Festivals of India and Little Known Rituals

Eat, Pray, Love Festivals....but why at the cost of God’s Earth?
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Many Splendored Festivals and Traditions of India

Festivals like the colour splashed Holi, the fasting Navratri and feasting Dassera, ending with a lit-up Diwali, and others like Id-e-Milad, Parsi New Year, Guru Nanak’s Day and Durga Puja, and the year ending with Christmas and New Year are widely celebrated and well known to all. India can virtually be called a Land of Festivals and Traditions spanning Hindu mythology, multiple religious beliefs and indigenous tribes practices, all of which have evolved from times immemorial, and new ones added over historic time. There are no absolute fixed dates as most Indian festivals follow the Indian lunar calendar. They have never been extensively promoted even on the national tourism circuit which is a potential opportunity lost in a secular State. They could be promoted selectively on the international tourism circuit for overseas visitors to add another dimension to international tourism and also as huge economic generators. The Tawang Festival of Nagaland is a good example of a well promoted event that has found a place on the domestic and international tourists circuit.

The now famous 3 day Tawang Festival of Arunachal Pradesh is organized by the State Tourism Department since October 2012. Tawang is a beautiful hill station with mountains, waterfalls, greenery, lakes ‘like a piece of heaven on the earth’.

It commences with a religious tradition known as ‘Sebang’, a rally of the monks. The festival highlights the traditional values of Buddhism with many religious events, tribal dances, exhibitions of arts and crafts of the tribes. The entire hill station is fascinating with many colourfully decorated stalls and hanging prayer flags. The Aji-Lhamu dance is the main attraction of the festival that has seen an increasing number of visitors and participants with each passing year.
Each Indian State and Region have their unique cultural identity; the Indian calendar seems studded with nearly as many festivals, fairs and rituals as dates that should at least be widely known within India. All major religions professed in the world are practiced in our subcontinent, impacted by local culture of each state and capped by the Himalayas – and inhabited by 1.21 billion people. It is hardly surprising that there is a plethora of festivals in our subcontinent that remain to be discovered by our own citizens, only some of which can be covered in an issue of *Virasat*.

Certain States have also come to be associated with particular major festivals – *Holi* and *Janamashtmi* in Uttar Pradesh particularly Mathura; *Dussera* in Mysore, Karnataka; *Durga Puja* in Delhi and Kolkata, West Bengal; *Ganesh Chaturthi* in Maharashtra and also Karnataka and Telangana; *Pongal* and *Sankranti* in Tamil Nadu; *Onam* in Kerala; *Id ul Zuba* and *Muharram* predominantly in cities with large Muslim population like Lucknow, Hyderabad and Delhi; *Jamshed Nav Roz* with the Parsis in Mumbai; *Xmas* and *Easter* in Goa and also Mumbai; *Kaza* in Ladakh, Lahaul, Spiti and Sikkim.

The New Year 2020 will commence with two famous Indian festivals. The internationally known *Kite Festival* in the month of January, also known as *Uttarayan*, is celebrated in Western India marking the close of the harvesting season. The festival coincides with *Makar Sankranti*. The streets and rooftops everywhere are crowded with local people flying a wide variety of kites in amazing designs. Enthusiastic kite flyers try to cut each other down - as that too is part of this sporting festival. The sky literally comes alive with flying colors, with the festival also attracting participation of tourists from all over the world. The international ‘flyers’ gather at the river front in Ahmedabad with many designer models soaring high in the skies. It is a sight to soar the hearts as well!

Equally well publicized is the *Goa Carnival* in mid-February with rock bands, and much wining and dancing, introduced by the Portuguese, many of whom have settled down in Goa since 500 years ago. This festival attracts enthusiastic participants from overseas, apart from the usual hippie crowd. There is vibrant new age night life, music, live performances, western dances, and amusement of all kinds to entertain the crowds. Both folk music and rock bands perform through all days of the carnival, concluding with the main event on the last day when performers dance in customary red and black dresses. There is an increasing influx of Indian tourists who want to let their hair down at what resembles a Brazil like carnival.
This issue of *Virasat* however is about many lesser known festivals that are our very own, and need to be better known to all Indians in particular.

Since Vedic times there is epigraphic evidence that festivals were celebrated with prayers, dramatic performances, dances and musical congregations, chariot races, gambling, wrestling matches, speeding boat, and animal fights, etc. that continue to this day. Not to forget over indulgence in culinary delights and sweetmeats offered to the Gods and consumed by Man! Over the centuries certain Gods and festivals associated with them have lost their popularity and have been replaced by new myths and more festivals. For instance the worship of Indra declined while Vishnu and Krishna became more popular; and *Janmashtmi* turned into a sacred period of a special kind of fasting culminating in elaborate temple gatherings all over in North India. During Vedic times Shiva was invoked only as Rudra, today he is widely worshipped in his phallic form as a *Lingam* that prevailed in Aryan times and was absorbed into Brahmanical religion. The *Lingayats* of Karnataka, both men and women, wear a sealed consecrated Lingam like the Brahmin *janeu* to this day. The *Linga* is daily bathed on the palm of a hand while offering prayers and worn encased in a silver casket *gungadi* on a sacred thread.

There are a multitude of lesser known festivals all year round that should be claimed as the cultural and tourism wealth of India. These festivals in pockets across the country plumb the richness and expanse of India’s cultural inheritance. Perhaps every 500 kilometers one might encounter a unique traditional festival or little known religious practice. INTACH Chapters have greatly contributed to bring some of them to the attention of our readers.

The *Thaipusam Festival* is one such unusual festival celebrated by Tamilians mostly in Palani between the months of January-February. It commemorates goddess Parvati giving Murugan a Vel (spear) to fight the evil demon Soorapadman. Participating devotees cleanse themselves through long days of fasting and prayers, and then pierce their bodies in penance. It is also the time to experience one of the local dance forms *Kavadicavadee Attam*.

*Jallikattu*, or bull-taming is a part of *Pongal* celebrated in January. Held in some towns of Tamil Nadu like Palamedu and Alanganallur near Madurai, it was meant to be a bull cuddling sport but regretfully did not remain so. Bulls of a specific breed are often cruelly ‘instigated’ to fight rather than flight. The sport was weighed down when Supreme Court considered a ban on *Jallikattu* and bullock cart racing in Tamil Nadu citing animal welfare issues. It was strongly opposed as a traditional local practice and was scaled down. For animal lovers the dilemma still dangles by the horns of a bull! And humanity???

The *Rural Olympics* held between January-February, at Kila Raipur close to Ludhiana, is a kinder sport with bull or mule or horse cart races; *Kabbadi*, short put, tug of war are also played. Races covering 100-1500 metres, long and high jumps competitions are held. Here one also sees other unusual activities like people lifting bicycles or ladders with their teeth, pulling cars with their hair, teeth or even the ear; and daredevil stunts on bicycles and horses. These popular events have made a notable difference to the promotion of tourism in Punjab.
The Madai festival during February, a popular tribal festival, is little known to people in other parts of India. It is dedicated to the tribal goddess Kesharpalin Devi. Various ritualistic performances, folk dance and music, prayers and goat sacrifice take place. It is best seen at Narayanpur village in Kanker, held also in the Bastar and Dantewada regions later in the year during December to March.

The Sekrenyi, another festival in February is a ten day harvesting festival of the Angami Nagas. It is for purification of the soul but includes feasting, singing, merriment, several ritual performances like Kizie and Thakra Hie, and jamborees. Held at Dimapur and Kohima, the men take a bath at the village well which is later cleaned and guarded by two young Angamis till the next morning. Tribal duet songs, folk dances and music are major performances by the locals. A significant event is called ‘bridge pulling’ to encourage inter-village visits and reinforcing amity between neighbouring communities.

The Losar Festival in Ladakh is celebrated for 15 days sometime in January-March as per the lunar calendar. It is the much awaited New Year for people living in Ladakh and Tibet. Houses are decorated in bright colours to ensure well being and prosperity for its inmates, and unused items are discarded from homes as bad omens. Lavish offerings called Lama Losar are made to Goddess Palden Lhamo, considered supreme authority and protector of Dharma by monks of the Namgyal monastery. On the second day there is a gathering in the hall of Excellence of Nirvana and Samsara where greetings are exchanged between dignitaries. The third day is celebrated with grand, joyful and colourful festivities.

The Bhagoriya in March before Holi combines festivities with a particular form of tribal marriage when boys and girls are allowed to elope after choosing their partners. The Bhil and Bhilala tribe boys put red powder on the face of the girls willing to marry them and vice versa. This courting ritual is fair and square, because the girl can reject the proposal and the boy is given another chance to woo and win her heart.

Shivratri festival falls in March on full moon day. Shiva is connected with the planet Saturn. In Mandi, one of the most historic towns of Himachal Pradesh, over 200 deities from different parts of the District are carried on shoulders with
local people on foot coming from difficult remote terrains for the Shivratri Fair. It is believed that King Ajbar Sen (1499-1534) had a dream that if other side of the Beas River is dug up he would see a Shivling. When it was found exactly as he dreamt he built the Bhootnath Temple at that site. One of his successors Sura Sen (1637-1664) added the Madho Rai Temple with a replica of Vishnu who is now worshipped alongside Shiva. This year it was the Maha Shivratri celebrated across the country by worshippers of Shiva with a day of fasting (often without water), and only after evening prayers select items of food are eaten.

The Tsukhenyie is one of the least known tribal festivals of the North East celebrated between March-April by the Chakhesang Nagas and the Ao Nagas with much fanfare at Kohima. It is a crop related festival to offer gratitude for a thriving harvest season and involves a thanksgiving offering over three days. It is followed in May by the Moatsu festival in Mokokchung district of Nagaland known for peppy songs and dances and the symbolic celebration of ‘Sanpantu’ after the sowing season. One can witness some unusual ritualistic performances for which Nagaland is quite well known.

The joyful Shad Suk Myniem, also known as the Weiking, is a traditional spring dance celebrated at Shillong in April. One of the most popular dances of the Khasis, it offers prayers for a bumper harvest. It also symbolizes the fertility cult, with women as the bearer of seeds and men as cultivators. Dressed in their finery, both men and unmarried women dance to the beat of drums and pipes called Tangmuri regarded as the ‘queen’ of their musical instruments. The dance portrays the matrilineal facet of Khasi society.

The Khasis also have an important thanks-giving festival Pomblang Nongkrem after a bountiful harvest. Held 15 kms from Shillong at Smit., the capital of the Khyrim Syiemship, it is usually held in May but this year it was held in November 2019. There are prayers for peace and prosperity of their community. An important ritual is the sacrifice of goats to Syiem Khyrim, and offerings made to ancestors of the ruling clan and to the deity of Shillong for blessings and a good harvest. The male dancers in ceremonial attire form a ring in an outer circle moving vigorously back and forth to the beat of drums amidst sounds of bells, flutes and gongs. Unmarried maidens in their colourful finery with gold and silver crowns attached to plumes of yellow flowers, also dance the Ka Shad Hynthei.

Panguni Pongal in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu is a celebration of the rain Goddess Mariyamman (mari means rain and amman is mother) during the month of Panguni (April-May). It is when the sun shines at its zenith, the days are hot and a time when people can get affected by diseases like chicken pox, small pox and cholera. Rain is indispensable to abate high temperatures. The deity Mariyamma is adulated as the essential One to counter the hardships and dangers of a hot climate. She is exalted and worshipped during this festival spanning 29 days, the longest festival of Tamil Nadu.

Every June on the 10th day of the Tibetan lunar calendar, the most famous festival of the North East, the Hemis Festival at Ladakh Gompa, is held against the magnificent backdrop of the mighty Himalayas. It is celebrated by the indigenous people of Ladakh and Buddhist devotees. It is one of its kind opportunity to see the lifestyle and culture of their magical land in a colourful mood. The festival has now begun to attract Buddhist devotees from across the globe. Celebrated at Ladakh Gompa, it marks the birth anniversary of Guru Padma Sambhava, the father of
Tantric Buddhism knowledge. People everywhere are dressed up in beautiful native attire and are entertained with vibrant dances by performers in strikingly bright costumes and eye-catching masks. Traditional music on long horn drums and cymbals enhance the performances.

In Meghalaya the sowing period is also in June and celebrated with the Behdienkhlam Festival by the Jaintias and non-Christian Pnar tribes who believe in a traditional faith called Niamtre.

The festival of Pushpuni or Pausa Purnima is observed throughout western Odisha on the full moon day of the month after harvesting is over. All kinds of foods are prepared in every house hold that celebrates the occasion to the best of its ability. A peculiar feature of this celebration is that children and even grownups move from door to door in the villages and towns and beg for paddy shouting Chher-Chhera – a term in all probability evolved out of a lexical corruption of charchari meaning a festival of drum. The festival is all about eating, merrymaking and dancing to the tune of drum beats and does not have much ritualistic significance. On the day of Pushpuni the halia or labourers engaged on an annual contract are paid for seven days and get their share of the agreed share of the harvest known as nistar, and new employees collect their advance to purchase goods. The village youth draw up a programme for competition in sport, music, song etc. The entire village folk observes the festival primarily with family get-togethers and neighborly give and take; a community dinner is not uncommon.

Nag Panchami between July-August is when snakes and especially the Cobra are worshipped. It is quite a popular traditional Hindu festival held in many rural areas of India. Cobra snake idols made out of stone, wood, or silver but mostly mud, are bathed in milk and worshipped even in the humblest of homes. In some villages devotees sometimes even worship live Cobras as protectors of their fields against rodents. There are some strange legends attached to cobra worship like Kadroo, wife of Kashyapa (son of Lord Brahma), gave birth to Nagas; the more plausible legend in mythology being Takshaka, the king of snakes and his race were saved by Sarpa Satrayagna from decimation. Since
Vedic times, *Nag Panchmi* has been celebrated especially in places like Nagpur in Maharashtra, Panchmarhi in Madhya Pradesh, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, and also in rural areas of Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal and Karnataka making it a widely celebrated festival in pockets of India.

During months of July-August, a unique native festival of Nagpur called *Marbat* is celebrated on the last day of *Shraavan*. It was started in 1881 by the Teli Samaj and is reminiscent of a rich and golden heritage of the city. *Marbat* are clay idols signifying social evils and negativity, so effigies called *Kali Marbat* (literally black and evil) are taken in a procession, with devotees chanting “*Ida, Pida Gheun Jaa Ge Marbat* or *Rograi Gheun Jaa Re Marbat* - which means rid us of diseases, social evils and human miseries. Processions start from various temples and taking different routes they pass through central areas of Nagpur, to be burnt at day’s end in the Nehru Putla Square.

It signifies evil cannot survive long and good always survives. What started as a custom of the Teli community became a uniquely festive platform for raising voices to draw public attention to social issues like disease, corruption, terrorism, crime against women, even global warming. The social causes alter and new ones are targeted according to any current pressing issues. *Badgyas* i.e. mascots were introduced in the procession along with a small *Lal Marbat* to highlight chosen issues.

The *Champakulam* Boat Race held in Alappuzha district of Kerala is held yearly on Moolam day in July. It is one of the biggest sporting events of India discounting Cricket! The races test endurance, skills and speed in various events like *Chundan* (snake boat), *Churulan*, *Iruttukuthi*, *Veppu*, and others varieties of boats. The other boat race is for winning the Nehru Trophy at Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha and is held on the second Saturday of August. Prayers are also offered for peace and prosperity of the community.

Traditionally there are four fairs known as the *Kumbh Mela* but it is the one held at Allahabad in August-September.
that has become internationally known over the years. This year uncountable lakhs from all over India and overseas attended the *Maha Kumbh* and it looked like a sea of people gathered along the banks of the Ganga. Many modernised tent camps run like motels could be seen all over the adjoining grounds, This ‘great’ festival held at Prayag Triveni Sangam falls every 12 years. Allahabad Cantonment was declared out of bounds as a security measure given then preventing political fallout at our borders. There is also the *Simhastha Kumbh Mela* held rotationally at Haridwar, Nashik-Trimbakeshwar and Ujjain.

On 4th–6th days during the Gregorian calendar months of August–September, the *Tarnetar Fair* is celebrated yearly in Sundernagar District of Gujarat. It is a replica of Draupadi’s swayamvara (marriage) centered on young tribal men and women seeking marriage partners. There is a special dress code for participants with women wearing a black skirt (zimi) while prospective grooms wear colourful dhotis and artistically designed waistcoats and turbans. There is a lot of ethnic Gujarat folk dance and music to the throb of drums during this all day fest. Participants use umbrella to strike and indicate their chosen partner or someone who has caught their eye. Presumably the ‘victim’ has the choice to disappear without a smile! There is also much to shop from various stalls full of colourful clothes, handicrafts and art works for which Gujarat is well known. The festival has begun to attract many curious foreigner visitors.

*Onam* in Kerala, which falls between August to September, is the most popular festival of South India especially in Kochi. A major highlight is the *Puli Kali*, a form of folk art, dance, music and drama depicting the theme of tiger hunting that originated over 200 years ago when Cochin Maharaja decided to revive the macho spirit of the land celebrated by *Onam*. Performers painted like tigers and hunters in yellow, red and black enact their roles to the beat of instruments like Udukku and Thakli. Readymade masks, cosmetic teeth, tongues, beards and moustaches are widely available for all ages to don and play. In 2004, Pulikkali Coordination Committee was formed which now organizes grand street shows terminating at the Swaraj Round in Thrissur.

*Bihu* is among the important festivals of North East India, especially Assam where it is celebrated thrice every year. Each celebration marks a unique phase of the crop harvesting cycle. One of them is also equivalent to a New Year for the Assamese. Local delicacies are prepared, cows are worshipped, and people dressed in colourful clothes offer prayers to local Gods for a prosperous year ahead.
The *Mim Kut* in Mizoram is a festival held between August and September after harvesting maize. It is a colourful and musical fiesta with various folk performances. It has become a major attraction for travellers who like to enjoy a hearty tribal meal and sip mugs of local beer made out of rice. Similar tribal festivals in Mizoram are the *Chapchar Kut*, *Thalfiawng Kut* and the *Pawl Kut*.

Gurugram, Haryana has its own popular festival called *Gugga Naumi* falling in August–September. In reverence to snakes, fairs are held in all the surrounding villages around Gugga shrines and local people even go looking for snake holes to place buttermilk and a sweet dish called ‘*sewian*’.

Telangana has many festivals, a major one is *Baathukamma* during Dassera. Each household makes its own seven-tiered floral offering signifying Durga often foraged from the forests by men folk. On *Dasami* day it is floated in the local water tank lit with a lamp and songs are sung by women folk moving in a musical circle. *Bonalu* is another woman oriented festival to the goddess Kaali, a thanksgiving as it is believed she once eradicated a deadly plague. It is celebrated in Hyderabad and Secunderabad with a lot of music, dancing and loud drums. It is best known for the *Rangam* where an oracle speaks about the future of the denizens of the twin city. The Telangana Muharram known as *Peerla Panduga*, is a somber occasion when Alam is worshipped in Sufi shrines. It is taken to households for donations and then the entire village gets together to cook and share a meal. The *Kondagutta Jathara* is an annual festival held at Anjaneya Swamy Temple with special prayers offered to Hanuman and a ‘*deeksh*’ ritual for 45 days.

The *Thimithi Festival* held all over Tamil Nadu between October–November is an unusual fire walking festival. It is carried out as a religious vow in exchange for the blessings of Draupadi, wife of the Pandava brothers of epic Mahabharata. Prior to the festivity a silver chariot procession commemorates the victory of the five Pandavas. Several scenes are enacted by devotees and drama troupes, as well as ritual performances like an imitation of sacrificing a *Hijra* (now surely questionable), prayers to Periyachi and a milk bath for Mariamman.

*Tulsi Vivaah* is the ceremonial marriage of the Tulsi plant to the Hindu god Shaligram or Vishnu or his avatar Sri Krishna. According to the scriptures a woman devotee of Vishnu, named Brinda/Vrinda, is synonymous with Tulsi. It signifies the end of monsoons and the on-start of the wedding season. A ceremonial festival is performed anytime between Prabodini Ekadashi, 11th or 12th
lunar day of the Hindu month of Kartik Poornima, (full moon period). Tulsi leaves are also used in many religious ceremonies. Tulsi is a common plant in courtyards of many homes in all States as it has medicinal properties and is even used with tea leaves.

The Palnati Veerula Utsavam is held in the months November-December on Kartika amavasya in Karpampudi Village of Guntur District, Karnataka. It is a war memorial to mark the famous Palanati Yudham, a battle fought between brothers Nalagama Raju and Malideva Raju in 1182 AD led by a Brahmin Naidu on one side and the victorious side by Nagamma. The temple priest hosts a flag to mark the commencement of the festival. Weapons of the departed warriors are taken to the banks of the Naguleru River, cleaned and decorated with sindhubaram, turmeric, and new clothes and taken in procession covering all streets of the village. Several cultural events like street plays like Oggu-katha or Burra-katha featuring swords and weapons are held in the night to relive the Palnadu war and events and remember their forefathers who were part of that war.

The tradition of cock fighting is another feature of the village with people from surrounding villages participating as it is regarded as a holy event. The cocks are assembled at a site known as kodi-poru and an ‘unholy’ fierce fight is conducted under surveillance of village heads and the temple priest.

A kinder festival is the Sajja-Boorela - offering food to stray dogs. People wake up early and go in search of dogs carrying sweets made of bajra. They believe that the souls of their forefathers come in the form of dogs to accept their offerings – a long standing tradition that continues to this day. Dogs have a special position as Bhairava, a fierce manifestation of Shiva who had a dog as a vahana (vehicle), and Yama the god of death owned two dogs guarding the gates of Narak Lok, the Hindu concept of hell.

The Hampi Utsav is celebrated in the first week of November at this World Heritage Site, Vijayanagar, Karnataka.

It showcases the rich architectural wealth and traditions of 'Kannadiga' history. The main festivities take place at the intricately carved Virupakshi Temple against the backdrop of a plethora of carved ruins of this World Heritage Site.

During the festival streets are lined with elephants and horses, and the sounds of drums and pipes resonate everywhere. The whole town of Vijayanagar is also energized with multiple events. Traditional musical presentations, light and
sound shows, puppet shows, decorated elephants, colourful handicrafts, leather puppet shows, colourful gopuras, etc are to be seen along with people shopping everywhere.

The Jumbo Savari with elephants, and men on horse backs dressed as soldiers of medieval times, are reminiscent of Karnataka’s military past, and a delight to watch with fireworks lighting up the sky. The Janapada Kalavahini is a folk song concert and there are many other performances by renowned Indian dancers and vocalists. Rural sports, rock climbing, puppet shows are recent additions.

The Hornbill Festival celebrated in North East India is another unique event where visitors get unique glimpses of their food, music, dances and customs. Held in Nagaland in early December, participation is almost mandatory for every Naga as it is for protection of their rich ethnic culture. It is a visual delight and increasingly attracting visitors as one of the best known festivals of the region.

The Wangla Festival in the winter months between September-December is celebrated for 2-3 days by the Garos who call themselves Achiks, an indigenous tribe of Meghalaya (the Abode of Clouds) to coincide with their Jhum cultivation. The people are believed to be descendants of Tibeto-Burman or Mongloid races originating from Tibet, but now inhabitants of Khasi Hills, Nagaland, West Bengal and Bangladesh. They celebrate this hundred drums festival at Tura, the district headquarters of West Garo Hills, in thanksgiving to the Sun God of fertility known as Misi Saljong or Great Giver to acknowledge blessings for a good harvest. Dressed in colourful attires called Dakmanda, Daksari or Gando with feathered head gear they dance in two parallel lines to the beat of indigenous musical instruments, and gongs and flutes made out of buffalo horns while talking in singing style.

West Bengal perhaps is one State with a year full of its own localized festivals. There is the Gajon Utsab in April when people undertake penance through rituals and undertake severe punishments like piercing the tongue elevating people of lower echelon of society to be Shiva ‘bhakts’ (worshippers); the Baba Parab spring festival when the Chief Priest goes door to door to bless everyone; the Tusu Parab when unmarried girls sing to the goddess Tusu; the Bhadu Parab remembering princess Bhadravati who disappeared without a trace when she was not allowed to marry a commoner; the Jamai Utsav when sons-in-law are honoured by the bride’s parents; Bhajo Utsav in the month
of Aug.-Sept.; the *Bera Utsab* in September on the banks of the Ganga in Murshidabad introduced by the Nawabs; the popular *Manasar Jhapan* to please the snake goddess; the harvesting *Nabanna Utsab* in November; the *Dharma Thaku Utsab* originating in Buddhism. They have all been exhaustively compiled by State Convenor GM Kapur, however only a very few are mentioned in this Virasat.

*Muharram*, one of the four sacred months, is marked with processions in August or September by the Shia Muslims. The *Banbibi, Dakkhin Roy* and *Gazi Bara Khan* festivals are observed by the people of Sunderbans. They worship tigers to save themselves from all the prowling dangers – to mention just a few festivals of West Bengal.

The most important and widely known festival of West Bengal of course is *Durga Puja* celebrated by Bengalis wherever settled in India. Each pandal of Maa Durga is an elaborate work of art over many days, and is visited by all communities as it is also a great time for gorging on Bengali delicacies. Delhiites of all communities flock to Chittaranjan Park as it transforms itself into mini Kolkata during Durga Puja.

*Torgya* is a special monastic festival of Arunachal Pradesh celebrated on 28th November every year for three full days in the courtyard of the Tawang Monastery. Rich colours everywhere symbolize this festival and are believed to chase out the evil spirits and usher in prosperity with plentiful crops. The main attraction is a traditional monastic dance called *Chham* performed to the throbbing music of huge drums and cymbals, and the blowing of gigantic telescopic horns and clarinets, making it a mesmerizing sight.

Bundelkhand Chapter brings forth a festive tradition of thousand years ago known as *Katki Mela* celebrated at Neelkanth Temple, in Kalinjar Fort on Kartik Purnima in November. Crowds assemble in huge numbers from all
corners of Bundelkhand. It is believed that Krishna and Radha danced the Rasa, and Krishna worshiped Radha on this full moon day *Kartik Purnima*. It is also known as *Deva-Diwas* and *Tripur Purnima* deriving its name from the demon Tripurasura whose destruction by Shiva overjoyed the gods. It is also the birthday of *Matsya*, god Vishnu’s fish incarnation. A philanthropic act on this day is supposed to reap blessings equivalent of ten ‘yagnas’. Indian legends are full of such asides to overcome human frailty and lead a moral and pious Life!

*Kartik Purnima*, also known as *Tripuri Purnima and Deva-Diwal*, is a Hindu, Sikh and Jain cultural festival celebrated on full moon day or fifteenth lunar day of Kartik (Nov.-Dec.). It derives its name from legends denoting three demon sons of Tarakasura. Tripurari is an epithet of god Shiva. *Kartik Purnima* is also the birthday of Matsya, god Vishnu’s fish incarnation. There are many such confusing legends attached to festivals but induce respect and the belief that any philanthropic act on this day is supposed to bring as many benefits and blessings one gets by performing through ten ‘yagnas’!

Olasuni Mela

The Olasuni Hillock, in Jajpur District covers 22 kilometers from Daitari to Paradip in Chandikhole district of Jajpur. It is surrounded by five hillocks Landa, Parabhadi, Rigidii, Gangi and Lalitagiri-Sukhuapada famous for Buddhist ruins. The hillock, named after the Buddhist Goddess *Prajnaparamita* later came to be known as *Ohalasuni* or *Olasuni*. Probably during the 2nd/1st century B.C. it was a Buddhist site and later Brahmanical influence turned it to a place of Hindu worship in the 12th-13th century. It was famous as the sacred *Olasuni Pitha* for Hindu devotees but was abandoned for centuries and turned into a jungle until it was converted to *Omkara Santha Abadhuta Pitha* in the late 18th century by the great saint Mahapurusa Arakshita Das.
The famous *Gumpha Yatra* started to honour Saint Arakhita Das, who had his *mahaprayana* in Magha (January-February) Krishna Ekadashi (11th day of the dark fortnight). The hill top of seven acres has a large number of natural cave temples to which people flock by the thousands in devotion to the Saint who preached *sunyata* (void) and non-existence of God, and no discrimination in food or rituals. So people offer Him non-vegetarian food like dried fish, meat, *poda pitha* (fried cake) and even liquor. People enjoy this unique seven day festival. The present *Mahanta* or caretaker Namananda Das is in charge of managing this unique festival. A magazine is also published with articles on cultural aspects of the place.

**Pushpuni**

The former Patna State or present Balangir of Odisha is the seat of an ancient civilization since prehistoric times. Its many fairs and festivals give it a distinct socio-cultural identity. The culture of this region is tribal based folk culture. The interactions, between the tribals and non-tribals today have brought about a fusion of two cultures manifest in the amusement and ceremonies in the district.

The co-existence of Brahmanical and tribal culture led to an interaction between the two and people of all sects living side by side with cultural interaction. The air of spontaneous human fellowship and vital shared living unconcerned with loss or gain, past and future is a laudable facet of this festival.

**Vrat-Alpna**

*Vrat* or fasting as part of religious act is practised widely in West Bengal by women folk especially by the rural agrarian society of yesteryears. It has survived the passage of time and the socio-economic re-ordering. Family-cum-societal goals were behind the sacral activities and each *vrat* was associated with multi-sensory aspects: visuals, verses, aroma, etc. The traditional Bengal ‘*alpna*’ i.e. folk art or ritual decoration of sacred motifs was geometrical or fluid non-geometrical patterns, made with rice powder and applied on the floor with cotton. Research literature can be found on *Vrats* with detailed documentation of every aspect of the socio-cultural-cum-religious rituals.
Lore, legend, myth, belief are associated with them. The alpna shows all components of the vrat—plants, birds, animals and Yama’s Mother. A small water-pool is dug in the courtyard and plants like caladium, banana and paddy are planted. Clay idols of birds and animals are kept. An idol of Yama’s mother is made and also kept beside the pool. Before sunrise, ladies used to listen to the recitation usually done by an elderly family member. The clay idols were fed water with Doob grass. Magh-Mandal Vrat is marked from January to mid-February and Tara Vrat in the evening for a whole month. It is a kind of Sun worship, primarily for the fertility of the soil.

Natai Chandi (Durga)Vrat is marked in the month Agrahayana during mid November to mid December.

Lakshme-Narayan Vrat is marked throughout the year on Thursdays. Seasonal special occasions are the Full Moon night of Ashwin and other months to please Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth and peace in the house.

Thakurani Jatra

Thakurani Yatra of Berhampur Town, Ganjam, Odisha is the most important festival celebrated over 40-45 days every alternate year. Large number of devotees offer prayers, and some come from neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal for traditional puja to the goddess Maa Thakurani. Hence it is known as Viswa Prasiddha Thakurani Yatra of Berhampur. Ganjam is considered the centre of Shakti Pujas, and the main one of Maa Budhi Thakurani Temple considered as life force. The Mother Goddess visits every street and place of the town to give darshan to the masses.

It is really a miracle to witness how the Thakurani Maa converts herself in full blossom Eetimala flower and the Holy Pot remains fresh and fragrant for more than a month till the end of the festival.

Ashoka Ashtami

Ashoka Ashtami is an auspicious Hindu festival celebrated with great fervor in Bhubaneswar, devoted to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. According to the Hindu calendar it is observed on the ‘Ashtami’ (8th day) during the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon) in the month of ‘Chaitra’ corresponding to March–April according to Gregorian calendar. It is believed Lord Rama completed the Ashoka Ashtami rituals before starting the final attack on Ravana. It is famous at the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and marks the triumph of good over evil.

It is said that Lingaraj’s (11th century) Rath Yatra is older than Puri Jagannath’s (12th century) Rath Yatra. Lingaraj temple was built by Somvanshi dynasty (Shaivite) which later got influenced by Eastern Ganga dynasty rulers (Vaishnavite)
who made certain changes to the temple architecture. On the day of *Ashokashtami* three deities – Chandrasekhar (the representative of Lingaraja where it remains for four days), Rukmini and Vasudeva are ceremonially brought to ascend the chariot drawn to Rameswara Temple called *Gundicha Ghar*. Parvati comes on the third day to express her indignation, as she was not allowed to accompany her consort in the chariot. On the fifth day, the three deities together start the return journey called *Babuda*.

**Nrusimha Leela Utsava**, Gangdhar (District Jhalawar, Rajasthan)

Gangdhar, a historic city situated in Jhalawar district, was known as Gargatapur in ancient days. A petrograph/manuscript on stone of 480 era was found and kept in the Jhalawar District museum. It describes the establishment of a Vishnu temple here.

The Lord Narasimha is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu as mentioned in the ancient religious texts and is seen as half man- half animal (lion), with lion-like face and claws. To save his devotee Prahlad, he killed his father Hiranyakashyap by taking the form of Narasimha.

The *Nrusumba Leela Utsav* is celebrated twice a year in Gangdhar town of Jhalawar on *Ram Navami of Chaitra Shukla Paksha*. After *aarti* at noon, there is a chariot procession with Raja Dasharatha and his two queens Sumitra and Kaikei. At Chawri Bazaar there is a play showing 24 *avatars* of Vishnu. A person on tip toes, wearing a 100 years old *Nrusimha* mask in *Varaha avatar* and runs for 200 metres and kills Hiranyakashyp to save Prahlad, a devotee of Vishnu. Local people are gathered around the site to see the play of Hirnyakashyap with Vishnu in the role of Nrusimha. On the next day *Ravana* is set aflame. It is followed by *Pashu mela* at Chawmela town.
**Sitalsasthi**

*Sitalsasthi* is held in June when temperatures are unbearably hot, to celebrate the marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati. Shiva represents sky, and Parvati the earth, and when they come together it brings rain. Prayers are offered to welcome the rains so that the parched earth cools down. The marriage is fixed after negotiation as in society, and the ceremony performed as per tradition. Each year a couple is chosen to take Sita home as a daughter after considerable negotiations, the person bringing Parvati does the *kanyadan*. Hanuman or Narasingha visits all temples in his *vimana* (chariot) to invite the Gods and Goddesses to witness the wedding.

On the day of marriage Shiva comes in *barat* procession. The next day Shiva and Parvati return to the temple in a procession that starts at midnight and continues for 16 hours. Beautifully decorated *vimanas* (chariots), and tabloids with social and spiritual messages are paraded in the fair amidst great fanfare, with tabloids and performances by thousands of artistes. There are more than five thousand dancers performing a variety of folk and modern dances from different places of the country. It is the second biggest carnival of Odisha.

**Raja Doli**

*Raja Doli* is one of the most important festivals of Bhadrak District. The *Raja Doli Geeta* is sung by teenage girls on the swings hung from the branches of a tree during this agricultural festival of mid June. It is believed that mother earth mensurates during these three days and hence land should not be ploughed. The bullocks thus get rest for three days having worked hard during cultivation period. Farmer believe that people must rest as well as the land till the next cultivation. Young people partake varieties of cakes prepared at home and go around chewing beetle, and enjoying different indoor and outdoor games during this agricultural festival of mid June.

**Mangala Gauri**

This is a tradition practiced on a large scale across Maharashtra, every Tuesday in auspicious month of Shravan when newly married women come together to perform *Pooja* to goddesses Mangala Gauri offering flowers, leaves, etc. and *Naivedyam of Puran Poli* during lunchtime. In the evening women gather together and play traditional games like *fugdi*, *pinga*, etc. and sing traditional folk songs. Next day in the morning they perform *aarti* of the goddesses.
**Bihula-Bishabari**

*Bihula-Bishabari* festival is a well-known festival of eastern Bihar and is famous in Bhagalpur district and observed in the month of August. The devotees of Bhagalpur pray to Goddess *Mansa* for the health of their families. The festival patronizes Manjusha art on par with the well-known arts of Bihar like the *Jadopetiya* of Santhal Parganas, and the *Madhubani* paintings of Mithilanchal.

Mansa Devi, is a Hindu folk goddess of snakes, worshipped mainly in Bengal and other parts of eastern and north-eastern India, chiefly for the prevention and cure of snakebite and also for fertility and prosperity. Mansa is the sister of Vasuki, king of Nāgas (snakes) and wife of sage Jagatkāru (Jaratkāru). Mansa is also known as Vishahara (the destroyer of poison). Mansa is depicted as kind to her devotees, but harsh to people who refused to worship her. Denied full godhead by her mixed parentage, Mansa’s aim was to establish her authority as a goddess and acquire steadfast human devotees. Mansa was originally an Adivasi (tribal) goddess, and was accepted in the pantheon later worshipped by lower caste groups, and the higher caste. In the 14th century, Mansa was identified as the goddess of fertility and marriage rites and assimilated into the Shaiva pantheon as a daughter of Shiva. Her cult began to rival Shaivism itself and grew and spread to Southern India.

**Nuakhai**

In the 17th century Sambalpur comprised 18 tributary states paying homage to the Supreme Deity *Samaleswari*, the presiding deity of Sambalpur. People believed Goddess Laxmi resides in food grains and for this grace Man must ensure that new grain is first offered to God or Goddess. After fall of Sambalpur Empire the British signed individual agreements with the kingdoms and they started to celebrate *Nuakhai* on separate days according to the auspicious time calculated on the basis of different presiding deities of different places. In 1991 a socio-cultural organization *Odisha Sanskrutika Samaj* organized a meeting of eminent pundits and people of Western Odisha who decided to celebrate *Bhadrava Suklapakhya Panchami*, the day after *Ganesh puja*. Ever since *Nuakhai* has been celebrated on this specific day with *Kheer* and different cakes mixed with new rice offered to the presiding deity by the eldest member of the family and *prasad* is distributed, with younger people seeking *Nuakhai Juhar* - the blessings of their elders. Later there are sporting events with married and unmarried competing with each other. Evening cultural performances are organized like traditional *Sambalpuri*. 
Baba Farid Aagman Purb

This mela is celebrated locally in Faridkot for the last 20 years to recall 12th Century Sufi Saint Baba Sheikh Farid’s visit to the city on his way to Delhi from Pakpatan. The Mela is inaugurated with recitation of paath of Sukhmani Sahib in Baba Farid Gurudwara in front of the Quila Mubarak. Various activities, Cultural, Social, Literary, are organized – in forms of Kavi Darbar, drama and heritage exhibition with sports activities and Blood Donation Camp, etc. every year. The Mela concludes with a religious procession on last day 23rd September

Bhondla

Another tradition is Bhondla or Hadga is celebrated in the month of Ashwin. This festival is connected to nature and is celebrated during Hasta Nakshatra. The statue of an elephant is placed in the center for worship. Ladies of all age groups hold hands and go around the elephant image singing traditional songs, some are playful in nature. In the olden days, this festival used to be celebrated in every household. Today it is celebrated commonly on large grounds.

Bali Jatra, Cuttack

Kartik Purnima is an auspicious day in the Hindu calendar. It’s also the day on which Guru Nanak was born. In the wee hours of the night/morning, Odia women, especially the married ones, go to the nearest water holes and sail paper boats with lamps lit in them. It is a symbolic ritual - the Sadhabapua setting sail to distant lands for trade and cultural exchanges in the ancient times. Bali Jatra literally means a voyage to Bali, the gateway to Java, Sumatra, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. On the banks of river Mahanadi in Cuttack after sailing of boats, Boita Bandana, a fair of impressive proportions comes into life and continues for more than a week. Maritime history of Kalinga sailors is traceable in the islands of Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia. Bali Jatra is being observed since 1515. Odia leader Biju Patnaik took the initiative to revive the age old relationship with Bali and other Indonesian islands and retrace the ancient trade route in 1992/93. Lakhs of people now visit the fair with police controlling the crowd.
Jhumar

*Jhumar* dance and songs of Mayurbhanj are a mixture of colloquial Oriya, Bengali, Hindi, Maithili and Nagpuria. *Jhumar* is inter-linked with *Chhau* dances and is performed by female dancers mainly in song form. The two forms of *Jhumar* are a single lady dancing called ‘Nachuni’ or a group one called ‘Panta’. The main element of the song is the rhythmical ‘Swara Pradhan’. Lyrics describe the love of Radha and Krishna, the melodies are about separation from beloved one from mythological stories. Dancing of 10 to 15 maidens in a circle to the rhythm of *Jhumar Taal* and holding one another is called *Panta Naach*. Male folks sing *Jhumar* songs and play *dhol*, *maadal* and flute while the women dance to the *taal* with their feet in unison forming a chain and enchanting the audience. Local folks of Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal used to practise *Jhumar* songs and dance with flute, *dhol* and other instruments to overcome boredom and monotony after days arduous work. Beginning with the 18th century Rajas Maharajas and *zamindars* became so charmed by the language, sweet tunes and dances of *Jhumar* that they began to patronise it and paved the way for its recognition in upper level of society.

INTACH Founder Pupul Jayakar described India as “*a proud possessor of a cornucopia of cultural and natural heritage … passed down through the generations*”. The celebrations of Festivals at least do not need many arguments for conservation and preservation as they have been protected by people through timeless years, and will continue to be celebrated in all times to come by the life force and faith of our people. That is Forever India!

**LET US CELEBRATE ALL FESTIVALS WITHOUT LITTERING THE EARTH!**

**UNUSUAL INDIAN RITUALS**

Marriages in India are sacramental ceremonies, but they also have euphoric value for families and their communities. Indian weddings are known for their extravagance, almost marking the family’s social position in society. Each sect however has its own unique customs and traditions for conducting the nuptial ceremonies. In the case of inter-caste marriages that are becoming common today, it is not surprising if the groom and bridegroom undergo two ceremonies to the satisfaction of both families’ traditional customs. Each component of the ceremonies have a traditional meaning, and often a story behind them. While some evoke sentimentality or bring tears to some eyes, others evoke laughter and fun like the couple struggling
to get hold of the ring buried in a large bowl of rice after the ceremonies. Perhaps to get them better acquainted after an arranged marriage. There is always a story behind every custom which perhaps very old grandmothers might tell!

Wedding dates are usually chosen not on the basis of mutually convenient dates, but on the basis of the astrological reading and finding a mutually compatible date according to horoscopes of the groom and bride. If not compatible, one of the most unusual rituals is first marrying the bride to a tree. It is believed that a woman born with the combination of Mars and Saturn in the 7th house of her horoscope, is a Manglik that might impact the life span of her husband. To ward off that danger, the bride is therefore first married to a tree which is later destroyed!

The Sindhi wedding has a strange ritual called Saanth. It is performed before the wedding ceremony. An anklet is tied on the right foot of the bride and the groom by a priest. Seven married women pour oil on their heads, after which they wear new shoes and break an earthen pot. The groom’s relatives then tear off his clothes to ward off the evil eye as a good omen for the marriage. One might well ask why not even a bit the bride’s apparel?

The Biharis have a very curious post wedding ritual. The newly wed bride is made to grapple with an earthen pot on her head. The already nervous bride is sometimes laden with a set of pots by her mother-in-law, which she must balance while bowing to the elders for taking their blessings! The number of pots she manages to balance are an indicator of her skills to maintain a harmonious balance in her new family. Quite unfair – unless it can symbolize ‘breaking her into the family’ on a fun note!

In a Manipuri wedding, a woman each from the groom’s family and the bride’s side, release a Taki fish in a pond. It is a good omen of a harmonious marriage if the two fish swim side by side in the water. One wonders what happens if they don’t! The couple may still live happily ever after! Perhaps only single morsel of food for two fish might do the trick.

In the small town of Sarsaul of Uttar Pradesh, tribal weddings have a candidly funny ritual in their weddings. The groom and his baraat are welcomed with potatoes and tomatoes (presumably not aimed at their heads) instead of the usual aarti and garlands. And what is more, they are greeted by a round of abuses based on an age old belief that a relationship that begins on a sour note always culminates in a loving one.

Some ancient tribes go a step further and believe in abduction as a ritual of weddings. The man is supposed to carry away his lady on his back and keep her hidden for a year, presumably symbolically. After that, a normal ceremony is carried out with the consent of the bride’s family. One wonders if this is a test for compatibility. And what happens if they are not compatible?

In Karnataka no such option is left open in some families. The day the bride enters the grooms’s house, her one foot is poised on the wooden threshold of the entrance door, and a nail is placed between her big toe and the next toe, and the nail is hammered down firmly into the wooden threshold of many old houses in
villages and towns. It signifies that from that day forward she is bound forever to that home and family. It is a happy welcoming ceremony by the groom’s family but she also bows on her knees in obeisance to all the elders! She then kicks across the a pot containing rice signifying that home will never lack food and plenty.

There are also many other rituals unrelated to marriage.

Temples in South India serve *prasadam* that is eaten traditionally on a plantain leaf sitting cross legged. In *Made Snana*, devotees finish eating the food and lie on the ground rolling on top of the left-overs on their plantain leaf for good health and believe it will relieve them of all health issues. In the Jangam *maths* of Karnataka, food is served in a *thali* and after eating the meal disciples symbolically wash their hands in the *thali* and imbibe the water as every grain is considered a *prasad* from the Gods of that *Math*.

In Maharashtra and also Allahabad, the prospective groom and bride promise to spend not one but seven lives together strengthened by the *Veni Daan* during the wedding ceremony. It is often followed with a big *puja* held at Triveni Sangam with the bride dressed in traditional attire. After the ceremony the bride sits on her husband’s lap and he cuts off a tuft of her hair that is offered to the river to ensure prosperity and happiness of their family.

An absolutely fool hardy ritual in parts of Karnataka and Maharashtra is baby tossing. It entails the father scaling temple wall or stairs with a baby in hand or tied to his back. The baby is handed over to men at the top, who swing the baby back and forth and drop it 10-15 metres towards the ground where another group of men holding a blanket await to receive the child. It is said to make babies stronger and healthier. The child must be less than 2 years old – otherwise perhaps there would certainly be loud wails of protest!

Legend has it that the British colonizers wanted to construct a railway track by demolishing a temple. The villagers strongly opposed it. It so happened that 187 coconut-shaped stones had been recently retrieved from the river near the temple. The British challenged the locals, and said that if they could break all the stones on their head, the railway line would not be built. The villagers miraculously succeeded. Since that day, during the *Aadi* festivals, people still line up outside the temple where priests break coconuts on their heads – and the practice continues despite some grave injuries and medical warnings!

Trees, flowers and fruits are a part of Hindu rituals, and certain gods have their favourites. The most mythical tree of course is *Soma* used by Aryan to make hallucinatory drink, mentioned in the Rigveda. The most common sight outside many temples is the Peepal/Banyan tree for people to wrap threads praying for their wishes to be fulfilled.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman LK Gupta, presided over the Executive Committee meeting on 18th November. It was attended by Vice Chairman Dr. Saryu Doshi and Member Secretary CT Misra. Four other Members, Professor Deepak Nayyar, Lalit Surjan, M Gopala Krishna and Dharmendra Kanwar were able to attend the meeting.

Chairman greeted the Committee Members, specially welcoming the new Member Sujata Shankar attending the Executive Committee Meeting for the first time.

Chairman briefed the Members about his visit to Maharashtra and Pune Chapters. He was pleased to bring to their attention that both Maharashtra and Pune Chapters are operating in a self sustaining manner.

Chairman informed that the Central Office had not effected any curtailment in its range of activities though its income for the year 2018-2019 had been curtailed due to rental issues. However it was able to add Rs. 2.48 crore to the Corpus.

INTACH has permitted UK Chapter Convenor Mrs. Mallya to close the INTACH UK Chapter as per her request due to personal constraints. Chairman mentioned that there had been no particular activity either. Overseas Chapters are controlled by their respective country’s laws and it is often problematic to manage such Chapters from Central Office. Furthermore, INTACH would be liable to bear the cost of any financial or administrative lapses committed by the said Chapter. If Members are able to suggest an appropriate person who can take on the responsibility to head the UK Chapter, the matter is open to reconsideration.

Members were informed of Member Secretary CT Misra’s suggestion to Director IPS Academy Hyderabad to include a module on heritage in their training programme on the same pattern recommended to the IAS Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration in Mussoorie.

Members were also told that the Ministry of External Affairs had approved the signing of a partnership between MEA and INTACH for Design and Project Management Consultancy Services for Conservation Work of eleven earthquake affected cultural heritage sites in Nepal.

Members were informed that the Government of Maharashtra has included the name and activities of INTACH as a heritage conservation body along with ASI in their school text books.

Member Secretary mentioned that the first Convocation of students completing the IHA Post Graduate course was being held later that day with Dr. Karan Singh as the Chief Guest. A new batch of 10 persons had also been enrolled for the second course commencing on 19th August 2020.

It was brought to the notice of Members that the Nagaland Chapter is coordinating a Rice Festival of the North Eastern States and some South East Asian countries sometime in February 2020. The North Eastern Council, Sangeet Natak Academy, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts and other concerned organizations are being requested to sponsor the event.

The Prime Minister released a Coffee Table Book for the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration on 31st October, on the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadia in Rajpipla, Gujarat where a gigantic Statue of Unity has been recently erected.

The Belgium Chapter has long been involved in the Lost Garden Project in Khajuraho for many years. Discussions have been held with its Convenor regarding the less than satisfactory outcome. PD NHD and Khajuraho Convenor will be preparing a status note on the project to be placed before the Executive Committee at its next meeting for appropriate decision on the matter.

With reference to Reporting Matters, new Member Sujata Shankar requested that the work undertaken by AHD at Barsana Baoli be shared with her. She also requested that a Disaster Management Plan for the National Museum be made available to her.

Salient features of INTACH audited accounts for the financial year 2018-19 were discussed. MS touched on the self-generated/sponsored projects implemented by some of the INTACH Divisions and Chapter audited accounts.
The Finance Committee has approved the appointment of auditor Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyer & Co. for INTACH Accounts for the year 2019-20.

It was announced that the 35th Annual General Meeting will be held on 21st March 2020, in Delhi.

**GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

The Governing Council met on 9th December with twenty three Members present and others granted leave of absence due to prior commitments. Chairman extended a special welcome to invitee Ms. Srivastava who owns a large number of heritage properties.

Chairman informed the Members that the last 9 months have been a very busy period for the organization. Chapters had successfully undertaken a diverse range of heritage awareness activities and new initiatives.

Of special note is the interest shown by the Ministry of External Affairs in utilizing INTACH expertise in heritage conservation and training in Nepal. INTACH is also being consulted on a range of heritage matters and investing professional effort and time to fulfill what it considered an obligation.

A grant of Rs. 30 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Department of Science & Technology for research on wood, and forest of its kind. Similarly the ICI Lime Centre at Lucknow, an outcome of INTACH’s first research project, is now being consulted by ASI and architects. The conservation of the landmark Flora Fountain in Mumbai using new steam technology to remove 25 layers of paint, cement etc. has been an outstanding work that was brought to the attention of UNESCO. The work of the Natural Heritage Division, through many projects undertaken by it, has succeeded in getting CSR funding for conservation of water, biodiversity projects and planting of trees.

Chairman drew attention of the Governing Council Members to some of the outstanding work done by Chapters. The Bengaluru Chapter published an outstanding book, with a historical inscription dating to circa 890 AD, located in the Panchlingeshwara Temple. Nilgiri Chapter mobilized local citizens for cleaning up the Coonoor River. Salem Chapter has initiated efforts to revive the Vashishtha riverine system. Hyderabad Chapter organized a workshop with heritage property owners and support of UNESCO Delhi regarding real estate value, unfriendly legislation and their concerns. INTACH and its work has even found mention in a school text book for 10th Standard.

Chairman made special mention of the painstaking efforts made by Shri Upadhyaya, in collating a compendium of Heritage Laws in India, and significant rulings given by the Supreme Court and some High Courts.

Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra welcomed the Members, in particular the Government officials, attending the meeting. The Government is now consulting INTACH quite extensively on a number of policy issues related to heritage, tourism and culture. In particular Members were apprised of the recent agreement between the Ministry of External Affairs and INTACH which will be funded by MEA for the conservation work of 11 earthquake affected cultural heritage sites in Nepal.

Member Secretary was informed about the sustained Capacity Building Workshops being held at INTACH Central Office periodically to build up a second line of INTACH leadership at Chapter level. Chairman added that a workshop had also been conducted for the architects and engineers of the Eastern Command Headquarters in Kolkata for the first time and signified a notable breakthrough in promoting heritage awareness in the armed forces.

Members were also updated on audited accounts for the year 2018-19, self generated/sponsored projects implemented by the Divisions and the considerably reduced FCRA funding.

Members were requested to give their suggestions on enhancing the work of INTACH. One of the suggestions made was to extend the Disaster Management Plan for the National Museum to other major museums in the country. A suggestion was made to take up listing of historical towns and villages including cultural landscapes. Another was to make a heritage impact study on new developments being mooted in and around the iconic Central Vista, Delhi. The Ministry of Culture is re-looking at these issues.

The date for 35th Annual General Meeting and election to the Governing Council was announced to the Governing Council and earlier to the Executive Committee as Saturday 21st March 2020.
RIVER ISLANDS

As streams get braided, the land masses between the channels are isolated from the banks and can be termed as ‘riverine islands’. Often these are of a fairly large size. Being cut off from human intervention, these islands have a landscape of wild vegetation which serves as a habitat for wild life as well as a corridor for wildlife moving from one bank to the other in search of food or to escape predators.

India’s high man land ratio and low employment opportunities is mounting pressure on riverine islands. It is effecting change of land use from wilderness to cultivated area and from public domain to private lands.

There is a need to preserve these wildlife refuges. The MoEF and Ministry of Jal Shakti therefore need to come up with a robust policy for protecting such islands as nature reserves.

GANGA BASIN

Excessive water extraction is killing our rivers. The real problem is anaemic flows, whereas the focus is all on addressing pollution which is centered around the main towns. Improvement in flows can restore the aquatic life, dilute pollution, enable transport by barges, thus revive livelihoods and life and relationship with the rivers.

A map of the Ganga basin prepared by NH Division shows all structures (hydroelectric projects, barrages, weirs, dams) on the main stem of the river, and all tributaries along with their coordinates. The picture reveals that there are almost a 1000 interventions from where the Ganga bleeds, and it is understood that there are plans for another 400. Most of the water thus extracted goes for irrigation. NHD’s programme for sustainable water conserving agriculture shows that 30% water reduction in irrigation is guaranteed and more may be possible.
Dense vegetation on River Island

Barasingha use Island for crossing from Jhilmil Reserve to wild area on right bank

At the urban level, there is a need to look at demand reduction. A simple idea in the context of Delhi can be replicated anywhere.

NCT Delhi, with an approximate population of 20 million (4 million households with an average 2 taps including non-domestic taps) will have 8 million taps. At an assumed average 5 minutes operation per tap daily with a flow of 10 litres per minute, each tap discharges 50 litres per day. At city level this amounts to 50 x 8 million or 400 MLD (million litres a day). A simple easy-to-do-it device in the tap nozzle can reduce the flow by 70%. At Delhi level this amounts to saving of 280 MLD or 61 MGD valued at Rs. 28 lakhs per day.

The device costs Rs. 10/- a piece and can be installed in matter of minutes. The recommendation is that NCT Delhi may test the device and thereafter undertake a programme of mass installation at Government cost. This programme may cost around Rs. 10 crore spread over 2-3 years. Any city can do the same with significant results.

Such savings in agriculture and urban areas can enable the commissioning of several dams and barrages which are interrupting the lateral connectivity of our rivers. More water in our rivers means healthier rivers.

INTACH supported local groups and others in rejuvenating and enlarging a small water body known as Roop
Sarovar at Malajal, Tilwara in Western Rajasthan. Creating rain fed water bodies in the Thar is a low cost high return environmental venture. This year's rains were kind and the water body is playing host to 4000 Demoiselle Cranes which have flown in along the Central Asian Flyway, all the way from China and Mongolia, crossing the Himalayas at heights of up to 26,000 ft. to spend the winter here. A network of such habitats can help the *kurjaas* as the cranes are locally called in the Thar.

**CLIMATE CHANGE TIPPING POINTS**

It is reported the earth has hit 9 key ‘tipping points’ – Arctic sea, Greenland ice sheet, Boreal forests, permafrost Atlantic, Meridional overturning circulation, Amazon rainforest, Warm-water corals, West Antarctica ice sheets, parts of East Antarctic. Effects of global warming could accelerate and create a cascading effect like release of methane stored in the ocean in polar regions, heating up the deep water in the Antarctic, reduction of monsoon rains in India, major loss of oxygen in the ocean, etc. The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research warns that Man so far has underestimated the risks of unleashing irreversible changes where the planet self-amplifies global warming. “What we have now started seeing at 1 degree global warming, provides proof for declaring a state of emergency” said Tim Lenton, head of the University of Exeter team behind this study.

**GLIMPSE OF RECENT HAPPENINGS**

A systemic devastation wrought by human activity on the Western Ghats is a searing example from India with disasters waiting to happen. A large number of people lost their lives with boulders rolling down the hills last year, and it happened again this year. When tribals ‘ruled’ the forests they acted like gate keepers and never thought of owning land in order to exploit it. They were foolishly regarded as primitive. Could it be that they had a better world view than us?
**SAVING GRACE**

The saving grace for Earth and Humanity is new species entering the Tree of Life. During the year 2019 it is reported that several new species were discovered across the five continents and three oceans like the girdled lizard, janolus flavoanulatus, cat-eyed cardinal fish, cirrhllabrus wakanda, trembleya altoparisensis, chromoplexura and cordellbankensis.

Hopefully not to be found with as much difficulty as the sound of their names!

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**FLOODS IN INDIA**

India has experienced an increasing number of floods in recent years presumably to some extent due to climate change– Rajkot in 1979, Bihar in 1987, Mumbai in 2005, Chennai in 2005, Assam in 2016, Gujarat in 2017, Kerala in 2018 and this year 9 States had, to varying extent, some affected regions. These should not be dismissed as Acts of God or ways of Nature – as it is often the pace of the human race and lifestyles that is increasingly impacting God given Earth.

On a positive note, the current Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands V Rajamony has published a book “What We Can Learn from the Dutch” in his private capacity - co-authored with architect and urban designer MN Rakesh. Their focus is on rebuilding their home State of Kerala but some factors are of general application. For instance a chain of interconnected lakes and backwaters are present in coastal lowlands of both places, but the Dutch backwaters were predominantly reclaimed and turned to land. Kuttanad in Kerala is a solitary example of reclaimed landscape and water management. Kuttanad backwaters has a wetland similar to the Nooradward in Netherlands where a Room for River project was implemented and converted to agricultural uses. The authors feel that Kerala with its high state of literacy and education can study other such measures adopted by the Dutch and become a model for Indian States prone to floods.

Every child in the Netherlands, including foreigners living there, must not only know how to swim but swim wearing their clothes and shoes. There are several mandatory flood and water related education programmes for school children and an awareness of how to cope should a calamity strike at any time. Annually a Battle of the Beach is also held along the whole coast of Netherlands when children work together to build strong castles that can sustain the sea. There are Dike Armies where citizens volunteer to protect dykes and can be summoned when danger threatens. In contrast, when Kerala was hit by recent floods, it was reported than many did not know how to swim on their own, and many were unfit to even wade through water. The Ambassador, who has also written about Indian and Dutch past linkages informs that Netherlands Government would be more than happy to collaborate with India for community-led water management projects.

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**MIGRATORY BIRDS DEAD**

At Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan more than 8000 migratory birds from 25 different species died of a mysterious illness. The cause has not been identified – toxicity? bacteriological infection? scarce resources? Concentration of salts? There are no clear answers yet. The final toll might be higher as there were many areas which Hope and Beyond workers had not covered. It could be another searing example of how human habitation is unwittingly wrecking its own environment!
Lime Research and Testing Centre (LRTC)

Different types of lime plaster samples are kept under different conditions to understand the effect of climatic conditions with each sample’s composition/ ratio kept apart from each other to understand stability and durability of lime plaster under various atmospheric conditions. Two types of weathering tests were undertaken:

- Artificial weathering: Samples kept in 14% sodium sulphate solution to study the sustainability of plaster samples using different admixture.
- Natural weathering: A continuous test in which samples are kept in open atmosphere to gauge the effect of all seasons on plaster samples with varying admixture. The effect of dissolution of plasters/mortar admixture with rain and growth of algae is a major finding studied during natural weathering test.

Water Absorption Tests by Total Immersion

The plaster samples are prepared with white cement to study the absorption tests by total immersion method. Water absorption capacity of the sample is studied up to 96 hours to ascertain which additives affect the absorption capacity of water.

Linseed oil is also added to study the hydrophobic behaviour in plaster which reflects the retardation in water absorption capacity of plaster.

LRTC has also started testing of paper fibre at ICI Lucknow. ICI experts visited CPPRI, Saharanpur to understand advanced method of fibre testing. Soon the fibre and sizing testing facilities will be implemented at ICI (LRTC) Lab, Lucknow.

Upcoming Activities

One week training programme is scheduled with National Museum Institute students. LRTC experts will teach them about testing of lime and lime mortar.

Wall Paintings Directory

The WPD team of A&MH covered the Jhalawar and Baran Districts in south-east Rajasthan covering approximately 90% of this largest State of India. During the survey, the team recorded the beautiful wall paintings in the area. In Uttar Pradesh, which is the most populated State, approximately 65% has been covered to date. Over 9,91,012.67 sq ft of painted surface area has been recorded in the entire surveyed States.
ICI DELHI

Conservation of Objects from Museum of Christian Art Collection

*Museum of Christian Art* (MOCA), Convent of Santa Monica in Old Goa was founded under guidance of INTACH and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon in 1994. It houses rare Indo-Portuguese Christian Art from Goa and has enriched the cultural heritage and history of Goa. It is a project of the Archdiocese. The MOCA collection now comprises around 200 pieces including liturgical objects, vestments and other textiles, paintings, sculptures, church furniture and daily prayer and utilitarian objects. A funding proposal for conservation of the museum objects prepared by INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) to the Ministry of Culture was approved. Conservation of the collection of *Museum of Christian Art* started last year on 11th August and the project was completed in April 2019. However, some objects from the collection, which required sophisticated lab facilities for treatment such as delicate textile objects and three manuscripts could not be treated at site and were sent to ICI Delhi Center in November this year.

Three paper objects received are the Bible, the New Testament and Book of Rules (printed books and hand written manuscripts). The books have illustrated lithographs narrating Biblical stories on the life of Jesus Christ. They have undergone physical and chemical changes with time. The main problems observed are previous restoration in form of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowing of pages</td>
<td>De-acidification &amp; cleaning treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect attack</td>
<td>Removal of previous mending</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removal of pages from the binding</td>
<td>Lining of the pages</td>
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[Images of conservation work]
patch mending and tear mending caused by insect attack, yellowing and brittleness. The treatment requires removal of pages from their previous binding and mending, de-acidification and cleaning, providing additional support to deteriorated pages. The books are also being digitized as a preventive conservation measure.

The textile objects sent to Delhi Center for conservation were in a fragile condition. The fabric on which the embroidery was done was weak and deteriorating. There were creases, stains, tears and loss of embroidery details, loosely bound threads on the fabric, etc. The removal of previous restoration, consolidation, darning and couching, and addition of new support was done at the Delhi Center Lab and is expected to be completed by first week of January 2020. The objects will be sent to the Museum in Goa, which is currently under refurbishment and is expected to reopen in February 2020. INTACH team will help in setting up display of objects at the Museum before its reopening for public viewing.

**Conservation of artworks by Binod Behari Mukherjee**

INTACH Conservation Institute received seven paper works by the famous artist Binod Behari Mukherjee, an Indian artist from West Bengal. His art style depicts simple and subtle representations of his surroundings and environment. He is inspired by Chinese and Japanese art forms. He has worked in different mediums from mural paintings to sketches, calligraphy, water colours, tempera on wood and silk, textile block prints and paper cuts.

The objects had turned yellow due to aging. Foxing marks were seen along with dust and dirt with various stains present on objects. Waviness, bulges, folds and tears along with charring of the paper were present.
Conservation of Glass Paintings (private collection)

The origin of reverse glass painting technique dates back to Italy, from where it spread across Europe in the 16th century and became popular. It was introduced in China by Jesuit missionaries in the 17th and early 18th centuries. By mid-to late 18th century, the technique reached India through the Silk Route (China trade), and a market for Chinese reverse glass paintings was established on the west coast of India. With the expansion of the British Empire, Indian artists learnt the technique and started producing reverse glass paintings for wealthy Indian aristocrats and colonial officers. This style is a comparatively lesser known genre of Indian art.

Reverse glass paintings reflect scenes and characters from Indian mythology and tradition, while secular themes such as portraits of kings, nobles, courtesans and musicians were also commonly depicted. Characterized by bold style and rich colours, a distinctive feature of Indian reverse glass painting was the mixture of Indian and Western elements like colonial architecture, interior decoration, fashion, and some evidently portrayed deities and mythological incidents closer to Company art.
The two paintings received at ICI Delhi were severely damaged, one broken horizontally and the other vertically in two pieces. Some areas had turned black due to tarnishing of paint layer. Fungal spores had degraded and stained the paint layer, apart from accumulation of dust and dirt on paintings. Presence of moisture had caused the paint layer to flake. Loss of paint layer could be seen on the surface. The paintings were bad and fragile.

Conservation process involved removal of the paintings from their frames, and anti-fungal treatment to remove fungal spores. Mechanical cleaning was done on front and back to remove dust and dirt. Local consolidation stopped further flaking, while solvent cleaning removed the stains and tarnishing. The paint layer was settled and glass was rejoined. After reintegration of losses, a separator was given between the glass and the acid free mount board before they were framed in their original frames.

ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation of Archival Records of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad

This ongoing project recently received 201 books and 7 journals. The objects were documented in graphic and photographic form. The step wise conservation treatment included disinfection, cleaning with a soft dry brush,
neutralization, resizing, stain removal, consolidation, mending of torn areas and losses, full lining of Nepalese and lens tissue paper, preparing new sections, stitching and binding. It posed difficulty in opening due to step stitching.

**Conservation of rare collection of Mahatma Gandhi Central Library, IIT Roorkee**

After successful completion of conservation work on the first lot of 21 books and one map, the Centre received ten more objects for conservation. The collection included lithoprints (B/W and coloured), maps, atlas, photo prints, drawings, text matter belonging to 1844-1893 period in size A3 to A1. The books were full of dust and dirt, acidic, discoloured with water/brown adhesive stains, insect and fungus infestation and lost areas with previous restoration, binding broken and highly damaged. The conservation work included fumigation, dry cleaning, removal of old restoration, neutralization, resizing, mending, filling (one/both sides), lining with lense/Nepalese tissue paper, preparing new sections, stitching and archival binding.
ICI BENGALURU

Conservation of artworks, Government Museum & Venkatappa Gallery

ICI Bengaluru recently completed the first phase conservation of artworks from the Government Museum and Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bengaluru.

Government Museum, Bangalore was established in 1865 by the Mysore State. It is one of the oldest museums in India and the second oldest in South India. Built in Neo-classical style, the museum houses an exquisite collection of paintings, prints, sculptures, inscriptions from various periods.

Venkatappa Art Gallery is situated adjacent to the Government Museum. It is dedicated to paintings, POP reliefs, art material and musical instruments belonging to eminent Kannada artist K Venkatappa (1886-1965).

In the first phase of the Conservation Project, a detailed examination of 30 paintings was carried out at the Conservation Centre. The artworks in various stages of deterioration needed immediate attention and some required preventive conservation treatment. The artworks from Government Museum were in a much deteriorated condition due to their age. The treatment procedure took nearly three months to complete before they could be displayed back in their respective places.

Manuscript Conservation Workshop at IGNCA, Bengaluru

ICI Bengaluru conducted 3 days Manuscript Conservation Workshop at IGNCA. It was designed to train the
participants in preventive conservation and few curative conservation treatments. The participants came from various religious and educational institutions of South India.

**ICI BHUBANESWAR**

Old and valuable maps, illustrated paper manuscripts of K.R. Cama Institute, Mumbai are under conservation by deputed team of Conservators from ICI Bhubaneswar at K.R. Cama Institute.
ICI KOLKATA

Two tempera paintings by famous artist Jamini Roy on jute canvas were received in rolled form at Art Conservation Centre, Kolkata. They depicted image of Mother and Child in size 32 X 62 inches and 35 X 60 inches approximately. It had fungal attack, stains, flaking of paint layer, warping, cracks, dust and dirt, etc. Conservation treatment involved fumigation and consolidation of the paint layers to save the works. After surface cleaning they were framed on new stretchers.

Restoration of Lamp Stands

Two painted wooden lamp stands of 172 inch height were conserved at the Centre. They had problems of paint flaking, stains, dust and dirt, etc.

Before and after conservation of a paper document, 22nd July, 1857
**CHERIYAL SCROLL PAINTING**

*Cheriyal Scroll Painting* is a very old stylized version of old traditional painting of Telangana. Nakkashi art, rich in local motifs, is peculiar to Telangana. They have been continuously painted from 15th century by the Nakkash Family. They are at present made only in Hyderabad. The scrolls are painted in a narrative format, much like a film roll or a comic strip, depicting stories from Indian mythology, and are intimately connected to shorter stories from the *Puranas* and epics. Earlier, these paintings were prevalent across Andhra Pradesh, and also other parts of the country often tinged with their local distinct styles and other peculiarities dictated by local customs and traditions. In the same way, *Cheriyal* scrolls must have been popular across Telangana in earlier times, though with the advent of television, cinemas and computers it has been fenced into its last outpost, the Cheriyal town.

**LEAVES OF LIGHT**

Sculptor Dimpy Menon’s exhibition at Delhi *Leaves to the Light* expressed the magnitude of human form as seen amidst Nature. She is the first Indian sculptor to win the Lorenzo il Magnifico Award for sculpture at Florence Biennale, an exhibition held in Italy. According to her “both the forms and the compositions represent the essence of human spirit and nature. One does not always need the entire ocean to enjoy Nature; a fallen frangipani flower with its fragrance and perfect form can be just as enriching” she says.

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**Architectural Heritage Division (AHD)**

**Main Building (Mukhya Bhawan), Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi**

The main building of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University was established in 1852 AD by Major Markhan Kittoe. It served as the ceremonial Convocation Hall and Lecture Hall for the University. Restoration work of the main building by INTACH that started in March 2016 is now complete.

Due to serious deterioration and collapsed roofs, the main building was not in use since more than 15 years. INTACH

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Before conservation  
After conservation
restored the collapsed roofs to its original form, and strengthened the structure by addressing problems of dampness, termites, plaster damages, etc. As part of the work, damaged stained glasses and the decorative terracotta, stone, and wooden elements were also restored.

After a gap of 15 years or more, the building has now been revived to its original glory enabling the University to convene the 37th Convocation ceremony on 5th December 2019. The ceremony was graced by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh (Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University) and attended by other dignitaries.

**Wadia Palace (Gujarat Forest Ranger’s College), Rajpipla**

*Wadia Palace* built in 1930s is located in Rajpipla. The palace is set within a 151-acre estate, with well laid out formal gardens and orchards. There are beautiful frescoes on the walls by well-known Italian painter Valli. It was designed by the renowned architect Burjor SJ Aga of M/s Shapoorjee N Chandabhoy & Co. in a predominantly Indo-Saracenic style. It is interesting that the building was financed by Maharaja Vijaysinhji’s winnings in the Epsom Derby 1934!

Presently, the Palace houses Gujarat Forest Ranger’s College, which approached INTACH for conservation of the building in March 2019. Subsequently a MoU who signed in September 2019. After onsite documentation, a detailed project report is currently under preparation. Post site visit (15th - 19th October) by AH Division accompanied by the MEP Consultant and a staff member from Material Heritage Division, detailed documentation and condition assessment for DPR preparation are in progress.

**Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites, Nepal**

Nepal was struck by an earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes in April 2015, as a result of which about 750 monuments were damaged. Govt. of India offered to undertake post earthquake reconstruction package in the Cultural Heritage Sector. INTACH was requested by the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India to provide expertise for conservation works. A MoU was signed between INTACH and Embassy of India, in Kathmandu on 12th December 2019.
The scope of INTACH work includes Design and Project Management, Consultancy Services for Conservation of 11 earthquake affected cultural heritage sites in Nepal.

INTACH will provide consultancy service for the identified 11 affected cultural heritage sites in Nepal and provide the design and project management consultancy services in the districts of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Solukhumbu. It will provide consultancy services to Seto Machindranath Temple and the Golden Temple at Patan among others. As per the agreement INTACH will be working with the Department of Archaeology (DoA) of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation to conserve and reconstruct these sites as per the guidelines on reconstruction of cultural sites laid down by Nepal.

Indian Ambassador Puri mentioned that the Indian Government had already provided support to reconstruct 50,000 private houses in Nuwakot and in Gorkha Districts and will be in close coordination with the Nepal Government to accelerate any reconstruction work. Member Secretary CT Misra reaffirmed that INTACH will coordinate its consultancy service from Delhi and will establish a site office in Nepal.

**Ganga Cultural Documentation Architectural Listing**

The first phase of documentation in three districts of Uttar Pradesh was completed and Phase –II has started with field survey of three districts of Bihar (Patna, Begusarai and Munger). Patna historically known as Pataliputra with a rich political history, was established as an administrative centre by various kingdoms due to its strategic location along the banks of river Ganga.

Munger is well connected with major rail, roads and ferry-streamers, with various industries. Begusarai, earlier a part of Munger, was later constituted as a separate district, and celebrated as the birthplace of various eminent poets and historian.

The nine *tehsils* of Patna covered in the primary survey are Maner, Danapur, Patna (district headquarters), Fatwah, Khusrupur, Barh, Bakhtiyarpur, Athmagola and Mokamah.
Prefeasibility & Impact Assessment - Restoration and Rejuvenation of flood plains of River Yamuna

Stake Holder Participatory Workshop organized by INTACH and DDA held last 29th July at ITPI, Delhi, AHD has finalised four proposed areas within the study stretch i.e. Landscape proposals for Qudsia Ghat, Sur Ghat and Forest area as well as restoration of 32 historic Ghats of Yamuna Bazaar. The site area in and around Qudsia Ghat, Sur Ghat, Forest area and Yamuna Bazaar is 12.8, 16.4, 37 and 3.31 hectares respectively. Proposals for the entire stretch focussing on the above mentioned potential areas have been prepared with the following objectives:

- **Naturalizing the floodplain by conserving the flora and proposing habitat for fauna.**
- **Connecting River Yamuna to the city by providing proper public access to the river edge and also by including natural green recreational spaces which will help encourage cultural and educational activities on the floodplains.**
- **Managing waste generated by existing settlements and also by the visitors during festivals and while performing day to day rituals.**
- **Conserving and restoring the heritage zones to their original glory.**

![Proposed plan for Qudsia Ghat, spanning 1.3 kms along the Yamuna](image)

**PUBLICATIONS**

The city of Varanasi is well known for its rich cultural heritage, comprising tangible and intangible aspects. AH Division has undertaken extensive heritage documentation and several conservation initiatives in Varanasi since last 30 years. It has led to the publication *Banaras ki Anupratik Dharohar* in Hindi and English.

The publication *Momentous Journey* celebrating 30 years of conserving architectural heritage showcases the range of
activities that INTACH AH Division has undertaken since its inception in 1984. The book is an attempt to represent each activity of the Division through noteworthy examples, and hopes to disseminate information about the efforts of INTACH in the field of conservation of India’s rich built heritage.

INTACH started documentation of Darbargarh, Porbandar on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi 150th year centennial. The project is handled by Architectural Heritage Division in collaboration with Heritage Craft and Community Division. The Palace is around 400 years old and belongs to H. H. Bhavinsinhji of Jetwa Dynasty. Swami Vivekananda also stayed in the Palace for some days during his visit to Porbandar. Hopefully it will be converted into a Craft and Cultural Centre for the region after restoration.
Technical Assistance for Built Heritage: Historic Buildings in Hissar Agricultural University

As part of technical assistance, a site visit was carried out by AHD on 22nd October at the request of Hissar Chapter for preliminary assessment of a historic building in the campus of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University. The single storeyed structure is currently used as a storage space for the University, as well as a small office and tea stall. The Director, Students’ Welfare are considering conservation and reuse of structure as a Food Court, and an alumni office for the students of the University. During AHD visit, a warehouse building located adjacent to the historic structure was also found to have significant historical character. The warehouse is currently used for storage of coal and other equipment.

Architectural Styles of India

AH Lecture Series on Architectural Styles of India has been launched as part of the research project. They are open to public. The first talk ‘Influence of Technology, Climate, Society and Culture in Architecture with specific reference to Kerala’ was held in August this year. The second talk Native States and Colonialism: Kathiawar and Kutch by Architect Hemen Sanghvi was on 27th September. The third talk in the monthly series on Timber Architecture: Pan Indian Traditions by Prof. KT Ravindran was on 18th October. The fourth one on The Community, the Settlement and the Shelter: The Vernacular Architecture of Nagaland by Architect Ritu Varuni on 15th November was equally well attended. These talks by domain experts enrich research projects as well as share knowledge with the public at large. It is planned to upload links to previous talks online.

INDIA HOUSE, NETHERLANDS

The Government of India owns one heritage property overseas. In 1940s Meyland, Wassenaar at Hague were pasture lands belonging to the daughter of Prince Frederick of Netherlands. In 1942 during World War II many of its mansions suffered extensive damage and their heirs put them up for sale after the World War. The Government of India purchased Villa Meyland for the Indian Embassy. Built in English country-house style along with a park, the mansion was severely damaged by fire in 1956 but rebuilt to its original state. To date it has been the Residence of 25 Indian Ambassadors during their varying tenures. A landscape architect and horticulturist designed the garden with gravelled paths, tennis court, trimmed hedges and large trees around the estate. He built a pond with lilies, and designed a dog house like a miniature copy of Villa Meyland and no such structure is known anywhere! The architectural relationship between the stateliness of the villa and the outdoors is highlighted by geometrically streamlined gardens structured at three levels extending to a square pool and tennis court. Villa Meyland is the only invaluable heritage property owned overseas by the Government of India.
LISTING CELL

Mysuru heritage listing undertaken by Mysore School of Architecture is complete. Architect Listing Cell visited Mysuru in October to review data onsite. The listing features 300 heritage sites, including 284 built structures and 16 natural heritage sites. Other completed listing is of Vellore town by Tamil Nadu State Chapter.

Listings are presently ongoing at Jalandhar by Jalandhar Chapter; Neyyattinkaraby by Trivandrum Chapter; Maihar–Satna–Panna by Maihar Satna Chapter; Basadis of Moodabidri and Karkala by Mangalore Chapter; Zanskar Region by Ladakh Chapter, etc. Listing of Military Heritage of Jammu has recently been initiated with support from the 26 Infantry Division (Tiger Division).

• Thematic listing is ongoing for Chambal Valley by Madhya Pradesh State Chapter, Kota Chapter and Agra Chapter; Mahanadi River by Odisha State and Raipur Chapters; and Hoogly River (from Farakka to Nabadwip) by West Bengal State Chapter.

• Listing of Indian Railway Heritage has been compiled by INTACH comprising Railway Heritage under the Indian Railways listed across the country. It has been compiled from documents from INTACH over the years and through secondary research including the website of Indian Railways. Along with the database, a Google Earth Map has been prepared which contains the locations with images and brief descriptions of the buildings. The document has been submitted to Heritage Cell of the Ministry of Railways.

Workshop : Introduction to Mapping and Geographical Information Systems using Quantum GIS

Two architects from Architectural Heritage Division and Listing Cell attended the workshop conducted by the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. The 5-day workshop was held from the 9th–13th December 2019. It comprised training in basic mapping and GIS skills via exposure to a free, open-source GIS platform (Quantum GIS). A certificate was awarded on completion of the course.
**HERITAGE CRAFT AND COMMUNITY DIVISION (HCCD)**

*Skill Training Workshop in Hissar, Haryana for crochet craft in collaboration with Hissar Chapter, November, 2019*

The programme was held to train women in developing skills to make crochet products that can be sold to supplement their income. This was the first ever workshop in the region and was attended by 25 women from different villages in and around Hissar. A diverse range of products were developed including accessories, bags, blankets and toys that have good market potential.

One of the products developed is a doll named *the Haryana Girl* focusing on girl child, *Beti bachao, Beti padhao*. It can be promoted as an icon crafted by local women.

*INTACH’S Journey 35 years (1984-2019)*

The travelling exhibition was displayed in Udaipur (Oct.-Nov. 2019) and in Varanasi (December, 2019) by their respective Chapters. The exhibitions were accompanied by various events like lectures, seminars and cultural events. They were very well received by the professionals, students and general public.

Exhibition at Udaipur

Exhibition at Varanasi
Idol Making Traditions of India

The study and documentation of various styles and techniques of Idol making across India is in progress. The initial phase of on site documentation in Uttar Pradesh covering Vrindavan, Agra, Achnera, Moradabad and Aligarh was completed. The consolidated and comprehensive document of secondary research for idol making traditions is under process. Also, a format for evaluating and rating each documented tradition on the basis of authenticity, cultural value, vulnerability, etc. is under preparation.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)

Namami Gange – Documentation of River Ganga from Gaumukh to Gangasagar

The project was undertaken for the Jal Shakti Ministry, Government of India, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) scheme. INTACH has been engaged in this project as a knowledge partner, given its credibility and expertise in the field of culture, inclusive of tangible and intangible facets. The objective of the project is to research and document existing/living culture on either side of the Ganga River in a radius of 5kms, starting from its source Gangotri to the point of dispersal at Gangasagar.

The areas covered/visited by the ICH team for the research, documentation and cultural mapping of the cities and communities to date were Varanasi, Allahabad, Garhmukteshwar, Haridwar, and Hastinapur.

The Team recently visited Mirzapur where numerous elements of Intangible Heritage were documented ranging from the Kajri Folk Songs to Chunar Pottery, from Mirzapuri Carpets to festivals and celebrations exclusive to the district
like the Panchami Bharat Milap. A variety of food items like the Makkhan vada, Badi tikiya, Pethua, Thekua, Gondh laddoo, and Balubahi tikiya are prepared in this region. The region is also known for its history, notably the contribution of its freedom fighters as well. The number of historical and architectural marvels of this region are not only important, but have a rich living heritage associated with them. The rock art and murals of Mirzapur is another fascinating aspect of the city that has been documented. Literature, sacred complexes and various forms of oral traditions and traditional knowledge were studied.

**Karmasu Kausalam: Excellence in Action**

The ICH Division prepared a beautifully illustrated volume titled *Karmasu Kausalam: Excellence in Action*, to commemorate 60 years of Lal Babadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie, the institution that trains officers of the Civil Services in India. It highlights the history, anecdotes and images, the role of the services and of the academy in training the administrators.

The ICH Division worked on various aspects of publication to prepare the LBSNAA Coffee Table book, which was printed both in Hindi and English. Advance copies were sent to LBSNAA for their inaugural event held in Kevadia, Gujarat on 31st October 2019, where the publication was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Vignettes of Ramayana**

The *Journey of Rama* was first narrated in the Sanskrit epic poem by Sage Valmiki about two and a half thousand years ago. The original texts consisted of 24000 verses in seven books, with the oldest manuscript dating back to the 11th century CE. The stories of Ramayana defy categorization of art as folk or classical, rural or urban, textual or oral. Literary, oral, kinetic and pictorial aspects intermingle to generate multiple renditions of the text in different locales and contexts, each rendition having its own unique local flavour and linguistic distinction.

The Division prepared 17 short capsules of the documentation on Ramayana from different parts of India. It was part of the larger project of Ramayana undertaken by the Division. To project the series and different perspectives of Ramayana, a screening was held on 7th October at the INTACH Multipurpose Hall. The vignettes on Ramayana were appreciated by the audience. The short films included sets of videos on perspectives by scholars, historians and institutions, as well as videos on the Uppanikudru Puppetry performances and the Yakshagana performing traditions. These have also been uploaded on INTACH’s YouTube channel.
The term *Yakshagana* has two elements—*Yaksha* and *Gaana* — which etymologically means ‘a type of song’ or a ‘form of singing’. However in today’s time, it has evolved into a form of theatre. In the late 1500’s the *Vaishnava* influence in Udipi led to the intermingling of *Puranic kathas*, (especially on *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*) and *Yakshagana*.

**Vignettes of Ramayana – Yakshagana**

The basic structure of *Yakshagana* has a *Bhagavathar*, who is the lead singer, and in earlier times he might have also controlled the whole performance. To support the *Bhagavathar*, there is a *Maddalegara* who plays the two-faced drum, and the *chande*.

**Yakshagana: Creation of the Characters**

The characters in Yakshagana have a very distinctive form of costume, along with very detailed and elaborate rules of makeup and costumes that it may take up to 5-6 hours for an artist to apply his own makeup, prepare his headgear, wear his costume and get ready to play the character on stage.

**Vignettes of Ramayana—Yakshagana: Unique Features**

The format of *Yakshagana* gives utmost importance to the depiction of the characters. In *Yakshagana*, there is no concept of a ‘villain’, but this central concept is replaced with that of a *Pratinayaka*, or the anti-hero. No one is a complete villain, and hence the chance to justify themselves forms a central narrative in *Yakshagana*.

**Vignettes of Ramayana—Yakshagana: The Training**

In the past 50 years, the old traditions of training *Yakshagana* artistes have changed with the coming up of dedicated training centers, where young students are trained in the art of *Yakshagana*.

**Vignettes of Ramayana – Perspective of a Historian; Dr. Romila Thapar: The Beginning**

Dr. Romila Thapar, a leading historian and Professor Emeritus at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, shares her own experience with *Ramayana*, and hers was a journey filled with questions and answers about the epic.

**Vignettes of Ramayana—Perspective of a Historian; Dr. Romila Thapar: Belief in the Epic**

Dr. Romila Thapar talks about her belief in the epic, suggesting that religion and history have had a somewhat turbulent co-existence in India’s past history, in context with the subsequent deification of the heroes in *Ramayana*.

**Vignettes of Ramayana: Perspective of a Scholar; Dr. Satyavrat Shastri: Genesis of the Epic**

Dr. Satyavrat Shastri, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and honorary professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, talks about the genesis of the epic, and *Lord Brahma’s* divine interventions to sage *Valmiki*, which led to the inception of the great epic.

Dr. Satyavrat Shastri emphasizes that the *Ramayana* is not only an important aspect of the Indian culture and tradition alone, but has transcended boundaries and has been effectively adopted by various South-East Asian countries, within the distinct linguistic and cultural context of their own.
The origin of the Ramayana can be traced to the Thai Ramkien. The Ramayana is not just part of our culture but all of South-East Asia’s. Inferences and references can be drawn from and made to all cultures throughout the region which simply proves the vastness of the epic and the depth of its roots.

Vignettes of Ramayana—Uppinakudru Puppets: The Presentation

For Bhaskar Kogga Kamath, the first thing he saw in life was puppets. The Ramayana has nurtured people from birth right up to adulthood. It has been portrayed in string puppetry acts since the 12th century, and continues to date in the form of Uppinakudru.

Vignettes of Ramayana—Perspective of an Institution; Swami Mitrananda

Creation of the Ramayana is not just an epic; it is a way of life for a lot of people. The characters are not just characters in a poem but are seen as real people. The story telling and enacting the play are a means of livelihood, and it is a method of adding liveliness to religion.

Vignettes of Ramayana—Perspective of an Institution; Swami Mitrananda: Interpretation of the Epic

Every name, every action has an inner meaning. Rama means one who reveals and Ayodhya being the land of no conflict. It is not just a simple story of Good over Evil but also values, consequences and the relation between the material and the spiritual.

Vignettes of Ramayana—Ayodhya: Ethos of Rama

Revered as the Adi Kavya or the First Poem, the Ramayana presents Rama to be the ideal man, the role model of people for that era and Ayodhya is regarded to be the city of Ideal Men. A history so intricately woven with the city is now a part of daily language.

Vignettes of Ramayana—Ayodhya: Madhuprasana

While the epic is Indian in totality and Ram and Sita are the ideal man and woman, the caste system has produced separate ways for the people to worship them; you can worship them as a couple or treat the Lord as Sita’s husband and hence your brother-in-law.
Timber Architecture: Pan-Indian Traditions, 18th October 2019

Prof. KT Ravindran, Chairman of the Architectural Heritage Advisory Committee of INTACH, gave a presentation on the variations in timber that led to traditional building sciences which are codified and practiced, based on the differing nature of timber across the landscape. Nuanced by culture and climate, timber architecture in India has taken multiple variations across the subcontinent. The tree has been worshipped in many cultures across India as the life-giver, embodiment of ‘Enlightened Consciousness’ and the ultimate support for all sentient beings. Transformed into timber, the tree becomes the foundation and superstructure of Gods and human abodes. From Kashmir to Kerala the use of timber, both as structural material and ornamentation, excels as the most endearing building material, partnering stone, mud, bamboo and burnt brick. From snowy mountains to tropical sandy deserts, the presence of timber as a building material is ubiquitous.

Illustrated Talk – I Am You, You Are Me: Insights from Mapping Sites associated with Guru Nanak’s Travels, 4th November 2019

The talk highlighted more than 150 inter-faith sites across nine countries - Sri Lanka, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet (China), Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, and India that Guru Nanak visited to seek and impart spiritual wisdom. Due to inaccessibility to many of these regions today, a lot of Sikh heritage is also inaccessible. Amardeep Singh travelled extensively to these heritage sites to document them. The outcome of his travel and documentation is published in the book titled, ‘Lost Heritage: The Sikh Legacy in Pakistan’ and ‘The Quest Continues: Lost Heritage The Sikh Legacy in Pakistan’.

Amardeep Singh

Amardeep Singh spent 25 years in the corporate world and left his job as Head of Revenue Management (Asia Pacific Region) of the American Express.
and dedicated himself to research on the remnants of Sikh Legacy from 2014.

**Documentary Screening – ‘Peering Soul’ and ‘Peering Warrior’, 8th November 2019**

Anmardeep Singh has produced two documentaries based on the remnants of the Sikh spiritual and martial legacy in Pakistan. They are based on the actual footage shot during documentation of the two sites.

**A Deep, Subconscious Control: How Tectonics and Geology have shaped the fate of all Life – 22nd November 2019**

The illustrated talk of Pranay Lal shared a 4.5 billion years history of the subcontinent, and showed how they influenced and continue to shape our lives.

Geological events have impacted landscapes and climate, and these are critical for explaining why things exist the way they are. All events in history, including the rise and fall of all life forms and human civilizations and dynasties, have been affected by deep natural history.

Pranay Lal is a biochemist by training and works for a non-profit organization on Public Health. He is also the author of *Indica - A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent.*

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**INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY (IHA)**

**Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies 2019-20**

**Heritage as a tool for Development, 9th September, 14th & 22nd October, 2019**

This programme highlights the approaches taken by experts who have used Heritage as a tool for development in India. The course was delivered in three sessions.

Vikas Dilawari at the first session on 14th October, spoke on ‘Heritage: An alternative tool for balanced development’ and ‘Restoration of Fountains and rejuvenation of city spaces in Fort area, Mumbai’. Programme Officer Nabila Jamshed at United Nations Development Programme deliberated upon Statistical Advisor Shailendra Sidgel at UNESCO taking up key aspects of Sustainable Development Goals. He explained the importance of Culture in Sustainable Development, and the statistics behind it, the importance of data collection and its assessment for a more informed and better approach to the realisation of SDGs.
On 22nd October, Dr. Benny Kuriakose discussed the *Muziriz Heritage Project* in the context of Heritage as a tool for Sustainable Development.

**Nature-Culture Linkage, 15th – 16th October**

The two-day course focussed on understanding the importance of linkages between the natural and cultural heritage. Under this *Continuing Professional Development Programme*, participants were able to comprehend the intricacies involved in exploration of linkages in the context of a variety of sites in India. It made them aware of the challenges and scope of heritage in relation to natural and cultural heritage conservation. It was attended by three external participants.

The course opened with NHD Principal Director Manu Bhatnagar giving an overview of nature culture linkages in the Indian context, and highlighted the importance of these linkages through manifestations of nature in culture by way of literature, performing arts, crafts, music, painting, architecture, customs, beliefs and ways of living by citing various examples of relevant sites in India.

Fellow Persis Farooqi from Arunachal Pradesh explained the details on *Apatani Cultural Landscape in Arunachal Pradesh*. India is on the tentative list of *UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites* for extremely high productivity and unique way of preserving ecology where the community has evolved a unique skill for rice-fish cultivation where fish is also reared in the fields.

Director Dr. Tim Badman of Nature-Culture, an initiative of the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN), delivered a lecture over video call from Gland, Switzerland. He gave an overview of IUCN’s agenda and work in exploring practical approaches, and the next steps planned to strengthen the linkages of nature and culture in order to strive for sustainable development.

National Programme Officer, Natural Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi, Neha Midha, talked about UNESCO's contribution to linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable development in India. Indian Forest Service Officer Dr. Sonali Ghosh, spoke on *Nature-Culture Linkage* with respect to *World Heritage Convention*. She explained the concept of outstanding universal value of *World Heritage Sites* with the help of various examples like *Manas Biosphere Reserve* in Assam, India.

The idea of wetlands as shared heritage was explained by Technical Officer at Wetlands International South Asia Dhruv Verma. In conclusion of the course, Conservation Biologist at INTACH Natural Heritage Division Sajid Idrisi discussed various concepts related to biodiversity with a site visit to Hauz Khas Lake in New Delhi to demonstrate how nature and culture can thrive together for centuries.

**Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies 2018–19 Convocation, 18th November 2019**

The first convocation ceremony for the *Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies* at INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) was held on 18th November at INTACH.
Central Office, New Delhi. It was graced by Dr. Karan Singh as the Chief Guest, and attended by 80 guests including the graduating students, their friends and families, resource persons associated with the Course, Executive Committee Members and Principal Directors of all the INTACH Divisions and staff.

Principal Director, IHA Navin Piplani welcomed the guests followed by lighting the lamp and Saraswati Vandana. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Member Secretary shared their thoughts on the course in the wider context of heritage in India. Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra highlighted the important features of the course and congratulated IHA for their efforts, and wished the graduating students. Vice Chairman Saryu Doshi encouraged the graduating students by calling them ‘ambassadors of INTACH’. She stressed on the importance of engaging at grassroot levels in order to bring about positive change in the field of heritage conservation.

Chairman offered his whole hearted support to the graduating students in their future heritage conservation ventures. He also expressed satisfaction with the course which has enabled the students to become heritage guardians as well as entrepreneurs.

The Chief Guest inspired graduating students by urging them not to turn a blind eye to the beauty and glory of heritage in times of chaos in the form of corruption, political unrest, etc. He cited examples of rich cultural heritage of India in the form of food traditions, crafts, classical and folk dance and music. He also emphasized the importance of public and private sector involvement in heritage conservation. He suggested that as the course is very crucial, it can henceforward be the pilot project to be replicated by larger universities and multiply its reach in a culturally rich country like India.

**Study, Use & Conservation of Historic Bricks, 19th–22nd November 2019**

A 4-day workshop was held in collaboration with Hissar Chapter as part of the PG Diploma in Heritage Studies. This workshop introduced some key philosophical issues and practical challenges which crop up in the use and conservation of historic bricks.

In September 2018, a similar workshop was organised in Hissar to train local craftsmen and students giving a good opportunity to students to work and share knowledge alongside them. This time the new of batch students were trained and guided by 2-3 masons who were part of last year’s workshop. A special site visit to the brick kiln was organised, where students engaged with the workers and understood the process of brick making.

A site visit to Rakhigarhi Archaeological Site was also a part of this workshop. Research scholar and archaeologist Yogesh Yadav guided the students to various mounds of Rakhigarhi, engaging them in analytical study on the ways this village has evolved, and how on the basis of
archaeological evidences of ancient city (Harappa) they are a continuation and have contributed to the character of the village. The workshop was coordinated by IHA personnel Sneha Kishnadwala and Amruta Vaidya in consultation with INTACH Hissar Convenor Sumita Tayal and Co-Convenor Parineeta Singh, and Additional Co-Convenor Manju Singh.

**Capacity Building Workshop IX, 14 – 17 October 2019**

The Capacity Building Workshop IX was held at INTACH Central Office during 14th-17th October. Participants from various Chapters across the country were nominated by their respective Convenors/Co-Convenors to attend the workshop. It was attended by 49 participants from Palakkad, Nagpur, Nagercoil, East Godavari, Udaipur, Bikaner, Barmer, Varanasi, Mangaluru, Calicut, Belgavi, Tripura, Visakhapatnam, Jalandhar, Chittorgarh, Kamrup, Surat, Kasagod, Assam, Thrissur, Chandrapur, Alwar, Maihar Satna, Jharkhand, Bhagalpur, Guntur, Jodhpur, Meghlaya and Alwar.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants gained a wider understanding of tangible and intangible heritage, and developed various ways of encouraging heritage conservation in their respective institutes and cities. They were shown case studies, projects and programmes by Principal Directors of all INTACH Divisions. This provided a platform for participants to interact and exchange views and ideas about heritage with other Chapter Members and the Central Office staff.

At this 9th Capacity Building Workshop, they were introduced to group work in form of a working session where they discussed matters related to: How do you see your past? What are the issues or challenges for heritage conservation?
What is the future of heritage?
With the help of listing exercises conducted by Listing Cell, Natural Heritage and Intangible Heritage Divisions, they were equipped to list the same in their respective cities.

Overall the participants of this four-day workshop had adequate exposure to the various duties and works that are carried out by INTACH Divisions at Central Office, and how as Members they could incorporate their local art and culture in their respective Chapter activities, thereby strengthening INTACH work pan India.

**Local Communities of Owners of Private Palaces, Purani Haveli, Hyderabad, 26th November 2019**

A consultative workshop within the framework of the Sustainable Development World Heritage and Local Communities was organised by UNESCO Delhi Office with the support of INTACH Hyderabad Chapter. The local workshop coordinator was Independent Heritage Consultant Madhu Vottery. PD, IHA was invited as a resource person to participate in the workshop attended by owners of heritage properties, UNESCO Delhi, Culture Programme Officer, INTACH Convenor and Members, and representatives of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

Some of the key concerns discussed at the workshop:

- **Real estate value and development controls around a**
A Heritage site is a big drawback that works against the interests of the heritage property and its owner.

- Legislation for private heritage are not friendly to the owners, who are reduced to mere ‘glorified watchmen’.
- Expert advice and technical guidance to undertake conservation work is missing.
- Lack of traditional material and skilled masons.
- Lack of incentives and support to private heritage property owners.

**Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS)**

**TEACHERS’ TRAINING WORKSHOP**

*Aurangabad, 26th-27th November*

*30 Teachers/14 Schools*

The two-day Teachers’ Training Workshop organised by HECS in collaboration with the Aurangabad Chapter was held at the Nath Valley School, Aurangabad and was enthusiastically attended by schools from the city and the adjoining areas. The welcome address was by Maharashtra State Chapter Convenor Mukund Bhogale. Aurangabad Chapter Convenor Ajay Kulkarni spoke on Aurangabad’s history and heritage. PD HECS Purnima Datt conducted the session on Understanding Heritage and Heritage Education in Classrooms. She emphasised the importance of proactive teachers in instilling a sense of responsibility and sensitivity about India’s composite heritage in the students. On the second day of workshop a heritage walk to Naubat Darwaza, Zenana Mahal and Rangeen Darwaza was led by Aurangabad Co-Convenor Maya Vaidya.

The workshop ended on a positive note with participants making group presentations and commemorative group photographs.

**PUBLICATION DIVISION**

The book titled ‘*Omkareswar Mandhata: History of Archaeology of a Paramara Town in the Narmada Valley*’ was published in joint collaboration between INTACH and M/s Aryan Books International, New Delhi. The author is Jurgen Neuss. The publication is a useful guide on a new dimension of its cultural heritage, and for the collective significance of the monuments and sites spread across the Narmada valley. The place and its surroundings have been of considerable religious and historical importance as they house two of the famous twelve *jyotirlingas* – Omkareshwara and Amareshwara. The book is informative for historians, conservators, archaeologists, religious and cultural resource persons.
Aurangabad is known as the ‘City of Gates’. The Naubat Darwaza, Kala Darwaza and Rangeen Darwaza are all part of Quil-e-Ark (Aurangzeb Palace) fortification gates. Naubat Darwaza was the main entrance gate to the palace specially for the royalty and nobility. Its original name was Quil-e-Ark Darwaza. Kala Darwaza was an entrance gate for the army men as they lived just outside this gate. Rangeen Darwaza was an entrance from the East.

Beas, 22nd November
36 Teachers/18 Schools

The Teachers’ Training Workshop was held in collaboration with Jalandhar Chapter at the Army Public School, Beas, attended by participants from schools in Beas and the adjoining areas. Convenor Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh gave a brief introduction to INTACH. PD HECS Purnima Datt stressed on the importance of learning from one another, and respecting each other’s heritage. Both emphasised on the importance of heritage and diversity in our country. In the next segment, teachers were shown artefacts and asked to guess the object. It was followed by a role play to demonstrate innovative lessons of planning and integrating heritage in classrooms. The group participants made a presentation to highlight a facet of Beas’s heritage with classroom centric educational activities. They appreciated the workshop learning experience and expressed keen interest to carry it forward in their respective schools.

Beas is the headquarters of Radha Soami Satsang Beas. The town known as Dera Baba Jaimal Singh is located in the east. Every year, millions of Radha Soami followers travel to Beas to attend discourses often held at the Dera.

Palakkad, 10th - 11th October
33 Teachers/18 Schools

The Teachers’ Training Workshop was organised by HECS in collaboration with the Palakkad Chapter at the District Public Library. The welcome address and a brief introduction was by Convenor Arun Narayan who outlined the scheduled activities and gave a talk on Palakkad’s built heritage. An overview of heritage and establishing Heritage Clubs in schools was shared by PD Purnima Datt. On the second day a heritage walk was organized to Palakkad Fort. Resource materials for instituting Heritage Clubs in schools were shared with the participating schools. The workshop concluded with group presentations and interactive session on ways in which heritage education can be carried out in schools.

Palakkad Fort situated in the heart of Palakkad town was built by Hyder Ali of Mysore in 1766. The fort was the military headquarter of Hyder Ali. Built in a square shape, the majestic fort has huge walls and bastions on all four sides, with a bridge to the entrance of the fort, which was earlier a temporary draw bridge. A Museum of Archaeology is also functioning inside the Fort.

COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (CHVP)

The College Heritage Volunteer Programme sensitises
college students to protect heritage and become part of a nationwide youth movement to protect heritage.

**Varanasi, 18th October**  
**75 Students/ 12 Faculty/ 8 Colleges**

The College Heritage Volunteer Workshop was organised by Varanasi Chapter in collaboration with HECS at the Arya Mahila P.G. College. An introduction to the workshop was shared by Varanasi Convenor, Ashok Kapoor with Shiva Rawat from HECS elaborating on the concept of heritage volunteerism. The sessions by resource persons were informative and enriching. Regional Officer, Archeological Survey of India Dr. Subash Chandra Yadav spoke on the Architectural Heritage of Varanasi. Textile Designer Hemang Agarwal discussed the Traditional Textiles of Varanasi. Assistant Curator, In-charge Textiles and Art Collections, Bharat Kala Bhawan, Dr. Priyanka Chandra showcased Antique Purses from the Bharat Kala Bhawan. The group presentations reflected a commitment to undertake heritage initiatives within their respective educational institutions and becoming heritage volunteers.

**HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP (H&CTW)**

**Warangal, 13th December**  
**83 Participants**

The Heritage and Citizenship Workshop was organised by the Warangal Chapter at Pragathi College of Management. It was attended by PG students, research scholars and faculty members in the field of history, heritage and tourism. Telangana State Co-Convenor Anuradha Reddy was the Chief Guest. She addressed the participants highlighting the role of students in publicizing the individual responsibility. She stressed on Kakatiya history that makes Warangal’s heritage special. It is our duty to preserve and protect monuments, she said. Prof. Department of History and Tourism Vijaya Babu, Kakatiya University described the history of the region. He encouraged students to actively participate in research for development of tourism and improving employment potential in various sectors. Warangal Convenor Prof. M Pandu Ranga Rao made a presentation on the construction techniques of Ramappa, Thousand Pillar Temple and Warangal Port.

*The Bharat Kala Bhawan is an Art and Archaeological Museum (Benares Hindu University). Its collection includes, archaeological materials, paintings, textiles and costumes, decorative art, personalia collections, Indian philately and literary and archival materials. The University Museum is best known for its priceless collection of Indian paintings.*

*The Thousand Pillar Temple is located in Hanamkonda. The temple was constructed in 1163 AD by the great Rudra Deva. Every part of the temple depicts the typical Chalukya style of architecture. The Thousand Pillar Temple has three presiding deities, Vishnu, Shiva and Surya Deva. The temple stands as a statement of the finest of arts of the Kakatiyas.*
CREATIVE WORKSHOP: MATERIAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

‘Care for Heritage’
New Delhi, 22nd – 23rd October
HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Conservation Institute, (ICI) organised the ‘Care for Heritage’ – Material Heritage Conservation Workshop for schools of Delhi–NCR. The workshop was a hands-on opportunity for students to learn about conservation techniques employed by conservation experts to preserve different kinds of material heritage with focus on paper objects conservation. Over two days, the workshop was attended by 109 students from 27 schools. The workshop sessions comprised segments on photograph hinging, tear mending of paper and a visit to the ICI lab.

PUBLICATIONS

Young INTACH Newsletter – Charms of Childhood (October – December 2019)
The Newsletter draws attention to the charms of childhood, lullabies, toys, games, cradles and fond childhood memories. The Newsletter is also filled with interesting details. Also ‘did you know’ facts, stories, activities and colourful contributions from young children.

Young INTACH Regional Languages: 2018–19
Punjabi
The translation completed this quarter is in Punjabi. HECS appreciates the support and cooperation of the Punjab State Chapter for taking a keen interest in this initiative.

INTACH Pune and Chandrapur Chapter distributed Marathi newsletters to rural schools, in order to make them aware of our country's rich cultural heritage. These books were well received by the students and teachers alike.

INTACH Hyderabad Chapter awarded Telugu books to the city winners of the Heritage Quiz 2019. The quiz was conducted in Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, Kodad, Nalgonda, Sangareddy, Karimnagar and Nizamabad.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

INTACH Heritage Quiz Rounds

Himachal Pradesh

Kangra, 30th September
80 Students/11 Schools
INTACH Kangra Chapter conducted the City Round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz at Govt. Sr. Sec. School (boys) Dharamshala. C'Valik International School stood first.

Uttar Pradesh

Kanpur, 9th September
72 Students/12 Schools
INTACH Kanpur Chapter organised the inter school Heritage Quiz Competition 2019 at Shieling House School, Allenganj Kanpur. Tariq Ibrahim spoke on the importance of creating awareness among the young generation and preserving our rich heritage and culture. Anoop Shukla, a renowned historian of Kanpur, spoke on the monuments of Kanpur and the need to preserve them. Alok Gupta and Ishan Tripathi from Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Vidyalaya came first.

Meerut, 9th September
78 Students/9 Schools
The city round of INTACH Heritage Quiz 2019 was conducted at R G Inter College, Meerut. The team from BDS International School won the first prize.

West Bengal

Santiniketan, 27th September
60 Students/4 Schools
The Heritage Quiz programme was organised at Bolpur High School. Students from four local schools participated in the programme. The Quiz Master was Debasis Mukherjee. Avirup Jati and Suranjan Sahana of Bolpur High School won the quiz.
North East

Sikkim, 19th August
80 Students/10 Schools
The Heritage Quiz was organized at Modern Sr. Sec. School in Gangtok. The quiz was conducted by Ms. Bina Sharma. Tashi Namgyal Academy won the quiz. The event was covered by local newspapers and also aired on local channels.

Mizoram, 10th September
52 students/8 schools
The local round of this Quiz was conducted by Mizoram Chapter in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education at DIET, Aizawl. Pi Lalsarmawii, Director of School Education was invited as the Chief Guest. Centenary School, Aizawl won the quiz.

Kerala

Calicut 1st October
The City Round of the quiz was conducted by the Chapter at Sri Gujarati Vidyalaya. Principal Vimala Rajan, of the host school addressed the students and spoke to them about heritage awareness. Convenor Prof. Raghaviah introduced the event and explained the quiz format to the students. Students from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chevayur were declared winners of the city round.

Palakkad 21st October
14 Schools/ 70 Students
The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz as part of a unique effort to bring schools of the city together. The Chapter organized Palmyra – A Heritage Meet for the schools, and conducted a range of events for students to enhance their understanding of heritage. The quiz was conducted as part of the event.

Kochi 29th October
62 Students/ 15 Schools
The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at Indian Institute of Architects, Cochin Centre. The team from Bhavans Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakanad emerged as winners of the city round.

Bihar

Bhagalpur 30th August
76 Students/9 Schools
The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at St. Paul’s School, Karnagarh. Mohd. Masleuddin, Regional Deputy Director of Education was the chief guest for the event. In his address to the students he urged them to develop heritage awareness and care for the unique heritage aspects of their city. Additional Co-Convenor of the Chapter explained the format of the quiz to the students.
Jharkhand

Ranchi 18th October
8 Schools/46 Students

The Jamshedpur Chapter conducted the City Round of the Quiz at Bridgeford School. Students and teachers expressed happiness on being part of the event and shared what they learnt about the importance of knowing their heritage. The team from DAV School, Bariatu was declared winner of the city round.

Odisha

Bhubaneswar 14th September
72 Students/7 Schools

The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at Mother’s Public School. Students from DAV Public School, Chandasekharpur were declared winners of the Bhubaneswar city round.

Rajasthan

Jaipur 3rd October
114 Students/17 Schools

The Jaipur Chapter in collaboration with Quizcraft Global, organized the City Round of the Heritage Quiz at the Neerja Modi High School. The team from Jayshree Periwal High School was declared winner of the city round.

Karauli 23rd October
170 Students/7 Schools

The Chapter conducted the City Round of the Quiz at Vidya Bharati Vidyalaya. Students from Shri Kaila Devi Temple Trust Senior Secondary School were declared winners of the city round.

Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur 19th August
160 Students/13 Schools

The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at Deokinandan Girl’s Higher Secondary School. The team from Maharishi Vidya Mandir won the city round of the quiz.

Madhya Pradesh

Gwalior 3rd August
400 Students/over 40 Schools

The Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at Gwalior Glory High School and the response from the schools of the city was overwhelming. The team from Army Public School was declared winner of the city round.

Orchha 30th August
Over 50 Students

The City Round of the Quiz was conducted by the Chapter. Students from Sunrise Public
School were declared winner of the city round.

Shivpuri 13th September
125 Students
The Chapter organized the City Round of the Quiz at Happy Days Schools. A team from the host school was declared winner of the city round.

State Rounds
Chandigarh, 11th October
13 Schools
Chandigarh City Round of India Heritage Quiz 2019 was held at Banyan Tree School and featured 31 teams from schools in and around Chandigarh. The Quiz was conducted by Quizcraft. After 4 rounds of competitive quizzing by the teams on stage, the boys from Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh emerged as the city-level winners. The Haryana Round for INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2019 featured 6 teams – Chandigarh, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Panipat and Hisar. As per the State Round Quiz structure, a direct 5-round stage quiz was conducted. In a high-scoring State Round, the Quiz was won by students from Mukund Lal Public School, Yamunanagar. The event was graced by Chandigarh Convenor VK Kapoor.

Punjab
Amritsar, 10th October
As part of awareness programme of INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Services, the Punjab Chapter organized a State Level Heritage Quiz at Springdale Senior Secondary School Amritsar. Six teams from Amritsar, Patiala, Faridkot, Jalandhar, Malerkotla and Bathinda participated in the Quiz conducted by Quiz Masters Amanbir Noori and Nureen Mahajan. In a tough and interesting contest the Patiala team comprising Uday Malhotra and Vanshita of DAV Public school stood first. The Vice Principal of Springdale Senior Secondary School gave away the prizes and appreciated the work and initiatives of INTACH to identify, interpret and conserve cultural heritage. Dr. Sukhdev Singh emphasized the need to link our present to the past in a meaningful manner for progressing towards the future. He explained that INTACH Quiz was not a competition but a cooperative learning experience and celebration of cultural heritage.

Uttar Pradesh
Varanasi, 19th October
Varanasi Chapter organised the UP Uttarakhand State level Heritage Quiz on 19th October hosted by the Aryan International School. 6 Teams from Dehradun, Allahabad, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Banda and Varanasi participated in the State Final Round. The team from Allahabad - MPVM Ganga Gurukulam was adjudged the winner. Sunbeam School Lahartara, Varanasi was the first Runner Up. Convenor Ashok Kapoor and Adl. Co-Convenor Nirmal Joshi distributed the awards and certificates.

Karnataka (includes Bangalore City Round)
Bangalore, 24th October / 51 School Teams
Heritage Quiz 2019 featured schools in and around Bangalore and held at RBANM's Middle School Auditorium. The Quiz was won by Sri Kumaran's Children's Home followed by St. Paul's English School. The Karnataka Round for INTACH India Heritage Quiz 2019 featured 4 teams – the first two teams were from Bangalore,
the others from Bijapur and Mangalore. In a high-scoring State Round, the Quiz was won by the students from Sri Kumaran's Children's Home, Bengaluru. The event was graced by Bengaluru Convenor Meera Iyer.

**Gujarat**

*Ahmedabad, 30th September*

The State Finals of the INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted at Shreyas Foundation, Ahmedabad. Teams from Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Jamnagar took part in the Quiz. The team from Bright Day School, Vasna Unit stood first.

**Maharashtra (includes Pune City Round)**

*Pune, 31st September*

**104 Students & 9 Schools**

Pune City Round and the State Round was conducted at Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) which is an Institutional Member of INTACH. Inauguration was conducted by the youngest students of each school with INTACH team by operating the charkha to mark 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A special round dedicated to the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi was also conducted.

The State Round was won by Symbiosis School. The Quiz Master was Sourabh Marathe. In the State Round, 4 teams from Pune, Mumbai, Wai and Nashik participated. Udayachal School from Mumbai won the State Round with Manjussha Ukidve as the quiz master.

**North East Mega Final**

*Guwahati, 11th November*

The Final Round of the Heritage Quiz competition between the North East States was organized by Assam State Chapter and held at Guwahati. It was inaugurated by Assam Convenor Prof. Shiela Bora and Co-Convenor Swapnanil Barua; Milton Queah and Kamrup Chapter Convenor Manjil Hazarika were present. A total of four winning teams in the City Rounds from the States of Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam participated in the competition. The quiz was conducted by Associate Professor of Dhemaji Commerce College Dr. Ataur Rahman. The first prize was awarded to Dispur Jatiya Vidyalaya, Guwahati and the second prize to Hollotoli School, Dimapur, Nagaland.

**Andhra Pradesh**

*Vijayawada, 8th September*

Andhra Pradesh State Chapter hosted the State Final of the Heritage Quiz at Cultural Centre of Vijayawada and Amravati (CCVA). Around 10 city finalists from various cities participated in the Quiz. The team from Timpany Secondary School, Visakhapatnam was declared winner, followed by the team from Kesava Reddy School, Anantapur.

**Odisha**

*Bhubaneswar 14th September*

The Chapter conducted the State Round of the Quiz
at Mother’s Public School. Professional Bivas Rath Aatreya was the Quiz Master. City finalists from Bhubaneshwar and Balasore participated in the State Final. The team from Bhubaneshwar was declared winner of the State Round.

Chhattisgarh

Raipur 26th September
Chhattisgarh State Chapter conducted the State Final Quiz at the Rotary Club of Raipur. City finalist teams from Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Khairagarh, Mahasamund, Sarangarh and Raipur participated. The team from Holy Cross Convent, Ambikapur was declared winners.

Madhya Pradesh

Gwalior 5th October
Madhya Pradesh State Chapter conducted the State Final of the Heritage Quiz at Kalavithika Art Gallery, a unique heritage structure in Gwalior famed for its longest wall mural. Member of Parliament Vivek Narayan Sheshwalkar was the Chief Guest. City finalists from Orchha, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Jabalpur, Mandla and Burhanpur participated in the State Final. The Team from Happy Days School from Shivpuri was declared the winner of the State Round.

Bihar and Jharkhand

Ranchi 18th October
Jharkhand State Chapter conducted the State Final of the Quiz at Bridgeford School, Tupudana. Co-Convenor Jharkhand State Chapter Amitava Ghosh addressed the students on need for conserving and preserving heritage. Chief Guest Vijay Bhaskar, Editor of News Mail, also interacted with the students. City finalist teams from Ranchi, Bhagalpur and Hazaribagh competed in the State Final and the team from DAV School, Bariatu was declared winner of the State Round.

Tamilnadu

Chennai 20th October
The Tamilnadu State Chapter conducted the State Final at Sherwood Hall Senior Secondary School. Teams from Chennai, Thanjavur, Kodaikanal, Nagapattinam and Coimbatore were part of the competition. The team from Bhavan's Gandhi Vidyashram, Kodaikanal was declared winner of the State Final.

Rajasthan

Jodhpur 23rd October
The Marwar-Jodhpur Chapter conducted the City Round of the quiz at Hotel Chandra Imperial. City finalist teams from Barmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Karauli, Bikaner and
Jaipur participated in the State Final. The team from Delhi Public School, Jodhpur was declared the winner.

**Kerala**

**Cochin 29th October**

Kerala State Chapter conducted the State Round of the Quiz at Indian Institute of Architects, Cochin Centre. City finalist teams from Palakkad, Kochi and Calicut participated in the State Final. The team from Bhavans Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakkanad was declared winners.

**Telangana**

**Hyderabad 20th November**

Telangana State Chapter conducted the State Final of the quiz at Salarjung Museum. City Finalists from Warangal, Wanaparthy, Mahabubnagar Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, Kodad, Nalgonda, Sangareddy, Karimnagar and Nizamabad participated. The team from Teja Vidyalaya, Kodad was declared the winner of the State Round.

**INTACH Heritage Quiz, National Finals, 5th- 6th December 2019**

HECS in collaboration with Quizcraft Global organized the National Finals of the Quiz at INTACH Head Office. This year registered over 103 City Rounds and 20 State Rounds conducted by INTACH Chapters. Winning Teams from 18 State Finals participated in the National Finals. Teams from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, North East Mega Final, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Delhi- NCR.

On 5th December, the finalists were invited to INTACH for an introductory session. The event began with HECS Principal Director Purnima Datt welcoming the finalists. INTACH Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra addressed the gathering and handed over the Heritage Passport and INTACH Badge to all the students. The students and teachers were conducted on a heritage walk to Lodhi Gardens, followed by a visit to INTACH Conservation Centre.
On 6th December, the competition commenced with an introduction to the quiz format by Quiz Masters Aditya Mubayi and Siddhartha Kurapati, from Quizcraft Global. The winners of the four Semi Finals qualified for the National Final Round. DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Odisha, Teja Vidyalaya, Kodad, Bright Day School, Vadodara, and Vivekananda Public School, Khairagarh competed in the Finals. The National Winner of the INTACH Heritage Quiz 2019 was DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Odisha. A congratulatory address by Chairman, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) LK Gupta, and Dr. CT Misra concluded the event.

DISCOVER YOUR LIVING HERITAGE
- Awareness Workshop for Schools

**Bhagalpur 29th August**
The Chapter organized a crafts awareness workshop for 66 school students from 6 schools of the city. The resource person was a renowned Manjusha Guru Manoj Kumar Pandit who talked about a traditional form of worship *Bihula Vishahari*, the historical significance of Manjusha painting and its relation to the Republic of Anga. Former Bihar Deputy Director PRD Shiv Shankar Singh was the Chief Guest at the event. He spoke on the importance of preserving Indian heritage as a prime marker of a developed society. The workshop saw students learning the traditional art of *Manjusha*, under the guidance of Guru Manoj Kumar.

**Santiniketan, 31st August & 1st September**
The Chapter conducted a craft workshop for school students on *Shola Shilpo* at Bolpur High School. 50 students from 5 schools of Bolpur and adjoining areas participated in the workshop. A former student of Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Prabhat Bagdi, and his associates guided the students at the workshop. *Shola*, an endangered art form of the region, was chosen as it is one of the oldest soft art forms of Bengal. The students learnt the difference between true *shoaal* and the chemical thermacol which is its cheap and easily available imitation. Students made different kinds of items such as birds, butterflies, flowers, etc. with a great enthusiasm.

**Gorakhpur 22nd September**
The Chapter organized an art workshop for 98 students from 8 schools of the city. The workshop focussed on *Kohbar* painting, a style which is intertwined with the social customs of the region. The programme commenced with Dr. Nisha Jaiswal, Associate Professor of DDU, Gorakhpur University, an artist herself specializing in miniature painting. She spoke about the importance of details in a *Kohbar* painting. The trainer Dr. Kumud Singh, Head of Painting Department at the KS Saket Post Graduate College, being a practitioner of this art form, gave a brief on the drawing process. She followed it with a demonstration that was copied by the students. The workshop was attended by many art appreciators and other Faculty members who lauded the Chapter’s efforts.

**Solapur 25th September**
The Chapter conducted a workshop on traditional *Lambani Embroidery* for school students at S.R. Girls’ School, Sevasadan with 60 students from 15 schools participating. It collaborated with Mallamma Yelawar of Sabala Handicrafts, Vijayapur who has been working with *Lambani* women to preserve and contemporize their traditional crafts. Vice-President of *Sevasadan* Dr. Sheelatai Mistry was the Chief Guest. Addressing the students she said it is a duty to our cultural heritage to
assimilate the arts from the Adivasis - who have been here since the beginning of civilization. Head of Department of Archaeology of Solapur University, and INTACH Life Member Dr. Maya Patil drew attention to the traditional ornaments and attire of the Lamanis as being similar to those found in Indus Valley. The resource persons for this workshop were from Sabla Handicrafts namely - Renuka Kattimani, Geeta Gurjar, Nemibai Rathod, Sushilabai Rathod and Malashree Rathod. The workshop was greatly appreciated as a unique opportunity to learn a new craft both by students and accompanying teachers.

**Udaipur 12th October**
The Chapter conducted a workshop on Phad painting and miniature art at St. Anthony’s School. The Chapter invited Om Prakash Soni and Dr. Shalini Nathaniel as the experts to guide the students on miniature art. Abhishek Joshi also guided the participants on Phad art. The experts spoke to the 76 students from 16 schools participating in the workshop. The Chief Guest SK Verma, IFS (R), Principal of the host school William D’Souza present at the workshop felicitated the resource persons.

**East Godavari 3rd November**
The Chapter conducted a workshop at the P. R. Govt. College on Timber Toy-Making, an endangered craft in this region. The Andhra Pradesh Government Deputy Director Information and Public Relations M. Francis was the Chief Guest. Principal of the College Dr. C Krishna was the Guest of Honour. Over 80 students from 12 schools of the city participated in the workshop. The resource person Korumilli Nageswara Rao spoke about the history and importance of this craft form. The students were fascinated and thrilled to see how the toys are made and some of them tried their hand at making one.

**Kasargod 11th November**
The Chapter organized a training workshop on Coconut Leaf Crafts at St. BASB School, Bela. The workshop allowed children to interact with nature and taught them the importance of coconut leaves in human life, and how to use coconut leaf craft that is slowly disappearing from everyday life as plastic has replaced coconut leaf products. 94 students from 2 schools participated in the workshop. Eminent coconut leaf craft artists Renjith Kadamanitta and Vishnu Muraleedharan were the resource persons for this workshop. Under the guidance of the experts, students enthusiastically made toys like birds, balls, different types of decorative items, necklace, head band, snakes and many other items from coconut leaves.

**Jabalpur 13th November**
The Chapter conducted a workshop on Gond Painting at the Rani Durgavati Sangrahalaya for school students.
Retd. Professor, Head of Tribal Studies University of Jabalpur Dr. SK Tiwari and Head of Department of Painting at the MKB Government PG College Dr. Aruna were invited as resource persons for this workshop. They addressed the participants on the origin and history of this painting style, describing its characteristic features. Dr. Aruna gave a painting demonstration to 87 students from 4 schools attending the workshop. The Chapter prepared and published a folder on Gond Painting for information of participating students and teachers, and shared it with the local Media.

**Mandi 24th November**
The Chapter conducted a workshop on the Mandi Kalam style of painting held in two phases. This miniature painting style allows students not only to learn the art form but also to know the history and heritage of their own region. Over 80 students from 10 schools of the city participated in the workshop. The resource person Rajesh Kumar, who is an artist and researcher, spoke about the historical development of this painting style and the features of Mandi Kalam in terms of colours and themes painted. Additional Deputy Commissioner of the District Ashutosh Garg as Chief Guest was very appreciative of the workshop. He said such initiatives go a long way in preserving the heritage of the region. The participating students also expressed an interest in pursuing the art form in future as well.

**Jamshedpur 11th and 12th December**
The Chapter held a workshop on Pyatkar Painting at JUSCO School, Kadma and Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bistupur. It was conducted by a prominent Pyatkar painter Vijay Chitrakar with 87 students participating. The students were not only introduced to the art form but learnt about the historical significance of this regional painting style with the artist explaining the salient features of the painting. Jamshedpur Co-Convenor Amitava Ghosh spoke about the this art form which uses only natural colours and pigments and how it is fast disappearing due to lack of awareness. As active citizens students must protect and preserve their heritage.

**SOME INTERESTING CRAFTS SELECTED BY CHAPTERS**

**Kaavi Kaale:** art form is practiced primarily in the Konkan region; it comes from two word Kaavi meaning mud and Kaale meaning art. The distinctive laterite soil of the region with a red pigment is the key usage for sustenance of this art form. Kaavi Kaale is an art form used to create temple murals employing floral and geometric designs.

**Tholpaavakoothu:** a traditional shadow puppetry form, is performed in temples of Palakkad, Malappuram and Thrissur Districts of Kerala. The performance themes are inspired by the Ramayana. They honour Goddess Bhadrakali, as it is believed she watches the performance and blesses the community.

**Mandi Kalam:** is a painting style, which flourished in the 16th century under Raja Keshav Sen of Mandi. This painting style uses natural pigments and the themes painted are inspired from surroundings. Thus paintings of nature and animals constitute a key recurring theme. Another distinctive feature of this painting is of Lord Shiva as the town is dedicated to the God.

**Shola Shilpo:** is a craft tradition which is popular in West Bengal and Assam, the raw material a type of soft wood called Shola or Kohila which grows abundantly in the region. The items made out of shola have religious significance. Interestingly in order to make craft items from shola wood, just a sharp knife is the only implement required.

**Manjusha Painting:** dates back to the 7th century and is associated with the Janpada of Anga, modern day Bhagalpur. Only three colours are used to create the paintings. The themes are derived from the folklore of Bihula- Bishari.
Chapters

Andhra Pradesh

Srikakulam

This year the Chapter distributed pollution free clay statues for Ganesh Pooja to villagers prior to Ganesh Chaturthi. On 18th September it conducted an awareness programme at Arasavilli Temple area, with a rally by school students, and pledged non-usage of plastics. Convenor Radha Prasad M V Swamy, along with V J Naidu, P.K. Rao School HM and Temple EO with their respective staff members participated in the event, accompanied by District Tourism Officer Narayana Rao. Swatchhta Seva to date is a sustained programme of the Chapter entrusted to social worker Life Member Dr. MV Swamy. World Tourism Day was celebrated at the local Government Degree College with a quiz, elocution, essay writing competitions with prizes awarded to students. Vice Principal RG Lachanas was Chief Guest. Convenor Radha Prasad, Co-Convenor S Mohana Rao, Professors Dr. Chinna Rao, Dr. Johan and Dr. Srinavasa Varma addressed the gathering.

Clay Ganesh idols were distributed in L.P.H. School by Young INTACH

The 130th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was celebrated at the Central Library. It was attended by Central Library Secretary Kumara Raja, INTACH Member Dr. ES Sanapat Kumar, Chief Librarian T Tirumala Kumar Satyanarayana, with school and college students participating. INTACH clubbed the heritage week activity with this by holding one event daily at the Library with books on Srikakulam and a copy of Story of the Stone to the Central Library awarded as prizes.

130th Birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and inauguration of Heritage Walk in Central Library

International Children’s Day was conducted in Peddapeta Village, Palakonda Division at the premises of Arts (NGO). Addl. Co-Convenor N Sanyasi Rao awarded prizes to the winners of the competition on Child Rights. Convenor KVJ Prasad Nirmala, and Child Line Members attended the event.

Indian Constitution Day was marked at the Government Degree College with Nehru Yoga Kendra (NYK), Self Employment Training Srikakulam (SETSRI) and the
District Tourism Department. Three hundred students from various colleges participated in a rally starting from Government Degree College (W). A meeting was held with Chief Guest Addl. Public Prosecutor V Sudha Rani. The Principal Government Degree College Dr. K Ramlu administered the Constitution Day oath. Coordinator NYK Siva Prasad Reddy, N Narayana Rao, DTA Manager SETSRI BV Prasada Rao, INTACH Member VJ Naidu participated in the programme conducted with the National Anthem.

Visakhapatnam

The Chapter organised a first-of-its-kind Regional Seminar on ‘Heritage Based Architectural Tours’ in association with GITAM School of Architecture on 12th October at its Seminar Hall of Builders Association near Siripuram. Eminent guest CMDE Sushant Dam (Director-MWC) gave a lecture on Indo-China Heritage Link. Convenor Rajmata Mayank Kumari Deo, Director, GITAM School of Architecture, and Architect Bhimesh were present. Dr. K Mohan gave the keynote speech on Global Heritage. Students presented their extensive work conducted during a month long exercise to document architecturally important structures in 14 cities across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. INTACH Student Chapter’s new President is architect Akshay Sanyal who will continue to conduct educational works in association with INTACH Visakhapatnam. As an eco-friendly sensitive gesture, all the participants were presented with plant saplings along with certificates.

The book Travel-Architecture-People, edited by Assistant Professors Gaurab Das Mahapatra and Sudeshna Chakraborty and compiled by B.Arch student Amisha Kushwaha, comprising documented information during study tours, was released by the dignitaries. It reflects the experiential quality of an architectural marvel inherently linked to the adaptability of human intervention in and around it. Architecture creates a backdrop for a person to perceive the true spirit of the space.
The students participated in photography, documentation and videography competitions and were awarded by INTACH. The 50 shortlisted photographs on display were on heritage structures, people and journey.

In the Documentation segment, students presented works focusing on tangible and intangible aspects of heritage. A short film by Uttam Varma (3rd yr. B.Arch Student) was shown vividly expressing the interlinking of built heritage and human perceptions.

The programme was an enriching experience for INTACH Members. Architect Bhimalingeswara Rao, an eminent architect and visiting Professor at GITAM, guided the students in their presentations, explained the importance of documentation in the 21st century.

Photography Jury Sudeshna Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, GITAM

The seminar was summed up by Assistant Professor and architect Sudeshna Chakraborty, an Associate Member of INTACH who announced some upcoming events of the Students Chapter, GITAM School of Architecture.

Visakhapatnam Chapter, in association with students of GITAM School, were also introduced to documentation of built fabric in Visakhapatnam in November and a journey through global heritage in November-December.

Students on 19 days documentation tour of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala
A very active Member of the Chapter Ankitham V. Indrani Jagga Row passed away on 1st December. Born of an illustrious family of Bengal, she studied at Tagore’s Vishwa Bharati University and later at Delhi University. After marriage to a scion of the Ankitham family, Visakhapatnam became home and place of work. She involved herself with many activities of the District including village and educational programmes. She became President of the All India Women’s Conference, and of the Mahila Mini Super Bazar, always remaining a non-political person. She also played an active role in the administration of AVN College and the Handloom Advisory Board. Her numerous achievements were crowned with the Women’s Excellence Award by the National Commission for Women in 1997.

INTACH has indeed lost a very valuable Member, who will remain an inspiration to other Members long after she has gone. We send our deepest condolences to her sons Adip Bhanoji Row and Monish Jagga Row who are also active Members of the Chapter in the footsteps of their mother. We send our many good wishes to them.

East Godavari

It was indeed sad to know of the untimely demise of East Godavari Chapter Member Dr. M Narayana Rao. He passed away on 13th November at a relatively young age of 55 years after a heart attack. Tragically it was just a few hours after the marriage of his daughter. Since attending the Capacity Building Workshop at INTACH he had energized many of the Chapter’s programmes. Buddhism was a subject of special interest that he was researching for a Doctorate. He often conducted foreign tourists on visits to Buddhist sites. INTACH sends its heartfelt condolences to Smt. Narayan Rao and their two daughters. We sincerely hope they will find solace in his life well lived, and the strength to bear the sudden loss of a dear one. We send many good wishes for their future.

Kurnool

INTACH received the sad news that Life Member Chokkapu Narayana Swamy passed away on 11th November. He had always participated and involved himself in Chapter programmes and other activities. His absence will be greatly felt by all his colleagues. INTACH joins them in sending condolences to his bereaved family. Time is the only healer after such a loss. We wish for bearance at this difficult time for the family, and send good wishes for their future.

CONDOLENCES

The Kurnool Chapter lost another valuable Member with the passing away of its Co-Convenor and Life Member Osman Haroon. He had contributed a great deal to the Chapter’s activities as its Co-Convenor, and will be greatly missed by all his colleagues. INTACH sends its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family members. We wish them strength and forbearance at this grievous time. We send our good wishes for their future well being and happier times.

ASSAM

The State Chapter started a project on Restoration, Conservation and Documentation of Manuscripts, Artifacts and Photographs in the Museum and Research Centre near Mayong. It was funded by Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany. In addition to conserving manuscripts associated with centuries old traditional healing practices in the area, the project envisages listing of archaeological sites from Kajolichowki to Baghjap areas. The project proposes to carry out research along Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, making it a citizens’ effort by involving community and academia, with Mayabi Mayong as the hub. The project will be guided by Prof. Sheila Bora and Swapnanil Baruah of Assam State Chapter, and the research headed by Dr. Manjil Hazarika HOD, Deptt. of Archaeology, Cotton University and convenor Kamprup Chapter. It will receive assistance from Mukul Tamuly, ACF Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and other local experts and members of Mayong Museum Society. Chapter Members visited the project site on 19th December and met the District officials and community people to garner their cooperation. A Press Release was issued for public information.
**Conservation beyond Borders**

On 6th November, the Balipara Foundation - Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum and Assam Chapter jointly held a session on *Conservation beyond borders – heritage as a connecting link in Eastern Himalayas.* UNESCO C2C Niraj Kakti gave an overview of heritage matters in Northeast India. State Convenor Dr. Sheila Bora spoke on *Majuli* cultural heritage. Rita Banerji from *Green Hub* elaborated on grass root experience of capacity building in heritage. Dr. Bibulti Lahkar, IUCN Heritage Hero 2016 made a presentation on research and capacity building at research sites of the region. The keynote address was by Principal Conservator of Forests & Head of Assam Government Forest Force. The ensuing dialogue helped to review and renew talks on heritage as a connecting link between nature-culture, and as soft element for trans-boundary cooperation. Sites like *Manuli, Garo Hills Conservation Area and the Apatani Cultural Landscape* are striving to achieve World Heritage inscription but require strengthening of their management and protection. New sites like the *Living Heritage Roots Bridges of Khasi Hills in Meghalaya* and the *Tea Cultural Landscape of Assam and Darjeeling* are yet to be explored for their heritage potential. The *Balipara Foundation* has offered to host similar dialogues periodically as a regular feature at its yearly *Naturenomics Forum.*

**Kamrup**

Dr. Jonali Devi is appointed as Co-Convenor of INTACH Kamrup Chapter. She will assist Dr. Aradhana Kataki, Convenor. INTACH wishes her well for all the future heritage conservation and preservation challenges ahead.

**CHHATTISGARH**

**Kawardha**
Gedi Daud Pratiyogita, a traditional old bamboo stick race of Chhatisgarh, was organized by the Chapter recently. A traditional baiga bams (bamboo) song and dance was performed on the special occasion of Janmashtami.

DELHI

**CONDOLENCES**

Associate Life Member of Delhi Chapter Udayan Panda passed away on 14th September. He took a keen interest in all its activities, and pride in the Chapter’s success in enhancing its image, especially through regular heritage walks. They have become an integral part of sight-seeing for tourists, visitors and Delhites alike.

INTACH sends heartfelt condolences to Pankaja Panda and other members of his family at this grievous time for them. We wish them all the best for the future.

Delhi Chapter Heritage Walks have acquired a momentum of their own among local people, and increasingly becoming popular with visitors as a much sought after experience. They are held regularly over weekends, and have added to their local popularity, as can be seen from the sample schedule for this current quarterly year.

The **Shahpur Jat Autumn Festival** was held in October by Delhi Tourism to highlight the cultural facets of an urban village located in the heart of Delhi. A series of walks were led by Aradhana Sinhaid from INTACH in and around this thriving village in the midst of urban habitation. In particular the Tohfewala Gumbad and ruins of Siri located around this village named after it, with its many thriving outlets, fashion boutiques and restaurants all thronging with people in its many winding lanes, are a must visit for most Delhites and a great tourist attraction.

After the success of the first outstation trip to Mandu and Maheshwar, the Chapter organized another educational visit to Hampi from 28th November - 1st December.

To celebrate World Heritage Week, Delhi Chapter introduced an online campaign from 18th-24th November inviting posts and write ups on the social media account
‘Endangered Monuments in Delhi’. It highlighted issues of encroachment and the dilapidated condition of these monuments by observers. A complimentary heritage walk was also organized at Nizamuddin, interestingly named ‘3 Poets 3 Epochs 1 City’ that was conducted by Chandrasekhar Tampi on 24th November.

The weekend heritage walks are now a regularly sustained feature of Delhi Chapter activities. The most popular during the months of October-December were:

Exploring Nature & Monuments in collaboration with WWF on 12th October. It was conducted by Aradhana Sinha and Kaustubh Srikanth who shared insights on the said theme at Lodi Garden.

Chandrasekhar Tampi conducted the ‘Shahjahanabad: Din wa Duniya’ walk in Chandni Chowk on 30th November that elicited great enthusiasm.

GUJARAT

Gujarat State Chapter met on 2nd October at Ahmedabad, Chaired by former bureaucrat State Convenor P K Ghosh, the meeting was attended by prospective members from Porbandar, Mehsana and Morbi, and LE College Alumni Association. Various issues like strategy for reactivating INTACH local Chapters at Porbandar, Junagadh and Kutch to enhance the membership base, and formation of new local Chapters at Bharuch, Gandhinagar and Morbi which are under active consideration, were discussed.

A methodology for encouraging heritage building owners to avail incentives like tax benefits, alternative use, TDR benefits, etc. from the State Government and make representation to specified Department of the State Government, were measures discussed at length.

The possibilities of cooperating with Department of Culture to prepare a list of Government heritage buildings in the State would be considered. It was decided to contact Gujarat Maritime Board regarding the proposed Mercantile Maritime Museum in Gujarat.

A strategy for permanent protection and restoration/
conservation of LE Engineering College’s Nazar Baug building in Morbi also needs to be worked out. There are some pending decision such as organizing a workshop on *Indigenous Languages of Gujarat* in collaboration with the State Tribal Development Department, and opening of a new Chapter.

It was decided that a visit to Mehsana should be planned by Convenor/Co-Convenor to induct new Members and form more local Chapters, given the increasing heritage awareness among people – especially in Bharuch which has an ancient history. The erstwhile princely state of Morbi is another suitable venue for a Chapter.

Gandhinagar is a third potential location proposed for an INTACH Chapter - its formation would help in lobbying with the State Government.

*UN Climate Change Conference COP 2020* for International Convention on Migratory Species is to be held at Gandhinagar in Feb. 2020. Central Office was requested to contact the Ministry of Environment and Forests to facilitate Chapter’s participation in the Conference.

Given the rich mercantile marine heritage of South Gujarat and Saurashtra, the establishment of a Mercantile Marine Museum at one of the coastal towns of Gujarat is a long felt need. It was decided to make a representation to Gujarat Maritime Board with this proposal.

It was brought to the notice of INTACH Central Office that more than 100 years old *Nazar Baug Palace*, which houses one of the units of LE College, is to be demolished by the Government.

The plight of the heritage buildings in Porbandar belonging to Princely times was discussed. The Chapter prefers to take up the issue with the local administration and stall demolition.

**Jamnagar**

The Jamnagar Chapter held a *Heritage Week Workshop* on 30th November on several local crafts like stained glass painting, *mehndi*, Arabic style embroidery, various kinds of intricate stitches that are part of heritage and culture. It was a fun workshop with some guests attending to see what INTACH offers youngsters to learn about arts and crafts. INTACH plans outreach programmes for students from various Institutions to promote heritage awareness in some crafts dying due to technology. Art and craft by hand rather than machines are recognized as special in most countries.

**Rajpipla**

The listing by Rajpipla Chapter adopted by the District Panchayat/ Collectorate needs to be undertaken after an interactive meeting, intimating them on the heritage issues covered under the 11th & 12th Schedule of the Constitution. A meeting with the District Panchayat President is proposed to be arranged with the DDO/ DCs advise, by the State Convenor.

Another proposal is to hold a local workshop on the Tribal Language of Rajpipla, tying up with a local college that has a language related Faculty.
HARYANA

The Biannual Haryana State Chapter meeting was held at INTACH Central Office on 18th December, presided by Chairman Maj.Gen. (Retd.) LK Gupta. Haryana Advisory Committee Chairperson Komal Anand, State Convenor Dr. Shika Jain as well as Convenors of various districts attended this meeting encompassing recent developments in heritage projects. All on-going heritage and outreach programmes of Haryana Chapters were reviewed. The Committee was updated on imperative measures in progress in the Districts eg. conservation work taken up on *Rani ki Chhatri* at Faridabad, documentation of the recently discovered French soldier’s tomb in Gurugram, and Rakhigarhi cultural mapping at Hissar, Faridabad, Ambala and Mahendragarh. Haryana Co-Convenor Prof. Kiran Joshi mentioned publications on Ambala and Nirnaul where a site extension is proposed at ASI protected *Jal Mahal*. Given the scope of activities Chairman saw the need for setting up some sub-Chapters in Haryana.

Karnal

Karnal Chapter was revived after a long interval at a meeting held at Karnal Club on 15th December. Chairman LK Gupta addressed the meeting attended by eminent local personalities, highlighting the importance and need to preserve heritage. The newly appointed Convenor Dr. Piyush Kumar and Director Chapters Gp. Capt. Arvind Shukla (Retd.) were present.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Dharamshala

Dr. Ashwini Kaul is appointed as Convenor of INTACH Dharamshala Chapter. INTACH welcomes him with many good wishes for a fulfilling assignment and success all the way in the cause of heritage and environment of a well endowed region of Himachal. We send many good wishes for every success.

Mandi

Mandi Chapter honoured some organizations involved in promotion and preservation of old culture of their area at a function presided by President Mandi Municipal Council. Preservation of local art in folk music, dances and theatre, etc. connected with the distinct culture of Mandi area was discussed. The Chapter plans to chalk out programmes involving local people to revive the old traditions. Such programmes also create awareness among youth and students about age old practices that otherwise
become extinct. President Mandi Municipal Council Suman Thakur presided the meeting and appreciated INTACH’s cultural efforts, assuring full cooperation from the Municipal Council.

State Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated a three day Chhoti Kashi Mahotsav organized from 4th-6th October for Himachal Pradesh Government to highlight the history, culture and heritage of Mandi. This town attained the name Chhoti Kashi because of 81 historical temples of architectural value, mostly dedicated to Lord Shiva and built by erstwhile rulers of Mandi State during 16th-19th centuries. The State Government now plans to develop the town as Shiv Dham, and connect it to nearby tourism circuits flowing through this historically important gateway area.

Mandi Chapter organized a heritage walk for about 75 students from 15 schools to three 16th century historical temples Ardhnariswar, Panchvaktra and Trilokinath built in Shikhar style, with a resource person explaining the history and architecture of these temples. They made drawings and paintings of temples. The Chapter proposes to put up signages with informative details at site.

Shimla

A Know India programme was conducted from 5th–29th November by the Ministry of External Affairs for the Indian Diaspora - to introduce the younger generation to their roots - especially those whose ancestors emigrated from India several generations ago. In 2016, the scheme was revamped and the duration was increased to 25 days, with preference given to PIOs from Girmitiy countries of the Carribean like Mauritius, Seychelles, Fiji, Suriname and Guyana that have large Indian origin populations.

This was the 57th such programme conducted in Himachal Pradesh. State Co-Convenor Raaja Bhasin conducted a heritage walk on 13th November to acquaint the 47 participants with the history of Shimla town.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu

On 18th November Jammu Chapter celebrated the World Heritage Week 2019 for Preservation-Conservation-Restoration and revival of its Cultural Heritage at Pathshala Hall, Jammu Cantt. area.

Secretary RDD Sheetal Nanda released a brochure produced by Jammu Chapter depicting types of water bodies in Jammu District. Dr. Suvidha Khanna, Faculty from SHTM Department, University of Jammu, and several Jammu Chapter Members attended the event.

A brochure on the Built Heritage Jammu Cantt. was also released. Event Coordinator SS Rissam explained the Chapter’s activities and INTACH’s nation wide efforts to sensitize the general public through heritage conservation programmes. Jammu Cantonment has a history of more than 150 years of built heritage, mostly from 1890 onwards, that is well maintained to date by the Indian Army. Chief
Guest Maj. Gen. Sharad Kapur and Air Commodore Ajay Singh Pathania, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Chapter Advisor on Military Heritage were the Guests of Honour. Maj. Gen. Sharad Kapur GOC 26 Infantry Division said Indian Army is maintaining these buildings with a reuse plan. He felt honoured to be living in Topi Bungalow, one of the prestigious heritage houses of the Cantonment.

Maj. Gen. Goverdhan Singh Jamwal gave a brief history of the State forces as well as Indian Army right from Gen. Zorawar Singh’s era to the present time, with the first Railway Station now in Air Force Station Area. Other notable buildings are the Satwari House, Topi Bungalow, Usman Officers Institute, J&K Army Training Centre which is now Station Canteen, the Railway Station of Jammu Cantonment, now Army Station Headquarters.

Air Commodore AS Pathania explained the built heritage falling under the jurisdiction of the Air Force Station, and gave an impressive brief about its maintenance and preservation with changes made as per requirements.

The Crafts of Jammu was released at the Cluster University Old Campus by the Jammu Deptt. of History specializing in Cultural Heritage. An Ethnic Foods Competition was held at Food Craft Institute, Nagrota, an interactive meet on Festivals of Jammu, Recycling of Waste Rags (Swachhata Campaign) at the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, University of Jammu were some other activities of the Chapter. Director School Education Anuradha Gupta was the Chief Guest, while Convenor SM Sahni and Principal Food Craft Institute Jyoti Bhatti were guests of honour. Bharti Samayal, Nidhi Kotwal and Dr. Suvidha Khanna acted as judges.

Dogra foods of Jammu such as Ambal, varieties of Rajmah, Chane ki Dal, Kayuer, various chutneys and other ethnic cuisines were prepared on the spot at Food Craft Institute Lab by participating students, and interacting with inter-institutional teams. Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Miran Sahib won the first prize, while second prize was awarded to Food Craft Institute, and third prize to the team from School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), Jammu University.

The celebrations concluded on 23rd November with a Heritage Drive on the traditional Vaishno Devi route, flagged off by Bamyal Nagrota from the Environmental Sciences Deptt. University of Jammu.

JHARKHAND

Hazaribagh
Abadakone Continous Fire / Feu Continuel

Tribal Women Artists Cooperative, Hazaribagh featured...
extensively in the Canadian press at Ottawa. Four massive murals along one of the gallery’s hallways displayed two of many styles of artwork practiced by tribal villages in India. Both the Ganju and Oraon styles feature beautifully decorative animals and plants, and are traditionally painted on the walls of homes by women to mark ceremonial occasions like harvest or a marriage. Three of the collective’s 3,000 members — mother and daughter, Oraon artists Yvonne June Imam and Philomina Tirkey Imam, and Ganju master Putli Ganju were in Ottawa working on these panels for almost a month, using mud sourced from the Montreal area. “These are all the forest animals and flowers,” said the elder Imam, who taught her daughter the technique. They ceremoniously invited visitors to come and enjoy happiness at their village back home.

KARNATAKA

Dharwad

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH was deeply saddened at the sudden passing away of Dharwad Convenor Shri NP Bhat on 29th December. He was in the midst of his passion project - extending the Dharwad Museum that was set up by him, to become a must visit place for local people and visitors from outstation. The Museum introduces with pride the many illustrious sons and daughters who contributed to make this city known as a cultural and educational centre of Karnataka.

Earnest in his pursuits, his failing health never detracted from his dedication to work with a smile, a joke or a shrug of his shoulders. Shri NP Bhat will be fondly remembered for his absolute dedication to INTACH, love for holding music programmes, and above all his sense of humour. His absence will be long felt by his colleagues, and his many friends at INTACH.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Smt. Yashodha Bhat and his daughter-in-law Mangla who are both women of substance with achievements to their own credit. Our thoughts are with them at this grievous time, and also our good wishes for their future well being.

**Legacy of Southern Maratha Railways (SMR)**

Rekha Shettar associated with the Dharwad Chapter forwarded some historic details of the city from 1818. With the defeat of warrior queen Kittur Channamma and later of the Marathas, this southern part of the country was merged into Bombay Presidency. The British built roads and introduced railways, postal and telegraph systems paving the path for progress. In 1830, Dharwad was made the Divisional Headquarters of the Dharwad Collectorate. As per the records, Captain CC Johnson of London was the construction engineer of railways in 1858, who sent the proposal for a railway line called Southern Maratha Railway (SMR). The main terms of the contract were 99 year lease and free gift of land. Eventually the company was established on 1st June 1882, and headquartered at Dharwad. The first line was a meter guage of 40.5 miles long from Bellary to Hospet known as the “famine line” to carry grains to affected areas. In 1886, SMR constructed the first coast to coast line from Marmgoa to Vijayawada. By 1907 a major Southern Maratha Railway Company covered a thousand mile long section in Bombay and Madras Presidencies. The main supply of water to the SMR campus was a large well, nearly forty feet in diameter, pumped by a steam engine. Since water was a contentious issue, they shifted the workshop. Rekha Shettar provides many details about mergers to form SMR in 1919, and administration shifting to the twin cities of Dharwad and Hubli.

*Karnataka Arts College* was established in 1917. Governor of Bombay Presidency Sir George Leider visited Dharwad in 1919, and proposed the administrative building of Southern Maratha Railways (SMR) for the new college which in those days cost only Rs. 3,26,956. Rekha Shettar has done a creditable job of compiling many facets of Dharwad history and development for those interested in the history of cities.
Symbolism of LION

The two golden yellow seated lions on either side of the entrance porch welcome visitors to the main entrance of the building. “Lion”, a symbolism of England since 11th century, represents courage, leadership, royalty, and regarded as the king of beasts. In sculptures of stone or metal, the lions assume different postures as rampant (rearing), passant (striding) couchant (lying down), dormant (sleeping) and sejat (sitting on its haunches with both four paws on the ground).

Most vernacular residential houses all over in Dharwad, with their sloping red tiled roofs, were once the characteristic feature of houses all over the city and the land was covered in orange tinged mud. Only a handful of those houses survive today - but not for long.

Mangaluru

Daasavaniat Kodial Guthu

The Chapter highlighted the musical heritage of Karnataka on 30th November with a presentation of Daasavani kirtans at Kodial Guthu, by Harikhatha Lakshminarnappapiah - a renowned scholar in coastal districts of Mangaluru, Udupi and Kasaragod. Vocalists Vidyashree and Dhanashree with B Manohar Rao on the Mrudangam enhanced the evening with presentations of rare krities rendered with sensitivity by the young vocalist.
KERALA

Shri Vinod Kumar MM is appointed as Convenor of INTACH Thrissur Chapter. He will be assisted by newly appointed Ms. Surya Prasanth as Co-Convenor. We welcome them both into the INTACH family and wish them every success in the new responsibilities they have taken up. We hope they will find this challenging assignment equally fulfilling. We send our best wishes for their success.

ANTIGODS’ OWN COUNTRY

A recently published book by AV Sakhidharan Navayana is about his first tryst with the Onam festival, in company of a friend distraught about having to skip the sadya (feast) due to back-to-back classes. The myth of Onam speaks of a king who continues to be a modern day hero to many lower caste and Adivasi communities in a society where faith of marginalized communities is systematically erased. The author goes a step forward using the motif of Onam to sketch the cultural and spiritual roots of festivals, deities and faiths, and underlines the insidious ways Brahmanical traditions have co-opted them. It is not an easy book as the writer flits between different stories, deities and kingdoms and some base knowledge of Kerala history. It however lays out the majestic diversity of Kerala’s faiths and deities – and makes some poignant comments on contemporary debates. Best example is entry banned to young women at Sabarimala Temple. Though it was struck down by Supreme Court, it continues to be blocked by hundreds of male devotees and to make news. Till another more enlightened generation perhaps?

Ack : Dhrubo Jyoti, Hindustan Times

MADHYA PRADESH

Burhanpur

Under direction of the State Government, a six day Tourism Week was celebrated in all the Districts of Burhanpur. On the last day, INTACH Chapter held a heritage walk from Hotel Amber flagged by Additional Collector Roanus Toppo, with District Transport Officer Surendra Singh Gautam and Chapter Convenor Hoshang Havaldar present. The students of Sevasadan Mahavidyalaya, Kadaria College, Shasakiya Mahavidyalaya, Zakir Hussain College and Nodal Officers, DATC associates and Chapter Members participated in the walk via Kala Ghoda Water Sport grounds, Rokadia Hanuman Temple and the Shah Navazkhan Tomb. The Touristic celebrations focussed on spreading awareness of heritage sites among both young people and the citizens.

The Chapter organized a Cleaning Campaign and Heritage Marathon with 100 participants as part of the event. It was attended by District Collector Rajesh Kumar Kaul, District Panchayat Rohan Saxena, Municipal Commissioner Bhagwandas Bhumarkar, District Tourism Officer RK Singh with other officers, DATC Members, Chapter Members, students and citizens. The early morning cleaning operation was held for removing garbage around the Shanwara Gate flagged off from Shanwara Gate to Marichika Garden. A marathon was also held with District Collector Rajesh Kumar Kaul, other dignitaries and INTACH members participating.

A tourist guide training was organized at Hotel Amber with the participation of 50 people. District Tourism Officer RK Singh, and others, Convenor Hoshang Havaldar along with the DATC and Chapter Members, students and citizens made up a sizeable number of participants at the two sessions. It was felt there is a requirement for guides in Burhanpur, for promoting heritage information apart from heritage walks to attract greater public participation.

Jabalpur

An expert team from the Chapter comprising Convenor Dr. RK Sharma, Co-Convenor Dr. KK Seth, Member
Lakshmikant Sharma and senior geologist Dr. SD Pimrikar visited Lamhetaghat-Bheraghat region of Jabalpur on 11th December. Accompanying them was Principal Director NH Division, Manu Bhatnagar to assess the potential for establishment of a world class Geo Park, Earth Museum, Planetarium and Zoological cum Botanical Garden in the area. The banks of the Narmada River has unique geological features and even the remains of Dinosaur eggs were once found here. Moreover the Narmada Valley has played a significant role in the evolution of human race. Currently efforts are also being made to develop the region as a tourist destination.

The proposed project was subsequently discussed with the Divisional Commissioner who issued instructions to the local authorities concerned to provide INTACH with all necessary data to facilitate a viable plan for the proposed project.

**Gond Painting Workshop**

A one day workshop of the *Tribal Art of Gond Painting* was held on 13th November at the Rani Durgavati Sangrahaylaya. As many as 87 students from four schools participated enthusiastically in this tribal art workshop, with prizes awarded to the best works. The fascinating aspects of Gond tribal art were pointed out by specialists in their talks on Gond painting - Prof. SK Tiwari and Dr. Aruna. Archaeologist Dr. SN Kishra threw light on various aspects of this interesting tribal art. A brochure on the subject by Dr. Lakshmi Kant Sharma was distributed to the students. The top 10 entries were awarded and sent to HECS Division at Central Office.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**Chandrapur**

Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur was honoured with a ‘Life Time Achievement Award’ by Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Jay Pratap Singh for his contribution in the field of Numismatics and Heritage Conservation at a programme held on 18th October in Lucknow. He expressed gratitude to Ranvijay Singh, VV Singh, and the team of Awadh Coin Society for the honour received.
**COINEX PUNE-2019** was organised by International Collectors' Society of Rare Items (ICSRI) in Pune on 15th November celebrating its 25th Anniversary. There was a presentation by Chancellor, Deccan College AP Jamkhedkar and Chairman, ICHR, Delhi.

The 12th Foundation Day of the Chapter was celebrated on 2nd October with a heritage walk for NCC cadets. They were accompanied by Co-Convenor Pravin Nikhare and several Chapter Members. The cadets visited the premises of the historic graveyard of the Gond dynasty. Plastic bags, polythene and plastic wrappers, bottles and other waste littered the premises, and were cleaned out in memory of Mahatma Gandhi’s who once said cleanliness is next to godliness. They also saw the exhibition held at the grave yard of miniatures, postal stamps, coins and currency notes along with a rare collection of Mahatma Gandhi’s photographs remembering his 125th birth anniversary. The exhibits belong to the personal collection of Convenor Ashok Thakur. Refreshments were served at the end of what was a most enjoyable programme for them.

A heritage walk was also conducted for students and teachers of the Hindi City High School, City Janya Vidalaya and City Higher Secondary School on *World Tourism Day*. They visited the Murlidhar temple belonging to the Bhonsle dynasty and lingered over the architectural features of the temple.

Another workshop was held on *Significance of Protection and Conservation of Heritage* at Hindi City Higher Secondary School presided by Principal Renu Jeswani and its erstwhile Principal AN Pullawar who spoke on the significance of ancestral heritage.

World Heritage Week 19th-25th November was marked various activities students, teachers and citizens. There was a 3-days long Heritage Paintings exhibition and workshop at Chandrapur Central Jail.

**Mumbai**

Mumbai Chapter has been proactive in its attempts to save the 150-year-old *Esplanade Mansion* on the verge of demolition. The Chapter filed a PIL in June in the High
Convenor Rajan Jayakar was a panelist along with Urban Designer and Director of KRVIA Aniruddha Paul, Conservation Architect Nityaa Iyer, and Conservation Architect and VP ICOMOS India Gurmeet Rai as part of Esplanade Mansion panel discussion.


On 10th November INTACH Member R Venkatesh along with 29 heritage enthusiasts walked around Fort precinct, primarily focussing on iconography in the form of statues from Victorian to Georgian periods in Bombay. The post-1858 era saw the development of Bombay as a key mercantile, shipping and manufacturing hub and the iconography is aligned to the aspiration of the new city, the Urbs Prima in Indis. Iconography was a key media to publicly disseminate subtle yet evident political, economic and cultural messages.

The walk highlighted the integration of the socio-political development of Mumbai to the raising of modern city in early 20th century, through a study of its architectural monumentality. The contribution of great architects like Fredrick Stevens, Charles Stevens and George Wittet were

A new member Mini Menon launched the Save Esplanade Mansion campaign on social media. She is the Editor of Live History India, who did a story on her digital platform Tales & Trails, Live History India, focussing on Esplanade Mansion and about INTACH’s efforts to save the structure. She covered Esplanade Mansion Panel Discussion with panelist Rajan Jayakar and also bytes from Urban Designer and Director of Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute of Architecture and Environmental Studies (KRVIA).

Mumbai Chapter was invited for ICOMOS India - National Scientific Conclave 2019 held at Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies, Juhu, to give a presentation on Comprehensive Conservation Management and Sustainable Development Plan of Elephanta Caves on 11th October, Mumbai.

Court, challenging the validity of IIT-Bombay’s report. Greater Mumbai Convenor Rajan Jayakar, practicing Solicitor at Bombay High Court along with INTACH Vice Chairman Dr. Sarayu Doshi are Co-Petitioners in the PIL, which is pending. As per the latest judgement, a three-member expert committee constituted to examine the structural audits carried out of Esplanade Mansion, will conduct fresh assessment and submit a report, on the cost and feasibility of conserving the building.
highlighted along with briefs on their architectural style. The walk from Ballard Estate, through Flora Fountain, Bombay High Court, Mumbai University, Regal Cinema and ending at Wellington Fountain, Regal Circle was well appreciated. Major stops en route were Port Trust House Ballard Estate, Kamani Building Ballard Estate, CSMT, MCGM, Sun Life Assurance Company Building, Flora Fountain, Mumbai University, Bombay High Court, Regal Cinema, Maharashtra Police Headquarters. The introduction of statutory and iconographic elements in design was a feature in the late 19th century and early 20th century architecture.

A similar walk for 29 participants at the Bombay High Court on 16th Nov. was hosted by Mumbai Convenor and Curator of the High Court Museum, Rajan Jayakar. Designed by British engineer Col. J A Fuller in 1862, High Court is one of the oldest and biggest courts in Western India. The Museum, located on the ground floor of the main building, traces information from the 13th Century to when the first Court was established. Participants were shown the Charters of Mayor’s Court 1726 and 1753, Recorder’s Court 1796, old photographs of Victorian Building in Mumbai, 1540 cannon gun with original stand, life size Court Room in 1900 and Barrister’s Certificates issued to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Mohd. Ali Jinnah, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. BR Ambedkar and other luminaries.

World Heritage Week was celebrated by the Chapter from 29th Nov. - 1st Dec. A variety of events were organized during the weekend to encourage the preservation of cultural and monumental heritage in the city. On 29th November, Mumbai Chapter invited Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, Founder Director of Film Heritage Foundation to speak on the colossal loss of India’s audio-visual heritage, the lack of recognition of film as an art form and as integral part of our social and cultural heritage. The lecture was enriched with images and film clips about film preservation and restoration. He said it is a case for declaring a cultural emergency. He is an award-winning filmmaker, archivist and restorer, who passionately believes in the cause of film restoration and preservation and is uniquely qualified to head the Film Heritage Foundation.

On 30th November the Chapter hosted a session at INTACH Conservation Laboratory. It covered the basics of conservation for metals, fabric/textiles, photographs, books and paintings with detailed presentations on handling, storage and preventive conservation of different material and objects followed by practical hands-on demonstration led by Head Conservator Kirti Joshi.

Senior veteran film journalist Rafique Baghdadi hosted a Theatre and Manto Heritage Walk on 1st Dec. A lifelong walker of Bombay streets, and authority on Manto, he is an excellent storyteller with a treasure trove of stories on Bombay history connecting the present to past. The walk also covered all the old renowned cinema halls of the city like Gulshan Cinema, New Roshan Cinema and Alfred...
Talkies. It was at Arab Galli, opposite Alfred Talkies, where Manto lived during his stay in Bombay.

The Chapter has initiated an Outreach Programme for corporate and institutional sectors. It concluded with two walks in conjunction with Indian Oil WNC Indian Navy Marathon as Heritage Partner, conducted by INTACH Member R Venkatesh on 9th and 16th November.

**Nagpur**

As part of cultural and intangible heritage event, the Chapter conducted a visit to the heritage site at Budhwari area as the place where Marbat (idols used in a festival) are made. Teacher Sameer Sone Kar of Centre Point School accompanied the selected students of 6th–7th standard on this visit. They were introduced to mythological connection of Lord Krishna and Putna linked to the idols. Students expressed their desire to participate in other such activities as it gives them a deeper insight of their city heritage.

Chapter held a Musical Evening on 30th November with vocalist Vidyashree, violin player Dhanashree Shabaraya and B Manohar Rao playing the Mrudangam at local Hotel Janatha Deluxe.

**Pune**

Pune Chapter was invited to give an introduction to Pune’s history and culture to the delegates of the international summit Global Sanitation Economy organised by Pune Smart City on 19th November. The session was conducted by Co-Convenor Supriya Gotukar and Executive Committee Member Sourabh Marathe.

The Chapter held customized heritage walks for a number of corporate and institutions for the Forbes Marshall for CII International delegates, students of De Paul University, Chicago that was hosted by Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts for students of M.Arch. It included Sustainable Architecture students and faculty of Bharati Vidyapeeth deemed University College and students of Sociology of the Savitribai Phule Pune University among others. The walks were conducted by Co-Convenors Jui Tawade and Supriya Gorukar, Life Member Kavita Murugkar and Executive Committee Members Shubhada Kamalapurkar, Manjusha Ukidve and Life Member Kavita Murugkar.

The Chapter’s craft initiative Warsaa participated in the Dastakari Haat Samiti Crafts Bazaar held on 1st December at the Monalisa Kalagram. A new range of jewellery and
apparel based on traditional artisanship was launched and well received by visitors.

On 19th December the Chapter organized a talk and presentation on its ongoing study *Heads and Tails of Ganga* by Prof. Vijay Paranjpye for its Members and Associates. The various facets of the Ganga and the complexities of cleaning the river was highlighted by him. He pointed out the need to study the areas above Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and similar high altitude regions of major tributaries of the Ganga in Nepal without which no holistic study can be complete. He touched upon many interesting facets of pastoral, nomadic and agrarian communities, and conservation of the physical and cultural entities of the region. There is a direct inter-dependence between the upper regimes of the Ganga river and the lower mainstream regimes of the river basin.

**Sholapur**

A tender for demolishing the over 100 year old mill structures was issued by the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation of India. Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar and Co-Convenor Shveta Kothavale met Assistant Director Vilas Vahane of the Department of Archaeology, Head, Department of AIH and Archaeology Dr. Maya Patil, PAH Solapur University, Deputy Engineer Department of Town Planning MN Kshirsagar, Assistant Director Solapur Municipal Corporation, and other officials representing City Survey Office, for an inspection of the N. G. Mill grounds. The team explained the importance and feasibility of saving the structures and possibilities for their restoration and reuse.

To mark *Heritage Week*, Solapur Chapter organized a Heritage Walk at Akkalkot, 40 kms from Solapur. It is a pilgrimage center and was once a Princely State during British rule, gifted to the Bhonsles. Dr. Satyavrat Nulkar introduced the history of Akkalkot till the present lineage. The walk led to the Armament Museum with arms collected by Fatehsingh Raje Bhonsale III, which is the largest collection of armaments by a single individual in Asia. The museum also displays toys of dogs and miniature cars collected by the Princesses. The walkers looked around the palace grounds and the house of Fatehsingh III’s Governess Macson. A new museum and other structures are proposed on the grounds.

They visited *Juna (Old) Rajawada*, Shahaji High School, *Khandoba Mandir*, *Mallikarjun Mandir*, *Hakke Maruti Mandir* where Ramdas Swami’s *paduka* and chipalayas (kind of hand held cymbals) are preserved, *Ekamukhi Dutt Mandir*, *Bara Jyotirling Mandir*, *Gurumath*, *Shree Ganesh Mandir* (with a big Mooshak in front of the sanctum like a Nandi) and also the fountain at the main square of the town sourced all the way from Italy, and Tarabai Park. They noticed many *wadas* and schools for their vernacular features along the way.

Life Member Nitin Anvekar, Dr. Satyavrat Nulkar and Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar conducted the walk.

**Meghalaya**

The Annual General Meeting of the Meghalaya Chapter was held in September end at Hotel Pinewood, Shillong.
West Jaintia Hills District who spoke on significant aspects of their society and culture. Other speakers stressed on the idea of collective and individual responsibility in preserving cultural heritage. The last presentation was on *Natural Heritage in Jaintia Hills* by

Most Life Members as well as Institutional Members attended the AGM conducted by the Convenor Dr. Madeline Tham along with the Co-Convenor Dr. Moushumi Dey.

Convenor Madeline Tham welcomed the guests, referring to the commendable initiatives taken by former Convenor AH Scott during his tenure. She informed them about the Chapter’s administrative matters and apprised them on upcoming programmes planned for 2020.

A horse village in West Khasi Hills will be adopted with funding from Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. A bilingual Khasi and English Newsletters with reference to 2019 UN Declaration that celebrated *International Year of Indigenous Languages* would be published. Three seminars on *Preservation of Endangered Indigenous Languages* will be held in Shillong, Tura and Jowai, the district headquarters of East Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills and Jaintia hills in 2020. Member Desmond Kharwmawphlang suggested that periodic lectures by scholars of national and international repute might be taken up.

With regard to Listing of tangible and intangible heritage of Meghalaya, it was felt that such a large project would require partnership with Institutional Members like Lady Keane College, Shillong and Thomas Jones College, Jowai. The AGM concluded with the vote of thanks.

A one day workshop on endangered living heritage like *Folk Architecture, Bamboo Crafts and Aesthetics* was held on 15th November at the Thomas Jones Synod College, Jowai chaired by Asst. Prof. WEH Lamin. The Guest of Honour was RS Mannar, District Planning Officer for

**ODISHA**

**Balangir**

Chapter conducted a seminar on Folk Art and Culture at two schools where INTACH has set up Heritage Clubs–
the Binapani Sikhya Soudha and the Bandhpada High School with Dr. Ghasiram Mishra as the Guest Speaker. Convenor Dr. SP Nanda, Advisor Dr. Madhusudan Pati and Members attended the event.

It was a special time for the Balangir Chapter on 23rd October 2019 as it marked its first successful year. Gp. Capt. Arvind Shukla (Retd.), Director Chapter Division was the Chief Guest. The newsletter of Balangir Chapter “ARCHIVES” was released. Convenor Dr. SP Nanda presided the meeting and presented the annual report of the Chapter. Co-Convenor Dr. SK Ratha gave the vote of thanks. Chapter Adviser Prof. Madhusudan Pati gave an elaborate review of the culture and heritage of the region. Director Chapters Arvind Shukla appreciated the endeavour of the Chapter and emphasized the role of civil society, students and elites alike in Balangir Chapter activities for a productive future.

The guests visited Heritage Sites like L&S Club, Sailashree Palace and Bhim Dunguri along with the Convenor and Members.

**Balasore**

The Chapter’s focus is on Prachi Valley, considered the cradle of Odisha’s civilisation that once had a flourishing sea trade till the 18th century. Today it still has 250 tangible monuments including temples mostly in Prachi Valley that need urgent attention. The Valley probably has more Vishnu statues than anywhere else in the country. An in-depth socio-anthropological exploration of Prachi Valley will reveal many new facets of Odisha’s cultural history and architectural remains that need to be protected for times to come. To create public heritage awareness, the Chapter has been holding exhibitions and talks, quiz for youth and Pitha cooking competitions for women, for a start.

**Bhubaneswar**

The Chapter had a marathon function on Gandhi Jayanti 2nd October, and clubbed it with other events. The Chief Speaker, former Minister and Opposition Leader Narasingha Mishra was of the view that Gandhian principles and policies were relevant to the current Indian economy to generate employment for youth. He touched on non-violence particularly as it has become a burning issue, given the kind of student agitation and police measures one has seen of late at major universities. Dr. Priyambbada Hezmadi Mohanty, an academician and former Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University was the Guest Speaker.

A book in Odiya titled Jagarana by State Convenor A B Tripathy on various issues of society, including heritage conservation and preservation, was released.

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**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH was saddened to learn that the Chapter lost a valuable Member and asset to the Chapter in the passing away of Life Member Sudha Panda on 19th November 2019. Her presence will be greatly missed by her colleagues. INTACH received the sad news from their daughter Pankaja Panda.

We send our heartfelt condolences to her and other members of the bereaved family. We sincerely hope Pankaja finds the inner strength to come to terms with the loss of both parents in a short span of time. We send our good wishes for her future well being.

**Cuttack**

Gopal Krushna Behera is appointed the new Convenor of the Cuttack Chapter. He will be supported by Prashant Kumar Raut as the Joint Co-Convenor of the Chapter. Virasat extends a warm welcome to them both, with all our good wishes for fulfilling their arduous work ahead, and many new expectations to promote and conserve the rich heritage of Odisha. We wish them every success – all the way.

The Cuttack Chapter Meeting was held on 20th December at the Cuttack Club Board Room and attended by almost all Members. State Convenor AB Tripathy was present on the occasion. Members also bid farewell to Convenor Pradyumna Kumar Misra who recently resigned from his post but will no doubt continue to support the chapter.
All the Members spoke very highly about his contribution to the Chapter activities. The vote of thanks was proposed by former Principal and History Prof. Kunja Bihari. Over dinner there was an open house conversation on Chapter related subjects.

**Ganjam**

A discussion was held on *World Tourism Day* last quarter on the present Government plans to revamp Orissa Tourism with digital technology. In spite of such progressive ideas, the important historical sites of Ganjam District have not been included in any revival plan. The Chapter drew attention to the mythological world famous 1500 meters high Mahendragiri Mountain Range. Though ten crore had been sanctioned by Government for construction of a tourist-friendly approach road, no satisfactory progress has taken place. Chapter Members propose to visit these sites for an in-depth study at Mahendragiri near Parlakhemund, and bring it to the attention of the authorities.

On 18th October, the 142nd birthday of *Pratabsmaraniya Utkal Ratna* Barrister Biswanath Mishra was celebrated at Berhampur. He was the first successful Barrister in 1913 who became the leading Legal Practitioner in Ganjam district. Incidentally he was the classmate and roommate of India's national leader Vallabhbhai Patel. He pioneered the unification of scattered Odias struggling for cultural identity and conservation of Odiya Language, Literature and Cultural Heritage of Orissa from 1922 onwards. He authored *A Short history of Ancient Utkal*, now to be found in the British Museum. He came to be known as “Mister Orissa”, a great compliment for his work.

**Mayurbhanj**

The Chapter is trying to revive an ancient dance form called *Dasain* which has an interesting story to it. One day some Mughals saw two beautiful girls near a river and kidnapped them. The villagers congregated in an open space disguised as women to search for the missing girls. They danced the *Dasain* to the musical sound of *bhuyang*, flute, bells, etc. associated with Puja. The Chapter is preparing a DVD on this dance tradition.

**CONDOLENCES**

Life Member Kartikeswar Patanaik passed away on 5th October 2019. A reputed Police Officer, he earned name and fame for his impartial administration as the Superintendent Police of Boudha District in Odisha. His notable career, especially in controlling crime was bestowed with an award. After retirement he was President of the District Police Welfare Association set up by him. He was engaged in philanthropic work such as relief and eradication of blindness among Adivasis in remote villages, awareness of Traffic Rules in Urban Areas, Plantation in School and Colleges for countering Global Warming and other social causes that attracted many more activists. Many dignitaries rushed to pay
their last respects to him and offer floral tributes. He was well known as a constructive worker with a dynamic personality.

INTACH joins his many admirers and sends heartfelt condolences to bereaved family. He will long live in the memory of all his colleagues and his compatriots.

CONDOLENCES

The Chapter lost another valued colleague Life Member Jagadish Chandra Mishra who passed away on 1st November. Friends and colleagues will long remember his contribution to the progress, protection and conservation of local heritage. He was serving as the Director of All India Radio, Baripada Branch in Mayurbhanj District. Members remember him as a very friendly and sincere Chapter Member, who will be greatly missed by all his colleagues. INTACH sends deepest condolences to his bereaved family at this sorrowful time. We send best wishes for the future well being of his beloved family.

PUNJAB

Kapurthala

On the eve of 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak, Sultanpur Lodhi celebrated the heritage site with diverse acts of piety and devotion. Under the aegis of Kapurthala Chapter, Bawa Lalvani Public School students went on a heritage walk to Shri Ber Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi. They visited the Holy Bein rivulet where Guru Nanak Dev attained enlightenment, and performed the Shabad Gayan in melodious voices that held the audience(Sangat) glued to their seats. The walk reinforced the connections between youth, city and heritage, and gave them a deeper comprehension of heritage in the present and future. They participated in the international procession that arrived from Shri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan and rendered Seva (service) to the Lord – expressing love and peace to people everywhere.

Patiala Chapter organized a Heritage Awareness Programme and the ‘Heritage Quiz-2019’ at Government Multipurpose Senior Secondary School Auditorium. Students, teachers and people from different strata of life also participated alongwith children. Principal Tota Singh Chahal, social service activist and teacher Irwin Deep Kaur, President Punjab Eco Friendly Association, Paramveer Singh, Advocate Jatinder Singh Sarao, former Mining and Industry officer Laljit Singh Sidhu, environmentalist Sukhdarshan Chahal, and Chapter Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk spoke, emphasising on tangible and intangible heritage for the development of Punjab society and as the source of inspiration for progress. The speakers emphasised on minimizing air and earth pollution. In conclusion Advocate Jatinder Singh Sarao stressed on preserving the values of society and keeping historical places clean.

RAJASTHAN

The State Chapter participated in the 15th Global Conference of Parties (COP) on Indigenous & Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) hosted in India by the ICCA consortium of South Asia. 70 countries of the world participated in the
event. State Co-Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya attended the core group’s final two meetings on documentation, policy making, legal aspects on 3rd-4th December.

Documentation and demarcation of “community conserved areas” is being done by various agencies all over the world. They are documenting common lands, biodiversity and also communities living in them. The areas are now called ‘Territories of life’. In countries like Nepal, Phillipines and Indonesia, sacred groves are protected by heritage laws. Geospatial mappings are done not just for statistics but to empower the communities to protect their lands for future use. The Rajasthan Chapter is deeply concerned about the sacred groves and areas in its State considered as common land, which means no-man’s land that can be easily grabbed by developers. The Chapter strongly advocates that a similar exercise should be undertaken in Rajasthan as it already has got field reports and listings of sacred groves.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) is supporting the documentation of National Parks, Protected Areas and Community Conserved Areas. Geospatial mapping is now urgently required as a new Deemed Forest Committee has been constituted by the Rajasthan Forest Department to gather information on sacred groves, orans and devbans.

The Rajasthan High Court had issued several directions to carry out a demolition drive of the heritage wall stretching over 23 sq. km around the Walled City. As per JMC records there were 2800 existing cases of encroachment by shops and residential buildings, often constructed with no space in between them. The Court had ordered demolition of structures built without requisite permission or building plans. In some places the wall had been broken to ease the traffic. Only 25% of the original wall exists, which is now under threat. Jaipur Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar had surveyed the Wall in 2011. Recently the Times of India in its Sunday publication lauded it as the only authentic report on the City Wall which is now being used by the Government as the bench mark.

INTACH Rajasthan State Chapters Convenors Conference was held on 25th November at Hotel Gajkesari, Bikaner. A brochure on Bikaner Heritage by Rajasthan State Chapter Convenor Gaj Singh was released. Co-Convenors Dharmendra Kanwar, Hari Singh Palkiya, Principal Director NH Division Manu Bhatnagar and Director Chapters Gp.Capt. Arvind Shukla (Retd.) attended the Conference.

State Co-Convenor Palkiya welcomed the gathering and highlighted the heritage in and around Bikaner. He talked about increased pressures on Chapter Convenor due to built heritage demolitions and substandard restoration by State Department of Archaeology, and threats to natural heritage of air, water and soil. He also outlined suggested guidelines by the Chairman on District Gazetteer, digital brochure, signage and demolition of heritage buildings.

State Convenor Gaj Singh suggested that all Convenors must involve citizens, social groups and likeminded people in safeguarding cultural heritage. He felt public involvement with INTACH activities always helps Chapters immensely in protecting the built heritage. The focus must be on restoring the traditional water management systems and encourage individuals who file Public Interest Litigations (PILs). It was important for Chapters to be involved in Government schemes and participate in Heritage Committees at the Divisional
Commissioner level. He reiterated that cultural mapping, identification of craftsmen and heritage management must be part of the development process. Unplanned and improper restorations of heritage sites in regions like Shekhawati, Hadoti, Karauli must be stopped by creating awareness on such issues, he added. Chapters need to focus on Sacred Groves, Orans, Devbans and old rain water harvesting systems in catchment areas and increase efforts in protecting them.

State Convenor Gaj Singh apprised them of his meeting with the Chief Minister and other concerned Ministers including bureaucrats of Rajasthan Government on environmental issues.

Director Chapters Gp. Capt. Arvind Shukla (Retd.) stated that despite numerous constraints, all Convenors are working hard to fulfil the motto of INTACH. He informed that recently Chittorgarh became a new Chapter while others are in the pipeline. Chapters with low membership were requested to induct more to strengthen their work. Similarly he felt the number of Institutional Memberships also needed to be increased. He pointed out that students are now allowed to become Members of any Chapter irrespective of where they stay, reside or study.

State Co-Convenor Dharmendra Kanwar stated that Convenors are volunteers and experts in their own fields. Chapters need to improve communication and share information with both the State Co-Convenors as well among themselves. The Government of Rajasthan now would like to establish an MOU with INTACH.

Chapter Convenors of Alwar, Barmer, Baran, Bhilwara, Sikar-Churu-Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jhalawar, Jaisalmer, Karauli, Rajsamand, Kota, Pali, Sawai Madhopur and Bikaner gave presentations and described various activities undertaken in their area of responsibility, the constraints faced and future plans.

Director Rajasthan State Archives Dr. Mahendra Khargawat explained the importance and role of the Archives in preserving, documenting, digitizing, publishing of all historic records, manuscripts, letters, maps, in a very scientific way. To date approximately 30 crore pages have been digitised and are being made available online for study and research purposes all over the world. Documents obtained from all 22 Princely States of Rajasthan have been processed, digitised and micro films are being made for longer and safe storage. The Archives department proposes to formulate an MOU with INTACH for better conservation of old documents/papers in a scientific way.

Principal Director Natural Heritage Division, Manu Bhatnagar gave a presentation on the landscapes, water bodies, common lands, sacred groves and ecology of Rajasthan with focus on the western region of Rajasthan. He emphasized on promotion of vernacular, eco-friendly architecture and mud architecture. He mentioned some important reports on Sambhar Lake, the natural heritage listing of Dausa District, Geo heritage proposals for Zaawar and study of Ramgarh Crater, Baran, the waterholes for Chinkaras and development of new Orans at Lunavadi. He said there are major water bodies which could be declared as Ramsar sites like the vast lake at Mohangarh.

Mapping of Orans will be taken up with support of the Head Office. NH Division has planned some new sacred groves and is developing them at some places in Barmer and Jodhpur districts.

Natural Heritage Division Consultant Deepika Saxena presented in detail the documentation of ‘Thar Ecology’ being done since 2017 in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan.

State Convenor HH Maharaja Gaj Singh conveyed sincere thanks to all for successfully organising the conference, in particular to Seth Sunil Rampuriaji and family for the hospitality and care extended. Bikaner Convenor Dr. Prithviraj Ratnu gave the vote of thanks.

**Ajmer**

Member Ajai Rawat is a sand artist who is known for his superb life like creations made from sand. No wonder he is known as Dharor Mitra. In November he exhibited his work at the National Sand Art Festival held at Bhubaneswar and it drew large crowds of admiring visitors.
Ajmer celebrated the 222nd Anniversary of Mirza Ghalib, one of India’s great Urdu poet and writer, which received wide coverage in print and visual media.

On 21st December Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh was given the Ajmer-Icon Award for his contribution towards environment by Zee TV, Rajasthan.

Shri Bijendra Singh Naruka is appointed as Co-Convenor of INTACH Alwar Chapter. At the recent Sta Convenor’s Meeting many proposals were discussed, some of which can trigger new initiatives and action plans to be launched at Alwar. We extend all good wishes to him for his success in meeting heritage challenges in a cultural city like Alwar. We hope he will enjoy the new responsibilities you have taken up.

Alwar Chapter held a press conference to announce a 10 days Dance Training Workshop at Bal Bharti Higher Secondary School, Scheme no. 1, in Chittorgarh.

The Chapter started the workshop from 16th to 25th December, in a joint association with Rang Sanskar Theatre Group, to promote talented children of the district.

25 students participated in the workshop and were trained for 10 days under the direction of Rang Sanskar Theatre Group Director Deshraj Meena’s team.

The workshop ended on 25th December. Chief Guest and Chairman Shravan Singhal of Bal Kalyan Samiti, Special Guest and Associate Professor Bhavnath Pande of Motihari Mahatma Gandhi Kendriya Vidyalaya, Councillor Shalini Sharma of Alwar City Council, Vice Chairman Surendra Saxena of Kayastha Sabha were
Convenor Vandana Vazirani welcomed the guests and said the Chapter will work for the preservation of the cultural, historical, architectural and environmental causes. The main speaker Bhilwara Chapter Convenor Babu Lal Jaju explained the mission of the organisation.

Chapter Convenor Sunita Mittal said that such kind of activities will be continued by the Chapter. Chief Guest Shravan Singhal said that it was a very good effort by the Alwar Chapter to promote childrens’ talent. He suggested that an exhibition of symbolic objects of old culture be held to introduce the younger generation to also motivate them to preserve their heritage.

The Chapter organized a seminar at the Rajkiya Babu Sobharam Art College. 250 students participated in the seminar. Chapter Convenor Sunita Mittal explained the importance of heritage and emphasized on students’ support to heritage preservation. Lecturer Saroj Meena, Dr. Surendra, Suresh Bansal and Satyadev Sharma from the college administration coordinated the seminar.

**Chittorgarh**

The Chittorgarh Chapter programme was organised by Convenor Vandana Vazirani and Co-Convenor Manish Maliwal. Chief Guest and Additional District Collector Mukesh Kalal said the Chapter can play an important role in preservation and promotion of art and culture heritage in the district. He mentioned that administration will provide full support in preservation of heritage, culture and environment. Special Guest Chittorgarh Urban Co-Operative Bank Founder Dr. IM Sethia said there is a need to establish such organisations in the District.

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**Pali**

The Pali Chapter organised a historical tour for students of Senior Secondary School, Chirpatiya and for adjoining schools of Marwar Junction block to well known sites of heritage importance. Convenor Karan Singh Chauhan informed that such visits have been organised periodically to heritage sites of Pali District to create opportunities for students and teachers to know their motherland.

There were 62 students with 32 girls for the visit to Sonana
UN had declared 2015 as the International Year of the Soil (IYS) and its purpose was to raise awareness worldwide of the importance of soils for food security, as well as in mitigation of climate change, and sustainable development.

The dynamic nature of any soil is due to vast number of organisms engineering a myriad of biochemical changes as decay of organic matter takes place. Today there is an urgency to recognise and value Soil Heritage for Earth’s sake.

Traditional songs in Tamil refer to a plant, especially in cereals, as “the roots are for the soil, the stems for the cattle, and the pinnacles for human consumption”. Following the holistic practice, heritage takes care of the soil which in turn takes care of the plant.

“To help ourselves we must help the soil.” - The Grassling by Elizabeth - Jane Burnett

“You cannot plough a field by turning it over in your mind.” - Anonymous

“. . . all creative art must arise out of a specific soil and flicker with a spirit of a place . . .” - A K Ramanujan

Today there is an urgency to recognise and value Soil Heritage for Earth’s sake.

**Tamil Nadu**

**Chennai**

A talk by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Director of Ecoscience Research Foundation, was held on 19th September at the Asian College of Journalism on ‘The soil too has story to tell’.

A pioneer on Vermi composting, Sultan Ismail has written several books on the subject and for school textbooks. He is a Member of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Bench and is also Chairman, Scientific Review Committee, Initiative for Research and Innovation in Science (IRIS) programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Coimbatore**

The Chapter collaborated with the Karpagam Academy of Higher Education for a Workshop on Architectural Conservation and Heritage Management in the last week of September at the Karpagam Academy Campus. It was attended by students and staff from many colleges in
and around Coimbatore. Modelled on similar successful workshops held earlier at Chennai and Thanjavur, its objective was to enhance knowledge and skills of the Faculty, senior students of Architecture, and in particular to sensitize them to heritage related traditional architecture. The faculty comprised eminent panelists like State Convenor Dr. S Suresh, PD Heritage Academy Navin Piplani, architects Philip Fowler and Benny Kuriakose, and international lecturer Samuel Kress. The speakers presented detailed case studies with site specific slides and anecdotal information pertaining to 10th century *Chola* fresco paintings at *Brihadeeswara Temple*, wooden architecture of Kerala temples and the *Taj Mahal* that livened the lectures on Sustainable Architecture, Heritage Documentation and heritage pertaining to the Coimbatore region. Convenor Ramachandra Prasad and Co-Convenor Revathi Prasad coordinated the programme. A significant take away was the announcement that Karapagam Academy will start a full fledged Masters Degree programme in Conservation Architecture shortly.

**Kodaikanal**

The Natural Heritage in Kodaikanal is of significant importance as it is endemic to the Palani Range of the Western Ghats, and boasts of trees from the Himalayas and around the globe. Chapter Members Robert Stewart and the late Tanya Balcar have researched the trees of Kodaikanal for a few years. The booklet *Meet the Trees* of Kodaikanal was released on 19th October by Chief Guest Corey Stixrud, Principal of the Kodaikanal International School. The event was attended by many members of the community including hoteliers, travel agents, schools and others. It has easy practical reference material of great interest to botanists, tourists, schools and the community alike.

It was followed by a *Tree Walk* with the trail starting from Pambar Cottage and ending at Tredis for which there were limited slots with a small guide charge.

**Nagercoil**

On 12th December Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan organized a visit to the heritage wetlands and temples, the water falls of South Tamilnadu at *Kuttalam* and the *Pawanasam* river. These water bodies are located at an elevation of more than 100 mtrs. It was new experience for the participants who greatly appreciated the greenery of the wetland and the falls of Tamil Nadu.

**Tripura**

Tripura Chapter organised a workshop at Ujjayanta Palace State Museum, Agartala in December. The Art, Culture, Tourism and Education Depts. of Govt. of Tripura participated in the workshop. The Chapter’s recommendations to the Govt. have been incorporated to a large extent, regarding the palace area and lake/temples as heritage zone, and beautification of parks and nearby areas.
The Chapter is also working on upgradation of the Museum Galleries, specially the Royal Gallery. The captions for the photos, paintings, and write-up on history and culture of Tripura, notably the Manikya dynasty work, was done by the Chapter Convenor Dr. Pragya Deb Burman. Audio guides will be deployed in some of the galleries. As suggested, the Durbar Hall will be decorated with historical photographs and paintings, including a replica of the Royal Throne. Three electric cars have been purchased for a Heritage Tour Programme by the Chapter for the heritage zone.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

Pradyumn Narain Dutta Singh is appointed the Co-Convenor of Uttar Pradesh State Chapter. INTACH welcomes you with many good wishes for carrying out the multifaceted work ahead in one of our important and largest States. The programmes held at Lucknow have become institutionalised, and are regularly sustained. They are also popular with the local people and visitors to the city. We wish you every success in the multiple responsibilities you have taken up. We send our best wishes for every success in fulfilling them.

**Gorakhpur**

Gorakhpur Chapter celebrated Heritage Week with awareness programmes in schools and colleges. The first programme organized at SS Academy was attended by more than 300 students at the lecture by Convenor Kandoi. He explained the meaning and significance of Heritage, and the advantages of conserving heritage for both people and the nation. It inspired the children to take an oath to protect this inheritance. Life Member Dr. Nishi Agarwal, who is Principal of the Academy, spoke about the multifarious activities of INTACH as an organization dedicated to imparting the conservation message.

On 22nd November, the Chapter organized a second programme of World Heritage Week at Naval Academy at Rustampur with more than 500 students in attendance. Convenor MP Kandoi spoke on the importance of heritage and need for conservation. The students took an oath to conserve their precious heritage. Many Chapter Members were also present.

**Lalitpur**

The Chapter marked World Heritage Week on 19th–25th Nov with a seminar Hum and Humari Virasat organized at KPS Mahavidyalaya in joint collaboration with the UP Department of Archaeology and Lalitpur Chapter.

The Chief Guest Manohar Lal Panth said our country is enriched with heritage treasures and highly regarded worldwide for its culture, ancient heritage and history, and beautiful art. Unfortunately we are increasingly adopting western culture, with results that are often not too favourable for us. It is important to remain connected to
the roots of our culture. Presently, the U P Government is working on protection of traditional heritage, culture and traditions. The Speaker referred to the beautification work at Neelkanteswar Temple, Dudhai, Ranchhoreji, Deogarh, Chandpur–Jahajpur, Pandav Van, Siraunji, Pawaji, etc. that have been taken up.

Special Guest Dr. Satish said our heritage is our pride and we must stand together with the Government for its protection. The young generation has an important role to play in this.

Dr. Thero, Dr. Janak Kishori Sharma, O P Birthare, Indrapal Singh, PSD Mahavidyalaya Principal Dr. Rajvir Singh, Karunakar Sharma and Archaeological Department Engineer Pradip Singh also spoke on facets of heritage and said success requires determined action and a pledge to preserve them. Many Chapter Members were present at the event coordinated by Prabhanshu Nagaich. Co-Convenor Chadhha thanked them for the well organized programme.

The chapter also organized cleaning campaign in a joint association with Lalipur Municipal Corporation and U P Archaeology Department at an ancient Baoli in Nagar Palika Balika Inter College.

**Lucknow**


There was a diverse range of participants in each panel that made for verified discussions on the city’s cultural heritage, its women writers, the arts and crafts of the city, poetry and contemporary narratives that inspire change.

INTACH has instituted an award for conservation of

Convenor Santosh Sharma said INTACH was involved with Lalitpur heritage since a decade. Lalitpur District is itself a heritage endowed place but much of it is in an endangered condition due to negligence of both people and the administration. Various idols are lying broken and many have been stolen.

The Principal of Chhatrapati Shivaji MSD Mahavidyalaya Rajendra Prakash said many cultures of the world have been lost over time but some in India are very much alive. So we must take extra care of these natural, cultural, historical and archaeological sites of the country.
heritage and sustainable development. It recognises the efforts of private individuals who have successfully conserved structures of heritage value with best practices and honours them for their excellent achievement.

The Women Writers Fest was held on 20th November with a panel discussion interestingly titled *Fiesty Women of Awadh*. As a historian, heritage activist and enthusiast, Convenor Vipul B Varshney was a great participant for an event of this kind. The State is proud of the many fiery women in history like Begum Hazrat Mahal, Uda Devi, Jhansi ki Rani, Ismat Chugti, to name a few. Their life, work and contribution to history and heritage were deliberated at length and were of great interest to the local audience.

A workshop was organised for students: *I know my city – I love my city*. The students wrote a story about ‘their city’ and brought out many facets as seen through young eyes. It was attended by many heritage enthusiasts. The event concluded with a Kathak programme and received wide coverage in the media and local Press.

Another performance by famous Kathak dancer of international fame, Manjari Chaturvedi, was held by the Chapter. It explored the glory of Awadh with the theme *Celebration of the Feminine* - an interplay of literature, history and the performing art woven into a performance showing the strength and beauty of the women of Awadh. A musical programme in the *Aalap* series was held on 13th December, performed by Pt. Rajendra Prasanna.

The *Lucknow Heritage Award 2019* was constituted for best practices by an individual for *Unprotected Heritage Conservation with Sustainable Development*. On 21st October, Principal Secretary Jeetendra Kumar for Culture and Tourism, and Director IIM Raipur Bharat Bhaskar presented awards for the first time to raise awareness amongst the general public. The winning entries were *Kotwara House, Khunkunji Kothi, Shanti Sadan, Itaunja House, Sharga Haveli* and *Ahmad Manzil*.

The *Dharohar Yatra* on 15th December to a relatively unknown place in one of the oldest areas of Kashi was another such effort. The participants visited the little known *Goraksnath ka Teela* in Maidagin area/Baraganesh which is a 700 year old *Peeth*, and has a *dhoomi* that has been constantly burning for the last 500 years. Members also visited the *Madhavamshwar Temple* built by Vikramaditya, and the *Mandakani Devi Temple* mentioned in *Kashi Khand*.

**Varanasi**

Varanasi Chapter organizes regular visits for school students to different monuments and heritage sites of the city. Institutional Member Sunbeam School and Bhagwanpur students visited the *Virtual Museum at Man Mahal* on 17th November accompanied by Convenor Ashok Kapoor who highlighted the manifold displays and facets of deep rooted ancient heritage. The Chapter is actively creating awareness of this Museum amongst citizens and visitors.

Varanasi Chapter also organised a walk of temples on 17th November with Convenor Ashok Kapoor and participants visited *Manikarnikeshwar Mahadev Temple, Amethi Mandir, Alwar Temple and Chakrapushkarni – Manikarnika Kund*.

In *Manikarnika Temple* the main *Shivalinga* is situated at two levels below ground level. The temple was built hundreds of years ago when the street level of Kashi was also two levels below. There are many such temples in Varanasi to this day. The *Manikarnika Ghat* was the first *pucca ghat* to be built in 1730. It is where the *Panchkosi Parikrama* starts and ends. The city has temples from five prominent states - the *Alwar Temple* (Rajasthan), *Amethi*...
Temple (Uttar Pradesh), Ratnesbwar Mahadev (Madhya Pradesh), Rani Bhawani (West Bengal) and Tarkesbwar Mahadev (built by Ahilyabai Holkar, Maharashtra). Older still is the Bhainsasur Ghat in the south that was the first cremation grounds in Kashi. The walkers proceeded to the most beautiful temple Amethi Temple, built in the Naagar style of architecture in 857 by the Amethi king. The surrounding 4 ‘shikhars’ have four Shivalingas. The carvings by Rajasthani artisans are dated between 1855 and 1890. The walkers also visited the white marble temple made by Alwar kings where the Nandi, Shivalinga and Gangaji are all in a straight line. Also, Chakrapushkarni (Manikarnika Kund) with an ancient step well is a beautiful heritage from architectural point of view.

Another heritage walk covering the Bengali Tola area was fascinating. The Shiv Kali Temple here established in 1789 has a rare deity of Maa Kali, while viewed from the back it is a Shivalinga.

Other Activities of the Chapter

Chapter Convenor was invited to inaugurate the new Aradhana Centre for Performing Arts set up by Life Member Bibhash Bhaduri.
Kolkata Chapter felicitated Roberto D’Andrea, a tram conductor from Melbourne, who has championed the cause of conserving the heritage Trams of Kolkata at the Esplanade Tram Depot.

**Meeting of WB & Kolkata Chapter**

Convenor GM Kapur welcomed INTACH West Bengal and Kolkata Members to the Chapter Meeting. The activities of the past months like *Talk by Tom Hayes* of the US National Trust, *FilmIt Workshop*, *Seminar on Dwarkanath Tagore* - a pioneering industrialist, and the unknown facets of his life and work in many business sectors meriting research, on *Workshop for the State PWD and Conservation Award* for excellent conservation of Thapar House were some of the activities.

State had filed a PIL at the Calcutta High Court concerning issues related to the Built Heritage of the city. A hearing had been held and the respondents, KMC, WBHC and the State of West Bengal were given an opportunity to file their affidavit in opposition. It is hoped that it will help to protect the unbridled demolition of valuable built heritage of the city that is taking place on a daily basis

State Convenor requested Members in advance to send their suggestions as soon as possible for mapping out the future course of actions to be taken up by the Chapter. A compilation of the historic towns of West Bengal made by INTACH Central Office had been circulated to Members and their suggestions were sought. There seems to be little chance for DHR being considered for inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as per news reports due to lack of proper maintenance or following norms laid down by UNESCO.
FESTIVALS SNAPSHOTS FROM HERE & THERE

Mallakhamba, Fit India Movement
Shiva's devotee, Shravan, Allahabad
Fire Test Makar Sankranti, Mysuru

Faithfully Obedient Yoga Platoon
Basar Festival, Arunachal Pradesh
Nocte tribe: celebrating Headhunting

World Champion in High Jump
International Kite Festival, Mangaluru
Tomatina Festival, Spain

"Chicken Church", Magelang, Indonesia
Prayers at the Peak: Tatsang, Bhutan
Haj, International Festival
The Gods are alarmed............at Man made pollution of their Earth!