SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION

As heritage experts, it is essential to understand that science has a crucial role in conservation theory and practice. For several years, heritage practitioners have been relying on the knowledge and skills of the traditional craftsmen for the execution of conservation works. More than the scientific principles and enquiry, these approaches and practices are guided by ‘ancient’ canons and treatise on the building traditions in India. The question is how many of the heritage practitioners have actually read these ancient texts in depth and absorbed the philosophies that are enshrined in these. The second critical question is how much can the ‘contemporary’ craftsmen be trusted with their claim to traditional knowledge and skills?

A recent research undertaken by INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building revealed some really astonishing truths.

INTACH will soon be celebrating its 30th anniversary. Over three decades it established many specialized areas of commendable work, and today INTACH is recognised as an institution of excellence. It is called upon to work with ministries, state governments and the Archaeological Survey of India.

INTACH is now in its prime of youth, a time to explore new avenues to enhance our orbit of activities. What immediately comes to mind is the state of our cities, especially as India is becoming increasingly urbanized and civic problems dominate most lives.

Cities are considered the global face of a country. Looking back, let us remember that ancient civilizations rose and fell with their leading cities. Looking ahead, we must understand that over the next decades of the 21st century, our cities will continue to grow larger still, and more rapidly too in a technological era. In 1991 India’s population was 856 million, with 26% urban. In 2013 it is 1300 million people, with 32% urban. The projections for 2030 is 1470 million people with 40% living in 6000 urban cities. With this tectonic shift of population surging into cities for a better life and living, both government and public organizations need to shift gears in viewing the situation. Let us ask ourselves: Is there any planning for an explosive growth of population and cities? After 66 years of Independence, it is time to make an important transition.

Multiple streams of people from rural areas and culture are already intersecting in our cities and towns, and are being swept into its rapidly globalizing environment. It is said “what Indians call cities are mostly half cities and half overcrowded slums” – with a few exceptions.

VIRASAT too extends 108 good wishes to its extended family of INTACH Members for the New Year.

108 GOOD WISHES

INTACH sends 108 good wishes for the New Year! The Significance of 108: The diameter of the sun is 108 times the diameter of the Earth. The distance from the Sun to the Earth is 108 times the diameter of the Moon. The average distance of the Moon from the Earth is 108 times the diameter of the Moon. In Ayurveda there are 108 Marma points vital for giving life to beings. In Sri Chakra Yantra there are 54 intersections each with a masculine and feminine quality that adds up to 108. In Indian astrology there are 12 houses and 9 planets, when multiplied equals 108. Just like the Ganga that spans a longitude of 12 degrees and a latitude of 9 degrees. In Natya Shastra there are 108 karanas or movements of hand and feet. There are 108 Puranas and 108 Upanishads. The 54 letters of Sanskrit can be in both masculine and feminine gender adding to 108. Tantra estimates that man breathes 21,600 times out of which 10,800 are solar energy and 10,800 are lunar energy. The angle formed by two adjacent lines in a pentagon equals 108 degrees. The Chinese Buddhists, Taoists, Hindu and Sikh malas all have 108 beads. The bell chimes 108 times in Japan at the end of the year. These are only a few examples about the significance of the number 108, signifying the wholeness of divinity and perfect totality.

VIRASAT too extends 108 good wishes to its extended family of INTACH Members for the New Year.
poor sewage and sanitation, and illegally tapped electricity and water supply tucked into nooks and corners. Or what Charles Correa aptly described as a “tale of two cities within one”. Larger populations with fewer facilities are guaranteed to unleash a swarm of problems and tensions in our environment. City development is often strangled because arcane rules survive; or perhaps because it is lucrative for some people. Only good governance and planning can streamline urbanization, and transform cities into economic opportunities, with the potential to lift people out of deprivations to a better quality of life. And for gross national progress.

There is an urgent need to build sustainable cities. To refigure their economic and environmental dimensions, to check the heavy footprints on environment, to control pollution and consumption of natural resources. INTACH can now take on a bigger role and contribute to a nation-wide awareness program on urbanization. It is well placed to do so with its vast network of 175 Chapters both in cities and towns across the country. For 30 years we have considered ourselves “an army of conscience keepers”, the time has come to also become foot soldiers at the forefront of conservation of our cities. INTACH can take another giant leap forward, by enthusing our ‘aam’ Members to become activists to confront unplanned urbanization.

INTACH invited a few of our longstanding Members to give their views on cities. Governing Council Member Dr. Sarayu Doshi shared her nostalgic memories of Bombay as it was once upon a time, now one of India’s fastest growing cities. It is a scenario typical in other cities and portends the future of new metropolitan cities on the horizon:

Dr. Sarayu Doshi: I grew up in the Mumbai in 1940s and my memories are of a city with a promenade by the sea and beautiful buildings. The crowded areas with bazaars and shops were in the heart of the city while on its periphery – Malabar Hill and Cumbala Hill – were elegant mansions and impressive palaces belonging to rajas and maharajas. The streets were clean and the traffic regulated. For us, the city ended at Haji Ali. Beyond it lay the suburbs and the mills and scenic locations like Juhu, Andheri and Ghodbunder Hill for school picnics and family excursions.

After Independence, the city began to change rapidly. Outside our home in genteel Gamdevi we began to observe a new phenomenon - men sleeping on pavements. During the monsoons, they would sleep in the stairwell of the buildings. They were scruffy and hostile, and would not move from our neighbourhood. We soon realised that they were the first migrants to the city, coming to earn a living. With time, their numbers began to swell, as more and more people came to the city accompanied by their family members which included little babies as well.
Since they had no place to live, they occupied footpaths, traffic islands and open playgrounds. At first, they lived under the open sky, later they would stretch a piece of tarpaulin to protect themselves from the weather. Gradually, these make shift tents became permanent on the city footpaths. These people, commonly referred to as slum dwellers, comprised almost 40-50% of the city’s population.

Various attempts have been made to address this problem, but without success. Apparently, the solutions that have been devised so far have not accurately understood the slum dwellers’ requirements. The tenements in high rise buildings constructed as slum redevelopment housing are soon sold by the slum dwellers and they are back on the streets as they prefer to live in their shanties rather than live the type of life imposed upon them by these housing schemes.

These migrants do not perhaps accord a high priority to better living conditions. Their aspirations are directed more towards material goods – a TV, a video player, a computer, flamboyant clothes and accessories. They return to their homes only to sleep at night. Their women and children are used to living in hovels in the villages and are content to live in a tiny place with a TV and other amenities. All of them treat their homes as a place to eat and sleep, spending most of the time out on the streets. Town planners have to take into consideration the needs and aspirations of the slum dwellers and think of alternative creative solutions to solve their problems and those of the city.

Dr. Sarayu Doshi requested some leading personalities to also share their views on what makes our cities inhospitable terrains.

**Pankaj Joshi, Ex. Dir. UDRI:** Cities have come to be seen as economic engines, enablers of social and intellectual collaboration, and hence the preferred residence for much of the world’s population. Unfortunately, in cities around the world – and especially in India – better economic conditions have not translated into a better quality of life. Today, in Mumbai, there is scarcity of every service integral to a better quality of life…….Sadly, the singular pursuit of framing the city’s development in economic numbers ignores these aspects. The Development Plan for Mumbai has to be distinct from that of other cities by reframing Mumbai as a city for its people (from mill workers, migrant labourers, students, film industry members, and bus drivers to bankers, doctors and technologists) and their aspirations for a better life – a life that has affordable housing, open spaces, quality healthcare and education, accessible public transportation and safety for women and children. UDRI is committed to changing the conversation about Mumbai’s future from its current exclusionary style to a paradigm that is inclusive and accommodates the social as well as the economic parameters of growth through democratic dialogue.

**Dr. Manjiri Kamat, Associate Professor History:** Cities in India, like the rest of the world, are undergoing a rapid transformation….. Some cities have a heritage that dates back to pre-colonial times while the port cities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai rose to prominence during the British Raj. New urban agglomerations like Hyderabad, Bengaluru and many others have arisen in the era of globalization. The principal challenge for urban planners and policy makers is to develop urban spaces in a more holistic manner so as to safeguard the built heritage and promote development with sensitivity for environment. Above all, the stakeholders who are the urban inhabitants must find a voice in shaping the city of the future.
Brinda Somaya, Hecar Foundation: The rate of change we see around us varies from mind-boggling in urban areas to minimal in many of our villages where time seems to have stood still. In our world today the number of people living in cities exceeds the number living in the rural areas for the first time. Of our planet’s approximately 6 billion souls, 3 billion live in cities of whom 1 billion live in slums. Twenty years from now when the global population is over 8 billion, 2 billion of the 5 billion city dwellers will lie in urban slums. So the impact of the burgeoning population is the single biggest reason for the high rate of change around us.

One has to look back at our very own Indus Valley civilisation, famous for its town planning to find a people who first planned and built their cities and completed all the infrastructure only after which they occupied their urban areas…….We do not have that luxury either with land or time but there is no doubt that a lack of planning has also added to the perilous conditions that many of our cities are in today.

To me personally an ideal city should be remembered for its Equality, Adequate Infrastructure, Sense of Belonging, Sense of Place…….Why are European cities so beautiful? The central cores with their plazas and gardens are carefully nurtured and preserved. We must ensure that our core areas are similarly restored and revitalized.

Charles Correa: The British did not build Bombay - Indians did. The initiative and energy was ours – and the urban context was structured by the British. What is grotesque today is to see all that invaluable initiative and energy running amuck. So 20-storey buildings in Parel are being constructed just 10 feet apart – creating a world without hope for the occupants. A world in which future generations of Indians will be condemned to live.

There is nothing wrong in building for profit – London was constructed by private developers sub-dividing the old aristocratic estates. This is what created Belgravia, Mayfair, Regent’s Park, and so forth. The crucial difference: these were not unbridled ‘market forces’ – which today in our country is a euphemism for the worst kind of laissez-faire capitalism, compounded by staggering corruption. These developers were building within parameters clearly defined by the authorities: viz., roads, parks, schools, hospitals, etc.

Speak to any American, and they will bemoan the devastation of their cities. The humongous FSI that overtook their downtown areas in the early 20th century led to a dearth of essential social amenities - which drove families out into the suburbs, leaving behind an urban battlefield, as in the Bronx, Cleveland or Detroit. This does not happen in Paris, London, or Vienna. Why? Because European cities have never allowed FSI to rise higher than their per capita standards for social amenities.

The ‘advice’ given to Mumbai to raise the FSI to 10, irrespective of any social infrastructure, is criminal. For merely raising FSI does not help a city – it destroys it. Look at Manhattan today – the only families left are very rich whites and very poor blacks. And from this polarization, follows much else: Distrust, Violence, Crime. Which leads to Gated Communities – that escalate the confrontation into a real battle: Them vs. Us. For centuries our cities, like Kolkata and Bombay, have existed with great inequalities – but the maidans and other public spaces were always shared by rich and poor alike. This common ground was the essential safety valve that let it all co-exist. Lose it – and the city goes the way of Johannesburg, Nairobi and Sao Paolo. Is this what we want our cities to become?

I believe in the cities of India. They are our future. Like the wheat fields of the Punjab, and the coal fields of Bihar, they are a crucial part of our national wealth. For our urban centres nurture the skills that we need to develop our nation: Doctors, engineers, nurses, lawyers – these are all Urban Skills.
Then again, they are *Engines of Economic Growth* - properly managed, they would generate the funds needed not only for their own development, but for the hinterland around (as in the case of Hong Kong and South China). Lastly, they are *Places of Hope* - for millions and millions of the have-nots of our society, perhaps their only path to a better future.

**Tasneem Mehta, Vice Chairman, INTACH.** Mumbai can be taken as the leitmotif for all that is good and bad about urban planning in India. What is Mumbai’s USP? For me, it is the robust energy, cosmopolitan spirit and grand architectural statements, both historic and contemporary...... Yet everything about ambi Mumbai conspires to frustrate this energy and demean its inherent grace and character. Lack of governance, impossible traffic jams, overcrowded trains, vast slums, dirty roads, no pavements, dwindling green spaces, few recreation areas, dearth of water, etc. etc.....it is a never ending litany of woes that seems to multiply each day.

By 2015, three of the world’s 17 mega-cities will be in India. There will be 34 cities of more than 1.5 million people and 50% of India’s population will live in these cities. The most rapid growth however will happen in tier-II cities such as Ahmedabad, Hyderabad.......We are at the threshold of an important moment of transformation. This is an opportunity to define ourselves through creative solutions that do not clone worn out ideas.

What is an ideal city? I would insist on green spaces - lots of it, like Central Park in New York or Hyde Park in London. The French President recently invited famous architects to rethink Paris as a post- Kyoto city. One of France’s most eminent architects proposed that all traffic should be routed underground and a large green swathe should connect Paris. Another architect would like to create a checkerboard of built and green spaces so that almost every building or complex faces a green area.

If I could wave a wand and transform our cities, I would invite the most innovative architects in the world to design these cities but I would insist that each city’s cultural heritage must be privileged along with the building of distinctive contemporary spaces. The most striking aspect of the future will be speed and technology. More people will be better educated, and will have more leisure time. They will seek out environments that provide an antidote to the frenzy of urban living. These are the people who will drive future economic growth. Maintaining our cultural authenticity and preserving our heritage allows for a rich layering of the city. Now that would be something wouldn’t it?

**Manu Bhatnagar.** Already five states are more than 50% urbanized. The pressure on resources, habitats and biodiversity will be tremendous and sustainability will be a key issue. The human dominated landscape needs to be re-visualized so that human habitats are interspersed with natural habitats, ecological services areas, local nature reserves and corridors in a seamless mosaic.

**K.T.Ravindran:** Many of the principles that are emerging in new city design can be seen embedded in the pre-industrial cities. The lesson that India’s old cities hold for the crisis in modern cities are not a romanticized notion of historic formalism. They are sound principles towards which new cities have to inevitably move......it is now clear that the values embodied in the pre-industrialised city morphology are the only choices that we have for a climate sensitive, socially and ecologically sustainable urban future.
INTACH (UK) Trust was dissolved by a Resolution of its Trustees in accordance with one of the stipulations in its governing document. A termination clause states if at any future date it is not possible for the Trust to carry out its responsibilities effectively with the funds at its disposal, or circumstances render it undesirable to continue the Trust, the surplus assets and liabilities shall be transferred to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, India for similar charitable purposes.

The UK Trust recently obtained permission of the UK Charity Commission, after completing stipulated requirements like trustee details and financial statements, to dissolve the Trust. The surplus funds after discharge of all liabilities will be transferred to INTACH.

**Background of the Bequest**

Mr. Charles William Wallace, by his Will dated 26th January 1912 directed that his residuary estate be divided and transferred in equal “to and between the British Treasury and the Treasury of Britain India”. It was later in 1978 that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Prime Minister James Callaghan for the Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai for the Government of India, recording that funds would be utilized for further strengthening the long standing relations between the two countries, notably in the educational and cultural fields. The Memorandum recorded that each country would devote a part of the funds from Charles Wallace’s estate for scholarships to nationals of the other country. Awards would be given to students, scholars, craftsmen trainees and other deserving candidates for advancement in approved fields of study, research or other activity.

The sum of over a million pound sterling (inclusive of interest that had accrued) was given to The Charles William Wallace Memorial Society set up by the Government of India under Indian Societies Registration Act, and was held by the Indian High Commission in London. While it was transferred in INTACH’s name at its inception in 1984, INTACH Governing Council decided to entrust the administration of these funds to INTACH (UK) Trust. The latter was set up in order to overcome the restrictions imposed by the Indian Foreign Exchange Control that would adversely affect grants to UK nationals.

Today with financial regulations having been liberalized and restrictions no longer applicable, the INTACH (UK) Trust was dissolved and funds will be transferred to INTACH Central Office. There will be a considerable reduction in administrative cost of running the UK Trust in London, and a substantial increment in revenue due to higher interest rates in India. INTACH is in a position to directly take up the responsibilities entrusted to it at the time of its foundation and stated in its Memorandum of Understanding dated 1984. In pursuance of the charitable objectives it will “use all or any of the capital or income of the Society’ funds for the provision of financial assistance for the men and women of U.K. nationality who are domiciled and resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to enable them to travel to India and to follow in India any course of study, research or any other educational pursuit which will be beneficial to either or both countries”.

The existence of two Trusts - the Charles Wallace Trust in England and INTACH UK Trust - both operating out of London was anomalous. While the Sir Charles Wallace India Trust Funds made an impact in India while operating out of London, supporting well over 2500 professionals largely trained in UK universities, the INTACH UK Trust’s programmes had made no major scholarly or visible impact either in UK or in India. It was therefore decided to dissolve the INTACH UK Trust and transfer the remaining funds to INTACH Central Office.

INTACH now has the onerous responsibility of administering the Charles William Wallace scholarships to be given for advancement of education in the humanities science, technology, arts and crafts in any manner exclusively charitable for the benefit of the Republic of India or of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It awards British scholars for undertaking research studies or any other educational pursuit that will be beneficial to either or both countries.
gradually crystalised and came to be recognized as the largest conservation network in the world. The many years of growth, achievements, and establishment of new INTACH Divisions and thrust areas were crowned in 2013 when INTACH was declared as a Centre of National Importance by Government authorities.

Enlisted below are some of the important Milestones, but ahead are many more miles to go before we never sleep:

• 1984 Registered under Indian Society Act
• 1985 Rs. 1 crore Corpus Fund released by the Ministry of Culture
• 1985 - 50% Income Tax Exemption under Section 80 G
• 1986 INTACH Logo finalized
• 1987 INTACH (UK) Trust formally registered as a Charity
• 1998 INTACH Central Office established at 71 Lodi Estate
• 1989-1998 Revitalisation and expansion of INTACH network
• 1999 Charles Wallace Institute of Conservation of Research & Training Established at Lucknow
• 2001 Onwards a series of MOUs signed with many Indian State Governments, Indian Corporations and Overseas Organizations like WTO, LEAD, Shinnyo-En, UNESCO-ICCRom, etc.
• 2004 INTACH celebrated 20th Anniversary, Vision 2020 published
• 2004 Established first overseas Chapter in Belgium
• 2005 INTACH website put online
• 2006 Heritage component included in the New Cantonment Act with INTACH efforts
• 2007 INTACH hosts International Conference of National Trusts (ICNT) / International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) founded
• 2009 INTACH Silver Jubilee celebrated with All India Convenors’ Meet
• 2010 Change of guard, new Chairman takes charge of INTACH
• 2011 INTACH Chairman heads INTACH (UK) Trust for the first time
• 2012 Central Office reorganized and Gratuity Fund set up for Staff
• 2013 INTACH (UK) Trust dissolved, its mandate transferred to INTACH Central Office
• 2013 Comprehensive Chapter Guidelines updated
• 2013 Rs. 100 crore grant sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance for INTACH Corpus Fund

An All India State Convenors Meet is scheduled end January 2014 to mark the 30th Anniversary of INTACH.

Book Release


Visits

Chairman L.K. Gupta visited Nagaur for a meeting of Rajasthan State Convenors held on 16th-19th December. He also held two separate meetings with Members of the Jodhpur and the Nagaur Chapters.

Chairman addressed a meeting of the Haryana Chapter Members on 23rd December at Central Office. Significant issues concerning District Chapters requiring Central Office assistance/initiatives were discussed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The next Annual General Body Meeting will be held on 22nd March 2014 at 11.30 am at INTACH Central Office, 71 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003.

Last date for receipt of Nominations is up to 27th January evening. Last date for withdrawal of nominations is 31st January. Last date for receipt of Ballot Papers is 20th March. Counting of Votes will commence on 21st March 2014.

The number of vacancies in the various categories:

3 Founder Members; 6 Life Members; 2 Ordinary Members; 1 Donor Member; 2 Corporate Members; Nil Institutional Members.
INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) planned a capacity building programme to strengthen in house expertise, to encourage transfer of knowledge and to standardize quality conservation treatment at ICI Centres. Participants from all Centres participated in a two-week long 'Workshop on Oil Painting Conservation’ organized at ICI Lucknow, where they had the opportunity to work on a collection of paintings and receive hands-on practical training.

ICI DELHI

Chemday Monastery, Ladakh

The 367 years old Chemday Monastery (also called Chemrey Gompa) is one of the ancient monasteries belonging to Drukpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism in India. Situated on a high hill in the enchanting locales of Ladakh, it was founded in 1644 AD by Lama Tagsang Raschen who also founded Hemis Monastery. About 20 monks reside in the monastery complex comprising a number of shrines, Du-khang (assembly hall) and Lama Lha-khang (Lama Temple) are the oldest part of the complex. The old Du-khang has paintings of the founder and the new Du-khang has images of Padmasambhava. The major attraction is the one-storey high idol of Padmasambhava, who was instrumental in the spread of Buddhism in Tibet and translated many Indian scriptures written into Pali, and Sanskrit ones into Tibetan. The monastery is famous for the Chemrey Angchok Festival celebrated every year on the 28th and 29th days of the 9th Tibetan month (November). Held at an altitude of over 10,000 feet above sea level, it is a major tourist attraction because of lively dance performances portraying stories from Tibetan and Buddhist history and its colourful parades. Successive reincarnations of Lama Tagsang Raschen are the chief incumbents of the Monastery.

ICI Delhi was entrusted with the conservation of the...
oldest wall paintings, housed in the *Lama Lha-khang* of the Chemday Monastery. The temple is a treasure house of Tibetan style wall paintings executed on earthen plaster using bright natural pigments. Their beauty is hidden under a thick veil of dust, dirt, soot, grease and oil – and will be a challenging task for ICI.

**ICI LUCKNOW**

Glass painting tradition in India is one of the most refined art forms, originating in Gujarat at the beginning of the 18th century; it bridged the gap between folk and fine art. Chinese artists settled in the region influenced local traditions of producing glass paintings, with engraving on the reverse of the glass. Gold gilt was often used, and the paintings are noted for sheer brilliance, stunning clarity and use of rich colors.

ICI Lucknow received two such glass paintings from a private collector, along with a heap of colored glass pieces that had to be re-fixed. As is standard all works for conservation received at the laboratory are first documented in detail. Condition reports describing the problems present in them are made along with photographic documentation. A plan of treatment based on the observations is made during examination of these paintings.

**Japanese Silk Cloth Painting**

ICI Lucknow received a highly damaged Japanese silk cloth painting on a fragile fabric with stains, insect attack, discoloration, tears, etc. It was fumigated, stains removed, lining provided, missing areas filled, etc. before reframing was done.
**Municipal Art Gallery, Lucknow**

Beautiful paintings and clay models were received from Municipal Art Gallery heavily coated with dust and dirt deposition, broken and areas missing, and stained.

![Before conservation](image1)

![Clay model after conservation](image2)

**ICI JODHPUR**

An oil painting on canvas of Maharaja Sumer Singh (25 x 36 cm), standing on a carpet with a big curtain and landscape as background was received from royal house of Umaid Bhawan Palace in a very damaged condition for conservation, heavy with dust and dirt deposition, and weak canvas support. After patch mending, paint layer was consolidated with BEVA, re-lining was given with same type of canvas. Finally, losses were filled with putty and re-integrated.

![Before conservation](image3)

![After conservation](image4)

**ICI BANGALORE**

The portrait of Demosthenes, renowned Greek orator and statesman, is a rare painting. Currently research is on how the painting came to belong to his family. The main challenge was to undo the previous repairs before restoration and conservation of the painting.

![Before conservation](image5)

![After conservation](image6)
ICI MUMBAI

A silver hookah with polychrome enamel in blue and green, and floral decoration, peacocks on the lid and handles, originally from Lucknow, was received from the collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai. It was highly tarnished, and darkened due to wrong application of protective coating given earlier. Conservators removed the yellowed layer with a solvent mixture; and a non-yellowing, sulphur free protective coating was applied all over to prevent atmospheric pollutants and reaction from harmful gases.

ICI KOLKATA

Oil paintings of Lord Minto and Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy from Calcutta Club were restored at the Kolkata Centre. They had to be dismantled for treating fungus affected parts after fumigation. Flaked paint layers were consolidated after removal of dust with soft dry sable hair brush. The old varnish layer was removed chemically, and again filled and leveled mechanically.

ICI ODISHA

The conservation of a total number of 25 monuments and temples has been entrusted to the ICI Odisha located at Bhubaneswar.

The project is sponsored by the Department of Culture and Department of State Archaeology, under 13th Finance
Commission. It will be executed under guidance and supervision of AH Division, Delhi. The Centre prepared a detail project report and awaits administrative approval of the work.

**Bids on India Heritage**

For the first time in London, Sotheby conducted an art auction entirely comprising Indian art from Mughal and British eras. 500 years of heritage and history went under the hammer, much of it taken as booty once upon a time. Eleven lots belonged to Tippu Sultan including the sword of this ‘Tiger of Mysore’ after storming his Seringapatnam fortress; diamond studded and enameled pieces of 18th century Mughal objet d’arts; gem-set gold daggers and swords from 1700s treasury; a miniature *Pahadi* painting *Adoration of Ram and Sita*, etc. were on the block. There was also a 17th century painting *The Rich Man and Lazarus* among several prints on Biblical subjects brought to India by Jesuit missionaries and merchants - now going back home.

**Those Lost Forever**

A few of the best known art pieces from India lost forever: The *Koh-i-Noor Diamond*, belonging to Mughal and Persian kings, till it was presented to Queen Victoria in 1849 by the son of the Maharaja of Lahore. Now adorns a crown.

*Jade Wine Cup* of Shah Jahan acquired in 1657 AD, one of the most exquisite objects of Mughal India, acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1962.

*Enameled Gold Parrot*, with floral sprays of precious stones like diamonds and emeralds, belonging to Nizam’s family of Hyderabad, is part of Christie’s collection in New York.

*Tippu Sultan’s Tiger*, his prized possession, with a man being devoured, with hands flapping on turning a handle and emitting a melancholy sound, was exhibited in the East India Company’s museum in 1808. Present whereabouts not known?

Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s throne taken away by the British in 1849, and exhibited with other Indian possessions at the Great Exhibition in 1851, is with the Albert and Victoria Museum, London.

*Ack : Lost Treasures, The Statesman, 24th Oct ’13*
WORLD BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS

Dr. Ritu Singh, Sr. Consultant, Natural Heritage Division (NHD), participated in the World Biodiversity Congress from 26th-30th November held at Chiang Mai, Thailand organized by Global Scientific Research Foundation, Bengaluru in association with Rajabhat University, Chiang Mai, Thailand. It provided a forum for reorienting policies and programs in more productive and sustainable biodiversity utilization and conservation, and highlighted issues pertaining to various aspects of biodiversity conservation including urban biodiversity.

Dr. Ritu Singh presented a paper Urban Green Spaces – Opportunity for biodiversity conservation in Delhi, India. Urban green areas are habitats and part-of ecosystems, housing a large part of regional biodiversity. They are heavily influenced by the built environment and the economic, social and cultural dynamics of these densely populated places. Delhi has large number of city forests, lakes, ponds and river with significant floral and faunal diversity. Over 302 bird species are recorded at Okhla barrage an Important Bird Area (Birdlife International) and 86 species of butterflies in various parks and gardens. Urban planning plays an important role in including conservation as an important element by establishing protected natural areas and corridors. Creating green infrastructure in urban area is a fundamental step towards urban biodiversity conservation.

URBAN BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR

NHD held its first “Urban Biodiversity Seminar” on 23rd November, managed by Consultant NHD Astha Pujari. Issues on natural habitats in urban areas, the ecosystem services provided by them, and strategies for achieving naturalization of urban areas were some of the issues discussed. India is urbanizing rapidly and human dominated landscapes resulting in increasing concretization, habitat loss and fragmentation is resulting in a loss of eco-system services. It further leads to a decline in sustainability and resilience. The seminar brought together scientists, planners and administrators at a single forum to highlight the issues regarding Urban Biodiversity that is vital to urban sustainability, but has remained neglected by planners and urban administrators. Twelve eminent speakers and participants from various Government as well as private organisations attended the seminar. Country Head of IUCN, P.R. Sinha, was the chief guest at the seminar.

Themes deliberated during the seminar were: Urban biodiversity strategy; planning for ecosystem services; changing trends in birds and butterflies diversity; urban wetlands; role of increasing green cover and City Biodiversity Index. Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar, Dr. Brij Gopal and Prof. C.K. Varshney from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. Vilas Gogate and Chetan Agarwal were some of the eminent speakers at the seminar.

Some of the observations and recommendations made to conserve Urban Biodiversity:

- Identify spaces that have potentials for developing ideal eco-regions on the lines of Biodiversity Parks in and around the urbanized landscape.
• Introduce plant species that support all faunal components that are under stress to encourage local biodiversity
• Ensure connectivity with such isolated areas through well thought out corridors.
• Mass awareness and education programs to conserve environment.
• Adopt innovative schemes that reduce the burden on the immediate environment
• Develop State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Delhi.

The adoption of these strategies ensures urban sustainability, healthy life style and provides a habitat for flora and fauna. Thoughtless urbanization spells doom for the future.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF TEMPLES AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Consultant Monika Sah together with INTACH (NHD/AHD) team conducted a reconnaissance survey in Uttarakhand to assess the extent of the damage done to the natural and archaeological heritage due to the recent flash floods. Not too surprisingly, ancient temples and old buildings experienced negligible damage because of appropriate construction techniques.

Most of the damage occurred in places where there was excessive human infringement of fragile geology. As the level and the flow of water in the river increased, the river widened cutting through the mountains and sweeping away everything that came in its way. River scouring led to several impacts like road subsidence, bridge scours, bridge collapse, landslides, building collapse and damage to hydel infrastructure. There was severe damage to vegetation on unstable slopes. The team came across several broken tree trunks and branches which had ended up in river bends. Several dams had silted up and their plant severely damaged.

The pressure to handle a disaster of such scale has led authorities to continue with blasting and dumping of silt/rubble/debris over the hillside into river courses for road construction. This will again end up in reducing the storage capacity of the much vaunted dams dear to dam hydrocracy. The debris instead should be consolidated into stabilized building blocks with cement mortar binder in situ, and used for retaining walls and reconstruction of damaged buildings or for new building construction. It would moreover create sorely needed livelihood opportunities in these remote parts. The most disturbing sight was desolate towns and villages on the yatra route.

Nature regenerates itself after a disturbance. There is a need to develop templates to assess damage to natural heritage as a result of disaster events.
Earthwatch Shulman Award
Research Associate Monika Sah was awarded ‘The Earthwatch Shulman Award’ for the year 2013-14, for her research proposal on Conservation Plan for Bhalaswa Lake. The Awards support emerging conservation leaders from Africa, Asia, Central and South America in developing an environmental research or educational project within their region.

Ecological Audit
Chairperson, Forum of Environmental Journalists of India, Darryl D’Monte states “No one has conducted a ‘waste food ecological audit’ for India. It has the largest cattle population in the world (300 million heads, with US a poor second at 90 million). India is also a major grain producer; with an ecologically sound system of recycling farm waste like rice husks, straw and oil cakes that are fed to cattle and poultry. However due to mis-management, subsidies and worse, it is literally an open secret that millions of tonnes of grain are rotting due to poor storage”. D’Monte also estimates that, globally the consumption of water on growing food that is not eaten, amounts to the flow of Russia’s Volga River or three times the capacity of Lake Geneva! No one has conducted any such ‘waste food ecological audit’ for India to date.

Incredible India
The hospitality sector has to change business practices because eco-tourism, pilgrimage tourism and family holidays are the emerging new trends among jet setters and budget travellers alike. Alternate green accommodation options like plantation stays, eco resorts, rural homestays are transformative holiday schemes that increasingly attract attention. Therefore it is important for hotels to adopt low-energy lighting, next generation heating and cooling systems, water and wastage recycling, etc. to reduce their carbon footprints, Vice President Operations of Acor India states : “Whether collaborating with local farmers to source ingredients that would otherwise be shipped in, providing training and employment opportunities for local students, or working with local operators to build sustainable tourism offerings, there is a lot that hotels can do in this space to be a better neighbour”. Former INTACH Convenor Jose Dominic who successfully proved the point with the CGH Earth hotel chain emphasises : “Sustainability is paramount. Luxury cannot be at the cost of sustainability. It is no longer negotiable”. The next decade is likely to see a change on why travellers pick a destination and how hotels formulate their green strategy accordingly.

Vulture Breeding
The Forest Department in Tripura plans to undertake captive breeding of vultures at the Sipahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, near Agartala. A recent survey indicated that there are only 55 scavenging birds left in the State. They are an important component of the forest eco-system, devouring remains of dead animals. They never spread germs unlike other animals and birds. Their dwindling population is attributed to loss of habitat. Surveys commissioned in other States also found vultures died after feeding on carcasses of animals given Diclofena in their diet.

Silver Anniversary of APFC
The 25th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held 5th-8th November at Rotorua, New Zealand, an area famous for its thermal assets – geysers, boiling mud pools, volcanoes and forestry. APFC has a membership of 33 countries, making it the region’s most inclusive inter-governmental body dealing with forestry. Seven pre-session workshops were held on topics as diverse as natural disasters, forest rehabilitation, mainstreaming gender issues, forestry strategic planning, financing mechanism, invasive species and a College Deans’ Meeting.

IPCC Report
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific body with 195 member countries, reported that the Indian monsoon is likely to get more erratic with each passing decade, alternating between floods, droughts and storms. The vagaries will impact majority of Indian villages and farmers who are dependent on rains. The IPCC scientists tell us that the average temperature on earth would rise by over 2 degree Celsius by the end of the century, based on scientific evidence. Their assessment has found that atmosphere and oceans have warmed, global mean sea level has risen, snow and ice has diminished. Climate change is mainly caused by increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, due to use of fossil fuels like oil and coal that are currently our main sources of energy.

At international climate negotiations, Indian officials maintain that the problem has been created by the rich world since the time of the Industrial Revolution, hence the cost of solutions must be borne by them. It is unlikely to be forthcoming, or timelines and agendas agreed. India may be the world’s third highest carbon emitting country today (after USA and China) but per capita it is less than one-tenth that of USA. A good argument at the negotiating tables, but bad for us in the long run located as we are closer to the Equator. It is in our own interest to have a National Action Plan on Climate Change, and focus on solar missions and race towards renewable energy.
The Architectural Heritage Division (AHD) completed several ongoing conservation projects such as the Conservation and Adaptive Reuse of the Bassian Kothi, Judicial Court in Faridkot, Mangyu Monastery Ladakh, and Raja Mahal in Jaisalmer. Some new conservation projects were initiated in collaboration with State Governments. In coordination with various Chapters and local conservation professionals, AHD drew up the *Heritage Bye Laws* for 13 typologies, comprising 47 protected monuments across the country, for the Archaeological Survey of India. Since the AMASR Act was amended in 2010, these are the only bye laws to date – and a distinctive achievement.

**PRESERVING ODISHA HERITAGE**

In collaboration with the Odisha Chapter and the Odisha ICI Centre, AHD submitted detailed project reports (DPRs) for 16 out of 24 heritage sites entrusted to INTACH by the State Department of Culture, to be funded by the 13th Commission, Govt. of India. While the DPRs are under preparation, work is being carried out at some of the sites on the 'Kalingan' style of architecture of 10th - 13th century AD. Some of the significant sites are Kapileswar Temple-Bhubneshwar, Gopinatha Temple-Puri, Radhadamadora Temple-Ganjam, Madhavananda Temple-Cuttack.

**INITIATIVES IN BIHAR**

The Bihar Govt. recently took several initiatives for conservation of historic sites, entrusting INTACH with important projects like the River Front Development and its cultural impact on Patna, Master Plan and Infrastructure Development Plan for Areas of Heritage Tourism Potential.
and preparation of Micro Area Planning and Infrastructure Development Plan for enhancing tourism potential for Patna Sahib Zone, a Patna Haat and Azadi Park. The first three projects are being undertaken jointly with MHD as they require multi disciplinary inputs and expertise for a sustainable approach to development around it. The concept plan was presented to the Bihar Urban and Infrastructure Development Corporation (BUIDCO). Similarly, the development project around the Maner Dargah that receives about 1.5 lakhs during the 3 days long festival of ‘Urskamahol’ annually in June, aims to improve the aesthetics of the area by developing the landscape and improving the circulation spaces, providing facilities like parking, drinking water facility, toilets, appropriate illumination, etc. Other proposals include community hall, hospital, and a library.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION, JHARKHAND

The State Department of Culture has identified 27 heritage sites for conservation in Jharkhand, of which detailed project reports for 11 sites and work for other sites have been initiated by AHD. Conservation work at the Audrey House, Ranchi is ongoing. The building, originally a part of the Raj Bhawan, is more than 150 years old. All insensitive later additions and alterations have been removed and repaired. The brick walls are being stabilized and strengthened, and the restoration of sloping roof is in progress.

Other significant sites are the Navratangarh in Gumla, built by the Nagvanshi rulers and located in the picturesque setting of nature; palace ruins of Palamu group of forts, of which two the Palamu Fort (new) and Palamu Fort (old) are in the Betla National Park in Latehar District. Another is Shahpur Fort located in Daltonganj, the district head quarter of Palamu District. The forts were built by Medini Ray, the most famous of the Chero rulers. The 19th century historically significant Birsa Munda Jail in Ranchi where Lord Birsa Munda (freedom fighter, revered as “Lord” by the locals) was kept imprisoned and later breathed his last breath is another project taken up by AHD.

FIELD PROJECTS Director, World Monument Fund congratulated INTACH on the success of the Lime Workshop at Varanasi, supported by WMF and AFCP. Lime plaster is one of the primary materials traditionally used in the construction of our historic buildings. Directors Divay Gupta and Bindu Manchanda were part of the INTACH team who conducted the workshop. (For details see News under ICCTCB).

Ancient Sites Face Modern Assault

It is not India alone that is confronting the syndrome of “Ancient Temples Face Modern Assault”. The Acropolis in Athens, the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, are all feeling the impact of tourism pressures. The massive sand lines at Nazca and Papa in Peru are threatened by power lines and roving tourist jeeps. UNESCO decried the uncontrolled urban development in Khatmandu Valley of Nepal. Archaeologists increasingly fear the commercial frenzy at Angkor Vat in Cambodia, a hot film location after the success of the film Tomb Raider. At Phnom Bakheng an armada of tourists speaking a host of languages scamper to the top of temples, stepping on stone sculptures and manhandling ancient statues as one overwhelmed guard sits on the sidelines. Fresh graffiti has been sprayed alongside sandstone carvings of flying celestial nymphs and Garuda warriors. World Monument Fund Vice President, John Stubbs states “what was made with mathematical and religious harmony…… is simply not built for thousands of people to be there at once”. Most of these projects are promoted by well connected business men, vendors coming from the capital, but leaving the immediate neighbourhod people impoverished as ever. “Angkor has become a sort of cultural Disneyland”. Stubbs adds “We understand the clear need to have tourists visit the temples, and of course we want them to see this great achievement by mankind. But we also need to understand that the real focus should be keeping them safe”. There are glaring lessons to be learnt for India.

Ack : Anthony Faiola, Washington Post Foreign Service
VIOLIN RECITALS

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD) organized a recital by eminent musicians from Dharwad, Karnataka on 30th September at INTACH Central Office. Pt. B.S. Math, an outstanding violinist and celebrated exponent of Kirana-Gwalior gharana, belongs to the well known Veereshwar Punyashram tradition. Equally renowned, Smt. Akkmahadevi Math is the only woman violinist in Karnataka of Hindustani music and an expert in both Gayaki Anga as well as Tantrakari. They performed raga shyam kalian, desh, and dhun.

WORKSHOP

A workshop on Documenting Intangible Cultural Heritage was held at the India International Centre on 11th-13th November. It trained participants in various facets of ICH documentation, how communities can protect their own cultural legacy, and how Chapters can act as nodal agencies to help people in this task. It covered many other facets like interviews with community members and artistes, how to use still and video cameras, manage websites, prepare reports and listings, on-site documentation of performances, and dissemination of knowledge.

Many eminent experts in the field addressed the gathering like Head DD Bharati Usha Bhasin, Executive Director Sahapedia, Dr. Sudha Gopalkrishnan, and Chairman READ Dr. Kailash Kumar Mishra, each sharing their unique experiences. PRO South Eastern Railways made a presentation on the Transmigration of Tribal Cultures, focusing on similarities between native cultures of South America and Asia, with specific reference to tribal cultures of India. Consultant, Centre for Community Knowledge of Ambedkar University, Surajit Sarkar elaborated on various techniques involved in recording and documenting a particular element of intangible cultural heritage. The final presentation by Senior IT and Systems Analyst, Lead Central Data Management in Special Strategic Project Group - ITC Hotels, K.S. Bharati was on the importance of creating a web archive. She made a sample archive to demonstrate how it will work if each Chapter or community creates their own
archive. The 28 participants included representatives of several Chapters like Jaipur, Shekhavati, Gurgaon, Jammu, Srinagar, Chhattisgarh, Dahanu, Jharkhand, Trivandrum, Arunachal Pradesh, Bhadrak, Udaipur and Rajpipla.

There were many questions and answers at the end of each presentation at the sessions. INTACH Member Secretary Dr. C.T. Misra in her valedictory address encouraged the delegates to involve themselves in ICH projects related to documenting invaluable heritage of their respective areas.

A highlight of the event was a performance of Kalarippayattu, the famous martial art form of Kerala by the Nitya Chaitanya Kalari group at INTACH Aangan. The term Kalari denotes a gymnasium where proper training is imparted to both mind and physique in Payattu, connoting a traditional style of combat. Shri Murugan P. and his troupe performed some of the most fascinating and daring stunts, each preceded by a short explanation. The finale performed with fire left everyone spellbound.

ICH DOCUMENTATION

ICH Director Nirupma Modwell initiated documentation of cultural practices of the tribes of Barrak Valley, a meeting ground of people belonging to different ethnic groups – Bishnupuriya Manipuri, Miza, Reang, Hmar, Vaiphei – communities and cultural entities of Assam. Most are Bengali speaking Hindu and Muslim people, but each tribe has its own unique cultural identity. A holistic mapping exercise of some of these groups is underway. Intangible cultural heritage in India is found in diverse fields like performing arts, traditional knowledge, especially of medicine, musical traditions, culinary practices, festivals and cultural expressions involving customs and rituals, folklore, craftsmanship and language. It expresses the uniqueness of a people.

Unique Language

The history of Sanskrit reveals that it is the fundamental language of Indo-European group of languages. It has an intrinsic relationship with all the prime languages of the world. 4000-5000 years ago the majority of the people in Asia and Europe had been living together for hundreds of years, speaking one language. While studying the family tree of Indo-European languages there is a visible similarity in vocabulary. It is established that Sanskrit is more similar to classical languages like Greek, Latin, Avestan and Gothic rather than modern European languages. Barring a few, most Indian languages have originated from Sanskrit. It is the only ancient language that has undergone minimal change, and has a vast repository of literature that has remained intact.
TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP

Teachers Training Workshop is a perennial programme conducted by Heritage and Education Division (HECS). During this quarter (Oct-Dec) workshops were held at several locations.

Bijapur, 28th-29th October

In collaboration with the Bijapur Chapter a two-day session was held for teachers of schools and colleges including architecture students of the Dr. P.G. Halakatti College of Engineering & Technology, thanks largely to the efforts of Convenor Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni. Chief Guest Dr. B.G. Mulimani, Vice Chancellor, B.L.D.E. University spoke on the rich history of Bijapur. It is a city heavily dotted with Adilshahi architecture. A heritage tour of the city was also conducted covering the Gol Gumbaz, Jami Masjid, Ibrahim Rauza, Arkillah Palace, Karimuddin Masjid and Bara Kamman.

Jaipur, 18th-19th October

The workshop in collaboration with the Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Jaipur Museum Society at City Palace, was attended by teachers from 20 schools. It was inaugurated by INTACH Member Secretary, Dr. C.T. Misra. Resource

Heritage Food

Heritage Food was another delightful experience for participants at Bijapur. The nutritious and tasty food of North Karnkataka was an experience. Cooked lovingly by Malamma founder of Sabala, dedicated to the empowerment of the Lambani tribe. It included jowar bhakri, shenga chutney, kempu khaara, bele or sprout dish, mosaru bajji or raitha and raw methi and radish leaves, etc. A sumptuous fare!
Persons Director, City Museum Yunis Khimani, Convener Dharmendra Kanwar, Coordinator Anuradha Singh Bhasin, natural heritage experts Harsh Wardhan and Neeraj Doshi and water conservationists Aditya, urged participants to take up heritage activities seriously in their schools. A Heritage Walk was conducted by Head Curator of the Museum Pankaj Sharma to five temples - Brinjindihiji, Anand Krishna Bihariji, Shri Pratapeshwarji, Shri Kalki, Shri Ramachandra built by the Maharaja. The workshop was organized jointly with Jaipur Chapter and Gunijankhana. Chairman, Rajasthan Heritage Development and Management Authority Salauddin Ahmad interacted with teachers and media over high tea. The felicitation ceremony was presided by Colonel Jatrina, Administrator, City Palace.

Manasbal, 26th-27th November
A two day teacher training workshop was conducted jointly with the J&K Chapter, inaugurated by Co-Convenor Altaf Hussain. He spoke about the heritage of Kashmir, followed by presentations by Director HECS Purnima Dutt on INTACH’s heritage awareness programmes. District Development Commissioner, Sarmad Hafeez said there was an immediate need for attention to heritage issues in the Kashmir valley. He assured the participants any help required from him or concerned authorities. A heritage walk of Jharoka Bagh, Manasbal concluded the workshop.

Varanasi, 5th December
The Workshop commenced with Convenor Kalyan Krishna giving an introduction to Varanasi heritage. There was a screening of the INTACH film, and a presentation by Director HECS on INTACH’s heritage awareness programmes. Ms. Bindu Manchanda from AHD and Ms. Amita Baig from World Monument Fund gave inspirational talks to the teachers on heritage preservation. The workshop ended at Balaji Ghat with the teachers presenting their poems on Varanasi’s heritage.

Similar workshops were also held at Shekhawati, 16th-17th December and at Baripada, 27th-28th December

Volunteer Training Workshop
Miranda House, Delhi 3rd-4th October
A two-day workshop on Heritage Volunteer Training was attended by undergraduate history students accompanied by college teachers. It emphasized the important role of Heritage Volunteers; highlighted various aspects of heritage listing; heritage of Delhi and its nomination as a World Heritage City. Participants were exposed to various components of
heritage; training on conducting heritage walks; and on-going initiatives. The participants got an overview of INTACH projects undertaken by various Divisions through a series of lectures. They were taken on a heritage walk to Chandni Chowk by Dr. Swapna Liddle, Co-Convenor, Delhi Chapter. An interactive session at Miranda House was conducted by Dr. Narayani Gupta who spoke on the history and architecture of Delhi, and felicitated them with certificates.

HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATIONS

In collaboration with India International Centre, a Music Fest was organized as an inter school competition on self composed songs celebrating the diversities of Delhi’s heritage, participated by prominent schools. Music Educator Usha Srivastava and INTACH Publications Consultant Rekha Khosla, Delhi School of Music teacher Jasmita Barretto were the Judges. It was attended by Chairman INTACH Major Gen. L.K. Gupta. VVDAV, Vikaspuri emerged as the

Above: Students and teachers, Miranda House

Left: Dr. Narayani Gupta at Miranda House

Above: Music Fest, Dilli ki Shaan- 21st November

Right: Schools at Dilli ki Shaan Music Fest, Gandhi Plaza, IIC
HECS has initiated a new all India level essay and painting competition – *My Living Icon* for 6th - 9th standard students. They have to write or paint any one individual from their city or state who excels in the field of art, culture and heritage. It could be any personality - an artist, painter, musician, theatre person, environmentalist or even a sports person. The competition ends on the 31st of January, 2014 and the last date of receiving entries is 15th February, 2014. Around 70 Chapters from all across the country are taking part in this competition along with the Heritage Club members. The competition has already been conducted in Delhi, Srikakulam, Patiala, Kurnool and Yamunanagar and Mayurbhanj as part of the Heritage Week from 14th – 21st November. The chief guest for the occasion at Delhi was eminent Bharatnatyam danseuse Padma Shree Geeta Chandran.

**MY LIVING ICON**

Students from different Delhi schools were taken on educational tours to Northern Ridge, Humayun's Tomb, Safdarjung's Tomb and Lodi Garden by HECS in collaboration with Delhi Chapter, narrating interesting stories, legends and architectural facts about monuments with worksheets distributed for feedbacks.

Principal Ms Veena Gandhi with Shweta and Pooja

Another on-going programme Filmit India this year achieved a milestone, with 9 films selected from the Filmit schools shown in both the competitive and non-competitive category from Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Goa like *Phoolwati Amma* by Nigam Pratibha, *New Choukhandi*, Delhi; *Save the Tiger* by Delhi Public School; *Brownie Box* by Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, Chennai; *Around the World in Local Trains*, Lilavati Poddar International, Mumbai; and *Goenchi Gora*, Peoples High School Panjim amongst others.

The awards and the interviews by Doordarshan, Times of India added to the learning experience and the confidence of the students.

**HERITAGE WALKS FOR SCHOOLS DELHI, OCT-DEC**

Students from different Delhi schools were taken on educational tours to Northern Ridge, Humayun's Tomb, Safdarjung's Tomb and Lodi Garden by HECS in collaboration with Delhi Chapter, narrating interesting stories, legends and architectural facts about monuments with worksheets distributed for feedbacks.
The INTACH Centre for Conservation Training and Capacity Building (ICCTCB) has now been re-named as INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) – Training, Research, Capacity Building.

**TRAINING COURSE AT VARANASI**

IHA conducted a practical training course on *Study, Use and Conservation of Lime* in historic buildings at the Balaji Ghat conservation site in Varanasi. It was attended by a wide range of participants – architects, architecture students, conservation professionals, engineers and an anthropologist.

The course introduced participants to key issues and practical challenges that arise in the conservation of lime in historic buildings. Designed to provide an understanding for preparing and using lime plaster, the course dealt with various stages of lime preparation like slaking, sieving and mixing, and application of lime mortars prepared at site. The theory was supported by illustrative discussions and practical hands-on sessions at Balaji Ghat site, to illustrate a range of problems *in-situ* and explore issues with experts on building limes, with fellow participants and traditional lime masons working alongside with them at site.

This training course, organized in collaboration with the Architectural Heritage Division, brought together a group of 25 participants from different parts of the country.

*Asia–Europe Network of Urban Heritage for Sustainable Creative Economies*

The Network designs imaginative ways to integrate knowledge, culture, creativity and technology to offer solutions for local communities, thus enhancing and sustaining heritage linked local economics for a long-term future. INTACH proposes to work as an international hub for this Network, and bridge the challenges and potential across Asia and Europe. INTACH’s proposal was shortlisted from over 50 proposal submitted to ASEF office in Singapore. ICCTCB has been invited to submit
a detailed proposal and budget. The Secretariat will be set up at Central Office for which a grant of Singapore Dollars 25,000 (maximum grant that ASEF can provide) has been requested.

Creative economies concept links local economy to the cultural asset. As an expert group, the Network hopes to create a whole new paradigm for urban regeneration and revitalization of heritage cities and towns by placing ‘creative economies’ approach at the core of this process. This international network is seen as a ‘think-tank’ that will conceive, develop and promote a new paradigm in the ASEM countries for the first two years.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

INTACH contributed to developing the curriculum for the National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework (NVEQF) under the *Skill Sector – Culture* set up by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). It has been included under the List of Training Centres/Resource Persons recognized by AICTE for such purposes.

### NEWS: FROM CHAPTERS

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

**Hyderabad**

INTACH Chapters of Hyderabad and Warangal joined hands with the Sri Venkataswara Colleges of Fine Arts and Architecture and the Department of Tourism to mark World Heritage Day. A workshop was held for the college students and faculty with visits to the NIT Warangal Civil Labs. A site demonstration on the ongoing restoration works at the Thousand Pillar Temple and a tour of Kakatiyan monuments and tourist sites in and around Warangal was conducted. It oriented students to the technical and scientific methods of restoring monuments, sensitizing them to issues of heritage preservation as an integral part of the curriculum.

Convenor Anuradha Reddy plans to visit Mexico in January and meet the President of the National Council for Culture and Arts, Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, accompanied by a group of women from Hyderabad.

**Kadapa**

Convenor S. Elias Reddy informed the District Rural Development Authority and the Mandal officials that the INTACH Chapter proposes to celebrate tourism festivals at important temples during World Tourism Day. This should trigger improved infra-structural development at these heritage sites. The District Tourism Officer, bank and media representative took note of the Chapter’s initiative,
with Collector Kona Sasidhar particularly well disposed to the idea.

The Chapter listed and documented 23 built and 10 natural heritage sites. Convenor S. Elias Reddy and Members appealed to the District Collector to save heritage places like the 200 year old Collectorate and Freedom Fighters buildings, late D. Rama Subba Reddy house, erstwhile office of Eenadu newspaper where Gandhi stayed briefly, and the 18th century bastion built by Maynana Nawabs among others.

An Executive Committee comprising Life Members was recently formed for better functioning in Kadapa District.

A Heritage Walk was conducted for students during Heritage Week.

**Srikakulam**

Convenor Dusi Dharmarao organised a Heritage Walk on 20th November for the Government Women College students, in coordination with its Principal Dr. Mythili and staff. They visited the 1641 Jamia Masjid built by the first Fouzdar Shermahammad Khan under Nizam rule, who during his 30 year rule built as many as 350 mosques around the city. A representative of the mosque explained the architectural and historical details, and presented a copy of the Qur'an.

End of day, *Heritage Week* was marked by a Quiz Competition conducted by Lecturers Ms. Prathishta and B. Sankararao. Convenor Dharmarao made a power point presentation on 20 major heritage sites of the city. Several functions at other educational institutions followed - at the men's Government College, New Central School, Municipal School – Balaga dotting the Week with a variety of programmes, discussions, awareness meets, group discussions and quiz programmes with the assistance of Co-Convenor Rajesh Kumar and school faculty.
Children's Day 14th November was celebrated in association with the local Sathya Sai High School, with the Shri Dharmarao speaking on Pandit Nehru.

**Visakhapatnam**

The Chapter’s persistent effort resulted in a Seminar on Buddhism in North Coastal Andhra held on 1st November, organized by the State Culture Department. It was attended by senior officials of the State, Urban Development Authority, State Gallery of Art, etc. Former Convenor Rani Sarma made a presentation highlighting some of the issues. The State Government took note of major sites like 5th-4th century BC Dantapuram and the rich Buddhist heritage during its three phases viz. Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. It remains to be seen if the Government “will walk the talk and fulfill their promises” says Sarma.

**Warangal**

A National Seminar on Irrigation Technology of Kakatiyas was organized on 9th-11th October jointly with the National Institute of Technology, and co-sponsored by the Kakatiya Heritage Trust. Convenor Pandu Ranga Rao was closely associated with the year long Kakatiya Festival. The Kakatiyas created mighty irrigation projects throughout South India, harnessing enormous amounts of rainwater and developing a sophisticated irrigation technology. Reservoirs like Ramappa, Lakhnavaram, Pakha, etc. provide water supply after 1000 years sustaining both the ecosystems and people’s livelihood to this day. The Seminar focused on understanding the technology and its adaptability to modern times at a time when India is facing a huge water crisis. The researchers, academicians, irrigation and water resource engineers, agricultural experts, economists and sociologists who participated in the Seminar will hopefully come up with suggestions for augmenting irrigation projects that remain intricately intertwined with social and economic well being of people, as well as religious practices.

Co-Convenor Deva Pratap sent details of the Cycle Rally held on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti. A Seminar on 750 Years of Coronation of Rani Rudrama Devi – Empowerment of Woman was also held on the day. Rudrama Devi’s ascendancy to the throne was resented by family and nobles alike, but she ruled bravely and completed the Warangal Fort, parts
of which still stand. Chief Guest Minister for Information Technology Ponnala Lakshmaiah; Collector G. Kishan; Commissioner WMC Vivek Yadav; and DIG Dr. ML Katha Rao addressed the students.

ASSAM

Shri Jayanta Sharma is appointed the State Convenor of Assam. He will be assisted by Co-Convenor Dr. Nizara Hazarika.

CHANDIGARH

British writer and researcher Patsy Craig has spent many years photographing various aspects of Chandigarh, and interviewing a cross section of its society. She is working on the *Transition of Chandigarh in Modern Times*, that would undoubtedly have many interesting observations of a third eye. Convenor V.K. Kapoor informed her about the 125th Anniversary of Le Corbusier, the architect of the city, during the month of October. The Chapter invited her for an interaction with its Members. She was impressed with the listing of heritage sites of Chandigarh.

A painting competition was organised at the famous Rock Garden of the city, with its creator Nek Chand as the Chief Guest. He spoke about preserving heritage, and awarded prizes to the winning entries painted by enthusiastic students.

CHHATTISGARH

Raipur

The Chapter invited Governor Shekhar Dutt as the Chief Guest for flagging the *Purani Basti Virasat Darshan Yatra* on 24th November. It was organized jointly with ASI, Raipur Circle and Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University with students, Scouts, Guides and Members of Inner Wheel...
Club participating. Among eminent citizens were MLA Ransundar Das, Vice Chancellors S.K. Pandey and Dr. A.R. Chandarkar and others, along with State Convenor Lalit Surjan, Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandak, Prof. Debashis Sanyal and other Chapter Members. It was a long walk past important heritage sites of the city starting from Dudha Talab past heritage sites like temples, maths and house of writer M.P. Shrivastava. The Chapter’s efforts were lauded by the Governor who said conservation of such heritage assets should be a prime responsibility in everybody’s life, with both citizens and State participation.

DELHI

The Chapter drafted a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the President’s Secretariat and CPWD for the efficient functioning of the entire Rashtrapati estate. It takes into account the wider context of the Estate and its present functional needs which has made it a complex hub of activities. The previous CCMP had addressed only the imperatives of conserving the Estate.

The ensemble and town planning of the Imperial New Delhi are acknowledged worldwide as an outstanding example of town planning. The Government of Delhi proposes to nominate it (along with Shahjahanabad) as a UNESCO World Heritage City.

A publication *Delhi: A Heritage City, 20 Walks through History* was released by Lt. Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung at a function held at the *Raj Niwas* on 19th November. It was funded by founder of INTACH US Chapter Pushpa and Naveen Kapur, while the contents were originally funded by the World Monuments Fund’s Sustainable Tourism Initiative, supported by American Express.

**Qutab’s Shadow**

The astronomy organisation SPACE, jointly with ASI, executed “Paridhi”, a flagship project using Qutab Minar’s shadow to measure the circumference of the Earth. For the first time this ancient experiment was replicated to show people how the Earth was measured once upon a time without sophisticated equipment. About 200 visitors watched the event on Summer Solstice, the longest day for the northern hemisphere. The Qutab was used as a towering gnomon (Greek word for an object whose position and length of shadow is an indicator of time). The calculation was 85% accurate.

**Red Fort Makeover**

Union Minister for Culture Chandresh Kumari Katoch spoke about tapping Czech expertise for restoring the Red Fort. Work has been going on at the Fort for years without any outstanding result. The Czech Republic is famous for its conservation work in forts and palaces. A MOU was signed between the Archaeological Survey of India and the Czech National Museum whose architects are considered among the best in the field. An exhibition of Czech castles and chateaux of two historic areas Bohemia and Moravia was inaugurated at the Red Fort closing on 12th January.
Students gathered for Heritage Walk

CONDOLENCES

Founder Chairman of Oberoi Education Society, Shri K.B. Oberoi passed away recently. He was closely associated with INTACH since its inception, particularly during his tenure as a Governing Council Member for 2010-2013. He actively participated in heritage concerns, particularly the water baolis in the Najafgarh area of Delhi and the Hansa dam. Widely travelled he believed the “World is moving at a fast pace in all spheres of life, be it education, commerce, socio cultural communication. The world has become a global village and we must prepare the next generation for the challenges of the world order”.

Shri Oberoi was also Chairman of the Mira Model School, now being taken over by Shri Mohit Oberoi who will continue his association with INTACH. We send our heartfelt condolences to the Oberoi family, with many good wishes for the future, and for the success of their educational institutions.

GOA

Ms. Fatima da Silva is appointed State Convenor of Goa. Ms. Dipti Salgaocar is the Patron, and Prof. Edgar F. Rebeiro appointed as Advisor.

HARYANA

Ambala

Convenor Brig. G.S. Lamba organised a Heritage Walk under the aegis of Lt. Gen. Ranjit Singh, INTACH Patron. Over 250 children from various schools were first briefed on various heritage sites of the city. The walk commenced from Paul’s Church built by Capt. RE Atkinson; it was bombed during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. It is now approved for ASI renovation. During the walk Life Member Col. R.D. Singh briefed the students on the Duct Water Supply System while pointing out the underground drainage running along Mall Road. He collected some of the bricks and lime from the waterworks in Handesra/Boda Khera now in ruins. The site has been listed by the Chapter. The educational walk ended at the Rani ka Talab. A painting competition was held with prizes awarded by Chief Guest Brig. Ashish Uppal.

Nearly 350 school students attended an audio-visual presentation on the heritage sites of Ambala Cantonment at a function organized by the Chapter. An eminent panel of artists judged the painting competition, with Deputy General Officer Commandant Brig Ashish Uppal awarding prizes to the best works.

A Heritage Walk followed, starting from St. Paul’s Church along Mall Road with children carrying banners attracting public attention to the importance of heritage preservation. There was a briefing at some sites on the history of the Church, and at the 1870-80 Buda Kheyra Water Supply Scheme, the Raja ka Talab and the Rani ka Talab. Convenor Brigadier GS Lamba ensured the event was well covered by the media to spread heritage awareness among citizens.

Gurgaon

The Intangible Heritage Committee of the Chapter organized a Gurgaon Haat on 14th-15th December at a Community Center, with Members and their family, associates and neighbors participating. Of special interest were the jewelry making and block printing workshops conducted at the Haat. The Chief Guest was Saba Sultan, daughter of Begum of Pataudi Sharmila Tagore who is Patron of the Chapter. The event was sponsored by the DLF Residents Welfare Association.

Kurukshetra

Convenor AR Chaudhri with Curator Rajendra Rana
The Chapter celebrated Heritage Week from 19th-25th November with an inter-school painting competition on the theme of Indian Heritage, in association with the Srikrishna Museum. Convenor Prof. Dr. A.R. Chaudhri addressed the students, teachers and guests on this occasion, stressing on the need for heritage sensitization in young minds and the activities of the Chapter. Deputy Director and Curator Rajendra Rana also addressed the guests.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Kangra

INTACH congratulates Convenor L.N. Aggarwal for receiving the Best Citizen of India Award 2013 from the International Publishing House for his professional and socio-cultural activities. INTACH congratulates him.

The Indo-Tibetan Charity Musical Concert and Cultural Evening was held in aid of the people of Kangra District who suffered the aftermath of the recent calamity. State Convenor Malvika Pathania and A.D.C. Rohan Chand attended the charity show. A number of NGOs like the Himalaya Pariwar, Nai Roshani, Green Friends, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Eagle Trackers, Tibetan Women’s Association, TIPA, Tibetan Youth Congress and SFT-India contributed to the HP Chief Ministers Relief Fund.

During World Heritage Week students visited the Kangra Fort built more than a 1000 years ago by the Katoch dynasty. The earliest reference records the invasion by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1009 AD. It was partly damaged in the great Kangra earthquake of 1905. The children sang Kangra folk songs along with music teacher Dr. Janmajay Guleria. Convenor told them about the importance of tribal Gaddi culture, and motivated them to collect old coins, stamps and artifacts, etc. En route environmentalist Zila Parishad Member Prem Sagar interacted with them. They visited some historical landmarks like the Maharana Pratap statue and learnt about the famous war of Haldi-ki-Ghati between him and Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1576.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

The Chapter marked World Tourism Day highlighting problems of water access and the challenges entailed in a sustained water access. Convenor S.M. Sahni, Co-Convenor Prof. Anita Charak Billawaria and core group of INTACH
KARNATAKA

Bagalkot
Dr. D.G. Kulkarni is appointed Convenor of the Bagalkot Chapter. Prof. M.F. Kuri is the nominated Co-Convenor.

Bijapur
Convenor Dr. Kolharkulkarni, INTACH Governing Council Member, received the Kanakashree Award from the State Government on 20th November, along with a statue of saint poet Kanakadasa whose birth anniversary was also celebrated on that day. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs and a plaque in recognition of the many years

Members organised a competition for students on the subject and awarded prizes to three young winners.

The Chapter organised a visit of Minister of Culture, J&K to the Bhau Fort, Jammu for discussing conservation and restoration of the damaged fort wall.
Dr. Kolharkulkarni has devoted to research on Dasa Sabitya and popularized literature through Gamaka. He is the author of over 50 books including 14 on the Dasa Sabitya. At present he also heads the Adilshahi Literature Translation Project under which seven volumes will be published in January 2014. INTACH extends its heartiest congratulations to him.

The Chapter conducted a Workshop on Indian Culture, Heritage & Architecture on 28th-29th October, organized by the Convenor in association with Dr. P.G. Halakatti of the College of Engineering and its Principal Dr. V.P. Huggi.

Dharwad

The Rashtrakuta imperial epoch (c.752-972 AD) reckoned one of the most significant eras of Indian history lasted for almost two centuries. In this period religion, art and literature flourished; and the most wonderful temple cut out of rock almost two centuries. In this period religion, art and literature lasted for four generations of sitar heritage. Then came a young flutist prodigy Hambal, who was once taken by the Mysore Maharaja to play for the King in England. Then followed the irresistible musical dramas of Kirloskars, Dewals, Garuds and others which threw up a galaxy of musical maestros like Mallikarjun Mansoor, Purtaraj, Panchakshri Gavai, Sawai Gandharv, Gangubai Hangal, Bhimsen Joshi, Basavraj Rajguru, Karim Khan, Arjuna Nakod, Sangameshwar Gurav among others. Today this bewitching heritage has found resonance in Praveen Godkhivi’s flute, Bale Khan’s sitar, Yavgal’s tabla, the violin of a unique couple from BS and Akkamahadevi Math, vocalists like Kaivalya Kumar, Venatesh Kumar, Ganapati Bhat, and Vasant Kanakapur’s harmonium. Dharwad also has the distinction of starting Gangubai Hangal’s Gurukul to carry forward the gurukul parampara under the guidance of distinguished maestros. The city has proved to be a creative meeting ground of many gharanas - Patiala, Kirana, Gwalior, Agra, Jaipur, Atrauli - enriching each other and almost on the verge of creating a ‘Dharwad Gharana’!

INTACH Member Ramachandra Sidenur’s book Sangeet Sangam covers the contributions of Dharwad musicians to Hindustani music which scaled national heights over the last 200 years, with interesting details about personalities and incidents associated with the introduction of this music in Dharwad. Generations of musicians contributed to make Dharwad the home of Hindustani musicians, encouraging traditional music arts like Gamaka, Sangam Sangeet, etc. The English edition was released in Bengaluru subsequently in November.

Ramchandra’s wife Kamala Sidenur produced a CD on Kwati Ata, recording girls singing and dancing with kolat (wooden sticks), a popular cultural event of rural Karnataka. INTACH welcomes such individual initiatives that add to the vast tangible and intangible cultural heritage documentation of India.

Dharwad’s Musical Heritage

Sangeet Sangam by Prof. Ramachandra Sidenur traces the music history of Dharwad from 1860 onwards. The first to come to the then Bombay Presidency (city) was Bhaskarbua Bakhale and Kashinath Pitre, entrancing people with the sound of music, teaching and organizing soirees at home. They were followed by Sitar Navaz Rahi who found it exhausting to commute between his home in the north and Mysore Maharaj’s invitations in the south, so he chose to settle midway in Dharwad, and bestowed four generations of sitar heritage. Then came a young flutist prodigy Hambal, who was once taken by the Mysore Maharaja to play for the King in England. Then followed the irresistible musical dramas of Kirloskars, Dewals, Garuds and others which threw up a galaxy of musical maestros like Mallikarjun Mansoor, Purtaraj, Panchakshri Gavai, Sawai Gandharv, Gangubai Hangal, Bhimsen Joshi, Basavraj Rajguru, Karim Khan, Arjuna Nakod, Sangameshwar Gurav among others. Today this bewitching heritage has found resonance in Praveen Godkhivi’s flute, Bale Khan’s sitar, Yavgal’s tabla, the violin of a unique couple from BS and Akkamahadevi Math, vocalists like Kaivalya Kumar, Venatesh Kumar, Ganapati Bhat, and Vasant Kanakapur’s harmonium. Dharwad also has the distinction of starting Gangubai Hangal’s Gurukul to carry forward the gurukul parampara under the guidance of distinguished maestros. The city has proved to be a creative meeting ground of many gharanas - Patiala, Kirana, Gwalior, Agra, Jaipur, Atrauli - enriching each other and almost on the verge of creating a ‘Dharwad Gharana’!

Ack : SC Sardeshpande, Member, Dharwad Chapter

Gombe Habba

This Festival of Dolls also known as Bombe Habba is a traditional celebration in Mysore during Dassera/Navratri. Originating from the time of the Vijaynagara kingdom it became a tradition with the Mysore kings reaching its zenith during the time of the Wodeyars. A Gombe Thotti, a veritable pavilion of dolls was set up in Ambavilas Palace with a vast collection of dolls, animals, kings and queens, gods and goddesses, wooden models of palaces, etc. made by local artisans. After gombe aarthi and singing of devotional songs, traditional snacks were distributed to the visiting children. Soon many Mysore householders embraced the festival with dolls depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. A few organizations today are showcasing the Bombe Mane to keep alive this tradition slowly waning under the pressures of modern life. The Mysore Dasara Committee also introduced the concept Mane Mane Dasara meaning Daser in every home, encouraging people to display dolls and enter doll arrangement competitions, to preserve this heritage.

Returned by Speed Post

In what must be the first time, 12 stolen gold idols, studded with diamonds from the Jain shrine in Moodabadire, were returned by speed post to the office of the Police Commissioner, Bengaluru. Strange and surprising! Packed in 12 neat parcels, each weighing 750-900 grams, their estimated worth could well be Rs.100 crore. The Jain Math confirmed that they are the same idols stolen from Siddantha Basadi, but the mystery of who sent them remains to be solved.
**KERALA**

**Calicut**

INTACH Life Member Dr. Kasturba, an Associate Professor of Architecture at the National Institute of Technology, Calicut was selected for the Fulbright-Nehru Award 2013. It is administered by the Council of International Exchange of Scholars, in cooperation with the United States-India Education Foundation (USIEF). This gives her the opportunity to visit some of the top American universities. INTACH joins Convenor K. Mohan and Co-Convenor Maleeha Raghaviah in congratulating Ms. AK Kathurba. She has to her credit books on the *Kali Temple of Calicut* and on *Kuttichira*, a medieval Muslim settlement of Kerala.

**Thrissur**

Shri M.P. Surendran is appointed Convenor of the Thrissur Chapter, with Shri Vinod Kumar M.M. as the Co-Convenor. Shri Prem Manasvi Paul is nominated as the Additional Co-Convenor.

An active MLA Therambil Ramakrishnan welcomed the launch of the Chapter wholeheartedly, with Mayor I.P. Paul, Chairman of Thrissur Urban Development Authority K. Radakrishnan and State Convenor KH Sohan present on the occasion, along with eminent academicians and media persons. Kerala now has its sixth Chapter. Traditional craftsmen Sri Thankamani (carpenter), Sri Sankunny (laterite craft), and Sri Joy (master oxide worker) were honoured. The programme ended with a scintillating performance of *Kuttiyattam* and a play *Kailasoddharanam* (lifting of the Himalaya) excerpted from 2nd century BC Sanskrit literature.

At a subsequent meeting of INTACH Members on 3rd October, Mayor I.P. Paul assured the Corporation’s full support for making Thrissur a Heritage City. This greatly strengthens INTACH’s hands. The recommendations drawn up by the Chapter will hopefully be taken up for consideration in the master plan of Thrissur.

**Trivandrum**

**Condolences**

INTACH Founder Member Sree Uthradom Thirunal Marthanda Varma, erstwhile Maharaja of Travancore passed away on 15th December. On behalf of INTACH, a wreath was laid at his funeral at the Kowdiar Palace. We pray he may rest in ever lasting peace. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family members on their grievous loss. Our best wishes will always be with them.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**Gwalior**

Convenor Love Khandelwal informs that the listing and documentation work of nearby Sheopur District was completed. The bound report forwarded to Central Office lists 81 heritage buildings and sites like forts, palaces, temples, step wells and old buildings. Sheopur is a historical city which was ruled by Gour.
Rajputs during the 14th-19th century till Scindia’s forces under French General Jean Baptiste took control in 1806. He too built a palace and a garden.

Khajurao

Shri Ajay Kashyap is appointed Convenor of the Khajurao Chapter, with Shri Vijay Kumar Rajak as the new Co-Convenor.

Mandla

Chapter Members visited Sitarapatnam located 20 kms from Mandla, located at the confluence of the rivers Matiyara and Surpan. Maharishi Valmiki’s asram was located in this village, and this is where he composed the Ramayana. Sita stayed here during her years of exile.

Morena

INTACH learned about an interesting video on the Chambal Bateshwar temple complex at Morena. Chairman is of the view that all Chapters might like to see this on youtube.com and follow the link http://www.youtube.com. The Bateshwar complex spreading over 10 hectares in the ravines of Chambal remained long forgotten. It was former ASI Regional Director Muhammed K.K. who took the initiative to restore the temples enlisting the help of dreaded Chambal dacoits, and even faced the heat of mining mafia! The sandstone temples dedicated to Shiva were built by the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty during 8th-10th century - 300 years before the Khajuraho temple.

Mumbai

The Mumbai Chapter in collaboration with the Dr. BhauDaji Lad Museum Trust organized a series of programmes, a regular feature of its quarterly agenda.

Lectures:

- On 21st September, Girish Shahane on Free Expression: the Indian Context: it referred to texts like Bharata’s Natya Shastra, the Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship, and the Delhi High Court judgment in the M.F. Hussain case - foregrounding the gap between responses of India’s law-making apparatus to obscenity on the one hand, and political or religious offence on the other.
- On 28th September, Pooja Sood on The City as Site: the 48C. Public Art. Ecology Experiment: an experiment aimed at
interrogating the teetering ecology of the metropolitan city of Delhi through the prism of contemporary art, delving into the meaning of public spaces in India and their hospitality (or lack of) to contemporary art and responses it garners from the government and varied audiences.

- **12th October, Johan Pijnappel** on *Indian Video Art: History in Motion* (a historic exhibition first held in 2004 in Japan), elaborating on his experiences in Fukuoka, juxtaposing it with experiences in Amsterdam (1998), Beijing (2002) and Chicago (2007).

- **On 19th October, Dr. Annapurna Garimella** on *The Classical Discourse and the Institutionalization of the Erotic: Marg as a Case Study* contrasting eroticisation of painting, sculpture and architecture with the ongoing debates over the de-eroticization of inherited art forms by Indian classical dancers.

- **On 9th November, Ram Rahaman** on *The Photograph as Document: Making a Visual Archive of a Culture*, speaking on how a photographer grapples with various issues to make a body of work which is both personal and universal.

- **On 16th November, art historian Dr. Kavita Singh** on *The Future of Ethnographic Museums*, presenting a contrarian view that all museums of the future will be ethnographic rather than seeing ethnographic museum as a thing of the past.

**Workshops:**

- Museum Tours were organised for various schools, NGOs, and colleges.

- A tour of the special exhibition “Missives” by artist Ghiora Aharoni for Teach for India’s group of performing arts students. Seven groups of schools came for a tour of the Maps of the Museum’s collection, and the students used different art and craft materials to make their own maps.

- A group of school students from the NGO *Muktangan* for underprivileged children visited on 12th October to capture the various stories present within the Museum through photographs to recreate into a digital story.

- Diwali Lantern Making Activity at the Museum on 26th October, a free decorative lanterns making activity for their homes.

- **Games Mela** was organised at the Museum on 9th-10th November. Age-old games like Zimma, Fugdi, Chor-Police, Atya Patya, Snakes and Ladders, Khamba, Hopscotch, Cowrie, Kho-Kho, Land and Water, Marbles, Dog and the Bone, Jump Rope were held at the Museum Plaza for children, parents and grandparents.

**Heritage Week:** was celebrated on 21st November with an event on *Objects as Heritage*. School children from Heritage Clubs were introduced to material heritage showing how articles within one’s home like badges, bells, *dabbas*, gates, blackboards, clocks etc. can become your own heritage. There was a session on *Object Theatre* with Mumbai based Tram Theatre Company. Subsequently students played a series of workshop games using their sense of touch to guess what object it was, finding alternative uses for objects and using their bodies to make the shape of various objects; with some students engaged in a writing stories or poems, etc.
Exhibitions:

On 24th October “The Sassoon Album”, produced in association with the British Library was a photographic exhibition, a part of which came from an album presented to the British Library in 2012 by Edwina and Sybil Sassoon, descendants of a great merchant family whose history is intimately connected with that of 19th century Mumbai.

Pune

The Chapter hosted the Maharashtra Convenors Meet at Pune on 30th-31st October held jointly by Principal Director NHD S.K. Verma and State Co-Convenor Mukund Bhogale. A one day workshop was also conducted with discussions centring on collaborative efforts with other like minded organisations, and the importance of public participation. Shri Verma’s presentation on emerging trends in natural heritage conservation touched on bio-geographic zones, sacred groves conserved through local efforts and the ecological services of these sites. Many Members of the Pune Chapter, and Convenors from Solapur, Aurangabad, Dahanu, and a representative from Wai, shared their experiences.

The first session was devoted to the crucial subject of natural heritage of the State in particular, with Member Anita Benninger speaking on Dr. Madhav Gadgil’s report on the Western Ghats and the proposed enforcement of eco-sensitive zones. There was a brain storming session rooting for better networking and news sharing among Chapters and Members.

Coordinator of the Pune Chapter Supriya Goturkar-Mahableshwarkar made a presentation on the Chapter’s involvement in conservation since inception in 1986, and summarized its on-going projects. Aurangabad Convenor Mukund Bhogale and environmentalist Dr. Vivek Gharpure spoke on sites at Aurangabad including its Mughal Gardens, forests and lakes. Solapur Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar discussed the Nannaj Sanctuaray and future natural heritage projects to be taken up. Co-Convenor Dahanu Chapter Farzan Mazda spoke on the Chikoo Festival and the success in reviving the traditional plantations of this fruit. Vinita Jadhav from Wai Chapter shared the recent initiatives taken both in Wai and Satara. Collaborative efforts are effective in conservation as seen from the numerous Pune examples that were narrated by Dr. Soman.

The Maharashtra Convenors’ Workshop reiterated the timely need for positive movement and an action plan to save the natural heritage of biodiversity in this third largest State in India, especially the ‘Sahyadri’ or Western Ghats running parallel to the coast. Other potential regions identified are around Aurangabad; Konkan, Amravati, Nashik, Pune, and Nagpur areas bordering Jharkhand. The Meeting ended with a sapling given to each participant.

A Field Visit to the Sacred Groves of deity Janni located 80 kms from Pune was scheduled, with the ex-'Sarpanch
INTACH Member Pankaj Upadhye took part in the recent census of the Great Indian Bustard at Nannaj and the surrounding grasslands of Solapur. It is indeed alarming that only 3 Bustards were spotted in what was the erstwhile hot spot for these winged annual migrants. A red alert was sounded, but a number of measures need to be taken urgently.

In pursuance of the Chapter’s proposal the State Government notified 33 heritage sites and structures as protected monuments under the Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (MAMASR) Act 2001. Convenor Purohmingthanga says that most of the notified structures are old Inspection Bungalows, residences of missionaries and dispensaries, police stations, etc. at places like Thiak, Sialusk, Bung, Pakkhai, Kawwlkulh, Tawitaw, Kolasib, and Lungseng constructed during British times. The oldest structure is the 1872 Post Office at Tlabung which was under threat of demolition, till the Chapter intervened successfully for restoring it to its heritage originality. The Tlabung Police Station is also believed to be constructed about the same period and has been listed, along with the 1890 Sairang Police Station, the 1902 school building Sikul Sen, the 1896 oldest Vanlaiphai Dispensary located within Aizawl Civil Hospital compound that was strafed by the Japanese during World War II and still bears bullet marks.

Convenor Hariharan Balakrishnan organized a very interesting talk with an exhibition of some rare artifacts on Pigeon Post of Odisha on 30th October with Shri P.K. Mohanty from Cuttack as the speaker. Odisha was the last frontier of the pigeon-post mode of communication, that was wound up after more than 100 years by the State Government due to its obsolete and unviable state.

During World Heritage Week on 24th November, students were taken to the 9th Century AD 64-Yogini Temple in Hirapur village, with Suresh Balwantray explaining the antiquity, history and mythology of the monument. Editor Anil Dhir held a story-telling session. Various aspects of this unique temple were brought alive by young students of the Nrutya Pratibha, Bhubaneswar, with an Odissi dance performance.

The Chapter also took students of a school for deaf and dumb to the 2nd century BC Udayagiri Caves, where the...
significance and history of the caves and carvings were explained by Convenor Balakrishnan. An on-the-spot painting competition was held, while some students made clay models of different artefacts in the monuments.

A Seminar on **Potential World Heritage Sites in Odissa** was held on 11th December, with Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra giving the keynote address. Experts in archaeology, ancient history and forestry were invited to present papers.

**Sambalpur**

Convenor B.B. Mishra, a successful teacher and historian, was invited as Chief Guest by the local Rotary Club. He requested Club Members to help in listing historic monuments and natural sites. A similar request was made to the Inner Wheel Club. Heritage Week was celebrated in collaboration with the Kendriya Vidyalaya with elocution and essay competitions on the importance of heritage conservation for students, organized by Co-Convenor Nabakrushna Patnaik, and the prizes awarded by Principal Dr. Santiraj Pandey.

**Phailin-Hit**

Chilika Lake, India’s largest coastal lagoon was badly hit by high winds and stormy sea during the recent Phailin cyclone. It wreaked havoc on the mangroves that prevent saline water from eroding the coastal region. The lake is home to a large number of endangered animals and plant species. This brackish lake is the wintering ground for millions of birds, and one of only two lagoons in the world that support the Irrawaddy Dolphin population. The livelihood of more than two lakh people is dependent on fishing in this lake spread over Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts. The ecosystem may now take years to rejuvenate itself.

*Phailin* also left Odisha’s two key ports Gopalpur and Paradip with broken embankments, boat debris and heavy losses to heritage assets.

**PUDUCHERRY**

The Government of Puducherry, Art & Culture Department has entrusted the renovation of *Bharathiar Memorial Museum* to INTACH. The Chapter will also undertake the reconstruction work on the annexe building located at...
Easwaran Koil Street of the city. Co-Convenor Ajit Koujalgi informs that sufficient UT Plan funds would be made for this assignment in a phased manner. The Chapter has established a formidable reputation for itself since conservation work on the Rue Calve Subbraya Shetty (referred to as Vysial) Street and at Tranquebar undertaken a few years ago and exhibited overseas.

**PUNJAB**

**Amritsar**

The Chapter received the Presidents' Award for the Amritsar Heritage Walk. INTACH congratulates Convenor Sukhdev Singh and Members on receiving this special recognition for their work.

**Malerkotla**

Chapter Members organised an impressive exhibition of rare coins, court fee documents, historical letters, antiques and other important artifacts of the Nawabi era as a major heritage awareness campaign. Convenor Dr. Salim Mohammad organized a visit to the Sainik School Museum at Kapurthala and places of historic interest like the Sainik School, Mooris Masjid, and the Gurudwara linked to Guru Nanak Dev which has some rare stone weights representing Guru's services in the Modi Khana of the Mughals. Co-Convenor Rajesh Kumar announced there will be many more lectures and exhibitions in the coming months to create awareness of cultural heritage among youth.

**Patiala**

The Patiala Chapter conducted essay writing on 16th November on the subject of My Living Icon with students from five prominent schools of the city participating in the competition. Principal Shivilik School, Simi Gill welcomed all the participants saying such efforts of INTACH really encourage budding writers and artists to show their skills and achieve success in life. Keynote speaker Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur delivered a lecture on Heritage Issues: Role of Social Organizations and the Law', stressing on students becoming the future icons of society. Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk said all help from the Chapter would be extended to those students who organize similar competitions in village schools in future.

The Chapter commemorated the 106th Birth Anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh at District Courts with support of All India Lawyers Union (AILU) District Unit Patiala and District Bar Association Patiala. Renowned historian Prof. H.S. Mehta, State Convenor Dr. Sukhdev Singh, Senior Advocate S. Joginder Singh Toor attended the function presided by the Chairman Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana R.S. Badran. Other dignitaries like District and Sessions Judge Patiala Raj Shekhar Attri, were also present. Prof. Mehta deliberated on life and thinking of Shaheed Bhagat Singh stating there were several false myths created about his life and philosophy. There was a lively discourse on different facets of martyr Bhagat Singh, who gave up his life fighting the ills of imperialism, and has become an inspiring icon for today's younger generation.
Shekhawati

Convenor Ramesh C. Jangid has been running the Apani Dhani Ecologde, Nawalgarh set up in 1990, offering eco-friendly services to travellers on a discovery of rural India. He was honoured with the 2013 Wild Asia Responsible Tourism Award at ITB Asia held in October at Singapore. It acknowledges him as one of the leaders for sustainability in the tourism industry, and for running an environmentally responsible company, while preserving and promoting local culture and heritage.

Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singhji Naggar makes a continuous effort to invite younger generation to lectures and other activities held by the Chapter. The national campaign Wings to Fly has been enthusiastically supported by schools of Jodhpur.

Sawai Madhopur

CONDOLENCES

Former Convenor (2000-2009) and Life Member, Shri V.K. Mishra passed away on 17 December. A retired civil servant, he was associated with many Chapter activities. INTACH sends its condolences to the Mishra family at this time of grievous loss in our midst.

RAJASTHAN

Jaipur

The Jaipur Chapter received a work order from the State Heritage Development and Management Authority to manage coordination of five Hill Forts of Rajasthan. These forts were recently nominated as World Heritage Monuments. Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar thanks Advisor S. Ahmad whose efforts resulted in this prestigious assignment, supported by a formal signing of an MOU. It will give INTACH Convenors in Jhalawar, Udaipur, Sawai Madhopur a chance to get directly involved in the management of these forts.

Gujijankhana, meaning a place for people with values, dates back to Maharaja Ram Singh I in 17th century Amber. He extended patronage to all artistes and litterateurs, a practice sustained by a succession of Jaipur rulers till 1949 when Jaipur State became Rajasthan. The royal legacy is now being revived by a member of the family Diya Kumari. It celebrates the arts through live performances, experimental education and instructive outreach in many fields like films, cuisine, museum studies and management.

Jodhpur

INTACH Rajasthan Conclave – 2013 was held with all Convenors of the State meeting at Chokelao Mahal on 17th-18th December. Chairman L.K. Gupta, Shri Gaj Singh Sahib, Chapters Director Col. M.P.S. Bhatia, State Convenor Thakur Ranvir Singh and Dharmendra Kanwar attended the Conclave. The Chapter continuously strives to achieve the visionary aim of INTACH, and has a fabled heritage to protect and preserve.

A lecture by eminent architect Deepika Gandhi on Tangible and Intangible Heritage was organized during Heritage Week.

A Heritage Walk was also organized to mark the occasion, flagged by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shyain.

INTACH Rajasthan Conclave – 2013 was held with all Convenors of the State meeting at Chokelao Mahal on 17th-18th December. Chairman L.K. Gupta, Shri Gaj Singh Sahib, Chapters Director Col. M.P.S. Bhatia, State Convenor Thakur Ranvir Singh and Dharmendra Kanwar attended the Conclave. The Chapter continuously strives to achieve the visionary aim of INTACH, and has a fabled heritage to protect and preserve.

Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singhji Naggar makes a continuous effort to invite younger generation to lectures and other activities held by the Chapter. The national campaign Wings to Fly has been enthusiastically supported by schools of Jodhpur.
ITB is one of Asia’s biggest business-to-business travel trade meet. The citation: ‘Apani Dhan’s multi-faceted cultural mission is based on engaging the community on many levels, supporting local artisans and cottage industries and campaigning for protection of historical buildings’.

INTACH shares his immense pleasure, and engagement in promoting heritage in this unique manner. Congratulations!

**Udaipur**

The General Body of Mewar Regional Chapter met at Maharana Kumbha Bhawan on 19th October, presided by Chairman Jagat Mehta. Chief Conservator of Forests K.K. Garg was the Chief Guest, and Life Member Akshya Singhvi from the Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur was the main Speaker.

The Chapter takes pride in the phenomenal growth in membership and a host of qualitative projects undertaken under State Convenor S.K. Verma. Strasbourg Mayor Ronald Reis and his team, along with Delhi UNESCO Representative Shigeru Aogayi, inaugurated Heritage House in the heart of the city, welcomed by the Mayor Rajni Dangi. Discussions were held with the Mayor and other administrative officers concluding with a tripartite MOU signed between the Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Maharana Mewar Charitable Trust and Indian Heritage City Network, Strasbourg. The French delegation was impressed with INTACH’s restoration of Clock Tower and Karjali House, and the development work at Gangu Kund in particular.

Principal Secretary of Rajasthan Government, G.S. Sandhu inaugurated the first heritage walk traversing the inner parts of the old city areas like Jagdish Chowk, Bhatiyani Chowta, Kasaro ka Nora, City Place Road, Baghour ki Haveli and Ghangaur Ghat.

A few years ago UNESCO Representative Minja Yang had visited Udaipur Chapter many times, and facilitated its joint collaboration with the Udaipur Municipal Corporation and the Mehrana Mewar Charitable Trust. They then joined the Indian Heritage Cities Network, and later Strasbourg France in the field of urban development and heritage management.

**TAMIL NADU**

State Convenor Dr. S. Suresh presented a research paper at the 15th International Conference of National Trusts (ICNT) held at Entebbe, Uganda from 30th Sept.-4th October. It was the first time that International Trusts Organisation (INTO) in collaboration with Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda held this conference in Africa. He was invited to be one of the Advisors for a special session on Promoting Heritage: The Role of Uganda Youth in the 21st century. He read out a paper on Youth Volunteer Training and Making of Heritage Films by Youth on behalf of HECS.

Convenor S. Suresh is credited with pioneering research on Roman Coins and innovative tours to Roman archaeological sites in South India for scholars and serious tourists. In recognition, he received the Parameshwari Lal Gupta Medal Award from the South Indian Numismatic Society.

Tamil Nadu Chapter Convenors met on 29th November, with Convenors presenting a brief report on activities of the last five years. It was the first formal meeting of its kind where they shared highlights of their activities and discussed a broader role of helping smaller city-based Chapters, apart from closer collaborations among Chapters and interactions with the Government.

Heritage Week was marked with a series of talks, films, workshops and heritage walks from 19th November-1st December. Well known cinema and TV series actor Mohan...
Raman gave the first talk on 50 years of Tamil Cinema narrating events, facts and history that covered even the silent talkie era. Documentary film maker S. Anwar explored a Tamil Muslim’s journey through his film Yaadhum, a search for roots and identity that touched upon the cultural exchange between Hindus and Muslims.

The Week concluded with a heritage walk of the High Court Precinct, the Chief Justice’s Court and library with a group of 122 judges, lawyers, architects and others. It was inaugurated by Justice Sathish Agnihotri, and conducted by V. Sriram. Co-Convenor Tara Murali explained the architectural aspects of the building, with Member Poornima Balakkrishnan identifying its Indo Saracenic style through a power point presentation.

Chapter Members visited the Padmanabhapuram Thasildar’s office, and recovered hundreds of cannon balls (weighing 2.2-2.5 kgs each) used by the British East India Company troops. They had been removed from Udayagiri Fort, once a British headquarter from 1809-1890, five years ago and lay unnoticed in the police godown. Arrangements were made to shift the cannon balls to the Archaeological Museum at Kanyakumari. The Chapter hopes to collect documentary evidence regarding the origin of this ammunition which may even date back to the time of General de Lannoy (1712-1777) as Udayagiri Fort was his headquarters.

Chennai
Ms. Sujatha Shankar is appointed Convenor of the Chennai Chapter, and Ms. Tara Murali is the new Co-Convenor.

Coimbatore
Shri Shankar Vanavarayar is appointed as the new Convenor of the Coimbatore Chapter.

Nagercoil
The Chapter undertook the study of 100 sacred groves of Kanyakumari District, with funds facilitated by the District Collector S. Nagarajan. Fifty years ago there were more than 500 such centuries old groves where people worshipped the Nag and other native Gods. The current study revealed many sacred groves belonging exclusively to private parties, kudumba kavu belonging families, the voor kavu to villages, pothu kavu to the public, and a few under the aegis of Dewasam boards and other charitable organizations. The chief deity is generally the Nagaraja or Sastha in addition to the worship of Mariamma, Madan, Boothananathan, Nagalakhshmi, Isakkiamman and Angalamman which reflects multi-religious influences. Today sacred groves are endangered due to increased land value and the threat of cash crops like rubber plantation. Convenor Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan says these old sacred groves are a part and parcel of our heritage, and must be protected with incentives from Government.
Thanjavur

Following last year’s success Ilandhalir held in August, once again the Chapter joined hands with a number of organizations to hold Ilandhalir 2013 for children in November – with multiple competitions and programmes.

Salem

Salem Day on 1st November was celebrated this year with a spectacular show presented jointly by students of many INTACH Heritage Clubs. There was an ethnic parade, great music, art and photography competitions. Vidya Peetam School bagged the Best Performer Award for 2013. Co-Convenor S. Sharavanan thanked the School for the premises and other arrangements provided.

UTTAR PRADESH

Bundelkhand

Central Gramin Vikas Rajmantri inaugurated the Saras Mela, a fair promoting handloom and handicraft products. Convenor Santosh Kumar Sharma informs that an exhibition on heritage sites of the region to promote tourism was an additional feature this year at the mela. It gave the Chapter an opportunity to promote heritage awareness.

Lucknow

A Heritage Walk of Residency, Lucknow was conducted by the Chapter during Heritage Week. Like much of historic Lucknow, this area has many tales to tell about the British occupancy of the town and the 1857 war of independence. It attracted participants from all walks of life, and a number of students. Convenor Vipul Varshney reports that the walk was widely covered by the electronic and print media.

Mystic Faith

The Mystic Faith – For a Drop of Nectar written by Manoj Thakkar and Jayesh Rajpal is a virtual journey of the Kumbh Mela to which millions of people flock periodically, attracting many foreigners to what is undoubtedly one the most awe inspiring spectacles of humanity and faith. The book interprets the astrological, mythological and philosophical aspects of what constitutes all the 13 Akhadas of Kumbh- the Shiva, Vaishnav, Udasin, Nirmal, etc. and the significance of the Shahi Snan (bath). It gives insight into Diksha that takes place emphasizing the guru shishya parampara.

Orai

Sandhya Pukhar presenting memento to District Collector Ram Ganesh

Convenor Hari Mohan Purwar organized an exhibition of Ganesh sculptures at Vinayak Academy International School, inaugurated by District Collector Ram Ganesh on the festive occasion of Ganesh Chathurthi.

WEST BENGAL

Kolkata

The Kolkata Regional Chapter instituted a Heritage Award in association with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation to mark Heritage Week 19th-25th November. The 1910 grand old Park Mansions received the first award. The Award will be an annual event to honour owners of properties in recognition of their efforts to maintain their heritage. State Convenor G.M. Kapur feels this will enthuse private owners.
as there are many heritage buildings in the city that need saving. He said “Park Mansions is by far one of the best examples of a perfectly restored heritage building”. A mix of Victorian and Indo-Saracen architecture, it was built by its first occupant a jute merchant TM Thaddeus. Architect Dalal Mukherjee took over 5 years to successfully turn it into an “eye-catcher” for the Apeejay Group, with plaque formally installed on 7th December.

The Chapter organized several events during the month of November. A 8-day Heritage Seminar was held in association with the Loretto College Calcutta. There was an interesting session on Current Concerns & Future Directions for the Armenian, Chinese, Jewish and Anglo-Indian Communities of Kolkata. Later in the month, Chairman of the Heritage Conservation Committee Alapan Bandopadhyay gave a talk on Kolkata’s Heritage Movement: Some Random Thoughts. Prof. Akhil Sirkar conducted a Heritage Walk for children of Sri Sri Academy. Members have now come up with an innovative idea of a heritage walk in the theatre precinct of North Kolkata.

The Chapter was invited by members of the Jewish community to make a condition assessment of the Neveh Shalom Synagogue.

**Wajid Ali Shah**

Who better than Shahanshah Mirza, a descendant of Wajid Ali Shah, now living in Kolkata, to talk about his illustrious ancestor?

Mir Mohammad Amin came to India from Iran in 1708 and established his regime after the fall of the Mughal Empire. One of his outstanding descendants was Asaf-ud-Daulah (1775-98) who built the Bada Imambara in Lucknow. Wajid Ali Khan was the most popular ruler of of this dynasty, known to his subjects for his generosity and compassion, a patron of arts, and a good reformist and administrator. He used the pen name Akhtapiya for composing innumerable poems, prose, thumris and raags. It is said he wrote a drama on Lord Krishna and acted the character in a play. Kathak attained new heights, with dancers and composers flourishing due to royal patronage.

It was unfortunate that he ascended the throne in 1847, at a time when the British East India Company was determined to annex prosperous Awadh. On 4th February 1856 the British Resident General Outram gave the Nawab a document from the Governor General for his abdication. “He was given 3 days to sign and the terms were very humiliating. Wajid Ali Shah was a peace loving man as well as a realistic one…..had heard a lot about British sense of justice and fair play, so he decided to place his case before Lord Dalhousie who was at the time the Governor General of India stationed at Calcutta”, says Mirza. The rest is sad history. He missed Lucknow and tried to recreate one in Calcutta building manzils, gardens and a zoo that turned Matiajpur into a Chota Lucknow.

Wajid Ali Shah died in September 1887, three decades after abdicating during which much of his land and property was seized under the garb of administration and development. Tens of thousands from all communities attended his funeral; he was buried at Sibtainabad Imambara which he had built in 1864.

Today many paan shops even in Matiajunj proudly display his picture. Shahanshah Mirza concludes “History cannot forget that Calcutta gave refuge to an unlucky ruler and in return got the legacy of one of our finest cultures”.

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*Park Mansions*

*Heritage Award instituted by Kolkata Chapter*
Europalia Exhibition

Europalia Exhibition on Splendours of Indian Architecture, sponsored by ICCR, is being held at Leuven, Belgium since 17th October to end January. It depicts Indian architecture that evolved through a succession of conquerors and adventurers who came to India over the centuries, superimposing their own styles on ancient traditional Indian architecture.

Curated by INTACH Governing Council Member Dr. Sarayu Doshi, the first section commences with abandoned cities, prehistoric caves and forts in the first millennium AD, then flowing into Islamic architecture when a series of invasions took place during 7th-10th centuries and India gradually came under Islamic rulers. They built many buildings in Delhi, Gujarat and the Deccan exemplifying syncretic elements. The peak period was the Mughal era with their tombs, fort-palaces, Fatehpur Sikri and Char-Bagh being the pivotal scale-models of this Exhibition.

The European Encounter started with trading companies, leading eventually to colonisation of India. It impacted not only architecture but also various facets of Indian life and culture. There was fusion between European styles like Gothic and Indo-Saracenic and existing Indo-Islamic architecture. Their crowning glory was development of an imperial style visible to this day in government buildings of New Delhi in particular.

The Exhibition also showcases the Encounter with Modernism, highlighting the Art Deco of the 1930s that left a permanent imprint on residential buildings and cine halls of Bombay long before it became Mumbai. Chandigarh designed by Le Corbusier represents another new style of post independent India.

Convenor Geert Robberechts informs that the well attended inauguration of the Exhibition was covered extensively by the Belgian Press.

Communication with the Belgium Chapter has now revived after a lapse of time. Convenor Geert Robberechts explained it as “the reality of everyone’s daily life has shown us that this plan was even more ambitious than the rhythm of a six monthly newsletter”. In the meantime the Lost Garden project at Khajuraho progressed both satisfactorily and considerably. Dr. Vandana Shiva of Navdaanya held a conference on seed autonomy. Two young bio-engineers from the Catholic College Leuven (KHL) are in the process of moving to Khajuraho to monitor different aspects of the project. A visitors’ centre is under planning at the Pateriya Bagh. It will double up as
is a member of Belgium INTACH Board, is programming a cultural travel that would include a visit to the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho.

**NEWS : FROM HERE & THERE**

**MAHATMA 1896-1948**

The newspapers on 2nd October were all about Gandhi, Father of the Nation, an integral part of India's history. A pertinent question was posed by a young writer in a daily paper: "Is that frail, dhoti-clad man with his spinning wheel and lofty ideas and barrelful of wisdom today far away from us, lost in the grey veils of time, his luster dimmed by the flash of cars and the beeping and twinkling of cell phones and laptops? Are India's young people today inspired by footballers, cricket and movie stars, not able to fathom what Mahatma Gandhi meant for India and the world?"

One of the last articles in Harijan penned by the Mahatma, written 19 days before his assassination, was sourced by ICCR from the English auction house Christie. It will be preserved and put on public display by the Nehru Memorial Museum.

Gandhiji's self devised *charkha* that he used in Yerwada Jail, Pune was auctioned for a whopping sum of £ 1,10,000 recently. He once said: "The spinning wheel is my sword. To me it is the symbol of India's liberty".

**160 YEARS OF RAILWAYS**

Eastern Central Railway organised a rare photo exhibition from the year 1853 to present day, highlighting important projects undertaken by the zonal office. Once upon a time elephants were deployed in place of locomotives to push coaches or shunt them to the yard. The rare photographs showed the first journey of Indian Railways from Bori Bundar to Thane in old Bombay. The 1947 Refugee Special of partition days drew special attention. The Circular Train was a great attraction for children. A 1906 tunnel of Maharashtra, saloon of Darbhanga Maharaja and a steam engine were on display. There were several models of locomotives, coaches, modern LHB coaches, Patna-Sonepur rail cum road bridge, Harnaut maintenance workshop, Chakra wheel factory.

The unusual photographs of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Netaji Subhas Chandra, Nizam of Hyderabad, Lord Linlithgow and many others on their train journey, the never before seen pictures, engrossed viewers.

**MAULANA AZAD'S ANNIVERSARY**

The year 2013 marks the 125th anniversary of freedom fighter Maulana Azad, India's first Education Minister. His mausoleum near Jama Masjid is in a derelict state, surrounded by garment seller. Part of his historic 1940 address to the nation remains inscribed on a black marble: "I am proud to be an Indian. I am part of the invisible unity that is..."
Indian nationality. I am indispensable to this noble edifice.....I can never surrender this claim”. It was the Maulana who called upon Muslims not to cross over to Pakistan at the time of partition.

TAGORE’S NOBEL HONOUR
A hundred years after Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize, the Swedish Embassy in Delhi hosted a VIP dinner replicating the 1913 Nobel banquet - to pay tribute to the Laureate. INTACH noted that except for the turtle soup, the food and wine were exactly the same menu served to him. The Nobel Week was also celebrated across major cities of India, and with a discussion on “Tagore Now!” at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi.

ANOTHER TIPPU’S SWORD
Tippu Sultan’s priceless treasures were once again under the hammer at Southby’s, UK in October. The Art of Imperial India auctioned some 500 years old objects. The estimated price of a sword fitted with a captured English blade taken as booty during the storming of Seringapatnam fortress and decorated with Tippu’s emblem alone was priced £. 80,000-120,000. A 18th century diamond set, enameled gold tray and paandaan, 11-bore silver mounted flint lock duck gun from his personal armory signed Sayyid Ma’sum, Patam, dated Mawludi year 1218 (1789-90), gem-set gold dagger circa 1700, Pahari painting depicting an enthroned Rama and Sita circa 1830-40 were among other coveted objects on the block. Thus goes the priceless history of India!

NEW ‘HOPE SPOT’
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has named Andaman & Nicobar Islands as the new “Hope Spots”, meaning an area of the ocean that merits special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitat. This was declared at the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress held at Marseilles, France, attended by 1200 marine specialists from around the world. It was the first for India, and the Islands are now a part of 31 new “Hope Spots” added to the previous 19 identified among marine protected areas. The 566 islets of Andaman & Nicobar has unique flora and fauna, around 270 species and sub-species of birds some of which declared as endemic. There are about 96 wildlife sanctuaries, 9 national parks and 1 biosphere reserve in these Indian islands.