India, arts and crafts of India and Ceylon, tribal myths of Orissa, etc. were received for conservation treatment at ICI, Lucknow Centre.

A view of before and after conservation of original binding

Maintaining the original binding in new binding cloth

Brittleness in paper After conservation

Deacidification of paper

Folios torn from the spine After conservation

Removal of acidic material from the spine
The Lucknow Centre also undertook the conservation of 185 rare manuscripts and 235 rare books printed 1295-1915 in different languages like Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi and Awadhi from the Central Library Maharani Lal Kunwari Post Graduate College, Balrampur, U.P.

Another important work was conservation of a beautiful embroidered textile scroll on a synthetic cloth measuring 102 x 40 cms, from 22 Mech Infantry, Faizabad. Basically used for signatures it was badly stained due to highly soluble sketch pen, ball pen and fountain pen; also dampness and mould growth along with tarnished golden zari work.

Director, ICI, Lucknow Mamta Mishra was awarded the Bhartiya Nari Samman to Director, ICI, Lucknow
Bhartiya Nari Samman with Prashashti Patrad for excellent work in the field of conservation by Drishya Bharti.

Mamta Mishra, Director, ICI, Lucknow also received Awadh Gaurav Samman-2014 in the field of Mahila Kalyan at a programme organized on 3rd August by Awadhhi Vikas Sansthan. It was given for conservation of Ramcharit Manas by Goswami Tulsi Das at Chitrakoot, Karvi at a function held at the Sangeet Natak Academy, Lucknow.

ICI BENGALURU

ICI Bengaluru continued to treat a variety of art objects received from galleries, private collectors and temples of south India. Some examples are Krishna slaying an Asura – Baka (in the form of crane), a small painting with mixed characteristics of both Odisha and Andhra styles which makes it unique. All the additions were removed; the painting cleaned, treated for fungus, lined with Japanese paper and mounted on archival board.

Another unique colour painting received for conservation was in the Mysore traditional school of the Wodeyar III – erstwhile ruler of Mysore State. It was received with a lot of damage, mainly caused due to insect attack. All the holes were filled with paper pulp, re-integrated minimally with water colours and finally mounted on archival board.
ICI KOLKATA

Restoration of 21 wooden panel paintings of Nandalal Bose is being done at Acharya Bhavan, Kolkata, the residential house of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose. The residence will be converted into a Science Heritage Museum. The main problems are flaking paint layers, water stains, losses, holes and cracks, apart from excessive dirt deposition. With compatible adhesives between flaking layers and cracks filled and leveled mechanically, the reintegration of the filled area was executed in reversible medium and a final protective coating given.

Panel paintings before and after conservation

TREASURED COLLECTION

The National Museum in Delhi inaugurated A Passionate Eye: Textiles, Paintings and Sculptures on 4th August. For the first time in the 65 years of its existence, an entirely private treasure trove was exhibited, donated by C.L.Bharany in memory of his father. The collection had various sculptures, paintings, manuscripts and textiles of the past two millennia. One of its curators Dr. Giles Tillotson notes that what is striking is not just the range and quality of the works assembled but also the contribution they make to scholars and country’s museums. Objects were grouped sometime by materials and sometimes by subject matter irrespective of provenance or date. Director General of the National Museum Dr. Venu V. is keen to exhibit many more private collections.

ART ONLINE

Indian Artisans Online (IAO) has placed authentic works of traditional artists from across the country on its website. Also there are a plethora of Indian handicrafts like papier mache, block prints, woodcarvings, tribal embroidery, paintings, etc, from different States at your fingertips. Also online are stories about these arts and artisans. As many as 69 crafts and 600 artists have been covered in the first year of this website. The objective is to give artistes and craftspeople greater visibility, and lesser dependence on traders and intermediaries to reach out to buyers and markets, says IAO founder Reshma Anand. It has even attracted some corporate clients for their exclusive gifting.
ERRA MATTI DIBBALU

The late Quaternary Coastal Red Sand Dunes, popularly known as Erra Matti Dibbalu (literally meaning red soil mounds, though in fact they are red sand dunes), are located about 20 km northeast of Visakhapatnam city and 4 km southwest of Bhimunipatnam. They extend in an east-west direction about 200 m to 2 km from the beach and about a km in the north-south direction at an elevation of 10-90 m above sea level.

The Erra Matti Dibbalu (EMD) is geologically as well as anthropologically important. The area comprises landforms and features of varying size which include gullies, sand dunes, buried channels, beach ridges, paired terraces, valley in valley, wave terraces, nick points and waterfalls. The red sediments are deposited over the khondalite basement comprising yellow sands at the bottom followed by reddish brown concretion bearing sand unit, brick red and light yellow sand units. Duricrust, the pebble beds of various sizes and shapes occur within some of these units at different elevations. The different sediments represent fluvial, fluvi-marine of aeolian origin as a result partly of climatic changes during late Quaternary geological period, due to glacial and interglacial periods and associated sea level changes, monsoonal variations, etc. There are some evidences that suggest the area has been subjected to neo-tectonic activity.

Archaeological excavations consisting of artefacts in the compact dark yellow coloured EMD indicate an Upper Paleolithic horizon, and on cross dating can be assigned to late Pleistocene period c. 20,000 BCE. Mesolithic and Neolithic cultural materials are unearthed from red sediments at different locales denoting continued formation almost till recent times. These geo-archaeological evidences indicate erosion even subsequent to Neolithic period, which could be dated to 2,000 BCE. It is interesting that the region of Erra Matti Dibbalu was also home to the pre historic man as the excavations dug at several places in the region revealed stone tools of three distinctive periods and some pottery of the Neolithic man. It serves as a Natural Museum to geo-scientists and geology students.

The gully erosion of EMD makes them an area of outstanding scenic beauty and very dear to the people of Visakhapatnam. They attract thousands of tourists and many movies have been shot in the area.

Due to the combined efforts of INTACH, Andhra University and Geo-scientific Associations of the country, Erra Matti Dibbalu was declared a Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Central Government authority that declares significant geological sites of the country as heritage sites. To date 31 important sites in our country have been declared as significant. The Government of Andhra Pradesh must notify Erra Matti Dibbalu as a ‘protected area’ so that it is conserved for all times. It can become an important part of potential Visakhapatnam–Araku Geopark to be developed as per UNESCO guidelines, to promote geo-heritage, geo-education, geo-diversity and geo-tourism in general and Visakhapatnam District in particular.

Principal Advisor NHD SK Verma has proposed a Seminar on Conservation of Geo-heritage Sites at Varkala in Trivandrum District, to be finalized in due course.
**VANISHING EARTH**

An intrepid journalist Bahar Dutt’s book *Green Wars* is about the familiar public debate that green concerns are blocking growth and progress. She writes that “Since 1980, over 1.5 lakh hectares of forest land have been diverted for India’s development with 50% of that figure in the last 10 years. Almost 95% of the projects that come to the Ministry (for environment clearance) are cleared”. It is our lifestyles that impoverish the environment and rob wildlife their forest territory. Bahar compiles many other stories from ground zero resulting in vanishing wilderness and its eventual catastrophic impact on climate change.

Another journalist Prena Bindra points out that *Green Wars* is certainly well timed, coming as it does when India proposes to take up aggressive growth plans. She points out “we pampered Delhites get our water from Uttarakhand’s Tehri dam, for which over 6000 hectares of prime agricultural land and 300 hectares of prime forest were submerged, and 10,000 people were displaced. The light which we switch on is powered by a thermal power plant which destroyed pristine elephant habitat in Chhattisgarh”.

*Green Wars* raises many ‘Catch 22’ issues peppered with personal incidents and observations which can only be addressed through the collective wisdom of the Government.

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**CLEAN SEWAGE WATER**

Clean Sewage Water may sound like a contradiction in terms, but the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi has installed a purification system in homes located in their Pusa colony that successfully cleans 2.2 million litres of domestic sewage daily using zero thermal power. The water devoid of harmful chemicals can be used for gardening or irrigating 120 hectares of farmland. The set up costing Rs.1.2 crore is based on nature’s whereby dirty water is flown through an array of wetlands plants that absorb chemicals like lead and mercury upto 1000 parts per million (ppm). The 36 lakh tonnes of biomass - organisce matter derived from the plants – can be used to develop 9000 sq.m of chipboard, a kind of building material sold at Rs.2000 per tonne in the open market. The process is no doubt slow and labour intensive, but consumes just 1% of the power required for running a conventional sewage treatment plant. A way to go in future!

*Ack:* Chetan Chauhan, Hindustan Times

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**TURNING PLASTIC INTO STONE**

It is estimated that 6 million tonnes of plastic has been manufactured since it was first used widely in the mid 20th century. Much of it ended up as trash and to date no one knows what to do about its disposal. Researchers have now discovered a substance called plastiglomerate i.e. melted plastic bound together with shells, pebbles, basalt, coral and wood, or seeps into cavities of large rocks that forms a rock like plastic hybrid. The say the resulting materials will probably be long lived and could become permanent markers in the planet’s geology.

Plastiglomerate was first discovered by by a sea captain and oceanographer Charles Moore at the Algalita Marine Research Institute in California. Its significance however was only discovered when he gave a lecture on plastic pollution, and one of his slides included plastic conglomerates. A University team flew to Hawaii where the Kamilo Beach accumulates considerable garbage bcause of the currents. Many scientists now believe that the planet has entered a new geological era, the Anthropocene, in which humn activity is leaving vast and durable imprint on the natural world and plastics and plastiglomerates might well survive as future fossils.

*Ack: Rachel Nuwer, New York Times*

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**Postscript:**

“Hopefully the next discovery is using plastiglomerates in building or other industries. In this connection, it is noteworthy that more than 200 villages in the coastal district of Dakshina Karnataka are working on a project which has the potential of feeding plastic waste into an indigenously developed plant that will convert it into synthetic fuel equivalent to diesel. In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Bellare Gram Panchayat in Puttur Taluk plans to set up a Plastic Reclamation Unit (PRU). Over 200 ecological-conscious gram panchayats of the area have entered into an agreement to send their plastic waste to the unit. According to Altanol Technology, a company already involved in the manufacture and improvisation of PRU for the last 9 years, it is “a simple process of reverse engineering using a ‘patent-applied for’ technology to turn plastic material back to its original form to produce a synthetic fuel that can run pumps, generators, etc.”
RAJA MAHAL, JAISALMER FORT

The walls are built in dry masonry with huge sandstone blocks, the thickness wide at the base and reduced towards the top. The building shows many signs of aging, wear and tear and weathering, with cracks seen as a result of past earthquake and dry masonry construction. INTACH invited CINTEC engineers who proposed a structural strengthening scheme that would restrict future cracking of walls and arrest the present cracks. The emergency retrofitting work last year included tying the perpendicular exterior walls at the corner junction; now a proposal for further conservation work has been prepared.

GURU TEG BAHADUR HOSPITAL, AMRITSAR

Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in Amritsar, previously known as the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, began functioning as a
The general hospital was abandoned to neglect as a new hospital was constructed at another location. The Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA) initiated efforts to conserve and re-use the Hospital Complex, appointing INTACH for design and supervision. It proposed the setting up of an Urban Haat and Heritage Hotel as the most appropriate usage given the large scale of building and surrounding spaces. The proposed urban Haat spread nearly 4.6 acres of the total 9.70 acre site includes various functions like craft display and demonstration/appreciation centre, and sales stall, food stalls, museum and exhibition hall, dormitories for artisans, amphitheatre etc. Execution of the work on site is proposed in 3 Phases; presently civil works including demolition of structures which were added later disturbing the setting of the building, removal of cement plaster, false ceilings etc is ongoing in Phase-I. Besides restoring the original layout of the complex, the work includes restoration of all structural as well as architectural features.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE MAPPING IN NORTH AND SOUTH SIKKIM**

A MoU was signed between the Govt. of Sikkim (Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department) and INTACH to survey and update the old listing in North and South Sikkim. AHD team of two architects travelled in Sikkim for 1 month and surveyed about 160 heritage sites, including built heritage, natural landscapes, settlements, villages etc spanning a height of 600-18000 feet. Travelling in North Sikkim was difficult due to the Monsoon but the local administration was very cooperative and extended full support during the survey that involved long hours of trekking, sometimes through dense Dzongo forests to access the Gompas and settlements. The survey included study and documentation of settlement patterns and houses of all three predominant communities: Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepalese. The Bhutia heartland in the north Sikkim (Chungthang, Lachen, Lachung, Yumthang and Thanggu) being the main epicenter of 2011 earthquake, suffered the maximum damage. While many Mani Lakhangs, Gompas and houses were damaged, some of them have been rebuilt and the others are in the process of rebuilding. One of the most significant monasteries Thanggu at 14000 feet above sea was destroyed in the earthquake and has been rebuilt. The survey data is presently being compiled in form a listing document.

**SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**

INTACH was approached by Ministry of Culture to list and document the buildings/sites associated with Swami Vivekananda, especially those not under the ownership or care
of the Ramakrishna Mission. A list of buildings was prepared across 31 towns including Delhi, Alwar, Ajmer, Mount Abu, Hrishikesh, Nainital, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), Varanasi, Ayodhya, Bhuj, Girnar, Palitana, Dwarka, Mahabaleshwar, Panaji, Rameswaram, Puducherry and others. A team of AHD architects with support of INTACH Chapters and local resource persons are engaged in the survey work, with a detailed inventory format prepared for site survey. Assistance from the Ramakrishna Mission Centers has been sought for identification and access to the buildings. While most of the buildings are found to have been altered, some very significant ones have been demolished in the last decade, such as the Seth Shyamaldas Haveli in Roshanara Garden, Delhi.

CRAFT COMMUNITY AND HERITAGE DIVISION (CCHD)

An exhibition: Splendours of Indian Architecture was organised by CCHD from 22nd August- 20th September in collaboration with the Institute of Indian Interior Designers and Jaipur Chapter at City Palace on the 104th birth anniversary of Jaipur’s Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II. The Chapter was greatly enthused by the tremendous enthusiasm with which the event was attended and enjoyed by local people, as well as many intellectuals and architects. The valedictory session by Dr Saryu Doshi was particularly appreciated by the IID Members as well as other invited guests. Many intellectuals and architects were present at this event.

ASI team discovered many more decorated rock shelters in Betul District in Madhya Pradesh and at the Dabka Reserve Forests in Amravati District of Maharashtra. Two miniature pots of dull redwaret were also found at site, apart from different types of tools made from agate, chert and chalcedony. It indicates that these secluded shelters were occupied by people of the Upper Paleolithic to the Mesolithic and Chalcolithic periods before they gradually moved towards larger colonies. The discovery of 226 decorated rock shelters till date is considered one of the major finds of the 21st century in India.
The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) has taken up many projects across the country to digitally document or record intangible heritage transmitted from one generation to another, and to safeguard and document them.

One such project undertaken by the Dahanu Chapter is the cultural documentation of the Warlis in Dahanu area. Another initiated by the Jammu State Chapter is documentation of the life of the Gujjars (Nomads) in the Jammu plains. The documentation includes their rituals, folk songs and dance festivals.

The Rajpipla Chapter initiated a project on documenting the Bhil community and their traditional performing arts – music, dance, fairs and festivals. Bhil’s are specially known for their harmonious music and dance.

The cultural mapping of the Yimchungru and Khiamnuingam Nagas was commenced by the Nagaland State Chapter for documenting the cultural values of various tribal communities of the country in remote areas.

The Kasargod Chapter took up a project for documenting the ICH elements of the Kannur and Kasargod districts, which includes folk and ritual dances, folksongs, traditional craftsmanship of handicrafts and folk architecture.

The Jharkhand State Chapter is documenting the diverse Santhal dances. The characteristics of each form is different and they are performed during different seasons and different occasions. This documentation will also take up other intangible cultural elements of the Santhals.

ICHD has taken up a cultural mapping project in collaboration with the Tribal Funds to document the Kannaura community in Kinnaur region of Himachal Pradesh, to create a comprehensive visual document of their cultural practices.

Recently ICHD brought out a publication on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Diu, Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli. It was sent to the Government of Diu and Daman for its formal release during Independence Day celebrations.

To mark 30 years of INTACH’S Foundation, a series of Heritage Quiz competitions are being conducted for college students at ten different locations across country, to create awareness among youth and other enthusiasts with an interest in India’s rich heritage. The series is being telecast by DD Bharati. It is the counterpart of school level quiz competitions conducted by HECS.

Recently published When Jewelry Speaks - Celebrating the Tradition of Kundan Minakaari enables the reader to understand this craft from the historic, sociologic, cultural and craft facets. Minakaari has a long history of 450 years and is part of most wedding trousseaus even in contemporary times. It evolved through a cultural synthesis and vision of Mughals, Persians and European influences to a modern day craft specialized mostly in Jaipur, Bikaner and Varanasi. The author Shimul Mehta Vyas has sourced fabulous pictures from the Padshahnama, private collections and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. She says “It is very important for us as a country, for NID as an institution (her alma mater which supported her work), and for me as an academician, that our age-old techniques and traditions are diligently documented”.

Gujar community in Jammu region

People of Kannaura community
IHA, PUNE REGIONAL CENTRE

The INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) will be following up on the MOU signed between INTACH and Deccan College, when Chairman attended its 75th Anniversary Celebrations on 17th August. (Details under Central News) The MOU pertains to the promotion, popularization and researching in archaeology, cultural heritage, and conservation management. They also discussed the critical aspects of space allocation for setting up a Pune Regional Centre of INTACH Heritage Academy in the heritage building of the College, and the appointment of a Coordinator for the two organizations to implement the MOU is under discussion.

SEMINAR: URBAN HERITAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE CREATIVE ECONOMIES

The introductory seminar on Urban Heritage for Sustainable Creative Economies on 27th August brought together a group of 20 heritage consultants, architects, urban economists and cultural commentators from various parts of India for a brain-storming session, to discuss the scope and working methodology for this initiative in India. Its objective was to share and disseminate the idea behind setting up a new and unique Asia-Europe Network of Urban Heritage for Sustainable Creative Economies, and to garner support from like-minded professionals and institutions/organizations.

INTACH Secretariat stressed on the importance of the network as a tool that will help in reinstating the identity of local culture, while maintaining continuity. Due to an eclectic gathering, the understanding of terms like ‘creative economies’ and ‘sustainability’ varied but the experts agreed that an initiative towards sustaining heritage-linked local economies is much needed in India.

Principal Director, INTACH Heritage Academy, Navin Piplani explained how the majority of heritage cities function as nodes for cultural experiences - but the nature and pace of urbanization had begun to impact these cities. As a result, the link between traditional knowledge, culture and creative economies has not been clearly established. He said by putting creativity at the core, traditional knowledge, culture and technology can be developed as imaginative and inclusive tools for the sustainable management of a heritage city or town.

Founder and Former Executive Director, India Foundation for the Arts, Anmol Vellani, an expert resource person, emphasized the ‘expressive value’ of creative fields and how this directly or indirectly affects the rest of the economy. His methodology included diverse elements such as aesthetic, social, spiritual and historical values and made a clear distinction between cultural and creative industries, placing both within the economy as a whole. He pointed out that for the creative economies to thrive it is important to understand the close connection between creative expression and intellectual property. He said the State cannot ignore paying heed to the whole ecosystem of the arts, and cannot be oblivious to the real desires and aspirations of local communities.

Dr. Renu Khosla, Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence focused on Improving the Livelihood of Workers Dependent on Heritage. Taking the case study of Agra, she pointed out that apart from the world famous heritage of...
Agra, its intangible heritage is equally rich – the culture, the cuisines and the traditional skills; and to provide sustainability it is important to train the poor to be able to make a living from this intangible heritage.

Senior Programme Officer, Aga Khan Trust for Culture Ms. Shveta Mathur spoke on Relevance of Heritage in Sustainable Economic Development. The main idea she put forward was that ‘Heritage and sustainable economic development are subsets of each other’. She emphasized that it is essential to learn about the basic needs and requirements of the community in order to work towards sustainability of any form citing the case study of Nizamuddin basti where the Aga Khan Trust has been working towards improvement in health, sanitation and the community life of the heritage area. It has helped in developing many buildings as platforms for the arts, poetry and music, which attract audiences from across the city.

Dr. Shikha Jain, Founding Trustee, Indian Heritage Cities Network, represented the Indian Heritage Cities Network emphasized that heritage is not only about monuments but also about the way an area evolves. It includes all crafts, landscapes, water bodies and even contemporary creativities. Focusing on Rajasthan, she spoke about Integrating Heritage with Livelihoods where there is constant promotion of activities engaging local artisans by way of street bazaars and craft workshops. She said many areas in a city categorized as ‘slums’ are actually urban villages with rich cultural heritage and traditional skills. Mapping of urban villages with tourist locations and having direct access to these villages for selling their products was suggested for better planning and ‘holistic’ development with the needs of each community taken into account.

Anegundi-Hampi Chapter Convenor Shama Pawar’s case study focused on livelihoods through tourism and crafts, and conservation of heritage resources in Anegundi, near Hampi taken up by the Kishkinda Trust since 1997. She emphasized that in the long run a specific formalized education system that will strengthen the cultural/creative industries such as tourism and craft enterprises is needed in India. She traced the working of the Kishkinda Trust which has provided employment in the field of traditional crafts to 250 women who now create a range of products which have a market in both India and abroad.

IHA Research Assistant Ritika Khanna provided two case studies – White Paper on Creativity: Towards an Italian Model for Development; and National Strategy towards the Development of Cultural Industries in Vietnam. While the case study on Italy discussed the Italian approach towards the development of its creative industries, the other report provided a framework through which Vietnam intends to become a globally recognized creative economy by 2030.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The sessions concluded with a round table discussion. Principal Director IHA Navin Piplani stressed on the Secretariat’s role in developing a framework for the sustainability of creative economies with respect to urban heritage. Numerous suggestions were received from the participating experts. It was pointed out by Urban Economist Tanaji Chakravorty that many heritage cities revitalize and regenerate themselves at a pace of their own, and the involvement of stakeholders like the INTACH Secretariat becomes important. It was generally discussed that local economies of a heritage city are often linked with the city’s history, culture and religion and one should not undermine the power of these local networks.

Dr. Shikha Jain from Indian Heritage Cities Network suggested that with the help of indigenous case studies an Indian framework for the empowerment of heritage linked local economies could be created. Taking this suggestion further, Assistant Professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad Ms. Kamalika Bose said the creation of such a framework would need a multi-disciplinary approach where professionals like anthropologists, heritage managers, economists and artists would have to work together. Assistant Professor, Pearl Academy Ms. Maliha S. Chaudhry stressed on the need to generate support from students and staff to suggest creative ways for strengthening abilities of the local workers. World Bank Ms. Consultant Moushumi Chatterji recommended finding out ways to link new and emerging crafts to traditional skills to generate employment for the heritage-link local workers. INTACH Principal Director AHD Divay Gupta pointed out that due to lack of statistics and figures in heritage projects, it is imperative for economists to intervene for the development of a framework to empower heritage linked local economies.

DEANS OF ARCHITECTURE COLLEGES COLLOQUIUM

A Colloquium was held at INTACH on 31st August in collaboration with the Council of Architecture and Indian
Institute of Architects on 31st August, attended by 37 experts from various architectural colleges in different parts of the country. The main objective was to share the scope of the MOU signed between INTACH and CoA, and discuss ideas on how architectural colleges can involve themselves in this initiative. Several interesting ideas and issues were shared with the Deans of the colleges with fruitful results. It was agreed that each college will help in listing and documentation of at least two districts in their respective areas. INTACH will provide a manual for listing to all the participating Architecture Colleges and IIA Chapters.

**ALL INDIA HERITAGE QUIZ**

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) organized a series of inter-school all India Heritage Quiz, conducted by Xpress Minds Edutainment with 15 quizmasters who travelled to the different centres. The series held across 90 cities tested the general knowledge of school children on the country’s land, people, culture, Indian languages, geography and history. It also covered a wide range of questions on India’s contribution to science and technology, business, economy, sports and cinematic arts. In the process both young participants and older audience learned a great deal more about these subjects.

This biggest event of its kind in the country began on 30th June at Bijapur, Karnataka and concluded at Shillong, Meghaya on 25th August, covering a vast area from Leh to Kanyakumari and Aizwal to Port Blair. INTACH offered attractive prizes to the zonal winners and national champions.

**TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP**

HECS continued its training workshops for teachers training and the Filmit India during this quarter, which are an on-going activity with Principal Director Purnima Dutt making the introductory presentations.

**Chennai, 1st – 2nd July**

The workshop at Chennai was attended by 51 teachers from 30 schools at the Chettinad Hari Sree Vidyalayam. Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh spoke on the history and rich heritage of Chennai in terms of its colonial architecture. Principal Director HECS Purnima Dutt emphasized on utilizing monuments and museums as an important resource for learning about their past. Founder Member S. Muthiah, a city chronicler, stressed that teachers needed to be proactive in raising issues on heritage and that heritage education should be part of the school curriculum. At the visit to the Government Museum, Dr. Suresh briefed them on its Romanesque architecture and the 46 galleries. The Amravati Sculptures Gallery was the highlight wherein the bronzes of the Chola period, especially the Nataraja dated to 11th century AD was the star attraction.
Goa, 12th August

The teacher training workshop was held at People’s High School, Panjim for 14 schools including schools from Panjim, Margao, Saligao, Quepem, Chicalim, etc. State Convenor Fatima Gracias gave a brief introduction about Goa’s rich heritage and engaged the teachers in an interactive session. Some of the favourite heritage sites they cited were Salaulim Dam, Saligao Church, St Anne’s Church, Aguada Fort among others. Dr. Shobhita Punja spoke about the Reis Magos Festival held annually in Goa in December. Goa

Co-Convenor Ian Alvares of Goa Chapter, a conservation architect, spoke on the local heritage monuments and stressed the need to conserve the existing ones.

Machilipatnam, 2nd–3rd September

The Machilipatnam workshop was held at Ramakrishna Public School with 46 teachers from 27 schools. INTACH Convener Rama Mohan Rao spoke about the rich local culture; while guest of honour and Machilipatnam Municipal Commissioner Motamarri Baba told the teachers that determination, dedication and education are the key words for spreading awareness about culture among the students. Trustee of Kakatiya Heritage Trust Panduranga Rao gave a presentation on geo technical splendor of the Kakatiyas focusing on the Thousand Pillar temple at Warangal. He expressed gratitude to INTACH Chairman for lending support to the bi-lingual publication of Hands on Heritage book. In the group activity, Teachers took up topics like Project Nature and Nurture Life by Heritage and Culture, Stupa at Konnera Centre, Kalamkari Art and Dussehra Festival and Goddess Kali showed through skit, dance and songs. They also visited the Archeological Survey of India Museum, at Ghantasala, a Buddhist site, Buddhist Stupa of 2nd-3rd century BC, and the Jaladeeshwara Swami Temple.

Kuchipudi Village

As a part of the site visit, the teachers visited the Kuchipudi Dance training centre established at 1983 and run by famous Kuchipudi dancer Kesava Prasad in the Kuchipudi village. The classical dance Kuchipudi originated from this place, therefore the name.
FILMIT INDIA WORKSHOPS

Filmit India Workshops in its Phase 5 were held in Delhi, Kolkata, Goa, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Chennai and most recently in Jaipur.

Delhi, 22nd July

Cinematographer Feisal Alkazi explained how to approach the task of film making which is not just about pointing a camera and shooting. A story is the backbone of any movie. Amazing stories and ideas were shared by students for their films this year. A technical workshop was held on 24th July for Delhi schools where experts Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas discussed film making techniques along with the camera angles and shots that students must keep in mind while filming movies. They showed some films so that students could brainstorm on the nuances of filmmaking to make an emotional connect with viewers and make a great film.

Kolkata, 31st July

Kolkata Convenor G M Kapur welcomed the participants of the Filmit workshop. A few short films were showed to the students and their reactions to each film were discussed. Technical experts Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas conducted a brainstorming exercise where students were asked to write a story in 10 lines or less!

Chennai, 1st August

The Filmit India was held at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam School. A one-day content cum technical workshop for teachers and students was organized, commencing with the recital of a prayer song by the students. State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh briefed the teachers and students about the Filmit project and past successes. Technical experts Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas discussed film making tips giving valuable inputs and clarifying questions.

Hyderabad, 2nd August

The Filmit programme held at Jubilee Hills Public School was addressed by Convenor Anuradha Reddy. The students were asked to make a documentary picking their favourite festival as the subject. National award winning filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh shared their technical expertise.
Jaipur, 7th August

For the first time Filmit content cum technical workshop was organized by the Jaipur Chapter at the Maharani Filmit India, Hyderabad.

Gayatri Devi Girls’ School for five schools of the city, in collaboration with the City Palace Museum. Jaipur Convenor Dharmendar Kanwar shared the importance of conserving the city’s historic heritage, with students also sharing their ideas and came up with the unique concept - The Idea of India. The technical session was conducted by UK Filmit expert Wes Jefferson who shared concepts of photo story, storyboard line and kinds of camera angles and shots. Cameras were given to the new schools who registered for the project in the current year.

Goa, 11th August

The Filmit content and technical workshop was organized at Sharada Mandir School. Goa Convener Fatima Gracias welcomed the students who enthusiastically discussed their ideas for films. Mr. Wes Jefferson discussed different types of camera movements, planning a movie, use background music etc. The Sea was discussed as one of the special themes for Goa.

Mumbai, 13th August

The Filmit technical workshop held in collaboration with the Mumbai Chapter was organized at the Bhauji Lad Museum for teachers and students. Mr. Wes Jefferson spoke on long, mid, close-up and aerial, tilted, pan (wide) and track shots. He showed some movies in which the above mentioned techniques were used for making a good movie.

Chandigarh, 22nd August

The Filmit was organized in collaboration with Chandigarh Chapter at the Saupin’s School. The Chief Guest was eminent theatre personality of Vicky Donor fame, Dolly Ahluwalia. Convenor Virinder Kapoor lauded the students on their efforts. After discussing the current themes, a few movies were shown: The Grandfather, Yawn, Tea for Two, etc. through which the technical nuances of filmmaking were explained.
by Ms Dutt. Co-Convenor Deepika Gandhi summed up the Filmit workshop by talking about the heritage of the city though it was a planned township.

While ICHD conducted the Heritage Quiz for College students, HECS has been organizing the largest ever School Quiz Competition 2014 in 105 cities covering all States. More than 75 INTACH Chapters from across the country contributed to making this Quiz a success.

The city rounds consisted of a preliminary written test organized at centralized venues. The Zonal Winners will travel to New Delhi for the National Rounds which will be televised. The 16 Zonal Winners will meet in the National Rounds that will comprise four semi-finals, to be followed by the National Grand Finale scheduled to be held in the month of November.

**QUICK SNAPSHOT FROM SOME CHAPTERS**
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

Ms. Samhita Veda Acharya is appointed the Convenor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. She will be assisted by the newly appointed Ms. Saurabh Saroop as Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Ms. L. Sesha Kumari is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Andhra Pradesh State Chapter.

East Godavari

A public awareness programme Go Green Ganesha Walk was organized on 25th August before the onset of Ganesh Chathurthi to make people aware of the harmful effects of chemicals used in commercial Ganesha idols. This is particularly rampant in big cities that host large festivities during the 5-11 days celebrations. INTACH Members were joined by 200 students on a 1 km walk that was flagged off by Deputy Superintendent of Police and Sub Divisional Officer. He addressed the students about the polluting effects of immersing coloured idols. INTACH hopes that the young people’s messages would have greater resonance when conveyed to their friends and elders. In the villages it is a common sight to see idols made out of clay, a practice that needs to be emulated. The Chapter distributed 12 bags of clay, Ganesha moulds and other required material to Parivartana, a home for rag pickers and to the free school Praja Vidyalam maintained for slum dwellers by an NRI lady, encouraging them to distribute environment-friendly idols in their neighbourhood.

Convenor L. Shesha Kumari and Co-Convenor VVL Murthy are congratulated on this initiative. It needs to be replicated by other Chapters for all festivals.

Kadapa

As many as 30 Members attended the General Body Meeting of the Kadapa District Chapter held on 13th July. They appreciated the work of Convenor S.Elias Reddy and of Co-Convenor Dr. P. Venugopal in listing 43 built and natural heritage sites, and promoting 15 heritage clubs. On the following day a Heritage Tour was organized to Gandhi Water Works; and to an ancient Shiva Temple in its vicinity where a banyan tree with thick areal roots also stands on the banks of the Penna River. The Members discovered tombs of freedom fighters of the District, the late Kadapa Koti Reddy and K. Rama Subbamma. A tribal sect Yanadis living in the area were requested to take care of the site.

The Chapter participated in a short documentary film competition conducted by the Global Hindu Heritage Foundation jointly with the Save Temple Organisation, USA held at Hyderabad. Their film titled Aalaya Parirakshana – Sanathan Dharma Rakshana won a special prize named Pancharama Kshethra Spoorthi Puraskaram together with a cash award and a Gomatha statue.
history of the various structures and idols of the Museum making them aware of their heritage value. It was followed by a visit to the 1620 AD Abdul Wabab Khan Tomb also known as the Golgumbaz situated on the banks of the Handri River. Its enormous bulbous central dome rising from a band of petals, enclosed by six graceful minars rising from each corner of the dome, indicates the remarkable skills of that period. Structurally also the flat stone ceiling of the central chamber without any visible support is another notable architectural achievement of that time. Another striking feature of the Golgumbaz is the plethora of relief carvings in a variety of geometric patterns and foliage, richly executed cornices, perforated parapets and other characteristics of the fully developed Bijapur style of architecture.

**Srikakulam**

The Chapter celebrated the 142nd Jayanti of freedom fighter and Andhra Pradesh's first Chief Minister Tangutiri Prakasampanthulu on 23rd August. Chief Guest Kuna Ravikumar was extended a warm welcome at the well attended function presided by Collector Gaurav Uppa, as well as many senior district officials. Convenor Dusi Dharmarao spoke at length on the various phases of Tangutiri’s life,
Rani Sarma who is Coordinator Buddhist sites of Andhra laments it resulted in excavating sections of the core area for laying footpaths and ‘beautifying’ sculptural friezes in utter violation of conservation principles. Cement and brick used to convert an ancient monastic complex into a tourist park is a travesty of heritage promotion.

Convenor PV Prasad reports that the Erra Matti Bibbalu has been declared a treasured national Geo-Heritage Site. There are only two other such sites existing, one in Tamil Nadu (Teri Sand) and the other in Sri Lanka. To date a total of 29 such sites of geological importance have been identified in India, it is an ongoing process of the GSI. The natural processes of weathering and erosion sculpt exquisite artifacts from the rock sequences and illustrate the evolutionary history of the earth.

Warangal

The Chapter organized a Seminar and a Cycle Rally on 2nd October to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, as has been its practice every year. It attracted over 300 students and faculty of colleges in the region inculcating a spirit of adventure and togetherness in youth. Convenor M. Pandu Ranga Rao informs that the subject of the seminar was Restoration of Kalyana Mantapam of the Thousand Pillar Temple. Later that day a Quiz programme was also held to which Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University, Director of National Institute of Technology, District Collector and other senior district officials were invited.

ASSAM

State Convenor Jayanta Sharma informs that the Chapter collaborated with Xpress Minds Edutainment to hold the North East Zonal Final of the Quiz Competition. It was organized at the Rang Bhavan Hall in Guwahati and conducted by Quizmaster Rohan Desai of Xpress Minds Entertainment on 27th August. As many as 45 teams from Class VII-X participated. Subsequently the North-East Zonal Final was held at the same venue represented by the qualifying teams from Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Gangtok and Greater Guwahati in a keenly contested round. It featured progressive clues and visual stills that both teased and excited the students. The teams from Itanagar, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Gangtok and Greater Guwahati who had qualified in the earlier rounds at their respective places participated in the NE Zonal Final. It was won by Sangeet Kunan Bezboruah and Anit Bhattacharaya from the Shree Agrasen Academy, Dibrugarh and was well covered by the local press.
On Teachers’ Day, Shri Ajit Kumar Sharma received the National Building Award of the Rotary Club. INTACH congratulates him because his work as the teacher for the Heritage Club at Dibrugarh was also recognized.

**MANAS NATIONAL PARK**

Manas National Park has been facing threat of losing its tag as World Heritage Site, declared in 1985. At that time it had about 100 rhinos that were completely wiped out during the insurgency. Later some were trans-located from Kaziranga and Pobitora. Contiguous to the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan, the 520 sq.km Manas National Park has the distinction of also being a tiger reserve, elephant reserve, a biosphere reserve and an important bird area. Poachers have returned. Efforts have also to be made to protect at least 20 amphibian species and 35 reptile species, recently identified in a study conducted by a joint team of scientists from Guwahati University, NGO Aranyak and the Wildlife Institute of India. Some of them are highly endangered like the green tree frog, blue fan-throated lizard, king cobra, pope’ pit viper, among others. The study also identified bewildering herpetofaunal diversity in the Manas landscape, much of which is yet to be explored and studied.

**CHHATTISGARH**

Chairman LK Gupta addressed the Workshop on Traditional Water Conservation System & Its Importance in Urban Perspective held at Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur. The world over it is being said that water will be the casus belli of future wars due to modern lifestyles and incremental demand of water by a burgeoning population. (For details of Chairman’s address see Central News).

Chhattisgarh State Convenor Lalit Surjan welcomed all the delegates, especially mentioning the representatives

**BIHAR**

**Patna**

Know India Heritage, another popular heritage education programme, launched by INTACH for school students, held a preliminary competition on 25th July. It was conducted by Xpress Mind Entertainment after forming 29 groups who were given 30 minutes for taking the preliminary written test.
from AIIMS, State Environment Protection Board, Town & Country Planning, Water Resources Deptt., New Raipur Development Authority, Bhilai Steel Plant, Nagar Nigam and several NGOs in attendance. People from more than half the districts of the State and several academic institutions were also present in the audience; as well as veteran politicians and intellectuals. Life Member Dr. Dinesh Kumar Marothia, the Guest of Honour, is a renowned agricultural and environment economist, with 44 years of experience working in Chhattisgarh. He drew attention to the existence of century old multi-use water bodies still in existence today that need to be preserved. Development is necessary but it does not mean putting lives at stake, he said.

Co-Convenor of Raipur Chapter Rajendra Chandak proposed the vote of thanks. Prof. Ninad Bodhankar is congratulated for the successful organization of this important workshop.

Delhi

Convenor AGK Menon has raised strong objections to the proposed 3D Projection on the surface of the iconic India Gate, presumably approved by HCC and Delhi Urban Arts Commission. India Gate is a Memorial to Indian Soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War. It is also the site of the Eternal Flame in honour of Unknown Soldiers, and much revered by the Armed Forces. The Republic Day Parade begins with the lighting of a flame at this site. It would be a travesty to use India Gate as a backdrop for popular entertainment and will be a gross violation of its sanctity.

Convenor Menon has drawn the attention of the Central Vista Committee, the Army Headquarters and the CPWD to this matter. It is hoped better sense will prevail.

Sinking Feeling

The recent collapse of old buildings in Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi should give a sinking feeling to people in the capital. The Yamuna floodplains and wetlands are inhabited by one-fifth of Delhi’s citizenry. From northeast Delhi to Noida, Okhla, Badarpur and stretching to Faridabad in Haryana it is soft alluvial soil on which highly vulnerable structures have come up, some legally and many illegally. They are highly vulnerable because they have been built on soft alluvial soil. Shivani Singh writes “These buildings virtually float on a high groundwater table that keeps weakening their foundations. What makes it worse is that Delhi’s floodplains are located in seismic zone IV, the second highest earthquake hazard zone in India. Even medium intensity tremors can lead to liquefaction of soil – a condition resembling quicksand – sinking all structures resting on water-saturated grounds by the Yamuna”.

Ack: Hindustan Times

10,000 Year Old Artifacts

The remnants of an old city has been found at Parsulidh and Barenga during excavation at the near by Tarighat site. Archaeologists unearthed a large number of tools belonging to the Mesolithic periods, and some older ones of the Paleolithic (15,000 years old) period. These newly discovered pre-historic sites on the outskirts of Raipur are situated on the banks of an ancient water channel, a tributary of Kharoun River. Archaeologist Dr. Pradhan said blades, burins, scrapers and other such artifacts found there were made of quartz and chalcedony.

Little Known Historic Town

Sirpur, meaning “city of wealth”, found mention in the chronicles of Hieun Tsang. It was the capital of the Mahakosala kingdom in the 5th-10th centuries. Situated 83 miles from the capital of Chhattisgarh, it is now an idyllic village of temples, viharas and a wildlife sanctuary. Extensive excavations continue to this day and are bringing out exciting new finds, the eight Buddhist viharas being one of the highlights. The Tivarandeva Mahavihara is the most stunning find of them all. One of the State Museums also has a statue of a Dwarapala from the Buddhist vihara guarding its doorway.
In the wake of Rani ka Vav being accorded the UNESCO World Heritage Site status, all efforts are being made for a similar inscription for the Walled City of Ahmedabad. The city’s Municipal Corporation (AMC) is being assisted by an expert team to validate 3300 properties within and outside the Walled City that are on its heritage list prepared by former CEPT University Professor RJ Vasavda. The experts comprise INTACH Delhi Convenor Prof. AGK Menon, town planner and Hyderabad Chapter Member SP Sherey, and Sahitya Akademi award winner Esther David who has spent most of her life in the Walled City. Other members on the team represent the ASI, AMC, and the Centre for Heritage Management Director Debasish Nayak. The team will also review a separate list that was prepared by an INTACH team led by State Convenor Manvita Baradi.

The experts visited the main city squares and some residential areas, and made some preliminary suggestions for consideration. For example there should be a penalty clause to be incorporated in the existing heritage laws to dissuade owners from demolishing listed heritage properties, or from making any changes that alters their structural integrity. The

**SAVING THE YAMUNA**

An experts committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal for restoration and beautification of Yamuna recommended legal protection for the river zone. Only a notification of the river zone as an eco-sensitive area under the Environment Protection Act can save the Yamuna and its environs. The Committee also recommended constitution of an apex body to look into the maintenance of river flow and restoration of natural storm water drains.

An Australian river expert D. Mussared states: **Floodplains are as important to rivers as bark is to trees. Most of the processes that drive life in rivers happen around the edges. Just as the sap flows through the outermost ring of trees, not through its centre.**

**KODAK MOMENTS OF INDIA’S INDEPENDENCE**

History buffs in the national capital witnessed some iconic moments of the India’s independence movement at a photographic exhibition that was flagged on 15th August at Connaught Place, New Delhi. There were glimpses of historic political meetings and lives famous people on display at all six blocks of its Inner Circle. Most of the photographs put up by the NDMC, in collaboration with the India Photo Archive Foundation (IPAF), grabbed eyeballs as they had never been exhibited before, including priceless moments from the 1930s. There were exclusive images of Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Vallabh Patil, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and other famous freedom fighters and leaders. They are from the archival collection of photojournalist Kulwant Roy (1914-1984) donated to Aditya Arya who founded the IPAF.

**ACK : Sweta Goswami, Pioneer**
fine imposed should be in multiples of the existing value of the property. On the other hand, owners whose properties are enlisted can be given incentives in the form of tradable FSI that can generate big money for the conservation efforts. The expert panel also suggested 1947 as the cutoff date for heritage buildings, excepting conic structures like buildings made by Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn’s Indian Institute of Management (IIM) built in recent years that will remain on the heritage list.

**Jamnagar**

The Chapter had petitioned against the beautification and development of the Hamir Sagar undertaken by the Jamnagar Municipal Corporation without proper assessment of its impact on ecology and environment. It has been stalled, as Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules came to the rescue. Till further orders there will be no construction or development activity.

**Vadodara**

Shri Sanjeev Joshi is appointed the Convenor of the Vadodara Chapter.

**HARYANA**

**Ambala**

Convenor Brig. GS Lamba and Member Col. RD Singh conducted a very interesting Heritage Walk for school students on the Mall Road and Cantonment area on 24th July. Attention to the precious heritage of the city was drawn by highlighting some of the photographs of heritage sites displayed on the Mall Road. The duct water supply system for example has been in existence since British times when Ambala was a major cantonment town, and continues to be one to this day. This particular area of the city has always been a “walker’s paradise” as it is well maintained and landscaped, replete with various recreational facilities as in many cantonment towns in India. All traffic is stopped during morning and evening for specific walking hours. Even soft music is played making it an area for fitness and joy for its citizens. The Chapter hopes to inspire many more young and old citizens to take pride in this unique heritage cum recreational area of the city.

With the assistance of Xpress Minds, the Quiz Competition was coordinated by the Chapter but the children found the papers very tough. The Chapter is of the view that such papers should be vetted by INTACH Central Office in future keeping in mind the location to ensure that students are not demoralized.

**Kurukshetra**

INTACH Kurukshetra Chapter celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi on 29th August to acquaint the modern generation with the cultural roots of our rich diverse heritage. A cultural program celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi.

**33rd Kalchakra**

The 33rd Kalchakra attracted lakhs of Buddhists to visit Ladakh in July this summer. However Haryana State Archaeology Department, Panchkula and the ASI Circle, two premier bodies for heritage conservation, have not succeeded in highlighting the 22 ancient Buddhist sites of their State. Around 2500 years ago, Buddha gave one of his most important sermons at Maha Sati Patthana Sutta in Haryana which is yet to be promoted under Buddhist pilgrimage tourism. Buddha and his disciple Ananda also travelled several times through Haryana via the ancient trade route of Mathura-Taxila and went to Gandhara. Different ruling dynasties patronized Buddhism in Haryana in the past. The excavations in Adi Badari have also revealed several Buddhist stupas and monasteries at the confluence of the Som and Sarasvati rivers. In the village of Agroha Hisar a Buddhist monastery and stupa was discovered during excavations. The majority of such sites have not even been listed under protected monuments to date.
Celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with a cultural programme

was organised in which students of various postgraduate departments of the University and members of a professional group presented songs, bhajans and dances dedicated to the deity of the day, Lord Ganesha. The function was attended by students of different departments, schools, local public and visitors to the Kurukshetra Panorma and Science Center. At the end of the two hour program all present performed aarti to Lord Ganesha and dispersed after enjoying ladoos specially prepared for this occasion.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

The Chapter published a booklet focusing on the Wall Paintings in Ancient Temples of Jammu, lavishly illustrated with pictures taken from many of Jammu’s much revered temples. The Rani Bandalri Temple in the city’s Purani Mandi has themes from Krishan Lila and Ramayana on both sides of its large doorway, dedicated to Lord Rama. It was built by Maharani Ishwari Devi Bandrali in 1890. The Radha Krishan Temple built in 1880 by the Dewan of Maharaja Gulab Singh has illustrations like Rasili, Veena-Vadani amidst singers and portraits of him and that of his son Ranbir Singh. The Savitri Mandir on the banks of the Tawi river, built by the Dogra royal family, is copiously decorated with murals in Jammu miniature style. The 1861 Shiva Temple in Sunjwaan village is decorated with murals of Shiva-Parvati, Ganesh, Vishnu and apsaras. The 1840 Radhey Sham Temple is now a private property. There are many others temples built in the 19th century depicting Vaishnava, Lakshmi Narayan, Brahma or Hanuman worshipped by the people for their legendary associations. The oldest of them is the Panjokhter Temple also called the Ruaiye Aala Mandir built upon a Svayemmbhu Linga. It is associated with Shankracharya’s visit in the 8th–9th century, and later Guru Nanak’ visit. The murals here are in urgent need of conservation. This publication of this booklet will go a long way in promoting awareness of Jammu as a major tourist attraction.
A month long Summer Camp for listing and documentation of built heritage of Jammu and Rajouri Districts was organized by the Chapter. Eight associates/students of School of Architecture and Landscape Design of Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra; CEPT University, Ahmedabad and Hindustan University, Chennai participated in the Camp as listers. It was conducted by Convenor SM Sahni, former Development Commissioner; Town Planning Organisation Vinod Malhotra; Chief Town Planner Joginder Singh; In-charge Dogra Art Museum Kirpal Singh; former architect, J&K Government Prof. C. L. Razdan; and other academicians and architects like Sanjay Gupta and Bawna Sawh.

**TURBULENT CITY**

Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir despite some of its diminished transformation stands out “as the most physical manifestation of the turbulent history of the region” going back to its earliest times. Archaeological records reveal a flourishing habitat over centuries. An ancient temple built in 910 AD is a classic example of Kashmiri temple architecture, with Greek and Roman characteristics, distinct from temples in the subcontinent. A 1931 ASI excavation yielded several Buddhist sculptures, the most significant being Mahamaya (mother of Buddha) wearing ornaments similar to the Dejharu that is worn by married Kashmiri women. The city was destroyed in a devastating fire in 260 AD during the reign of Abhimanyu who belonged to the Gonda dynasty and worshipped Shiva. During 300 years from 9th-11th centuries Srinagar boomed with creative people including saints and poets. The 14th century saw the advent of Muslim rule and socio-cultural change. Coincidentally the city lies at the same latitude as other great Islamic cities of Baghdad, Damascus and Morroco. There was an influx of people, missionaries and craftspeople from great centres of Islamic art, Persia and Central Asia. The interaction and synthesis of varying cultural backgrounds and philosophy gave birth to a unique religious and secular architecture represented by the Khanqah, mosque and vernacular houses. Srinagar represents one of the intact cities of pre-modern vernacular and timber architecture. It remains a great tourist destination.

**Jharkhand**

Hazaribagh Convenor Bulu Imam’s book *Antiquarian Remains of Jharkhand* published by INTACH is a remarkable compilation of the State’s rich natural, tribal, archaeological and cultural heritage. It covers the Upper Damodar River Valley and the Hazaribagh plateau, with focus on the deleterious impact of industrial development. Its people have borne the brunt of losing ancestral lands and forests to vast coal mining, dams, and deforestation. The stark dichotomy between heritage and development has been a subject that deeply troubled the author over the years; and the subject of his many discourses in India and overseas portraying helpless, human tragedy.

The author’s research on pre-historic rock art of Jharkhand and its continuity, and promotion through murals and setting up of the *Tribal Women Artists Cooperative* is well known also in countries of Europe, Australia and America. The book is a unique contribution to understanding the archaeology and history of Jharkhand in the context of its ethnographic culture. It opens a dialogue between the meanings of lost visual tradition *Adi Drishya* and the living artistic traditions of tribal communities and explains some of them.
INTACH congratulates our activist Convenor, a recipient of the Gandhi International Peace Award, on the publication of this laboriously compiled book – to be formally released very shortly.

KARNATAKA

Bagalkot

The Chapter organized a Natural Heritage Awareness Programme jointly with the SRN Arts and MBS Commerce College on 11th August. The Assistant Conservator of Forests Anand Huddar as Chief Guest urged the students to become greater aware of the detrimental effects of environmental degradation. State Environmental Awardee BD Nemagoudar was felicitated on the occasion. He urged the students to gift saplings to friends and relatives on special occasions instead of presents in the modern style.

Belgaum Sub-Chapter

Ms. Meena M. Mohite is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Belgaum Sub-Chapter, under the aegis of the Dharwad Chapter.

Chief Secretary Karnataka has telephonically communicated to the Cantonment Board to immediately stop construction work on the proposed Income Tax building that had been a matter of great concern to INTACH. It would have impacted the ancient structure of Belgaum Fort to which the general public is deeply attached.

Bijapur

Minister SR Patil, Dr. Pattar, Dr. Duddi, Dr. Rangaraj, Swami Narayan, Con. Kulkarni, Co-Convenor Kuri

Karnataka Minister Shri S.R.Patil released the book Glimpses of Heritage Monuments of Bagalkot District at a function on 12th July held jointly by the Chapter and the President Dr. HG Daddi of Arya Trust, Hubli. Convenor Dr. DG Kulkarni specially invited Shri Channabasav Swami

GOL GUMBAZ

The jewel among the large group of Bijapur heritage sites is undoubtedly the Gol Gumbaz. The seventh ruler of the Adil Shahi dynasty, Mohammed Adil Shah built it as his own mausoleum in 1626. It has an enormous dome of Indo-Islamic architecture, blending symmetry and precision on a gigantic scale. Above the dome lies a huge cube whose corners have seven-tiered towers signifying the seven notes of music. The Adil Shahis were great patrons of music and encouraged mehfils in the 500 seat gallery, while a stage at ground level was used for mujras. The acoustics of whispering gallery in the Gol Gumbuz is one of its major tourist attractions, with even the faintest whisper or a clap echoing multi-fold all over the mausoleum. It is said builders from Central Asia took 30 years to complete this masterpiece resting on a bed rock. It has often been suggested that Bijapur should be declared a heritage city, and that the Gol Gumbuz deserves a world heritage tag. Only follow up action is awaited.
of Olemath, Jhamkhandi to grace the occasion. Secretary of the Vidyaparsarak Mandal SB Satyanarayan presided over the proceedings, with the Registrar of Belgaum’s and Channamma University, Rangaraj Wanadurg as the Chief Guest. Former INTACH Co-Convenor Sheelkant Pattar, a historian of great standing gave an erudite introduction to the book.

Dharwad

Dr. (Col) Mohan Math is appointed as the Additional Co-Convenor of the Dharwad Chapter.

GLAD TIDINGS FROM ADB

The Asian Development Bank has sanctioned Rs.3.86 crore for the development of 12 towns of the State – Bellary, Basava Kalyan, Bidar, Gadag, Gokak, Haveri, Nipani, Raichur, Shahbad, Sindhunur, and Yadgir. It may be recalled that INTACH had been sanctioned a small amount some years ago for similar development work. A new condition added to the present grant is the setting up of a Heritage Preservation Cell by the State authorities for the development of the above mentioned towns. INTACH Convenors must follow up on this happy development at the various locations concerned.

MADHYA PRADESH

Chanderi

Shri Niraj Kumar Jain ‘Vardhman’ is appointed Convenor of the Chanderi Chapter. He will be supported by Shri Sandeep Shrivastava as the Chapter’s Co-Convenor.

Gwalior

Convenor Love Khandelwal wrote about the Regional Convenors Meet held to review the MP Chapters’ journey of projects and activities during the last 30 years, now being celebrated at many other INTACH offices across the country. It was attended by Convenors and Co-Convenors of Datia, Orcha, Shivpuri, Morena and Chanderi Chapters. Director Chapter Division Lt. Col. MPS Bhatia as the Special Guest appreciated the work completed by Datia, Orcha, Chanderi and Shivpuri Chapters in particular. He also briefed the gathering on current projects and future planning of INTACH Central Office.

Dr. Neekamal Maheshwari informs that the Chapter’s Newsletter Pariyatan Today brought out a special edition to mark one year of this publication on 27th September.

Jabalpur

Convenor RK Sharma conducted a survey of Taragarh site on the outskirts of Jhulpur village in Mandla District.
Taragarh: The survey team discussing accompanied by archaeologists Dr. SN Mishra from Jabalpur University, Dr. CS Saxena from State ASI, and Dr. Smt. Hemantika from the Government Museum. Contrary to some confused reports from the Jyotish Vidya Kendra, the 12th-13th century Vishnu Temple built during the Kalachuri dynasty was found to be in a total state of dilapidation. Some of the ornamented architectural pieces have already been preserved in the State Government Museum at Mandla, and fragments have found their way into houses built by the local people long back. The team is of the view that the temple is beyond conservation, and recommends instead that the State Government at best should declare it as a protected site.

Massachusetts

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta attended the second biennial San Francisco Forum of Art Museum Directors hosted by the Asian Art Museum – Chong-Moon Lee Centre for Asian Arts and Culture in San Francisco on 14th–16 July. Its theme was Museum Transcending Time and Place : Classical to Contemporary/Local to Global. The Forum encourages new collaborative projects and opportunities that contribute to global appreciation of Asian art and fostering of partnerships. She chaired a panel discussion on “combining traditional and contemporary art in meaningful ways” in which many Presidents and Executives of major US institute, museums and academies participated. Ms. Mehta was also a panelist during another session where discussions centred on “leveraging collections to inspire new art and commissioning art in response to institutional identities, building and collections”.

ASHOKA’S STUPAS

Sanchi’s Great Stupa was originally built by Emperor Ashok in the 3rd century BC. It has always been a matter of curiosity as to why he chose this site for one of his biggest monuments. Buddha himself never walked anywhere near this place that has now become a most important Buddhist pilgrimage site! Legend has it that Buddha’s ashes were originally buried in eight stupas, and it was Ashoka who redistributed these relics into the 84,000 stupas built during his reign. The practice of building over relics probably originated from the 3000 years old practice of marking graves with cairns (pile of stones) over graves, which is still the practice in some parts in India. A 100 years later it was another dynasty that embellished the Great Stupa with four toranas (gateways) in the four cardinal directions. The gateways are etched with important episodes in the life of Buddha, and also narrate tales from the Jataka which are stories of Buddha’s past lives. There are scenes of how people lived in the towns and villages, an incredible record of their daily lives which makes these friezes a priceless depiction of life and times gone by.

ORWELLIAN LEGACY

George Orwell, well known author of much read Animal Farm and 1984, was born Eric Arthur Blair in the lake town Motihari, district headquarters of East Champaran near India’s border with Nepal. His father used to work for the Indian Civil Service in the early 1900s. Four years ago the Madhya Pradesh State Government had declared his now dilapidated old house as a protected site, and work has started on its renovation.

MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai

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Back in India on 27th August the Dr. Bhau Daji Lal Museum (DBDLM) in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture represented by Ratish Nanda held discussions on *Heritage Restoration: Our Promise to the Future* with Ms. Tasneem as one of the panelists.

**Educational Workshops**

The DBDL Museum organized Museum Tours for various schools, colleges and NGOs an ongoing feature that has brought heritage awareness to a vast swathe of young people. On 4th July using the Museum’s unique collection of clay models, the workshop on Mumbai’s communities and puppetry introduced the participants to Mumbai’s history, traditional communities, occupations and cultures. *Imagining Heritage Interpretation* held on 2nd August engaged students of Ramnarain Raja College with the theory and practice of interpreting and using heritage resources. On Independence Day, 15th August a series of day long activities were scheduled starting with a guided tour of the Museum followed by interactive session with author Kumkum Somani about her book *Nine Hidden Gems* attended by parents and children. Craft activity involved creation of *satyagrahis* from paper cups and other materials provided, and culminating in the enactment of hugely successful *Dandi March* *Ganesh Chaturthi* on 23rd August had participants creating some exquisite *Ganeshas* out of clay. The students of the Ecole Mondiale World School gathered in early September for a workshop on *Mapping Memories and Stories*.

**India Heritage Quiz 2014**

The Mumbai Chapter hosted the Zonal Round of India Heritage Quiz 2014 at the DBDLM Museum on 2nd August, conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpress Minds Edutainment.

The preliminary rounds were held earlier at Pune, Nasik, Aurangabad, Chandarpur, Solapur, Nagpur, Thane, Goa and Mumbai. The dynamic duo Samruddhi Nabriya and Shikha Soni from Dr. Y.S.Khedkar International School, Aurangabad were the final winners.

**Filmit Workshop**

The Phase 5 of this ongoing programme saw seven well known schools of Mumbai participating in the event held at the Museum on 13th August. It was conducted by Director HECS and a UK technical expert Wesley Jefferson.
to help prevent many more future tragedies. Noted environmentalist Bittu Sahgal states that “nature offers no advice and no judgments; only consequences. Whether in the Western Ghats, or the Himalayas, the message etched on fragile slopes is lucid. It clearly says : It’s the Ecology, Stupid”.

**Poor Ecology, High Damage**

The recent Malin mudslide in Maharashtra broke many hearts across India, much like last year’s Uttarakhand tragedy that has not yet faded from memory. The frequency of natural disasters will only intensify as long as developmental activities remain blind to climate change realities, in the name of short term gains and often avarice. Healthy ecosystems can protect lives and property. We should be working at regeneration of forests, restoring wetlands and allowing the natural eco-dynamics

**Pune**

The Chapter is heartily congratulated for the publication of an exquisite book on *Pune, Queen of the Deccan* by Jaymala Diddee and Samita Gupta, with the support of the Kirloskar Group, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and Forbes Marshall Ltd. As far back as 1925 BB Dutt wrote “The city and citizens are indissolubly linked together. The influence of one wove into the life and evolution of the other. Hence there must be continuity in the growth of cities, which in India is from within”. Looking at all the burgeoning cities of today there seems to be a disconnect between their traditional past and the chaotic present, a point aptly raised by the authors of this book. Well researched and beautifully illustrated, the book is a valuable addition to INTACH Library.

The Chapter has also brought out a Regional Chapter Report covering activities from its inception in 1986. In 1988–89 the first listing project for the Municipal Corporation and

**MURZBAN COLONY**

There are around 50 hundred years old buildings in Murzban Colony, Mumbai owned by the *Garib Zarthostiona Rehathan Fund* (GZRF). The phased repair and restoration of these building won international recognition for that last two successive years. In 2013 the *Lal Chimney Compound* received the UNESCO Award of Distinction for keeping the original function and historic continuity of these 19th-20th century buildings in tact. In the previous year 2012, the *Sethna Buildings* on Wadia Street in Tardeo earned the 2012 UNESCO Asia-Paciific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation for protecting a socially significant part of the nation’s heritage. Well meaning members of the colony often asked the Trustees to go in for multi-storeyed buildings like the rest of Mumbai. It did not happen as the rationale was simple. As against a paltry monthly contribution of Rs.200-300 for tenements measuring 500 sq.ft, municipal taxes would have shot up to Rs.8000 after redevelopment. It would be unaffordable for most of the economically weak tenants who are occupying these 500 sq.ft flats on leave and licence, with their maintenance/repair undertaken by the GZRF. Recently the better off residents of Sethna Building collected Rs.1 lakh and gifted it to the Trustees as a token of their appreciation for repairs. The cause of conservation continues to be well served in Murzban Colony.

**2014 UNESCO SIA-PACIFIC AWARD**

The Esplanade House, Mumbai received Honourable Mention in the 2014 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme. This once dilapidated 19th century mansion had seen several periods of change and redecoration over its 120 years life. The renovation work was conducted in stages spread over 10 years as it involved significant research and also application of forgotten decorative techniques by a team led by Vikas Dilwari. It now stands as a distinctive architectural ensemble of Mumbai’s historic cityscape.
Cantonment areas was taken up. Its first Convenor Tara Warrior also succeeded in preventing the demolition of the Poona Gate Police Chowkey and of a shopping complex from coming up in the premises of St. Crispin’s Church. After Convenor Arti Kirloskar took charge the Chapter activities have increased manifold, as reported in Virasat from time to time.

INTACH thanks the Convenor for the donation of Kirloskar Generators to replace the old ones at Central Office, Delhi. It was a generous gesture and much appreciated by everyone at Central Office.

**DECCAN COLLEGE POST GRADUATE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DCPRI)**

The DCPRI, Pune is the third oldest educational institution in the country started by a Maratha Sardar Khanderao Dabhade with a Dakshina Fund; it continued during Peshwa times. The enlightened Bombay Governor Mountstuart Elphinstone donated land and the foundation stone for the Deccan College was laid in October 1864. In the following half century outstanding research in ancient Indian history, archaeology, linguistics, etc. were carried out. It was awarded the status of a Deemed University in March 1990.

DCPRI and INTACH have found common cause in the promotion and research in archaeology, cultural heritage, conservation and management. They plan to work together in areas of mutual interest, particularly education and training, capacity building, publication of academic journals and newsletters, hosting lectures, workshops, etc.

**Solapur**

Ms. Pushpanjali Katikar is appointed Additional Co-Convener of Solapur Chapter.

The Chapter dedicated its first restoration project of *Paanch Kandil* located at Modi to the city of Solapur, a popular initiative that was supported by Life Member Akshata Patne, Shri Anand, Patne Constructions and Patne Interiors. It was inaugurated by MLA Praniti Shinde amidst much fanfare, and attended by many leading personalities of Solapur. Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar was the master of ceremonies on this occasion. Co-Convenor Shveta Kothavale says that the public was taken into confidence more than once as there were some sensitive communal sentiments involved, apart from the problems of acquiring labour and material for this maiden venture. With the restoration of one *kandli* (lamp post) citizens were made aware of the importance of heritage restoration, and now other groups have evinced an interest in sponsoring more lamp posts.

**ORISSA**

**Balasore**

Convenor Himanshu Das launched a series of heritage awareness programmes in the month of July. On 26th July the *Know India Heritage Quiz Painting* was held at St. Vincent’s Convent School with 29 teams from 8 schools participating in the written round. It was conducted by Xpress Minds.
State Convenor A.B. Tripathy, and State Advisor, Ananta Mohapatra to grace the occasion; along with many other State dignitaries, Founder Members, associates, etc. New Members were inducted with the INTACH Oath. Shri Tripathy appealed to one and all to be more active and devote time to conserving the unique cultural heritage of the district Ganjam. Shri Mohapatra also reiterated the appeal and said it was important to involve more youth members to add greater vibrancy to the heritage movement. Prof. Choudhury extended a vote of thanks to all.

**Sambalpur**

Co-Convenor S.S. Purohit laments that India’s first major multi-purpose river valley scheme, the Hirakud Dam Project inundated the most fertile villages of Western Odisha. It also submerged a rich cultural belt that extended over 743 sq. kms. causing irreparable damage to heritage. During the summer when water level falls, the area is dotted with innumerable spires reminding people of so many temples that remain submerged forever – to disappear one day.

assisted by Co-Convenor Uday Ranjan Das and other INTACH Chapter Members.

On 27th July, a competition was held at the Chapter’s registered office at Balasore Art and Crafts College for student of the Higher Secondary Classes; and another held for the local artists with *Heritage of Balasore* as the topic given to both groups conducted by Convenor Himanshu Das coordinating with the Principal of the College NB Das. A public lecture was organized the same day at the Rotary Bhawan on *Buddhist Sites of Balasore District* with particular reference to Ayodhya. The speaker Prof. Ananga Mohapatra gave a thought provoking discourse that elicited a lively question and answer session in conclusion of the talk. Member Archana Nandi gave the vote of thanks.

On 5th August, at a function held to celebrate the Chapter Foundation Day, the winners of the competitions received cash awards.

The Chapter targeted the cleaning up of the British Cemetery Barabati after the rainy season.

**Ganjam**

The Chapter organized a day long interactive session on 5th July at the Conference Hall, Hotel Moti, Berhampur. Convenor Dr. S. Pati invited former D.G. Police and
A team of researchers from Sambalpur Chapter led by historian Deepak Panda undertook several visits to investigate their historical antecedents. Together they explored their historical significance and ways of preserving them. The team discovered two Sila Lekhas, stone inscription from the Padmaseni Temple of the submerged Padmapur village, presumably belonging to the Soma dynasty. The discovery was announced in a Press Meet a few months ago. The Chapter has now taken up this matter with the State Government.

PUNJAB

Chandigarh

A Filmit Function held at the Saupin School created some excitement with actress Dolly Tiwari of Vicky Donor fame invited as the Chief Guest. A Quiz Contest was held at Chandigarh.

INTACH Haryana State Convenors’ Meet was held on 17th July at Chandigarh. It was chaired by Smt. Komala Anand.

INTACH Chapter arranged a Heritage walk in which Tourism Department of Chandigarh also participated. Mrs. Amandeep Kaur, Director Culture Chandigarh flagged off the walk and participated.

ROCK STAR GARDEN

Most people know this Rock Garden as Nek Chand’s enchanting creation, fascinating to young and old alike. It is considered the largest repository of folk art fashioned out of scraps and wastes like broken tiles and bathroom accessories, discarded pieces of glass, bicycles, drums, pots pans, or whatever else he laid his hands on. Even human hair from barber’s shops. For 18 years Padma Shri Nek Chand secretly toiled in the dark till he was ‘caught’ in 1975 with his creations of human statues and a menagerie of animals and birds on usurped land! First threatened with imprisonment for trespassing acres to house his creations, he was eventually gifted additional land and 50 labourers! Today a colourful mosaic archway opens out into a small amphitheatre with a stage and seats cut into the hillside, for this is not just a rock garden but a rocking mini-city! Earning big bucks for the city.

Zarine Anklesaria writes in the Hindu “No amount of description can do justice to Nek Chand’s inventiveness or the sheer fecundity of his imagination. He is whimsical, playful and witty, but a somber note is not entirely absent.........His mysterious, surreal figures are neither surprising nor out of place considering that its creator first saw his garden envisioned in a dream that became a magnificent obsession”. Little wonder it draws on an average 5000 visitors a day!
RAJASTHAN

Ajmer

The 903rd Foundation Day of Ajmer was inaugurated by Padamshree Dr. C.P. Deval and Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh with a musical evening.

Bikaner

Shri Prithvi Raj Ratnu is appointed Convenor of the Bikaner Chapter. He will be supported by Dr. N.L. Verma appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

Jaipur

INTACH congratulates Jaipur Chapter. It was bestowed the Raja Kakil Dev Award for Excellence in Preservation of Heritage. It will be formally presented to the Chapter by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust awarded annually.

Barmer

Shri Yashovardhan Sharma is appointed the Convenor of the Barmer Chapter. He will be supported by Shri Sanjay Ramawat as the Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

Bhilwara

Shri Babu Lal Jaju is appointed Convenor of the Bhilwara Chapter. He will be assisted by the newly appointed Co-Convenor Shri S.S. Joshi.

A photography exhibition titled Splendours of Indian Architecture was organized in the city to mark the 104th birth anniversary of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II jointly by INTACH and Gunjankhana, in collaboration with the local Institute of Interior Design. Thirty-six panels on various monuments and buildings of the Islamic, Moghul, British and Indo-Sarcenic periods were on display for the entire month of August at the Friends of Museum Art Gallery. After the inauguration by MLA Diya Kumari, noted scholar cum curator Padma Shri Dr. Saryu Doshi conducted a session pertaining to the marvels of Indian architecture. Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar sent some of the media coverage to Central Office.

Dharmendra Kanwar is also quite delighted that “a whopping 37 crore” has been assigned for Sambhar, for developing various areas of heritage and tourist importance. She is in touch with Director, Museums & Archaeology and has been assured that INTACH advice will be sought when work commences in these areas.
Jaisalmer

Dr. Raghuvmeer Singh Bhati is appointed the Co-Convenor of Jaisalmer Chapter.

Jodhpur

A meaningful interaction with the Divisional Commissioner Hemant Gaira, Collector Dr. Pritam Yashwant and the Chief Executive of the Municipality Harisingh Rathor regarding the heritage conservation of the city took place at the Annual Meeting of the Jodhpur Chapter, presided by Shri Gaj Singh. He drew attention to the dilapidated state of many monuments and the more serious problem of encroachments and garbage disposal. Another problem is the innumerable towers put up by mobile companies that has ruined even the skyscape of this major tourist city of India. The Divisional Commissioner assured INTACH Members that the administration would extend full support for the heritage development of Jodhpur.

The Chapter filed a PIL for protecting the Fort Road from encroachments and opening the exit doors on the parapet wall. On 5th August a two member bench ordered the local authorities to remove all encroachments mentioned in the PIL to the great satisfaction for the Chapter.

Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singh Naggar highlighted the major problems that need to be tackled in a joint effort to preserve the heritage status of Jodhpur. He gave a graphic power point presentation on the dilapidated status of old havelis and some 100-years old buildings, the Ghantagarh, damaged roads leading to the Masuriaya Hill and encroachment around the Umed Sagar and City Wall. A report on the training camp organized by the Chapter at Masuria for 340 women and girls for creating employment opportunities was presented to Shri Gaj Singh.

Another major development was the PIL filed by the Chapter for protecting of Fort Road from encroachment particularly at the intersection of Dukh Bhanjan Balaji Temple, and opening exit doors. The Jodhpur Development Authority and the Municipal Corporation have been ordered to file a detailed affidavit and to stop any further encroachment by private persons or the government sector, and to remove all building material in the vicinity. A favourable final Order is awaited.

Rajasthan with its vast heritage assets is probably one of the most visited States by international tourists, and tourism is a potential passport to economic prosperity of the local people. Hopefully many other States of India will see the importance of passing a Heritage Conservation Bill, that would also be in step with the people’s expectations from the new Government.

RAJASTHAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION BILL

There are several positive features in the recent Rajasthan State Budget, and worthy of emulation by other States. The Heritage Conservation Bill announced for development and protection of heritage buildings had been pursued by the Jaipur Chapter for the last 25 years, according to State Co-Convenor cum Chapter Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar. The importance now accorded to this matter will strengthen the hands of everyone involved in protecting heritage, and hopefully give more control and power to stop illegal activities around important sites. This will also presumably impact the protection of painted havelis of Shekhawati that are being obliterated either through neglect or reconstructions.

Jaisalmer

Dr. Raghuvmeer Singh Bhati is appointed the Co-Convenor of Jaisalmer Chapter.

Rajsamand

Dr. Rachana Tailang is appointed the Convenor of the Rajsamand Chapter. Shri Anand Singh Rathore is the newly appointed Co-Convenor of the Chapter.

A Heritage Walk was organised for girls of the Higher Secondary School, Nathdwara on 2nd August to introduce them to the heritage of Kumbdarh, a city with 7 ornamental gates. It has as many as 29 forts constructed by Maharaja Kumbha, the most famous of which is the Ajay Fort built in 1443 by Maharana Uday Singh and considered unconquerable. There is an interesting legend that his son Maharana Pratap Singh was protected by a maid Panna Dai when the palace was under attack. Dr. Rachana Telang and Bharati Telang conducted the heritage walk. Co-Convenor of the Sub Chapter Anand Singh Rathore writes about the panoramic view of Mewar and Marwar from the rear side of the Fort.
Sawai Madhopur

The Chapter constructed a check dam this summer with the financial aid extended by UK Chapter, and help from INTACH Natural Heritage Division. It was a matter of great satisfaction for all Members that the check dam was full to the brim during the recent monsoon season.

Udaipur

INTACH Member Dr. Pushpendra Singh Ranawat published a book *Udaipur : Since 1553 CE – It Founding & A Concise photo-Fact-File* commencing with the founding of Udaipur by Maharana Udai Singh. It is acknowledged that recorded history of medieval Rajputana, like many other ancient states that underwent periods of turmoil including the British era, is based heavily on eulogies or litanies of people, and not always an authentic historical account. The author, a retired Professor of Geology, was supported by many other Government Departments like the University Grants Commission, Indian National Science Academy, and international collaborative programs in researching information compiled in this book. It has many noteworthy facets of Udaipur discovered – past and present – of heritage value and social ethos, and some current issues are also addressed. It is a valuable addition to INTACH library.

Coincidentally, a seminar on a unique theme *Traditional Wisdom and Heritage of Mewar : Science and Spirituality (Vigyan aur Adyatam)* was held by the Chapter on 6th September at the Maharana Kumbha Bhawan, Sardarpura with the participation of a cross section of local citizenry. State Convenor SK Verma points out that the Regional Chapter has a rare multiple-entity partnership of various groups that are totally committed to preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of Udaipur which makes such seminars a vibrant, interactive event. Former Vice Chancellor Prof. MS Kalra delivered the keynote address to the distinguished guests, subject specialists, historians, architects and representatives of major voluntary organizations of the city.

Tamil Nadu

Nagercoil

Convenor RS Lal Mohan brought to the attention of INTACH that the LIC Building, a prime heritage site in Chennai, burned down due to electrical short circuit. The cause of the fire was ascribed to lack of maintenance, which is the case of many other heritage buildings of Tamil Nadu and Kanyakumari - and of many heritage assets in other States as well which Convenors might look into as a precautionary measure.

The Convenor Lal Mohan wrote to the Editor, *Hindu* regarding the need for periodic checks of electrical wirings in heritage building to add an urgency to the matter and draw the attention of the concerned authorities to set up a system for periodic checks regularly.

A positive development was the declaration of Padmanabhapuram, Kanyakumari, Colachel and Suchindrum as heritage towns by the Chief Minister. The *Colachel Victory Pillar* supposedly built in 1741 is debatable. The Convenor is of the view that Arlvaimozhi, that witnessed many historic invasions during Mughal, Peshwa and British times, deserves to be categorised as a heritage site. The *Meenakshi Temple*, similar to the one in Madurai, was patronized by the Travancore kings. Aralvaimozhi also has a temple tank, the *Murugan Temple* and *Voval Cave Temple* with a sacred grove. The *Dewasahayam Mount* where a Catholic saint perished at the hands of Raja Bala Marthandavarma is visited by thousands of people. The town also has the remains of the fort of South Travancore Lines. The Chapter will be listing the important heritage sites to facilitate conservation by the ASI and District Administration.

Nilgiris

Former Tamilnadu Governor Rammohan Rao and Smt. Rao were invited to a programme *Sham-e-Ghazal*, and honoured its artiste Gita Jayaram. What makes her special is she is also a pathologist cum social activist apart from her passion for ghazals. She mesmerized the audience with her mellifluous rendition of great masters like Ghulam Ali, Farida Khanum and Jagjit Singh, as well as rendering a poem by Amir Khusro in Persian and *Vraj Bhasha* of the Sufi period. This musical evening was facilitated by a descendant of the pioneering family of the Nilgris Junaid Ali Sait and the Chapter, and was held at the Nilgiri Library on 11th May.
Convenor Geetha Srinivasan mentioned that ghazal is one art form that represents the composite and integrated culture of the sub-continent. It is now reflected in many languages of the sub continent and has touched a larger audience. Library Secretary R. Nambiar added the programme is in keeping with the objectives of the institution that is being developed as an intellectual and cultural hub of the Blue Mountains.

**TELANGANA**

Ms. Anuradha Reddy is the appointed Co-Convenor of the Telengana Chapter. This is in addition to her present assignment as Convenor of the Hyderabad Chapter.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**Gorakhpur**

The local Municipal Corporation is threatening to demolish the 1610 Basantpur Sarai on the grounds that maintenance of this old complex entails heavy expenditure. It has angered the local populace who strongly feel that a 500 years old local heritage must be protected by the authorities. Historian Pande writes about this historic site which was once a fort built by Raja Basant Singh in 1458 at the confluence of the Rapti and Rohini rivers. It was converted into a serai for travellers during British times. In 1810 the East India Company began using it as a garrison for their soldiers.

**Lucknow**

The Chapter conducted the first round of the India Heritage Quiz on 1st August with school children of Classes VII-X from 18 schools taking the preliminary written test. Convenor Vipul Varshney availed the opportunity to make a presentation on Lucknow- Then, Now and Tomorrow giving them new insights into the history and heritage of the city since its inception as Lakshmanpuri to modern day Lucknow. She covered not only its history but also its intangible heritage, cuisine, costumes, music and dance which makes Lucknow one of the iconic cultural cities of the country. The event attracted considerable media attention. She encouraged schools to open Heritage Clubs with the promise that INTACH would provide the tools and the kit.

Two teams of Seth M.R.Jaipuria won the Zonal Round of the Heritage Quiz held at Varanasi on 11th August. This finale was extensively covered by the local print media and garnered considerable publicity for INTACH.

**Meerut**

A team of 15 INTACH Members visited Barnawa, erstwhile Varnavat of Mahabharata times. Today a Sanskrit school operates at this site with just 150 students, constructed to ensure that the site is preserved from encroachments. A statue of Brahmari Kashinadutta, presumed to be the reincarnation of Shringi Rishi of Mahabharata times, is located in the school. Legends have always added a mystic to many places in India. Nearby is the confluence of the Hindan and Krishna Rivers, which is also one of the places where Mahatma Gandhi’s asthi was immersed.

INTACH Members visited Mahabharata period tunnels from which the Pandavas are supposed to have escaped from Lakshagraha (wax palace) constructed by the Kauravas to put a fiery end to their life. The team also visited an old structure made of red sandstone with fine sculptural work, which may or may not have been a dwelling place. There is also a Mughal period structure which might have been a palace or a fort but now in a state of utter ruins.

Convenor Dr. RK Bhatnagar informs that the National Quiz on Culture and Heritage being conducted by Xpress Minds was also organised under the aegis of the Chapter at the Shanti Niketan Vidyapeeth on 5th August.
A CROWNED SKELETON

The discovery of a human skeleton wearing what appears to be a copper crown attached to its head at Chandayan village, was reported from Meerut. Director of Shehzad Rai Research Institute said that diggers at a brick kiln also struck a few pieces of terracotta pottery but in no time treasure hunters had ransacked the site before arrival of the authorities. ASI Superintendent of the area said that unless a thorough survey of the area is done and related material found which is generally the case at Harappan sites, a connection to Harapan period cannot be established. The age of the skeleton in the meanwhile is being ascertained.

Orai

The Chapter organized a Seminar on Natural Heritage Conservation, with ground water specialist Dr. Parth Sarthi Dutta, the former Director of Nuclear Research Laboratory at Delhi, as the Chief Speaker. He pointed out that only 15% of the water from various dams constructed by the Government is used for agricultural purposes and the rest is wasted. Ground water in big cities like Delhi is being badly exploited unlike cities of South East Asia. Dr. Dutta who has attended international seminars on the subject, said that delegates have scathingly remarked that when it comes to extracting ground water the Indians are champions. It is imperative to take responsibility for water conservation through a public awareness campaign. Convenor Dr. Harimohan Purwar presented him with a citation; with a souvenir given by Member Dr. Ram Kishore Paharia on behalf of the Chapter.

Sandhya Purvar demonstrated the craft of engraving the picture. Dr. Rajesh Paliwal of MD Department of the College distributed certificates to the participants. Convenor acknowledged the valuable contribution of Members Dr. Manju Johri, Dr. Alka Rani, Smt. Kavita, Atub Khan, and Mohit Patka to Chapter activities.

Rohilkhand

Shri Kashif Khan is the newly appointed Co-Convenor of the Rohilkhand Chapter.

WEST BENGAL

The West Bengal and Kolkata Regional Chapter met at the end of the last quarter, when Convenor GM Kapur invited the Special Commissioner of Police Soumen Mitra to provide some valuable inputs. In the course of the meeting he was invited to make a presentation on the Limelight Building which had been restored by the Police. The Police was also represented by the Asst. Commissioner Nihar Roy and Sudipto Mukherjee.

Member Rajen Pali spoke on the World Heritage City of Georgetown, and its Kolkata connection including the famous restaurant Peleti. He spoke about its wall art which could be easily replicated in Kolkata through a Para mural competition to add heritage value to the city. Bengali culinary heritage is another aspect that could be widely promoted. He pointed out that Kolkata was in urgent need of urban regeneration and the various Chambers of Commerce and Industry should be requested to launch this activity.

The Central Office proposes to hold a Convenors Conference at Kolkata sometime in November 2014. An invitation to representatives from heritage organizations of South East Asia to discuss various facets of heritage is under consideration.
**Kolkata**

The Chapter organized a programme on 24th August to commemorate the 324th year of the first landing of Job Charnock, a trusted agent of the East India Company, on the shores of Calcutta. The rest as they say is history. It was held at the Calcutta Rowing Club which is a heritage institution dating back to 1858 about which Biswadip Sen spoke. Director of the American Centre Ms. Joanne Joria addressed the gathering. An exhibition of North Calcutta mansions by well known American photographer Laura Mephee was inaugurated at the American Centre. An introduction of Ms. Mephee by Arun Ganguly and a hilarious account of the culinary heritage of Calcutta regaled the audience. Convenor GM Kapur extended a warm thanks to all the eminent guests gathered who made the occasion a memorable event. Co-Convenors Kanchana Mukhopadhhyay and Nayantara Palchoudhuri gave away the mementos to the speakers.

The Art Conservation Centre and the Chapter have put together pieces of the long forgotten Royal Coat of Arms dismantled on 15th August 1947. They were found on the premises of the Raj Bhavan a few years ago. The Kolkata Conservation Centre had painstakingly put together the torn pieces, with the patronage of former West Bengal Governor Shri MK Narayanan. He was invited by the Chapter to unveil the restored Royal Coat of Arms earlier on 2nd July, with a tea party hosted by State Convenor GM Kapur to also bid him farewell before he demitted office. All INTACH Members were invited to this event.

**Shantiniketan**

Santiniketan Chapter celebrated the annual Palash programme on 17th August at the campus of SAIL Guest House of Visva Bharati this year. Convener Susmita Guha Roy and Co-convener Animesh Khan welcomed the guests. The young students of Patha Bhavana, Visva Bharati presented Tagore Songs. Eminent writer and archaeological expert Sidhheswar Mukhopadhayay planted the Palash sapling, speaking about the relevance of planting palash in Santiniketan area. It is a part of Vasantotsob as these trees take a long time to flower. Sumitra Khan and Tarit Roy Chowdhury recited from Tagore essays. Many other participants spoke on different aspects of present and past environment. Palash saplings were distributed to interested persons; it is the usual annual gift to all present on the occasion.

**Visit to Hetampur Rajbari**

Chapter Members visited Hetampur Rajbari, at Hetampur 45 kilometres away from Santiniketan which has a long and colourful history but now in a dilapidated state. Half the buildings have been given on lease to different schools and colleges but retain their picturesque architecture and colonnaded structures. Members saw a brass and gun-metal made chariot and throne, and a huge stock of antique wooden furniture. They met the present successor of the erstwhile royal family during this meaningful and exhaustive trip.
GANESH CHATHURTHI

29th August: Ganesh Chathurthi, also known as Vinayaka Chathurthi, is one of the major festivals of India. Ganesh/Ganapati is the giver of blessings and remover of obstacles. Most Indian religious ceremonies begin by invoking him. He is also the god of wisdom, and some of that wisdom will hopefully rub off on people in the name of environment. Ganesh idols made with chemicals and polluting waste are later immersed in water. In Maharashtra where the festival is celebrated with great gusto, it is a common sight to see dead fish washed ashore along with plastics and thermocol after immersion days - impacting water, fish and plant. Many organizations are now making environment friendly idols, and even papier maches ones that need to be widely promoted. May Ganesh bless Man with this greater wisdom!

BUDDHA SMILES

An International Buddhist Conclave was scheduled to be held in Bodhgaya and Sarnath from 26th-28th September to promote tourism to Buddhist sites. Among other efforts, the Government in collaboration with the World Bank is investing Rs.4.50 crore on the Buddhist circuit for integrated tourism development of this sector in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The plan includes strategies like infrastructure and skill development, involvement of communities, enhancing visitors experience, and increased market access.

KHUSRAU’S WORLD

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture published a beautifully illustrated book “World of Khusrau: Innovations and Contributions” in association with Mapin and supported by Ford Foundation. It represents years of research, and catalogue exhibitions held last year at the National Museum, National Archives, Rampur Raza Library and UP State Archives. The publication is a cultural component of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Urban Renewal initiative pioneered by the Trust to create a sense of urban heritage by linking culture and built environment. Khusrau spent most of his adult life in the cultural environment of Delhi sultanate. The book draws upon references from astronomy and astrology to trace Khusrau’ writings on music and oral traditions, Vedic traditions and Sanskrit literature.

MYSTERIOUS UFOs

The 30,000 year old rock paintings found in Chandela and Gottlola caves of Chhattisgarh have figures resembling space suits, features unclear with nose and mouth missing. They are of the same vintage as the rock shelters of Bhimbetka that were declared a World Heritage Site in 2003. Local villagers tell stories heard from their grandparents and perhaps from their ancestors about ‘rohela people’ – dwarf sized humans landing from the sky in round flying objects. Could humans in prehistoric times have seen or imagined what today we call UFOs? The State Archaeological Department proposes to write to ISRO and NASA for further research on this startling discovery.

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

A unique picture published on 12th August World Elephant Day, must be shared. Especially as it was taken at an elephant orphanage in the Nairobi National Park, Kenya. Here is an orphaned baby elephant feeding itself!

BIGGEST BIRD

Scientists have discovered the biggest bird that ever flew, with a 24 feet wing span. The fossilised remains of an extinct bird was unearthed by construction workers near Charleston, South Carolina, USA in 1983. It is only recently that a study was conducted revealing the giant size of this bird. It appears that its paper thin hollow bones, stumpy legs and huge wing span must have made it awkward on land and at home only in the air. It has been named Pelagornis Sanders in honour of a former curator Albert Sanders who led the fossil’s excavation and study. It lived 25-28 million years ago – after dinosaurs died out but long before humans arrived at the area.
CHASING THE RAINS

The scorching heat of summer mellowed down with the rains, not adequately this year but just enough to breathe a sigh of relief. Not man alone but even the animal kingdom tracks rain. A ‘great migration’ of 1.5 million wildebeest and 2,00,000 zebras from Kenya and Tanzania follow the rain to the Maasai Mara and Serengeti after the long dry spell in the Savannah

In India nature lovers and ornithologists keep watch for avian species like the Pied Crested Cuckoo called the rain bird as it is the harbinger of monsoon. The migration of the Monarch Butterfly is well documented, but the one involving Oriental Blue Tiger breeding in the mountains is lesser known. They move from the plains of South India to the southern parts of the Western Ghats before the northeast monsoon in October and November to breed in the mountains. Later the young ones head back to the plains after the monsoons are over.

NEWS HERITAGE AT RISK

BASANTPUR SARAI, GORAKHPUR, U.P.

Spread on 3 acres land, Basantpur Sarai is a living example of medieval history. The sarai, was constructed at the junction of the river Rapti and river Rohini in 1610 by Raja Basant Singh of Satasi along with the establishment of Basantpur Mohalla. The sarai complex, subsequently repaired and converted into a military base in 1680, comprises about 67 small chambers. In 1801 A.D., the Nawab of Awadh handed over the region to the East India Company, which used the complex for a summer retreat. Post-Independence, it was used as a ‘rain basera’. The complex also houses ‘Shahi Masjid’ and a mausoleum. At present, the building is in a dilapidated state with encroachments within the complex and new constructions in the courtyards. About 50 families reside here, giving a nominal rent to the Nagar Nigam.