INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

of

NORTH-EAST INDIA and SOUTH-EAST ASIA
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Photographs published in Oct.-Dec. 2015 Quiet Flows the Yamuna? were by NHD Project Officer Sajid Idrisi. Due apologies for belated acknowledgement.

A display at the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures, Shillong

Typical way of carrying babies in the Mawlynnong village, Shillong
Meghalaya Governor V. Shanmuganathan as Chief Guest formally inaugurated the Conference on Intangible Heritage of the North East and South East Asia. The Governor stated “India always believed the world should be one family”. He drew special attention to the close bonding people of Northeast India share with Nature. It is the reason why “we still find crystal clear lake, beautiful forest and lots of animals in the region. We are well aware that the region is blessed with a rich bio-diversity”. He stressed on the worth of oral traditions, and the need to recognize them. In an oblique reference to incidents that periodically mar our pluralistic society, he stated “conflicts and contradictions must be eliminated. Love your neighbours. Love others”. The North East is an integral part of our country, and the richest in terms of intangible and natural heritage that we must safeguard as a precious component of India’s invaluable heritage.

As the national tourism slogan proclaims – “Vasu Dhaiva Kutumba Kam” – must originate from home.

The Intangible Heritage of North East India is a prism of indigenous knowledge, rituals, festivals, traditions, folklore, arts and crafts. The region is indeed a veritable kaleidoscope of a many splendoured culture that defies the broad brush nomenclature North East India. Each of the “Seven Sisters” are a repository of a distinct living heritage of their own.

The Conference gathered together a wide spectrum of scholars, academicians, researchers, artists and subject specialists to
deliberate on continuity and transformations that are so palpable today in the north eastern parts of the country. INTACH also invited experts from neighbouring countries of South East Asia with whom our border States share many inter-cultural and historical linkages since times immemorial. There is a pressing need to bridge the gaps in our understanding of these well ordered societies through regional initiatives.

The Conference was conceptualised to balance intellectual discourse within academia with the traditional, pluralistic reality of the region. It was a concerted effort to learn and understand how indigenous communities retain cultural continuity by transforming knowledge and practices of social, political and ecological change.

The Conference began on a joyous note with a Khasi song by students of Lady Keane College and musicians accompanying the Jaintia dance organized by the Meghalaya Arts and Culture Department.

Indian culture and in particular oral traditions have evolved over untold generations. For centuries before mass media and 24x7 television, age old wisdom was transmitted to children by their elders. Times have changed in a fast paced world. Preservation and documentation of this vast repository of knowledge is one of INTACH’s many heritage concerns before they are lost in the mists of time. Addressing the gathering, INTACH Chairman LK Gupta also stressed on the natural heritage sites in the North East. He said they specially need to be preserved and protected in the face of current fast paced developmental activities in the entire region.
A galaxy of eminent speakers appreciated that INTACH had chosen *Intangible Heritage* as the subject for discourse as it is a matter of critical concern for the people of the North East. Chief Secretary Meghalaya PBO Warjri lamented the constant pressure to ape western culture which would result in “losing our rich roots of agriculture, forests, cooking, and identity”. He also said the Government believes in using the Northeast as a crucial corridor between South East Asia, East Asia and India that would transform this corner of the world into a hub of various lucrative exchanges.

Director General, Indian Council of Cultural Affairs, MEA added “trade and commerce should be utilized for maintaining plausible connections between these regions”.

Editor Shillong Times, Patricia Mukhim touched on the “unique obstacles” faced by the region in trying to fit into the path of growth and development without compromising its uniquely balanced histories.

Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University, Dr. T.B. Subba gave an overview of the region as “a concoction of cultures, traditions and laws, and people maintaining different relations with the environment”. He touched on the lack of internal interactions and ignorance of others within the region that cause inter-tribe tensions, resulting in a more exclusive and less inclusive societies.

Chairman RGIIM Governing Board Falguni Rajkumar was of the view that India’s *Look East Policy* is predominantly focused on commerce and trade development without reference to socio-cultural dynamics when implementing plans. It is important for the two facets to complement each other to forge closer relations with our neighbouring States.

A total of eight sessions were held over the 4-days Conference, with many eminent scholars sharing their papers and views on different facets of the North East States and the influences of Southeast Asia on the region. An array of subjects were covered by knowledgeable experts in the field commencing with Pre-histories and discussions on Museum Collections and Oral Traditions; followed by varied subjects like Language and Folklore; Folklore and Performance; Ethnographies; Politics of the Northeast; Ecologies and Traditions including food myths and medicinal values; Population and Movements; Curatorial Practices; Anthropological Research; Revitalisation of Heritage Material; Narratives and Memories in a Digital Age.

Each session was followed by interactive rounds of questions and answers.
There were enjoyable interludes like a musical evening of the Shillong Chamber Choir, and a guided walk through the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures.

It may be recalled, INTACH had held a series of Conferences in the Northeast in the past at Itanagar, Arunachal in 2005; Kohima in Nagaland in 2006; and at Aizwal in Mizoram in 2007. The February 2016 at Shillong, Meghalaya however is a landmark for the breadth of specialized subjects covered in depth.

Principal Director, Intangible Heritage Division, Nerupama Modwel gave the vote of thanks. She received many kudos from all the special guests and delegates for a very well organized and informative Conference. INTACH heartily congratulates her and her colleagues for the success of this major Conference in the North East.

The various presentations of this inter-disciplinary Conference will be published by INTACH Intangible Cultural Heritage Division shortly.

**KHASI COUTURE ON CATWALK**

“Ryndia” fabricated in the Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya featured in a London fashion show. British models sashayed down the catwalk clad in this organic and eco-friendly fabric. Shillong based entrepreneurs showcased lesser known contemporary Indian fabrics using a fashion show to draw attention to the weaving and other traditions of the North East. It was organised by the Nehru Centre, the Cultural Wing of our UK High Commission. Also programmed were dance, music and crafts on the occasion of the fashion show to bring the sights and sounds of the North East to world attention.
THUS THEY SPOKE……

Patricia Mukhim, Editor, The Shillong Times
There is a saying of Khasi people “To earn with the sweat of our brow” which means we are very hard working people with undying belief in the value of our tradition which are universal and useful across space and time.

TB Subba, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University
Writing about the region by foreign authors has mostly been about adventure or romanticism. Vernacular authors have failed to look beyond the political boundaries and delve into the cultural depths, thereby defeating the true essence of the North East.

Falguni Rajkumar, Chairman, Board of Governors, RGIIM Shillong
The past never leaves us, it always stays in our sub-conscious mind and the insurgents found in today’s Northeast are all searching for that past, that identity, the re-assertion of loyalty to community.

Toki Blah, Chairman, Environment Impact Assessment Authority for Meghalaya
In a world of scientific mandate, we don’t have many answers but we are willing to share what we have.

Dr. Desmond Kharmawphlang, Head of Creative and Culture Studies Department, NEHU
To appreciate the poetics of oral tradition, we must accept that the term ‘oral’ is as important as ‘tradition’

Dr. Roslina Binti Abu Bakar, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, University Putra Malaysia
The effort in preserving the Malay folktales will indirectly open an opportunity for the new generation to get to know the cultural heritage which is slowly going down the passage of time.

Dr. N. William Singh, Department of Sociology, Pachhunga University, Mizoram
The advantage of traditional healing is that it can deliver far more services than all other systems.

P.B.O. Warjri, Chief Secretary, Meghalaya
We must understand the need and importance of recognizing other cultures, enhancing interactions with them while maintaining our own identity as a pre-requisite to survival.

Alok Kanungo, IIT Gandhinagar
While attracting the people from exposed societies, ethnology museums should try to reach the place of collection, where the items collected a century or more ago are still in use or the facts about them are still available in folklore. This will help in obtaining the contextual data about the objects.
INTACH Central Office celebrated its Foundation Day on 27th January with the usual fervor ushered by a New Year, and the promise of many happenings in the coming months of 2016. It is always an occasion when Central Office Members reiterate the INTACH pledge to faithfully serve the many splendored facets of Heritage. The staff came in their best attire, and prizes were awarded to those who took pride in wearing traditional outfits and natty bandgalas.

It is a long standing tradition to invite State Convenors to Delhi as a prime feature for marking Foundation Day. INTACH has grown both in numbers and areas of heritage activities, so there were many introductions and interactions with State Convenors over a sumptuous lunch bringing the INTACH family closer together, after which the formal Interactive Sessions followed.

State Convenors were updated on the new thrust areas of INTACH activity through Presentations made by Principal Directors of INTACH Divisions. The INTACH Heritage Academy elaborated on the short courses, practical sessions for up-gradation of skills and capacity building, in addition to the various scholarships on offer. The Material Heritage Division announced setting up of training facilities for upgrading skills at all its ICI Centres which may be availed. The Natural Heritage Division takes up water issues, urban biodiversity, geo-heritage, traditional agriculture, waste water treatment, and can extend technical assistance when requested by Chapters. The Convenors are already familiar with the school/college based activities of Heritage Education and Communication Service. They are in fact the fulcrum for the impressive 1,80,000 Heritage Club Members, 4800 trained teachers with an outreach extending to 15 lakh students that are in existence to date. The Intangible Heritage Division familiarized State Convenors with a relatively new thrust, the mapping and documentation of living heritage and dying arts and crafts of master craftsmen, medicinal knowledge, tribal societies that needs to be taken up in every State.

The State Convenors on their part updated Central Office with some of the major initiatives launched in their respective regions, giving an overview of the activities in their domain. To date there are more than 185 Chapters whose activities are coordinated by their State Convenors. They also discussed some of the issues related to their various Chapters. Convenors were assured of partial funding from Central Office for the restoration of heritage at risk. It was emphasized that Restoration without Notification is a toothless exercise as it does not ensure third parties from going to Court and stalling conservation.

It is laudable that State Convenors have been quite pro-active in expanding their activities. To mention some - Haryana with its 11 District Chapters has listed 5000 heritage sites to date. Orissa with its 10 Chapters has listed more than 6000 sites. Telengana has notified 166 heritage buildings and is in a predicament over the demolishing drive for the construction of the Metro. Karnataka and Jharkhand have received 100 crore under the 13th Finance Commission. Gujarat has taken various advocacy initiatives. Convenor Delhi spoke about
windmills and solar panels as an imperative feature of the future. Rajasthan is challenged by heritage conservation facing commercial driven development as it is a premier tourist State. It is clear INTACH cannot view development as clashing with heritage conservation. What is required is a more refined and aesthetic paradigm for development which needs to be vigorously endorsed in our conservation promotion.

In conclusion, Chairman LK Gupta lauded the spirited interchange with INTACH State Convenors. The gathering was aptly described as a “meeting of minds, a shared journey”.

The Conference was brought to a close as usual in a spirit of great camaraderie and an entertaining cultural evening of music and Kathakali dance.

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**Kathakali**

*Kathakali*, a 400 years old classical dance-drama originated in Ramanattam, a dance form composed by the Raja of Kottarakkara. It was patronised by the kings and landlords of Kerala. In due course *Chenda* was introduced with a singer overtaking the narrative and the dancers focusing on just emotional expressions. Some of the most important contributions to *Kathakali* came from the Raja of Kottayam in North Malabar who composed four plays from the *Mahabharata*. In the course of time, costumes and make-up evolved enhancing its unique and dramatic presentation. *Kathakali* characters concentrate on facial expressions to convey an infinite variety of emotions. To the accompaniment of percussions instruments, the narrative is sung by vocalists. During the three centuries of *Kathakali* development, costumes have absorbed many exotic features and even foreign elements like the Egyptian scarf, Babylonian waist bands, crowns of the old Rajas of India and Burma, even using the rare shells of luminous beetles from Kerala forest in designing crowns! The make-up takes several hours, applied as they lie prone on the floor. More recently *Kathakali* productions have gone beyond mythology of Ramayana and Mahabharata and have ventured into historical events, Japanese and Greek-Roman fairy tales, and legends of other lands transforming it into one of the most dynamic and artistic dance forms of India.

*Kathakali* now has an International Centre in Delhi. Its troupes have performed at innumerable international festivals and cultural platforms in USA, Lain America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia.

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**8TH PUPUL JAYKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE**

The Eighth Pupul Jaykar Memorial Lecture is being held by INTACH on 18th April 2016 at the Multi Purpose Hall, Kamla Devi Block, India International Centre, New Delhi on “Cultural Diplomacy : Leveraging India’s Soft Power”.

The Speaker: Shri Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
The 31st Annual General Meeting was held on 19th March in the courtyard of INTACH Central Office. It was the triennial year for election of the next Chairman, hence charged with varying expectations of its voting Members. There was an added factor of three aspirants to the post for the first time, each with a long association with INTACH. Thus many guesstimates and hopes were riding on the outcome of this election.

Lt. Gen. LK Gupta was re-elected as Chairman for another term with an overwhelming majority. A third term chairmanship in succession is a landmark in INTACH history. His subsequent address to the gathering carried the gravitas of the responsibilities and the trust placed in him.

Chairman LK Gupta warmly complimented INTACH Convenors everywhere for having taken on the challenge to lead the heritage movement in their respective States. He advised them to share their onerous responsibilities with Chapter Members, also involving them in areas of their individual expertise. He reminded everyone that INTACH is intrinsically a volunteer force. Members must persuade others to support heritage conservation out of love for their country, and inform them it is also their constitutional duty to protect heritage.

Chairman extended thanks to Member Secretary CT Misra especially for having kept him regularly updated and consulted on day to day decisions, by email and telephone calls, when unfortunate circumstances compelled his periodic absence from Central Office. She was one of the facilitators for the transfer of UK INTACH Funds and the Rs. 100 crore grant from the Government to INTACH.

Chairman stressed that thousands of unprotected heritage assets across the country belong to people like mosques, churches, temples, monuments, historic landmarks and bio-diversity regions. They need our attention and conservation as only 7500 such assets are presently protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. It is therefore mandatory on INTACH to continue its sustained effort to bring heritage at risk to the notice of the authorities, and preserve our precious legacy. Probity and economy however must be the watchword as INTACH corpus funds would be affected by falling interest rates in future.

Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta reiterated that INTACH status needs to be nurtured and sustained with the utmost care. As the organization grows in strength, with its burgeoning number of Chapters, it is vital she said to accord due importance to instituting systems and procedures that sustain excellence. She recognized the valuable contributions made by each Chapter. What the Central Office can best give Chapter Members is a sense of pride in belonging to INTACH, she stated.
Member Secretary CT Misra brought the recent additional responsibilities of INTACH to the attention of the gathering. The Government nominated INTACH as an anchor for three important HRIDAY States (Varanasi, Gaya and Warangal). INTACH Divisions are working relentlessly with the concerned local authorities to develop tool kits and plans through the “prism of heritage”, she said. INTACH is approached suo-moto by other State Governments for advice and knowledge support which is extended periodically. INTACH Divisions also support Chapters technically, and in some cases financially when required. (Details of Divisional activities are covered at length in the quarterly issues of *Virasat*). The INTACH Heritage Academy now offers career government officials and conservation professionals regular courses for hands-on learning backed by case studies. Member Secretary appreciated the support extended by INTACH Members, and that it is their positive contributions from across the country that has enabled INTACH to grow “from strength to strength”.

Returning Officer Jagdish Chandra formally announced the re-election of Chairman, and the results of the elections to the Governing Council.

In the Founder Member category, only one nomination was received. Ms. Asha Vasant Sheth was re-elected uncontested.

In the Life Member category, there were 11 aspirants for filling 2 vacancies. Shri Vedakumar Manikonda and Smt. Anuradha Reddy, both from Hyderabad, Telengana were declared elected.

In the Ordinary Member category, Dr. Sukhdev Singh was re-elected unopposed.

In the Institutional Member category, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla, University of Raipur, Chhattisgarh; and the Takshila Education Society, New Delhi were elected to the Governing Council.

In the Corporate Member category, there were 2 vacancies but no nominations were received. These vacancies will be carried forward till the 2017 AGM next year.

Shri Jagdish Chandra thanked his colleagues Shri V.K. Aggarwal and staff for their assistance in the preparatory work for the AGM, and the counting of the votes.

The following Resolutions were passed unanimously:

- Adoption of the Annual Report 2014-2015
- The Audited Statement of Accounts of 2014-2015
- Reappointment of the Auditors 2015-2016

The annual lunch post AGM for all INTACH Members and its staff was laid out on the lawns of the India International Centre next door. It was a pleasant time spent basking in the last bit of mild winter sun.
The Puducherry Chapter brought out an informative brochure under the aegis of Heritage Tourism Division publication programme. The handy brochure has a map of the city, and enlists walks covering the two major tourist areas of the town – the Tamil Quarter and the French Quarter. There are some cross influences of building patterns in Tamil and French quarters that give the old town its distinct architectural vocabulary. The wall-to-wall streetscapes of the city are very different in character to French towns. A walk through the old town captures the nature of both architectural traditions. Tourists get to experience the spirit and ambience of this unique town.

The most interesting feature is the amalgam of both French and traditional Tamil architecture in some parts of the old town, especially in the case of two storey Tamil buildings. The ground floor usually has a pillared courtyard and carved wooden door, the thinnai and the thalvaram. The first floor displays fluted pilasters, plaster decorations and other ornamental elements favoured in French architecture. These ‘talking streets’ in the native part of the town are typical of vernacular intimate scale and originally developed around the nucleus of a group of temples.

The brochure helps to create a hands-on experience for visitors. Heritage walks and related activities boost heritage tourism. The atmospherics of this old French town has in fact attracted people from so many overseas countries, with some making it their permanent home not only in adjoining Auroville that is under Tamil Nadu but also in Puducherry.

**CAPITAL TALES**

Delhi, once upon a time must have felt like a city of many capitals. It is encapsulated by Sumanta K. Bhowmick in his book *Princely Palaces in New Delhi*. The Forward states “history of India has many locked rooms for researchers to explore, and some of its streams were abandoned suddenly and reconfigured by political exigencies”. The author has enriched his narrative through archival research, interviews with the erstwhile royalty and unpublished photographs from private collections.

The Princes of India “lost themselves” in the newly independent India. They built palatial buildings on plots offered by the new Government of India to represent their erstwhile realms, with a handsome purse for their upkeep. For a time these Houses became the Princes’ “winter-capitals” where they entertained the high and mighty of the land. But during the Second World War, the British Government requisitioned most of them and they became public property. They have retained their ‘connect’ with the past only in name, most prominently Hyderabad House built by Lutyens for the 7th Nizam Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur who was hailed by Time Magazine as the richest man in the world. Among the many guests the Nizam entertained was Lord Willingdon. The story goes that he was once so smitten by his dinner companion called Niloufer (a princess whose beauty according to Sir Conrad Cornfield was “enough to ruin a man’s appetite”) till Lady Willingdon interceded to say quite firmly “it’s quite time we left”!

There are many other tit bits of interesting history attached to Hyderabad House. At one time Indira Gandhi wanted to make it the permanent residence of the Prime Minister of India. President Sanjiva Reddy toyed with the idea of shifting to this smaller abode from the imposing 350-roomed Rashtrapati Bhavan. It figured as General Smut’s office in the unforgettable film *Gandhi*. Somehow Raj Kapoor got permission to shoot part of his film *Sangam* in sections of the House! Currently Hyderabad House is mostly a venue for banquets hosted by the Prime Minister to entertain visiting heads of foreign countries.

Bhowmick’s book covers the fascinating history of many such Houses, the parties, dignitaries and other guests who enjoyed their lavish hospitality during regal times. Some have a new identity Jaipur House (National Gallery of Modern Art), Bikaner House (under Tourism Department of Rajasthan), Baroda House (headquarters of Northern Railways), Patiala House ( 32 Courts), Travancore House ( offices/art gallery of Kerala Government); and there is one belonging to the largest zamindari Darbhanga House (now a Government establishment).

INTACH thanks Sumanta K. Bhowmick for gifting the book and enriching INTACH Library.
This is not a story of “Blood Diamonds” like the famous film ‘accidents of history’ that resulted in some of India’s most cherished diamonds lying in other countries today. The Kohinoor was presented to Mughal Emperor Babar in Battle of Panipat, according to Baburnama. In 1868 it was looted by Nadir Shah, and after his assassination his descendant Shah Shuja offered it to Ranjit Singh after the fall of Punjab. The East India Company Ten years later it became a crown jewel. Both India and Pakistan are laying claims to it, Though after Queen Elizabeth II, it will remain legend “only God or woman, can wear it with impunity”.

Darya-i-Noor, a transparent pink coloured diamond from the Kollur mines, weighing 175-95 carats, was one eye of the bird perched in the Mughal Peacock Throne. This flawless gem was briefly on display at Teheran’s Central Bank in Iran. It is believed to be preserved in a bank vault in Bangladesh.

The greenish Orlov Diamond once rested on the brow of the reclining Vishnu in the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple at Tiruchirapalli. Nearly 900 carats, it was stolen by a French soldier pried out of the eye of the deity by a French soldier. An admirer of Russian Empress Catherine the Great (1762-96) Count Grigory Orlov somehow got hold of it, and presented it to her. Maybe it is still in Russia?

Diamond is the largest of its kind to be smuggled out of the Golconda mines. It ended up in the vault of Frederich Augustus of Saxony, King of Poland in 1741. Where is it now? Another from famous the Golconda mines is the 410 carat Regent Diamond discovered in 1710. It was smuggled out by a slave and changed hands many times leaving a trail of misfortune. Cut to size it became a 141 carat gem that adorned the sword of Napoleon Bonaparte. It is in the possession of the Louvre in Paris.

The large blue Hope Diamond, also came out of the Golconda mines. A brilliant 112 carats in weight, it was cursed. It brought painful death to most of its 21 owners including Louis XVI. It is in possession of the Smithsonian Museum, USA and not likely to cause any more deaths.

ACK: Damayanti Datta, India Today
SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION, BHIR

The Natural Heritage Division (NHD) was involved in the reconstruction of schools wrecked in the 2013 Uttarakhand earthquake. Repair and reconstruction of GIC Bhir in Rudraprayag District is currently on-going work. It is carried out by converting landslide debris into cement stabilized soil block. This is cost effective as burnt bricks from the plains would have cost Rs. 9/- per piece, while the stabilised local blocks are costing Rs. 5/- only. The debris is normally overturned on the hillside and only some of it ends up in river dams, so it is an environment friendly procedure that NHD has adopted.

The classrooms are being reinforced to be earthquake resistant. NHD hopes the modernized look and beautification will encourage children to attend and spend more time at school. Modern toilets are also under construction for girls and boys with adequate hygienic facilities. INTACH is likely to hand over the school premises on completion in June this year.

The District Administration has appreciated the work, and has asked INTACH to take up another school at the remotely situated Makku. Improvements in this kind of remote areas have an added purpose of reversing migration from high altitude areas which is currently happening at an alarming pace. NHD will take up the work when funds are made available.

MAPPING LANDSCAPE MOSAIC

Fragmentation and alteration of vast tracts of natural landscape is responsible for habitat loss and extinction of species. Landscapes across the country are being engineered for development plans and the result is human dominated regions. They lack a bio-diversity friendly perspective. In fact this approach lacks ecological integrity and causes irreparable damage in the long run to environment. Due importance needs to be given to Mapping as an imperative tool in decision making for factoring environment concerns into development planning. NHD has undertaken extensive mapping exercises to identify and connect protected and unprotected natural areas and habitats in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi with the help of Google Earth, ArcGIS, Eicher Map, Survey of India’s Toposheets, etc. for pointers to enhance habitats, biodiversity and for climate resilience.

In Delhi 800 sq.kms out of 1485 kms are already urbanized, and the rest of rural and semi-urban areas are increasingly under developmental pressure. Mapping would go a long way in identifying major natural areas, to create ecological corridors to prevent total destruction of valuable patches of land. A similar mapping exercise is being carried out in the National Capital Region (NCR) extending to Gurgaon and Faridabad Districts of Haryana. In the process, a baseline data on various floral and faunal species is also being collected.

NHD has carried out a similar exercise of listing and documentation of natural features in Sawai Madhopur in coordination with the local INTACH Chapter. It covers 7 tehsils of the District and includes heritage trees and sacred sites revered by the local people.

GEO-HERITAGE

Nature is endowed with unique geological features that are significant in tracing earth’s development and its history through the ages. “Geo-Heritage” is the descriptive term applied to sites with geological and geomorphic features of significant scientific, educational and aesthetic value to mankind. However this is a much neglected feature in landscape conservation in India.

The geologically rich regions in India are Rajasthan, Odisha,
Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana and Tamil Nadu. A large number of geological sites have now been identified in these States. To date 26 of them have been declared as National Geo-Monuments; seven of them have been further categorized as 3 Fossil Wood Parks, 2 Stromatolite Parks, 1 Vertebrate and 1 Invertebrate Fossil Parks.

Apart from recognizing the scenic value of landform of a National Geological Monument, importance needs to be attached to myths and legends that surround them. Promoting Geo-Tourism serves the dual purpose of protecting them and their sustainable development. State Governments need to be on board to develop and conserve them as Museums of Natural Sculpture.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

INTACH forwarded its comments on the Draft National Wildlife Action Plan to the Board. It drew attention to re-engineered landscapes and highlighted that landscapes should be an integral part of urban planning process. INTACH found no proposal in the proposed Plan to make urban areas more wildlife friendly. District landscape plans should become a decision making tool for the District Administration for formulating infrastructural plans. INTACH is of the view that there is a need to revisit the 2009 Draft Wetland Rules. Several seats in wildlife management courses are going unutilized – why not open the unutilized seats to NGOs for enhancing their capacity?

TRADITIONAL WATER STRUCTURES OF RAJASTHAN

This was a concept commissioned by INTACH to prepare a comprehensive list of traditional water structures in the State, in order to understand their significance, components and inherent knowledge systems. It will also map the present condition, utility to people and issues associated with them.

A number of suggestions have emerged for coherence in policies and action plan. Presently the Phase IV of the project is underway.

A PIL was filed in 2014 to conserve the Najafgarh Jheel spread over NCT Delhi and Gurgaon in Haryana. Both States denied the existence of this water body, but INTACH persisted and placed incontrovertible evidence dating back to 1807 that a jheel in fact once did exist. The Chennai floods have pinpointed the importance of protecting lakes as flood moderators apart from their other ecological functions. The judgment is awaited.

Pictures Ackn: Deepika Saxena Ghosh

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The development juggernaut with its insatiable requirement of sand, aggregate and cement, leaves in its wake flattened hill sides and gouged out floodplains and river channels. Travel in the Aravalis reveals vanishing hillocks with stone crushers feasting on them. Survey of the Himalayan foothills shows hundreds of tractors crawling adjacent to anemic streams, loading up boulders and sand. And seeing the floodplains of the rivers where sand mafias are busy gouging the channel for sand.

The proposed and projected developments, given our reliance on cement concrete, will kill many environmental assets and disrupt the workings of eco-systems which sustain us with free eco-system services.

We need to revisit building with earth (as the locally available material). Our scientists need to come up with alternate building technologies if we are to retain our environmental assets and their integrity.

Principal Director NHD INTACH, Manu Bhatnagar
NATURE THROUGH THE LENS OF CULTURE

Kalidasa’s poem *Meghdootam* (Cloud Messenger) authored in the 4th century AD, vividly describes the landscape directing the cloud as it sails over it. Centuries later Wordsworth’s famous 19th century poem *Daffodils* begins thus - ‘I wandered lonely as a cloud’ and ends ……… -and then my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils.

The poems illustrate that most cultural expressions are inspired or rooted in nature. Thus, until recent times, humans respected nature which nurtured them, taught them and inspired them. The several classic dance forms, the building blocks of classical music (*raagas*), painting (*Madhubani* for example) and the use of natural dyes, ornamentation based on natural forms, architectural form and design based on local material and adapted to local climate, festivals celebrating seasons, sounds and languages, all drew upon nature - the list is endless. Even State symbols were often inspired by nature for example our own Ashoka Lions, the Laburnum (*Amaltas*) as the royal tree of Thailand, or the bald eagle emblem chosen in 1782 by USA because of its long life, great strength, majestic looks, and because it was then believed to exist only in America.

Within larger cultures flourish many sub-cultures and the variation amongst these reflect the bio-geographic diversity of the sub-regions. For example, the cultural expressions in Rajasthan are distinct from those of Meghalaya or Kerala reflecting the difference in their natural roots. In fact, it would be interesting to overlay a map of cultures over a map of bio-geographic regions and see a striking coincidence in the boundaries of both layers.

In recent times humans have learnt to dominate through technology and thus lost respect for nature. Vast tracts have become bereft of wilderness and our daily lives do not reflect the rhythms of nature. This will surely lead to culturally impoverished lives and diminishing of cultural expressions. Barren cities standing like towering islands in a bald landscape result in a culturally anemic and sterile society.

The equation is clear – culture flourishes if nature does. Thus, cultural enrichment requires re-establishment of natural characteristics in sub-regions i.e. there is a rationale for protecting, strengthening and enhancing natural features in order to nurture and enrich culture. Could there be a justification for the Ministry of Culture to have a more enriched environmental policy?

Principal Director NHD INTACH, Manu Bhatnagar

EARTH IS CALLING

The year 2015 has been declared the hottest since 1880. Perhaps the most pressing issue of our times is Climate Change, with the atmosphere becoming more and more ‘carbon dioxed’. It is now said to be 40% higher than at the beginning of the industrial age. Countries grew rich by tapping vast store of earth’s fossil energy with abandon. Today wind turbines and solar panels are beginning to dot vast areas across Europe, America and China. It will take more than just a big expansion of existing renewable technologies to survive the future. Is the world prepared for a radical change in lifestyle? Do we need bigger and faster cars as much as internal combustion engines? Will we find better ways of storing energy? Will there be research into cooling the earth artificially? Geo-engineering projects need to be the start-ups in future India.

KITCHEN COMPOST

It is the bane of every city that tonnes of waste end up in over spilling landfills to the detriment of lives and environment. A few residents of Gulmohar Park in Delhi have been inspired by their RWA Secretary Preeti Bhardwaj to take up an eco-friendly way of converting kitchen waste into useful compost. Segregating the wet waste, the daily dry waste like vegetable peels, eggshells, etc. are stored in a khmba (pillar) of four earthen pots piled one on top of each other; and each covered with a handful of coco peat (made of coconaut husks) that activates the bacteria. After one month the contents turn into fresh organic compost, ready to be used as fertiliser. Dry leaves however take much longer and patience to be similarly converted. They have to be placed in layers in an iron mesh and added with remix powder. Water also needs to be added every third day. The whole process of composting takes six months.

Imagine if every kitchen and every RWA were to follow suit!
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (AHD)

HRIDAY (HERITAGE CITY DEVELOPMENT AND AUGMENTATION YOJANA)

INTACH is appointed the city anchor for 3 out of the 12 Hriday Cities identified by the Government – Varanasi, Gaya, and Warangal. AHD has been closely working with the city authorities as well as the Ministry of Urban Development to make these heritage cities engines of development as conceptualized by the Government.

Varanasi

The preparation of the City Hriday Plan (CHP) is complete, and AHD is assisting in the preparation of the detailed project reports (DPR) to take the project to implementation stage. As part of the CHP, the tangible and intangible heritage of Varanasi were identified and mapped; and heritage zones identified and prioritised for development. They include the 84 Ghats, the Old City, Durga Temple-Sankatmochan area, Peeli Kathi (the weaver’s settlement), Assi Nala and Sarnath. INTACH proposed a heritage sensitive development designed under the themes of Connectivity and Accessibility; Urban Infrastructure, Street Captions, Visitor Amenities, etc. Alongside, a city specific urban design tool kit was prepared outlining the urban guidelines, with a vocabulary for infrastructure for the heritage areas in the city.

The projects under HRIDAY include various development plans - 34 roads leading to heritage sites; tourist infrastructure in 100 heritage sites; Dasahwamedh Godowlia Cultural Quarter; Town Hall as a Heritage Centre for visitors and pilgrims; and Durgakund – Assi Ghat Heritage Precinct.

Gaya

Gaya has the potential of a religious destination, so INTACH vision for the city is to re-establish Gaya as a “spiritual capital” of Bihar, while addressing a sustainable model for development, catering both to the needs of pilgrims as well as the local community.

On the basis of evaluation and analysis of heritage significance, tourist inflow, local livelihood dependency,
existing infrastructure facilities, AHD identified six high priority heritage zones: Fortified old town of Andar Gaya (Vishnupad Temple complex, 14 Ghats); precinct of Mangala Gauri; precinct of Shree Krishna Path; 5 hill precinct; 16 Sarovars and the stretch from Dungeshwari Hill to Mahabodhi Temple. Other projects proposed are: augmentation of open spaces around Vishnupad Temple complex; development of ghats – from Shamshan Ghat to Dev Ghat; physical infrastructure and visitor amenities in Akshay Vat Temple complex; revitalization of Baitarini and Brahmsatsarovars; development of Gyanyatra – the connecting pathway from Dungeshwari Hill to Mahabodhi Temple.

**Warangal**

Development Works at Kazipet Dargah; Padmakshi Temple Pond Rejuvenation and Restoration and Development of Warangal Fort has been undertaken by AHD.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HERITAGE SITES, MORENA DISTRICT**

Morena District, a part of Chambal Division of Madhya Pradesh, is the historically formed Tonwarghar District of the erstwhile Gwalior State. On the request of District Collector, AHD team visited Morena and surveyed three ancient villages – Noorabad, Chonda and Kuntalpur where ten most significant sites were identified.

The Tomb of Ganna Begum at Noorabad, originally a part of enclosure and Charbagh Garden is now lost with only the wall, bastions and gates remaining at present. Another walled enclosure in Noorabad said to have been a sarai built by the Wazir of Noorabad for soldiers, has been built over and used by different Government Departments like Police Chowki, school, etc. The entrance gateway has been altered and turned into a residence. Kuntalpur Village said to have been the native village of Kunti has several historically significant structures belonging to 16th-19th centuries but most of them are on the verge of collapsing. Chonda has the Churchill memorial to the left of Agra-Mumbai highway. Apart from the emergency repairs, proposals for conservation of these heritage sites are under preparation for the integrated development of the villages.
INITIATIVES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Judiciary of Jammu & Kashmir requested INTACH to prepare Detailed Project Report for Munsif Court in R.S. Pura and District & Session Court in Ananthnag. The DPRs were prepared and submitted to the Registrar General. On the request of Municipal Commissioner, Jammu to INTACH Convenor for assistance in conservation of the Gates of Jammu, AHD team visited the site to assess the structures. Only Gumbat Gate next to the Jammu Municipal Corporation is found to be surviving. A proposal for its restoration was submitted to the Commissioner.

DC Samba also requested a proposal for Restoration and Adaptive Reuse of Samba Fort. After a detailed inspection of the premises a PPR has been submitted for perusal.

CONSERVATION OF BHADRA KACHERI, VADODARA, GUJARAT

The once fortified 1570 Bhadra Kacheri is located in the old city of Vadodara. Till the 18th century it was a citadel, but later during Gaekwad rule it transformed into a cultural centre with an arena for royal sports and games. The main building is double storeyed with rooms around the courtyard, with the arena added at the eastern edge of the city, and a beautiful ornate stone jharokha on its western façade. More buildings like the Zanana Mahal were also added to the complex.

Today, the site is unattended, with some buildings in use while the rest of the complex lies abandoned in a state of deterioration. There have been some insensitive additions/alterations like a communication tower erected in the front. There is extensive vegetation growth in the courtyards and on the facades damaging the structure. The roofs of several rooms have collapsed and some lost. There is no trace of the pavilion on the eastern edge of the building. The Vadodara Collectorate approached INTACH Chapter for conservation of this building through its CSR partners. AHD team assessed the condition of the building and prepared a preliminary conservation report which has been submitted to the Collectorate office.

RESTORATION OF VICTORIA MARKET, GWALIOR

Restoration works on the fire damaged Victoria Market is ongoing since March 2015. The collapsed eastern part of the building has been completely rebuilt from the foundation level with stone beams inserted to bring the structure together. The building has been constructed up to first floor level following the architectural design of the existing portion. The new structure will be linked with the old existing part so as to make the building work as a monolithic unit.
**LISTING AND DOCUMENTATION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA HERITAGE SITES**

The listing and document of buildings and sites associated with Swami Vivekananda was assigned to INTACH on the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, by the Ministry of Culture. AHD carried out the survey in 10 States including 26 cities like Varanasi, Vrindavan, Delhi, Ajmer, Jaipur, Mt. Abu,Junagarh, Dwarka, Indore, Margao, Kodungalur, Ernakulam, Rameswaram. A total of 52 sites were listed, 34 out of which are places where Swami Vivekananda stayed. Out of this total number 4 have been demolished, and 12 have been reconstructed.

**Adaptive Reuse of Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital**

Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA) in 2013 initiated the conservation and re-use of the hospital complex. INTACH was appointed for design and supervision. AHD found the setting up of an Urban Haat and Heritage Hotel to be most appropriate given the large scale of the building and surrounding spaces. The Haat occupying 4.6 acres of the total 9.70 acre site, includes craft and food stalls, a crafts demonstration and appreciation center, State Emporiums and exhibition hall, dormitories for artisans, etc. The work was proposed in 3 Phases. The civil work to bring back the building to its original architecture and development of the landscape has been completed. Only the last phase comprising fountains, garden, and furniture remain to be done.

**INTACH SoR**

Schedule of Rates (SoR) with focus on heritage conservation works, is an important initiative finalized by AHD to ease the cost estimation of building conservation including Lime works, Mortars, Concrete, Plastering, Stone, Water Proofing and other repair works. All item rates are supported by rate analysis. The basic rates of material, equipments, labour etc. was procured either from DSR 2014 or from market. It is published as a manual for reference and may be availed by Chapter.

**STATE OF BUILT HERITAGE OF INDIA (SoBHI)**

State of Built Heritage of India (SoBHI) report illustrates the status of unprotected built heritage, deduced through extensive compilation. It was a pan-India initiative to bring out issues and challenges State-wise. A status report on heritage legislations is also included in the study, comprising current regulatory mechanism in various States.

SoBHI also brings to the attention of State Government
bodies and Corporates the abysmal plight of unprotected heritage, the Heritage at Risk Register is an ongoing initiative. INTACH appeals to all concerned citizens to bring endangered cases to its attention. AHD is working out the feasibility of extending assistance to undertake emergency repairs to sites at risk. A symposium with exhibition panels and a short film are envisioned to highlight crucial issues and threats identified through SoBHI research.

10th Century Juna Patrasar (Palace/ Fort), 28 kms from Barmer situated on Jasai Radwa Road, Rajasthan

**NOMINATION TO WHL**

To date no Indian city has been officially nominated to World Heritage Status. Delhi and Mumbai have been on a pendulum for so long that it is difficult to predict when it will stop swinging.

This year Gujarat’s capital has stolen the march. The Government has finally nominated Old Ahmedabad to UNESCO WHC List. The results of this year’s nomination will only be announced in June 2017. With a hope and a prayer, let us all wish that at least one Indian city makes it to the exclusive list of World Heritage Cities of which there are more than 250 around the world – but regrettably none in India. UNESCO designates places for their “outstanding universal value to humanity.......to protect for future generations”. The nomination thus brings brand value to the city and attracts tourism footfalls, which in turn multiplies into manifold employment and economic opportunities for the city.

**SITWELL ROAD**

The Sitwell Road once wound its way from Changlang District of Assam over 1726 kms all the way to China’s Yunnan Province. It was built by the Americans during World War II only after several plane crashes during World War II in NEFA (today’s Arunachal). And when 416 US air crew went missing. It came to be known as “Hell Pass” because of its tortuous twists and turns.

The road was re-opened on 30th December 2015, with exhibits from China arriving at the Pangsaau Pass en route to the Assam International Agri-Horti Show 2016 at Guwahati. In due course will it be a trade conduit for the countries of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM)? Road Planning is an important component for the economy of India.

**FORGOTTEN BAOLIS**

Chicago-based journalist Victoria Lutman spent the last 4 years travelling across India to document the history and condition of 120 baolis across seven States including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. The journey was inspired by Rudabai Vav, the 15th century Adalaj step well that she had first glimpsed thirty years ago with an accompanying group of architects. More recently, she was inspired by the Agrasen ki Baoli and the one at Red Fort in Delhi. She was mesmerised by the design and artistry of baolis unique to India and that they provided water, shade and traditionally served as places of social gathering. Most constructions were commissioned by royalty as acts of charity. Some interestingly were commissioned by women in memory of their beloved ones. Some step wells bespoke of secularism often fusing elements of Islamic architecture. The Adalaj step well for example was built by Rudabai, queen of the Vaghela dynasty, who later married a Muslim builder.

Is it again time to plan village redevelopment around baolis?
INTACH LISTING CELL (ILC)

Listing is on-going at Dhar and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh; Jagannath Sadak in West Bengal; Tarantaran and Pathankot districts in Punjab; Allahabad District in Uttar Pradesh and at Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Subarnapur Districts in Odisha; Megaliths in Mizoram - by their respective Chapters.

The National Register of Historic Gardens is expected to compile 100 gardens in Phase-I listing that has commenced in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The Listing Cell is reviewing and validating the ongoing listings, including the listings that were sanctioned during the financial year of 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Sample inventories of some listings have been received from Kanpur, Kodaikanal and Solapur Districts.

INTACH DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (IDC)

Digitization Project

Digitisation project of the INTACH Documentation Centre started from 15 November 2015. The work was entrusted to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) on behalf of INTACH, with the full support and inputs from IDC staff.

• All reports and listings (1500 approx.) are scanned at INTACH and saved as PDF files (read only format) for archiving and easy access.

• Listings under several headings have been digitized (Indian Army, Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu and Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Telangana, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Odisha) and saved as Tiff, PDF and compressed PDF format in hard disks for archival purpose.

• As requested by Co-Convenor Bengaluru Chapter Meera Iyer, 35 digital images from the Bengaluru listing were provided to her through Chapters Division for exhibition purposes.
SPLENDOURS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

This exhibition has travelled to several Chapters showcasing the magnificence of India’s Built Heritage from ancient times till today. It was presented in Brussels, Belgium earlier and an edited version of the same exhibition was exhibited at INTACH during Founder’s Day celebrations. The exhibition has been designed in a manner that visitors can understand and experience India’s rich architectural heritage.

At the close of last year, with the help of INTACH Chapters an edited version of the exhibition was organized in Visakhapatnam from 14th-20th December and also travelled to East Godavari from 26th-31st December 2015. This year it was exhibited in Machilipatnam from 4th-7th January. The exhibition has been drawing considerable public interest and attendance, and has been extensively covered by the local media.

INATCH EXHIBITION AT GREEN PARK METRO STATION, DELHI

The CCH Division headed by Director Bindu Manchanda has taken a brilliant initiative of putting up exhibitions at Delhi Metro Stations. A MoU was signed with DMRC for finalizing Jor Bagh and Green Park as locations with heavy footfalls to put up exhibitions by INTACH to create public awareness of the heritage sites in the vicinity of these Metros. It is an interesting way of educating people about the history of the sites they pass by, and the importance of preserving heritage sites.

On 18th March, the exhibition The Medieval City of Siri was inaugurated at Green Park Metro Station jointly by DMRC Operations Director Sharat Sharma and INTACH Chairman LK Gupta. A bus load of INTACH staff and officers were present at the station conspicuously wearing specially designed INTACH T-Shirts for the occasion. They continued to wear them all morning even at the office lunch.

STONE STORIES OF JAISALMER

Stone Stories of Jaisalmer is a documentary film made by CCH Division on building crafts of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. It documents the craft of stone carving and joinery, stucco - a
The focus is on the built heritage. The continuous thread in the entire series is traditional *saree* weaving clusters. CCHD has identified eight regions in five States - Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Assam. The towns on UNESCO’s Tentative List are the primary sites for identification of traditional weaver clusters. INTACH objective is also identification and preparation of a database for traditional weaving settlements of those towns.

**INDIGENOUS PAINTING TECHNOLOGY OF KITARAN COMMUNITY**

CCHD conducted a 14-days *Kitaran* training workshop with 35 young artists from 15th-29th March at Payyanur in Kannur District, in collaboration with Kasargod Chapter.

*Kitaran* is an ethnic painter community of North Kerala whose main occupation is to prepare and paint the Theyyam shrine, using natural dyes prepared from locally available materials. For example, red color is prepared from stones, white from calcium oxide, green from leaves, blue from indigo, yellow from turmeric, black from soot, etc. By mixing these base colors different shades are also obtained. The glue is the main ingredient for this painting and is extracted from the sap of wild trees. The process of making *Kitaran* paints is very laborious and time consuming. The paints are applied on wood and on walls.

Earlier, there were many artisans available in each village of North Kerala. This age old art is now going into oblivion due to the advent of synthetic paints and technology. It is a dying art as there are very few artists alive. The purpose of the workshop is to revitalize them by extending training and transferring the skills to the younger generation of the community.

**ICONIC SAREE WEAVING CLUSTERS OF INDIA**

Conservation of vernacular built heritage of saree weaving clusters is a collaborative initiative of Community, Crafts & Heritage Division and the Architectural Heritage Division.

Pochampalli and Koyyalagudem is on the Tentative List for Nomination to World Heritage List. A visit was conducted in Telangana to identify traditional saree weaving clusters in the districts of Nalgonda, Medak, Karimnagar and Mehboobnagar. The surrounding villages, rather than the main town, were found to have a more widespread traditional weaver vernacular homes.

Detailed inventories of traditional weaver clusters in Chanderi has also been undertaken. The over arching principle is to devise initiatives to benefit the weaver communities in selected clusters, and to create heritage awareness. These are being undertaken during the course of dossier background work and preparation.
The Chairman visited the ICI Center on 19th February to take an overview of the works and took note of the workshops and academic activities, the Lime Centre, Wall Paintings Directory Section and the Library. He also advised on new sophisticated equipment like Leaf Caster to be purchased for ICI Centers for greater precision and efficiency in manuscripts conservation.

Chairman complimented the Center. He advised the Chapter that documentation work on architectural listings be sent to Delhi for collation.

**DIRECTORY OF WALL PAINTINGS**

India has a vast repository of wall paintings housed in temples, monasteries, churches, palaces, etc. Though many of these paintings are under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India or the State Archaeology Departments, many more are in various stages of deterioration due to neglect and lack of awareness. Some wall paintings are even being repainted in the name of restoration, resulting in damage to art works out of ignorance, and may have been unwittingly destroyed to create spaces. Thus precious heritage is being lost at a fast pace. INTACH came up with a 5 phased plan for *Scientific Documentation and Conservation of Wall Paintings in India* to create a *Directory* for future reference.

A Secretariat was formed at ICI Delhi manned by trained wall painting conservators who have designed a Template and undertake workshops for educating surveyors on documentation. A software is under development for uploading the data on web, and to incorporate other listings (Architectural, Natural and Intangible Heritage) of any State along with the wall paintings. The work is being carried out in association with the INTACH Chapters and various universities. Currently it is ongoing at Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

In the 2nd Phase important sites will be identified for scientific investigation of materials and techniques to create a data of materials used in different regions.
Conservation proposals would be drafted to raise funds for conservation. The 3rd Phase would involve undertaking emergency conservation treatments of identified endangered sites. 4th Phase would entail small video clips being made of important sites in a State and uploading on the net for wider viewing. 5th Phase would involve technical publications of the work and conservation case studies.

LIME TESTING UNIT

A Lime Testing Unit was established at ICI, Lucknow last year in October. The initial phase involved setting up of the lab, collection of samples from various sites in and around Lucknow, and detailed documentation. It included slaking of lime available in the market, composition analysis of plaster samples collected, granulometry analysis of plaster samples, analysis of soluble salts present in plaster.

OPEN TEXTILE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, GOA

INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) organised a 10-days Open Conservation Workshop in association with the Museum of Christian Art in Old Goa, with participants and guests invited by the Museum. Textile conservation team undertook the conservation of the textiles in the Museum collection, starting with a talk on ‘Care of Art Objects’ by ICI Senior Consultant K.K. Gupta and a presentation by ICI Principal Director Nilabh Sinha. Participants included the Museum staff and ICI conservators who availed the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of textile conservation. The workshop was also an opportunity to sensitize the public about the importance of conservation as the process was open to the public.

Museum of Christian Art, located in the Convent of Santa Monica, Goa, is Asia’s first museum of its kind. It was originally set up with technical and financial assistance from INTACH and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal. The Museum collection comprises around 200 pieces including liturgical objects, vestments and other textiles, paintings, sculptures, church furniture and daily utilitarian objects. Few textiles form the collection, in immediate need for conservation, were selected for the training workshop.

The priceless collection of textiles in the MOCA collection is damaged due to deterioration leading to fading, brittleness
and other physical damage. ICI experts working in the area of textile conservation Rahul Raina and Garima Singh were the Facilitators who conducted the textile conservation and display of selected textile objects. The focus was on preventive conservation of textile including ideal environmental conditions, pest control, treating and isolating infected objects, proper methods of display and storage of textiles.

‘Open House’ or public workshop demonstrations were organized daily for two hours to give the public glimpses into the world of art conservation and to learn about INTACH activities. The space was organized for working and conducting guided tours. Various audio-visual aids such as videos and illustrative panels were used to engage the public. Lectures, demonstrations and visits helped schoolchildren, students and interested public in understanding the complex issues of heritage conservation.

ICI Delhi has currently undertaken the restoration of six large British period oil paintings at the Cathedral Church of Redemption in New Delhi. It traces its origin to Lutyen’s Delhi of British India, as part of the city design in line with grand buildings such as Viceregal Palace (Rashtrapathi Bhavan) and the Secretariat. The Church met the spiritual needs of British officers in the newly established Capital of India. Lutyens picked Henry Alexander Nesbitt Medd, who had worked in Lutyens’ office in Britain on drawings of New Delhi, to design the Church. He was influenced by Lutyens’ own work on the Free Church at Hampstead Garden Suburb, London and Palladio in Venice. The foundation stone was laid on 23rd February, 1927 by the Viceroy, Lord Irwin.

The Cathedral was built in eight years and opened to public worship on Sunday, 18th January 1931. This highly ambitious
The painting above the altar, a copy of a painting of the Madonna by Bellini in a Venice Church, was commissioned by Irwin in consultation with his friend Lord Crawford who was a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery. It was dispatched to England in 1931 and came back a year later. The other paintings of the Church were commissioned by Lady Willingdon. These large paintings are now sagging due to the prolonged expansion and contraction due to Delhi’s inclement climate, resulting in bulges, flaking, tears, and loss of canvas support at edges. The darkened varnish ruined their aesthetic appearance, and cracks are noticeable as testimony to their age.

The conservation work is being undertaken at the site, as transporting might have caused further damage. A temporary lab was set up, and the team has finished the required documentation and scientific examination for establishing the conservation procedures. The work in progress will be completed by June 2016.
ICI BENGALURU

Indo – German workshop On Stone Cleaning

The Centre in collaboration with the ASI organised an Indo – German Workshop on stone cleaning from 10th – 12th February, as part of the ongoing collaboration between the ICI and Karcher Cleaning Systems Pvt. Ltd., a subsidy of Karcher, Germany. Karcher India brought German experts in stone conservation to give demonstrations on cleaning systems using steam, a chemical free approach to stone cleaning, at a Chola Period site arranged by ASI known as Bhoga Nandheeshwara Temple in Nandi Hills. It is one of the oldest temples of Karnataka, dating back to the early 9th century. The cleaning demonstration was done on a broken Mandapa just outside the main temple.

Another workshop was conducted by the ICI Bangalore at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath premises, with participants from all over the country. The focus was on sharing experience and techniques, and on stone conservation. It was a hub of experts, researchers, practitioners exchanging knowledge on topics like the causes of decay /need for cleaning, characterization of stone, cleaning methods, surface coatings, decision-making model, etc. with long term
ICI JODHPUR

Handwritten Administrative Record of Maharaja Man Singh

The book traces the chronology during the reign of erstwhile Maharaja Man Singh (1803-1843). It unfolds 40 years of political, administrative and socio-economic conditions noting day-to-day activities at the Fort. It covers campaigns, religious ceremonies, marriage, festivals, etc. It is an important historic evidence of Marwar region written during his reign.

The book measuring 13 ½ cms x 10 cms consists of 224 pages, in single sheets binded with leather and rexin; in black ink soluble in water; and each page bordered in red. It was received from Man Singh Pustak Prakash.

The brittle pages with torn edges and the spine and binding damaged, had no end sheets. Conservation treatment entailed cleaning the folios using dry method, with each section and sheet lined with tissue strips. The book was then bound with new acid free cover board and fully lined with cloth.

ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation at Study Museum, College of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow

The Museum has a variety of damaged artifacts at the College of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow University. Conservation process at site ended in March this year. To date 655 different cost-effective methodology and cleaning protocols.

The talks were delivered by sponsors, Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG Frank Schad; Prof. Dr. Gabriele Grassegger, University of Applied Sciences/Stuttgart (HFT), Germany; Deputy Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India, Bangalore Dr. H.S.M. Prakash; Conservator of Built Heritage Dr. Ravi Gundu Rao; Asst. Professor, National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology Dr. Satish. C. Pandey, and ASI Professionals.
types of museum collection have been restored including ivory, inlaid ivory, ebony carving, papier mache, clay models, sculptures and paintings. Only five wall paintings remain to be completed.

**Conservation of damaged artifacts of Tagore Library, Lucknow**

ICI Lucknow received a conservation project of 451 artifacts of Tagore Library including oil paintings, water colour paintings, photo prints, photographs, handwritten documents, sandstone, marble stone, soap stone, white cement, Plaster of Paris, clay objects, terracotta objects, ceramic objects, metal, wood and ivory. A second lot for conservation comprised 63 paintings, photo prints and photographs afflicted with biological decay due to fungus, abrasion, cracks in paint layer, tear in canvas, faded colours, etc. The conservation treatment involved documentation, examination and analysis, removal of dust deposits and surface accretions, consolidation of flaking paint layers, cleaning with solvent, strip, local or full lining, filling of cracks and leveling them, reintegration and reframing.

**Collection of 4 Rapid Signal Regiment, Allahabad**

Three Regimental Colours and one paper document were received from 4 Rapid Signal Regiment, Allahabad for conservation treatment at ICI, Lucknow. The problems noted were dirt and other accumulations, discoloration and stains, dampness or mould smell of fabric, loose embroidery threads, and direct framing in glass.

**Conservation of rare books of His Excellency Library, Muscat**

Twenty nine rare books were received at ICI from His Excellency Library, Muscat. The books were covered with dust and dirt, with weak and brittle fibers, brown/foxing paint, fungus, discolouration, numerous creases and folds, with fading ink noticeable in parts. Conservation treatment entailed detailed documentation, examination, solubility test and disinfection
of each object. Cleaning was effected in a fume chamber, removal of stains, deacidification by aqueous method, providing both sides lining, and stitching. Final binding was effected with archival binding along with original cover.

ICI KOLKATA

Conservation of Painting

An oil painting (size 68 cm X 51 cm), framed in plain wood, belonging to a private collector was restored at the Conservation Institute, Kolkata. The main problem was cracks and loss of paint due to flaking or loss of adhesion of the paint layer with the support layers. The painting also suffered from uneven tension resulting from a warped stretcher and accumulations and stains.

The treatment involved settling the cracks and flaked areas, and
consolidating the paint layer to arrest loss of details. There were surface accretions as well as the aged varnish layer. The painting was given cloth adhesive, with losses in the support and paint layer filled and reintegrated. A protective coating was given before reframing in its original frame.

**Conservation of architectural drawings of Writer’s Building, Kolkata**

A set of 50 drawings depicting the plans of different sections of Writer’s Building, Kolkata were received for conservation from the Government of West Bengal. The 1841 drawings were in pencil and red and black inks. One 107.7 cm X 48.8 cm brittle drawing was torn and separated into several parts, acidic with age, and the paper support was missing at many places. There were folds and creases due to bad storage with surface accumulations of dirt, water stains, and even deposition of insect excreta.

The drawing was cleaned to remove the surface accumulations. The red ink was fixed to the paper with suitable consolidant. Non-aqueous method of de-acidification was adopted, and the separated parts were assembled and flattened after removing fold marks. It was lined to a paper support to impart mechanical strength. Finally, the losses were reintegrated and a guarding was provided to prevent further damage.

**ICI BHUBANESHWAR**

The Odisha Centre is carrying out the conservation work of books, manuscripts, *Pattachitras* and oil paintings of private collectors, trusts, and libraries at their conservation laboratory outside Bhubaneshwar. It is also excelling in architectural conservation work of old buildings, temples and monuments for the Odisha Government.

**Manuscripts of KR Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai**
Conservation work is being carried out by the conservators of Odisha Art Conservation Centre, Bhubaneswar since the last 12 years. During this period more than 3 lakh sheets of rare manuscripts have been conserved.

**Conservation of Pattachitra**

An old *Pattachitra* belonging to a private collector is under conservation. *Pattachitra* is traditionally painted with mineral colours and typical Puri painting style. It was received here with number of creases and flaking areas because of poor storage. The conservation is under progress.

**Conservation of Oil Painting on Canvas**

A damaged oil painting on canvas was received from a private collector with physical damages and flaking of colour layer. This conservation work is also under progress.
Conservation work of Temples and Monuments

Conservation of Kosaleswara Temple, Baidyanath, Sonepur under the 13th Finance Commission is under progress.

The temple has decorated pillars of the *mandapa* covered with heavy soot and suffers losses in decorative features. The image on the right shows a recreated area in sandstone. The work is under progress and a final cleaning shall be the last step. *Mukhamandapa* and the architectural peculiarities of the structure is assigned to the 9th–10th century A.D and placed in the period of early Somavamsi rulers from Subarnapur. The conservation work of Kosaleswara Temple located at the south of the village Baidyanath in Sonepur Block of Subarnapur District is on-going currently.

ICI MUMBAI

Conservation of Mother of Pearl Sailboat

The boat from the collection of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai, has sails accumulated with dust and thin sticky dirt all over with light yellow stains. The paint layer is lost in some areas from a small sized painting on the recto side of the sailboat. Conservation treatment involved written and photographic documentation followed by dry and solvent cleaning for removal of dust and dirt and yellow stains. Retouching was carried out in reversible and aging tested materials.
**Silent Brush with Life**

The February exhibition titled *Brush with Life* held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Delhi in February celebrated a lifetime’s work of 90 year old Satish Gujral - a painter, sculptor and architect par excellence. He believes they are all “manifestations of a single aesthetic.....locked together in a common structural framework, of measure and proportion, system of movement, and echo..... ”. Perhaps the hearing impaired Gujral best expressed himself eloquently through paintings, murals, mosaic and ceramics to escape the cacophony of life? Why else would he get his ear implant removed within 3 years when he was young and his art already flourishing? Perhaps he could not reconcile himself with the cacophonous mundane world. The overpowering bronze and burnt wood sculptures in his later years, apart from paintings, speak eloquently of an unhampered, prodigious life. The sweep of his brush work leave an everlasting impact on the mind’s eye. His 2016 solo exhibition has drawn from many key artistic moments of a nonagenarian Renaissance man. It was thronged by people of all ages and many walks of life.

Satish Gujral continues to create and challenge. With his wife Kiran beside him, he says “she relieved me of my alienation, gave me a sense of being a part of society and stimulated me to produce my best. In a volatile creative life that was full of exhilarating heights and dizzying chasms of profound despair, Kiran’s faith in me kept me going”.

“Brush with Life” is also the title of an autobiography by Satish Gujral, edited by Khushwant Singh.

**Art Gateway at Metro Station**

A bold new initiative of the National Museum is an outreach programme in collaboration with the DMRC, to give Delhi public glimpses of its priceless collection. The *Art Gateway* opened at the busy Udyog Bhavan Metro Station which daily registers lakhs of commuter footfalls. The Station has a striking red wall displaying some of the museum’s priceless collection. The artworks will be changed periodically to acquaint viewers with many more pieces of art.

Artworks have also been installed at two other metro stations in collaboration with the capital’s Crafts Museum.

**Reaching Out to the Sky**

The outdoors can also be a city gallery, a concept already explored at the grounds of the National Museum of Modern Art, Delhi. A rather special exhibition titled “In The Open” by sculptor KS Radhakrishnan exhibited 30 of his works near Delhi’s Qutub Minar at Ojas Art recently. The sculptor says “In the last three decades, the work has undergone a metamorphosis. It has labyrinths created with small, human-like figures. I have experimented with various mediums, but bronze remains the medium that I respond to and feel comfortable working with”. Even the viewers interaction changes in the open air as one literally feels the spring of movements in the statues. No wonder the artist has had many successful exhibitions, both Indian and international.

**Picturesque Journey**

Water colours of early 19th century by Sita Ram were on display at Bikaner House, Delhi. They are a record of his journey during 1814-15 when Sita Ram was asked to accompany the Governor General of Bengal Lord Hastings who was travelling with his wife Flora and children. There was a large retinue of assistants accompanying the Lord in more than 200 boats. The water colours were a complement to the journal that the Anglo-Irish nobleman maintained and provide a fascinating insight into an India that would soon be changing. It was a time when the Mughal Empire was dead, the British were in possession of vast tracts of land, and Hastings was the all powerful Lord of India. The exhibition of Sita Ram’s picturesque works gives one glimpses of how it all was - once upon a time.
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)

A myriad Cultural Mapping and ICH Documentation projects have been taken up by the Division to identify, document, promote and preserve the diverse facets of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India.

RAJASTHANI WEDDING

The documentation of customary traditions related to a Rajput wedding was initiated keeping in mind changing trends and the current fast-paced lifestyles. Rajasthan is also famous for high profile Destination Weddings. Elements ranging from the traditional attire to ritualistic customs, folk performances, songs and dances, the culinary preparations, etc. were studied in detail.

FOOD CULTURE OF PALANI HILLS

This was another project undertaken by ICHD in collaboration with the Kodaikanal Chapter. The Paliyans are believed to be one of the earliest inhabitants of the Palani Hills. The sacred practices of the Paliyans or Puliyans are still deeply tied to their forests, although facets of mainstream culture are creeping in. The project objective is to understand the cultural practice of collecting and selling forest produce by the Adivasi community, and strengthening their opportunity to assert traditional identities in a globalising economy. A holistic study was conducted on the changing world view of the community, with emphasis on the use of medicinal plants, foraging practices and their relationships with the forest.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF SAWAI MADHOPUR

The ICH documentary film on intangible aspects of Sawai Madhopur was produced by the Sawai Madhopur Chapter. The film identifies the unique living heritage and covers it in a 30-minute documentary film. The project involved engaging with the local communities of the region to document their practices of plastic art, performing arts, literary and craft traditions. It is proposed to distribute the film in schools and other academic institutions to educate and make young people proud of their heritage.

TAMIL NADU SHADOW PUPPETRY

Shadow puppetry, one of the most endangered art forms of Tamil Nadu, was initiated by the Tamil Nadu Chapter. The objective is to preserve and safeguard the three important elements of this traditional art form - the puppeteer, puppets and the performance. The revival programme was designed to motivate artistes, promote puppetry, and to explore ways of revival with special focus on content and the skill of making puppets, for the community as an educational tool. As part of the project, one of the best groups of Tamil Nadu performed a puppet show which was reviewed by a panel of knowledgeable people for studying and suggesting ways of popularising the current practice of this art form.

MEENAKARI WORKSHOP

The Gwalior Chapter organised enamel painting and Meenakari workshops to promote this traditional art form of the region.
Dr. Verrrier Elwin’s Photographic Exhibition

Dr. Verrier Elwin’s seminal work includes over 10,000 black and white photographs of tribes in Central and North East India from the 1930-1960. ICHD exhibited many of his stunning works at Central Office from 11th-20th March.

During his lifetime (1902-64), he was an Anglican priest and Oxford don who came to India as a missionary. His friendship with Mahatma Gandhi made him an active supporter of the national movement, to make amends he felt for the colonial history. He settled among the tribals sharing and studying their lives and became one of the best known anthropologists. His published collection Myths of Middle India, Tribal Myths of Orissa, New Book of Tribal Fiction, Folk Tales of Mahakoshal, Myths of North East India includes many fascinating folktales.

Prime Minister Nehru listened to his recommendations and appointed him as Advisor on Tribal Affairs to the Government of Assam. Based in Shillong for the last 10 years of his life, he became an Indian citizen and received the Padma Bhushan in 1961.

Block by Block

Trees, animals and buildings are now increasingly used by artistes in Indian hand block printing. Hand block printed Indian fabrics in particular date back to the 12th century, passed down from one generation to the next. The tool kits comprise hammers, drills, miniature chisels to make wooden blocks. These blocks are soaked in mustard oil to ensure durability in all weather conditions. After printing saw dust is sprinkled on the wet fabric to prevent smudging before drying out in the sun.

Handblock Printing Tradition

Today Gujarat and Rajasthan are well known centres for hand printed fabrics that are exported globally. A number of cities in Gujarat have been exporting painted and printed calico as far back as 17th century. Patihar village was famous for creating intricate prints using mud-resistant technique called Sodagiri; another village Dhamadka is known for ajrakh geometric prints. Hand block printing is also done at centres in Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Porbander, Jetpur and Rajkot. Rajasthan also has many recognized places for its textile crafts and colour schemes like the Sangamer printed saris and calico printed bed covers. Bagru is famous for its Dabu and Syahi-Begar prints. The art also thrives in some centres in other States like Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

With environment-consciousness the buzz word for the future, will fabrics “Made in India” from natural and vegetable sources increasingly find global markets?

Ack: Vani Malik, Indian Perspectives, Jan-Feb 2016
CONSERVATION ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

A 3-day Conservation Engineering Workshop, in collaboration with the Raipur Chapter, was organized on 6th–8th January at the Raipur Circuit House for PWD engineers and officials/professionals of Chhattisgarh Government. The focus was on issues and complexities related to structural engineering for the conservation of historic buildings.

INTACH Trainers and Experts were resource persons of the workshop. The topics covered were:

• Introduction to Heritage and Conservation and a conceptual approach to ‘Conservation Engineering’
• Approaches to Conservation in India
• Documentation of historic building
• Preparing Schedule of Rates and the Rate Analysis for conservation materials
• Listing of Heritage Sites
• Methods and techniques for design, analysis and monitoring of structural historic buildings
• Practical challenges in up-gradation of Historic Buildings
• Field visit for a practical session at Prof. Jainarayan Pandey High Secondary School, Raipur

132 participants attended the workshop. Feedback of the participants were requested after every IHA Workshop to fine tune future workshops. Some of their comments:

• The programme should be organized for more than 3 days.
• Field visit should be extensive and at a site where the field work is in progress.
• The mechanism of the subject should be covered in a next workshop and field visit at a site of the execution of such projects.
• Principles for treatment of heritage buildings should be included in National Building Code (NBC).
• The training session should be incorporated to provide
details of material, availability, kind of material used in ancient buildings, its purpose and benefit.

- Different items belonging to conservation of heritage buildings should be included in the programme with specifications.
- A new chapter of building SoR of Chhattisgarh PWD should be added as well along with DSR (Delhi Schedule of Rates).
- The State Government should include conservation of historical buildings in the budget.

**HERITAGE UNDERSTANDING COURSE**

A 3-day Heritage Understanding Course was organized on 20th-22nd January at INTACH Central Office for students and professionals. It aimed to introduce the theoretical basis for understanding, interpreting and conserving natural and cultural heritage. In-house trainers and experts were resource persons of the course. The topics covered during the workshop were:

- Introduction to the notion of ‘heritage’
- How do we value our Heritage?
- Understanding Cultural Heritage
- Understanding Natural Heritage
- Architectural Heritage
- Material Heritage
- Understanding Intangible Cultural Heritage
- What to conserve and why?
- Historic cities and areas

- Field visit for practical session at places in Delhi– Qutub Minar site, Hauz Khas monuments and lake, Lodhi Garden and Purana Qila.

Ten participants attended the course. The feedback from participants:

- The lectures should be made more in-depth and the field visit should be over a period of 1-1/2 days.
- One more day of teaching is needed in order to facilitate in depth case studies which would be an added value. Suggested 4-day course (3 days teaching + 1 day field visit) so that the course would be more than a ‘General’ introductory course.
- Material conservation knowledge should be in greater depth.
- Heritage walk training programme should be conducted.

**Adaptive Re–Use of Historic Buildings**

A 5-day *Heritage Interiors – Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings Course*, in collaboration with the Puducherry Chapter, on 1st-5th February was held at the local Hotel Atithi. It was a part of the Puducherry Heritage Festival 2016. The emphasis was on the philosophy and practices of adaptive reuse of historic properties, with focus on up-gradation of services in historic interiors of the city.

Puducherry is a good example of reuse of historic properties.

INTACH Trainers, experts and outsource resource persons were part of the programme. The topics covered during the workshop were:

- Restoration of Senate House, Chennai

*Field Visit to Qutab Complex*
• Conservation principles and practices: Documentation and Conservation of Historic Interiors of Bada Batashewala Mahal, World Heritage Site of Humayun's Garden Tomb Complex

• Retrofitting of heritage structures: walls and floors

• Retrofitting of heritage structures: Types of structural interventions such as invasive and non invasive, reversible and irreversible, expressed and concealed

• Sustainable heritage management through adaptive reuse with focus on local economies

• Challenges in historic interiors and adaptive reuse: Case Study

• “Conservation Dialogue” as part of Puducherry Heritage Festival 2016

Guided tours/walks were conducted to:

• French Quarter

• INTACH Puducherry Chapter office – Functioning example of adaptive reuse

• Hotel de l'Orient and Hotel La Maison Tamoule (recipients of UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award of Merit), Neemrana Hotels

• Hotel Gratitude: another example of adaptive reuse

Twenty four participants (professionals, faculty and students) attended the course. Feedback of the participants will be taken into consideration to fine tune future programmes:

• Duration of the course should be 7 days.

• Duration of site visit should be increased to get a better insight of various facets of adaptive re-uses of the chosen site.

• A hard copy of literature/information concerned of each lecture should be provided.

• Universal phenomenon should be explored.

• The course should be prepared for different sections of target participants (common people, students and professional/experienced persons) at three levels - introductory, mid-and advanced level.

• Demonstration of some materials by artisan/craftsman should be in the form of hands-on experience.

• Inputs from the Civic Authority/PWD on conservation of a building should be presented in the programme to understand issues faced by the Engineers.

Participants at Puducherry

**FORTHCOMING : HERITAGE MANAGEMENT COURSE**

A 3-day Heritage Management Course for heritage professionals will be held from 30th March - 1st April (to be covered in next issue) at Central Office, Delhi. The broad objective of this workshop will be an introduction to the principles and practices of managing a historic site.
HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES (HECS)

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

**Bhagalpur, 23rd February**

Heritage and Education Communication Service (HECS) in collaboration with the Bhagalpur Chapter organized a one-day teacher training workshop (37 teachers/22 schools) at St. Paul's School, Karnagarh. Convenor Dr. K.D. Prabhat welcomed the participants. The technical aspect of the workshop was conducted by Teresa Walter and Bashobi Banerjee from HECS Delhi. Teachers were encouraged to set up heritage clubs in their respective schools, and developing innovative teaching modules that encourages students to learn about their rich heritage. A field trip was organized to Karnagarh in Bhagalpur.

**Gurgaon, 8th March**

The Chapter conducted the workshop in coordination with HECS. It introduced teachers to innovative methods of teaching students about heritage, so that they develop a comprehensive outlook on the subject.

“*College Volunteer Training*”

HECS has made some inroads into college premises for training an older group of students in colleges who would like to volunteer time and effort as a public service. Young brigade taking the lead in heritage and culture field would easily connect with their people and make a positive contribution to heritage protection. The first lecture in this series was held at Kamala Nehru College in Delhi. Dr. Swapna Liddle gave a talk on Syncretic Architectural Heritage of India. She also conducted a heritage walk Lodi Garden for holistic understanding of the subject. A second session followed by interactions with Purnima Datt, HECS and K.K. Gupta, Sr. Conservationist, MHD who highlighted potential damages to material heritage.

**CLEAN MONUMENT CAMPAIGN**

**Solapur, 2nd January**

The Chapter organised the Clean Monument drive at Rippon Hall, a 20th century heritage space and now a picturesque Club House to ensure it does not fall into disuse or is marred by encroachments. The *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, raised awareness of heritage buildings and spaces among the participants (97 children/12 schools). It was followed by a poster making competition.

**Golaghat, 4th January**

The Inspector of Schools, Golaghat District, Assam inaugurated the Clean Monument campaign at the *Negheriting Shiva Dol*. The priest of the temple Ashwini Borthakur, Planning Officer Nityanda Bharali, Principal of the Dergaon High School Anup Borthakur and Head Master Bhagirath Rajkhowa along with 35...
students participated in cleaning the premises of the monument.

**Vijaypur, 8th January**

The Clean Monument Campaign was held on 8th January at Vijaypur (formerly Bijapur). Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep inaugurated the campaign and participated in cleaning the monument, along with other dignitaries and INTACH Members along with school children, setting an example for them. Commissioner Rajashekhar, Vijaypur Corporation, inaugurated the painting and essay competitions. The DC said it is a model for District Administration to be adopted in future at many heritage monuments of the city.

The District Administration with the help of Tourism, VDA Authority and Corporation will develop the Landa Kasab Gun area to attract tourists and seek assistance from ASI. Convenor Dr. Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni handed a letter to the Superintendent Archaeologist, Dharwad Circle via Dy. Commissioner for further development of the area. Several dignitaries and Senior Conservation Assistant ASI Anandteerth Navali attended the function. 126 students participated in the competition. Chairman Vijaypur Development Authority Chandrakant Shetty unveiled three boards prepared by INTACH.

**Madurai, 8th January**

The Madurai Chapter in association with the local Thigagaraja College organized the Clean Monuments campaign, a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative, at the Gandhi Memorial Museum. Originally it was the 1670 Tamukkam Palace belonging to Rani Mangammal of Nayak Dynasty. The campaign involved a poster competition for 6th-9th Std. (266 students/13 schools) who participated in the cleaning drive. Dr. George, Head Department of Management delivered a lecture on the importance of protecting and preserving national monuments. Convenor Dr. Uma Kannan coordinated the programme. Certificates were distributed to all the participant students, and the schools received copies of Gandhiji’s My Experiment with Truth.

**Rohilkhand, 10th January**

Under the guardianship of Nawab Kazim Ali Khan, the Chapter took the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan forward by organising a clean-up drive and a poster making competition. It familiarised the younger generation with the historic heritage of Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. An eminent educator Dr. Shahnaz Rahman joined the youth at site, and was delighted to see posters on heritage monuments and essays with catchy slogans made by school children.

**Machilipatnam, 10th January**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh directed all schools to depute their students to participate in the Yuvakratalu at the Hindu College grounds. Vice Chancellor of Krishna University directed all colleges and High Schools in his jurisdiction to participate likewise in celebrating their Youth Festival.

**Rajpipla, 11th January**

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The Clean Monument Campaign was conducted at the 100 years old Rajpipla Club House. It attracted enthusiastic students (78) from as many as 16 schools. District Education Officer D.B. Patel along with associates Singh and Sona Dubey inspired the students about the importance of the work they had undertaken. The event was widely covered by the media and the local dailies.

Santiniketan, 13th & 18th January

The Santiniketan Chapter conducted the Clean Monument campaign in two phases. In the first phase Fullora Temple, one of the famous monuments near Labpur, Birbhum was selected. Satya Narayan Siksha Niketan Girl’s High School participated (22 girls) in the cleanup drive, and in the poster making competition held at their School in Labpur. Three other High Schools, the Labour Jadablal, Kurunnahar and the SNSN joined them in poster making. Special invitee, nephew of Bengali novelist Tara Shankar Bandopadhyay, gave them a motivational talk.

In the second phase a poster making competition was organised at Visva Bharati; (39 students of Patha Bhavana and Ashram Vidyalaya) participated.

On the special occasion of ‘Gandhi Purna’ on 10th March many students also participated in a cleanup drive at site.

Khandwa, 16th January

The Chapter organized the Clean Monument campaign at Nagchun Museum, along with a poster making competition, to raise awareness about protecting heritage sites. The students were briefed about the need for conserving such monuments under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Convenor Deepak Goel applauded the students for their active participation in the event.

Barmer, 18th January

The newly formed INTACH Chapter organised the Clean Monument campaign guided by HECS held at the Mahabar Sand Dunes, 2 kilometers from Barmer. The District Administration, Police and various schools were invited (around 100 students/9 schools participated). The campaign was well covered by the media.

Brajbhoomi, 17th January

The Brajbhoomi Regional Chapter organized the Clean Monument campaign for Shanti Devi Girls’ Inter college (69 of Std. VI-IX). Students were picked up from school by bus and transported to the historic Fatehpur Sikri. They learned about its importance since Akbar’s times. Chief Guest Daya Shankar Gupta highlighted

The programme ended with thanks extended to all present, and the hope that the dream of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi to see a clean India would fully fructify one day.

Jamshedpur, 21st January

The Heritage Club of Motilal Nehru Public School took part in the Clean Monument drive and poster making competition at the
Victoria Memorial. The poster making competition was held at Navlakha Mahal. Both these monuments are located in the historic garden of Sajjan Niwas popularly known as Gulab Bagh. Std. VI-IX (8 schools/82 students) participated, along with Chapter Members. Chief Guest Alka Sharma and Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar presided over the valedictory session.

**Meerut, 25th January**

The Clean Monument campaign and poster competition was organised at Bileswar Sanskrit Vidyalaya in Meerut (77 students/7 schools).

**Allahabad, 26th January**

Clean Monument Campaign was successfully organised at State Public Library. The Anglo Bengali School, Bethel School and SMPS Shivkuti participated (55 students). Shri B.P. Pandey (ASI), Dr. Vankhede and Dr. Sunil Gupta (Asst. Director, Allahabad Museum) graced the occasion. The children were made aware of the concept of heritage and the need to care for it.

School, Aizawl (47 students/ 8 teachers), along with the INTACH Members and volunteers participating in the event.

**Jaipur 22nd January**

The Chapter is conducting the Clean Monument campaign in a systematic way with various schools selecting different monuments across the city for the cleanup drive,. This is indeed a very good approach to the campaign, thus covering a maximum number of heritage sites. The events were complemented by a poster making competition on the respective premises.

**Udaipur, 23rd January**

The Chapter organized the Clean Monument, campaign on 23rd January at the Saraswati Bhawan Library, the former Queen Bodhi Temple. Convenor Ricky Surie and Co-Convenor Amitav Ghosh actively interacted with the students who took an oath to adopt the monument and sustain its cleanliness.

They were also taken on a tour of the monument and explained why it was important, to save 'their legacy'. It was followed by a cleanup drive and the poster making competition.

**Dharwad, 28th January**

The Chapter organized the Clean Monument drive for schools at the ancient Sri Durga Devi Temple. Deputy Mayor Smita Jadhav graced the occasion, stressing the impact of cleanliness on human health and environment. INTACH Member Rekha Shettar elaborated on the history of this heritage temple. The chief organizer
of the event B.R. Sarthy, was able to enlist 80 enthusiastic students from 11 schools to make the event a success. As remarked by an onlooker “the eyes of all the participants beamed delight and pride” at participating in cleaning operation. A number of INTACH Members headed by Convenor N.P. Bhat and Co-Convenor Brigadier S.G. Bhagwat lent their whole hearted support to make this drive a memorable event and an inspiration for the public.

Shivpuri, 28th January

The Clean Monument drive was undertaken at Shivpuri Chhatri by the Chapter. Students of Happy Days School participated in this event. It commenced with a talk by monument care taker Mohte, who spoke on the history, architecture, significance, social and political importance of the monument. He said the Chhatris built by the Scindias are beautiful examples of living heritage. The tradition of offering food and clothing to the statues, and the musical evening at site, are still followed in the traditional manner. Students cleaned the surroundings of the monument. The event was attended by teachers of Happy Days School, Convenor Harsh Mittal, Co-Convenor Dr. Neelkamal, and INTACH Governing Council Member Dr. Kamakshi. It ended with an oath taken by students to preserve the precious heritage of their city and its surroundings.

Jammu, 28th–30th January

Jammu Chapter organized the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (244 students/5 schools) at four heritage locations - Samba Fort, Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi Royal Dogra Palace Complex and Amar Mahal in three different sessions of the Clean Monument drive. They students were encouraged to write about them and participate in the poster making competitions.

Kolkata, 29th January

In collaboration with HECS, the Chapter organised a clean-up drive on the grounds of Prinsep Memorial. Member Mayor-in Council (Parks and Gardens) Debasish Kumar joined hands with the young crusaders as a part of the pan-India Clean Monument drive (45 students/7 schools). Such campaigns sensitise youth to beautify their city, generating awareness from early childhood, said Convenor G.M. Kapur. He participated in the drive and said “The campaign aims to catch social activists young. We’ve been doing similar events in other parts of the country”.

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Pali, 30th January

The Pali Chapter conducted the *Clean Monument* campaign and poster making competition at the local Government Girls UP School, Dhanmandi. Students from classes VI-IX participated with great enthusiasm.

Cuttack, 31st January

The Chapter conducted the *Clean Monument* campaign at the Barabati Fort complex (33 student/five schools). The programme made students aware of its heritage importance, and how they can help to conserve it. The highlight of the event were talks by two eminent historians Dr. Kunja Bihari Jena and Dr. Sahadeb Patra urging children to nurture their heritage. The children cleaned the Fort premises and participated in the poster competition with sketches of important heritage buildings in their city.

Jabalpur, 9th – 10th February

The Clean Monument campaign of the Chapter was conducted with several schools of the city, with each school choosing a specific monument for their drive. They followed it up with a poster making competition. Delhi Public School, Mandla Road, chose *Rani Durgawati Samadhi* in Jabalpur. They also spoke to the locals staying in the vicinity to get them enthused about caring for their heritage in a sustained manner. More schools have been inspired to conduct the campaign at several other heritage sites of Jabalpur.

Chandrapur, 10th February

The Chapter conducted the Clean Monument drive at the *Apurna Dewalaya*. Fifty students representing various schools also participated in the poster making competition at the venue.

Trivandrum, 13th February

The *Clean Monument* drive with a poster making competition was held at the *Saraswathi Vilas Palace and Fort* in Trivandrum. The participants (50 students/10 schools) were all members of INTACH Heritage Clubs.

Mandi, 21st February

The *Clean Monument* campaign was organised by the Chapter, but unfortunately some schools had to withdraw at the last due to bad weather conditions as the proposed open air site could only be reached on foot. In spite of these constraints, about 50 students did manage to reach the destination during the few hours of clear weather.

Wai-Panchgani, 22nd February

Five schools (100 students) participated in the Clean Monument drive. President Awardee Dr. Suresh Astaputra was invited as the Special Guest on the occasion which enthused the children and their elders.
Several reports from Chapters on the *Clean Monuments* and Art & Crafts Workshops campaign conducted in December were not sent within the Quarterly period. They are mentioned in brief below. In future Late Reports cannot be covered. So Chapters are kindly requested to ensure reports are sent within the quarter for detailed coverage - with photographs if possible.

**For Clean Monument Campaign**

*Lucknow, 6th December 2015*

The *Clean Monument* campaign was held at Lucknow with a poster making competition.

*East Godavari, 12th December 2015*

The Chapter conducted the *Clean Monument Campaign* at Shri Bhavnarayanswamy Temple, (102 students/ 9 schools Chief Guest

Asst. Director of State Archaeology G. Venkataratnam stressed the need for cleanliness in places of sanctity.

*Patiala, 12th December 2015*

The campaign was organized by the Patiala Chapter on 12th December, 2015 at Govt. Mohindra College Patiala.

*Dehradun, 15th December 2015*

The Chapter conducted the *Clean Monument* campaign at the
Samadhi Sthal, Guru Ram Rai Durbar. 120 children from Welham Girls’ Schools, Welham Boys’ School, Whizzkid Intl’ School, Jaswant Modern School, PYDS and Scholars Home participated.

**Kanpur, 16th December 2015**

The Chapter conducted the Clean Monument campaign and poster making competition at two heritage sites – Phoolbagh and Nana Rao Park. Guest Two eminent historians narrated the historical importance of the monuments.

**Gwalior, 29th December, 2015**

The Clean Monument campaign was organized at the Md. Gaus Tomb and Tansen Tomb with the participation of more than 70 students from different school.

**Kangra, 30th December 2015**

Kangra Chapter organised the Clean Monument campaign at Norbulingka, a magnificent monument with Tibetan religious and cultural architecture with 50 students from 6 schools participating despite poor weather conditions. The Guest of Honour Sonam Dorjee addressed the students on importance of Tibetan religious and cultural heritage. The programme was covered by the media and local dailies.

**For Endangered Art and Craft Workshop**

**Wai- Panchgani, 4th December 2015**

The bamboo craft workshop was conducted for around 35 students, to create awareness of this traditional material that is endangered. The resource persons explained the finer points of this craft, highlighting its importance to the livelihood of rural communities. The workshop engaged women from the Burud community, to sensitise the students.

**Pune, 2nd December 2015**

The INTACH Chapter organised a craft workshop on bamboo craft, with the participation of three schools, in collaboration with Dastkari Haat Samiti. It was conducted by master craftsman Rajendra Sapkal and his team. Students understood bamboo as a raw material for craft and its importance today with reference to its eco-friendly nature.

**Dahanu 12th December, 2015**

The Chapter, under the endangered skill workshop, conducted a workshop on Warli painting with 90 children from HMP School. They were made aware of the art of Warli and the nuances of this painting by three craft persons Chintu Rajad, Rajesh Mor and Sanja Route.

**Brajbhoomi 21st – 22nd December, 2015**

The slowly diminishing art Sanjhi Kala associated with marriage ceremonies was organised by the Chapter, for students of Classes 9th-11th. The Assistant Deputy Governor, Rotary Club of Mathura (Central) J.K. Katara and President, Rotary Club Mathura (Central) were present. Shri Prashant Maheshwari spoke to the students about the need for preserving creativity involved in art forms of our culture. Principal Brij Lata of Shanti Devi Girls Inter college and Chapter Convenor Deepak Goel were present on the occasion.

**ENDANGERED ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOP**

**Datia, 23rd January**

The Chapter organised a workshop on Chitera at Sarvodaya Higher Secondary School (75 students). A resource person made the students aware of this traditional art of the city, and acquainted them with the themes of the art comprising various human figures flora and fauna. State Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari, the School Principal, Convenor M.L. Kushwah, Co-Convenor Vinod Mishra and other INTACH Members attended.
Allahabad, 19th February

The Chapter chose to work on pottery focusing on the unique significance of this art, during the Diwali festival of lights to raise awareness of a craft pertaining to their region. During this festival mud houses locally known as Gharondas are made, accompanied by mud utensils filled with puffed rice, to denote auspiciousness and prosperity. The workshop saw the participation of around 30 students and various eminent local personalities.

FILMIT FESTIVALS

Delhi, 2nd February

In collaboration with India International Centre (IIC), the Filmit Festival was held at IIC Deshmukh Auditorium with 27 schools participating (33 teacher/150 students), Chief Guest Padmashree Prof. Pushpesh Pant, Guests of Honour Deputy Director General (Programme) Rashmi Pradhan, and Air Marshal (Retd.) D.D. Bharti graced the occasion. Former CEO National Culture Fund Dr. Shobita Punja was invited as Honoured Guest. Prof. Pant congratulated the schools on their Students’ presentations that included a skit, Bharatnatyam, song, poem and a capella performance. They were awarded certificates and prizes.

Kolkata, 3rd February

Filmit Film Festival at the Modern High School for Girls was attended by 11 schools (75 students/17 teachers). The well-known documentary film maker Ishwar Chakraborty said the keen eye in the children's movies reflected unique ideas had been researched with a sensitive mind. PD HECS Purnima Dattu urged the students to share their experiences. They made presentations about their Filmit experience. The best films were screened. Modern High School students sketched Kolkata heritage in a beautiful presentation.

Ahmedabad, 9th February

The Filmit Festival was hosted by Shreyas Foundation, Satellite Campus with 6 schools participating (81 students/14 teachers). Students spoke about their experiences in making films. The overall best films were shown. Noted Gujarati filmmaker Abhishek
Jain and the organizer Heritage Film Festival of India Avni Varia were present. INTACH Co-Convenor Pavan Bakeri spoke on the importance of mother tongue and subtitling films in the regional languages for wider coverage. Advisor to Shreyas Foundation Neerupama Maru was appreciative of the efforts made by students, and said films are a key to students empowerment.

**Mumbai, 10th February**

INTACH Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta was the Chief Guest at the Filmit Festival. It was also attended by noted Olympic swimmer, social worker and actress Nafisa Ali who greatly appreciated the efforts of students. Ms. Mehta spoke on the success of this HECS project in Mumbai for the past four years. Best films of Mumbai were showcased, with students sharing their experiences of the project and learning about their personal heritage in films like *Herbal Aaji*.

**Goa, 11th February**

The Festival was held at the Sharada Mandir School, with participation of 12 schools (80 students/13 teachers). Chief Guest Sanjeev V. Sardesai, a botanist, graphic designer and historian by passion, was impressed by the quality of films. He gave pointers for enhancing film making. Goa Convenor Fatima Gracia spoke on various projects and activities conducted at the Reis Magos Fort. Students narrated their experiences on film making in different ways through speech, poems, etc. adding a personal touch to an enjoyable event.

**Hyderabad, 16th February**

The Jubilee Hills Public School hosted the Festival with participation 10 schools (75 students/11 teachers). Convenor Anuradha Reddy, who is also the Co-Convenor of the Telangana Chapter, gave the introductory address. Chief Guest Pranav Pingle Reddy, a young documentary film maker, talked about the art and appreciated students making films from the heart and choosing themes that audiences can identify with.

**Chennai, 17th February**

The Festival held at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Hr. Sec. School was attended 7 schools (67 students/10 teachers). Chief Guest Sundar Ganesan, a Post Graduate in History from the University of Madras, and presently researching the culture of colonial Tamilnadu, talked about the power of the visual media. He praised the movie *Parotta* for its sheer creativity. He said there is no dearth of themes to choose in a vast country like India and suggested INTACH should carry this project forward into rural schools. Students made presentations about their Filmit experience and received certificates and prizes for the best films.
CHAPTERS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

All Chapters are requested to intimate information regarding their Members with their updated Address, Telephone Numbers, Mobile Number, Email ID to INTACH Chapters Division: membership@intach.org at the earliest. The information is urgently required for printing of the Membership Directory.

RENEWAL OF ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

Ordinary Members are requested to renew their membership subscriptions for the year 2016–2017, if not already done so. The renewal of subscriptions should be deposited preferably at your local Chapter Office. Or may be sent by post to INTACH Central Office, New Delhi.

ANDHRA PRADESH

East Godavari

INTACH exhibition ‘Splendours of Indian Architecture’ was showcased by the Chapter, displaying significant monumental site of architectural and heritage importance, as well as Indian modern architecture. Inaugurated by Chief Manager of State Bank of India U.H. Sharma, it generated a great deal of public interest especially among students. It was extensively covered by the local new channel.

The A.P. Govt. declared the Beach Festival as a State Festival and allocated a one crore budget this year. On request of the Municipal Commissioner, the Chapter put up a stall displaying photographs of listed and documented heritage structures in the District. Dr. M. Narayana Rao showcased photos of Buddhist sites discovered during the recent excavation near the Tuni area. It was a popular event with people thronging the exhibits. And a great success due to the herculean effort of the Co-Convenor Y.S. Harischandra Rao.

Inauguration of the exhibition “Splendours of Indian Architecture”

INTACH Stall at the Beach Festival
Guntur

Shri S.V.S. Lakshmi Narayana is appointed the new Convenor of Guntur Chapter. He will be supported by Ms. Maya Vaidya as the new Co-Convenor of the Chapter. A warm welcome to you both from INTACH, with all good wishes for a fruitful association with heritage conservation.

Chapter Members undertook a field visit to the ancient Chilumuru Temple where they interacted with the villagers who had taken the initiative of cleaning the monument. A heritage awareness programme was organized for college students to this 2nd century site. A cultural programme was also organized for school children in collaboration with Spic Macay. Hopefully the young will be inspired by the voluntary efforts of the villagers to save their heritage.

Machilipatnam

The INTACH exhibition Splendours of Indian Architecture was showcased by the Chapter at the Town Hall from 1st-4th January. It has made the rounds of many other Chapters on request, generating a great deal of interest at all locations, especially among students. Secretary Legal Cell Chinnamsetti Prasad was the Chief Guest and LIC Divisional Commissioner Y. Nageshara Rao the Guest of Honour. The event generate considerable interest in government schools, colleges and universities. Dr. Udattu Srinivasa Rao explained in detail the information on the exhibits to student gatherings.

The Exhibition also attracted important political leaders who requested that it be exhibited at the Government sponsored Yuva Kaaratatu Festival. College lecturers asked for some lectures to be scheduled at their campus. These requests can be met only with laptop projections as the exhibits were scheduled to be sent to Visakhapatnam.
Director Revati Bhanu Memorial Trust, Gorreparti Rajeswari graced the valedictory function attended by INTACH Members.

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH is deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of Convenor T. Rama Mohan Rao Garu on 15th February. He was a knowledgeable and passionate lover of natural, built and living heritage, especially the culture of Andhra Pradesh. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family members. May they be blessed with strength and forbearance to cope with this great loss and lacuna in their life.

**Srikakulam**

The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh facilitated the celebration of *Sankranthi Pongal* at various levels in the State to promote cultural homogeneity. Convenor Dharmarao officially headed the Cultural Committee, with several district level committees constituted for promoting the Festival. The Chapter chalked out a three day programme highlighting various cultural elements of the State. A special photo heritage stall displayed World Heritage Sites in India and Andhra Pradesh heritage monuments with reference to Srikakulam District. The event was inaugurated by MLA Gonda Lakshmi Devi, the District Collector and the Zila Parishad Chairperson.

Vaggeyakara, a great exponent of South Indian classical music and a saint poet of the 18th century is revered as a great preacher of the *Bhakti Cult*, his birthday is celebrated throughout South India on *Pushya Babula Panchami* by the Indian calendar.

This year the Visakha Music and Dance Academy, Visakhapatnam held celebrations over 6 days. Dr. Komanduei Seshadri, a legend in classical music was the Chief Guest. Convenor Dharmarao was invited to give the keynote address on the life and works of Tyagaraja.

Convenor Dharmarao also delivered the keynote address on the life and works of Dr. Eswara Sathyanarayana – a writer, poet, musician of the 19th Century. Dr. Sathyanarayana was not only a culturally evolved person but also a popular Ayurvedic doctor.

**Visakhapatnam**

Convenor P.V. Prasad informs that the exhibition *Splendours of Indian Architecture* was held from 27th January - 10th February during the Indian Fleet Review (IFR). During this time the port city anticipated 50 countries participating with their fleets. The Exhibition was an ideal event for them to take back some memories of India’s heritage.

**‘OLD NEW YEARS’**

INTACH Member Sohan Hatangadi recalls the popular culture of the 1960s-70s that was so different to nowadays. In those times it was driven by the sociable Anglo-Indian community who gave the city a unique culture, especially during Christmas to New Year. Attractive and agile women in full flared skirts, and gentlemen in drain-piped suits with Elvis Presley and Cliff Richard hairstyles, twisted their way around dance floors to the clash of symbols and muscular trumpets. They danced to the tune of metallic sounds and the deep thump of drums. The men worked in railways, shipyard or naval base; the women were teachers, nurses and housewives. It was time to let their hair down in the festive Christmas and New Year season.

There are a few nostalgic people like Sohan Hatangadi who recall even the names of several people and musicians of a bygone era who had “music in their blood”. He regrets how much the New Year celebrations are now commercialized and lacking in the *joie de vivre* of the “old new year.”
BIHAR

Bhagalpur

It has been brought to the attention of AHD that Bhagalpur has many buildings of the British era as it was one of the first Commissionaries in India to be established by the Raj. Many of the buildings are now fast crumbling. Special attention was drawn to an old Church of great architectural value. INTACH requests Convenor K.D. Prabhat of this recently established Chapter to look into the matter.

Patna

Convenor J.K. Lall welcomed the teachers and students from eight prominent schools for the Foundation Day celebrations on 28th April at the Abhilekh Bhawan. He spoke to them about INTACH objectives and the importance of preserving their heritage. They wrote essays on the Role of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with Azad Hind Fauj during the Freedom Struggle. They also painted the Birds of Bihar. Co-Convenor S.K. Sinha, Executive Committee and other Members greatly contributed to the success of this event which received wide coverage by the Press.

Sonepur

A General Body Meeting was held in January to review activities of the Chapter, and plan the forthcoming programmes. It was decided to organize heritage tours, teachers’ training on heritage and carry out listing on priority.

INTACH Foundation Day was celebrated amidst students by holding a General Knowledge Competition at Sahara Trust High School. Presided by Convenor Sarat Kumar Satapathy, it was attended by Co-Convenor Pradyumna Kumar Sahu, Members and several local dignitaries.

Legend has it that Subarnapur was named after Lord Subarnameru. A grand Subarnameru Festival was organized on Mahashivratri on 7th March near the Subarnameru Temple. Convenor Sarat Kumar Satapathy, Co-Convenor Pradyumna Kumar Sahu, INTACH Members and several local dignitaries participated in the festivities. Held in prime religious and cultural importance by local people, it is believed Subarnapur was named after Lord Subarnameru.

Sonepur Convenor, Co-Convenor with some Chapter Members were on the dais to greet the gathering. State Chapter Advisor Debendra Kumar Mishra and Chapter Advisor Brajendra Kumar Mishra witnessed thousands of spectators who flocked to the festival. The programme was inaugurated with Shivaastaka by noted dancer Ankita Raigur, and the Binakara-Karuni Suanga by noted folk musician Guru Bihari Kansara. They made the cultural programme a great success lasting late into the evening.
CHHATTISGARH

Bilaspur

The Chapter jointly with the Raipur Chapter undertook the listing of heritage assets in all Districts within the region. In the Bilaspur zone, all local sites as well as Jangir-Champa, Sarguja, Kwardha and Rajnandgaon were listed and published. Convenor Dr. Manju Mitra was nominated to the Zonal Railway Users Committee (ZRUCC) of SEC Railway due to the listing work done that included listing on Railways.

It came to the Chapter’s notice that unauthorized construction was being carried out on the banks of the Arpa River by real estate builders. Convenor Mitra immediately wrote to Commissioner Nagar Nigam protesting the illegal activity including the cutting of trees in the process. Photographs were sent to the National Green Tribunal, Bhopal Bench. It elicited immediate attention of the Collector and orders were issued for immediate stoppage of all construction works.

INTACH congratulates Dr. Manju Mitra for her prompt and effective actions resulting in INTACH’s voice being heard and for the Chapter’s association with the local administration. The way to go!

Raipur

It is a major victory for the people of Jagdalpur that they succeeded in saving the age old Dalpat Sagar Lake from encroachment by land mafia. On the advice of INTACH, the Chapter filed a petition to the NGT Bench, Bhopal that resulted in staying the reclamation of the lake. A final order was subsequently passed upholding the petition. The District Magistrate was ordered to get the unauthorized band demolished under his personal supervision.

Sarguja

Co-Convenor Sachin Mandilkar gave an engaging talk on the History and Heritage of Sarguja at a programme organized at the village school in Sohga. It was a part of the heritage awareness programme launched by the Chapter. A quiz competition was followed by awards given to the winners.

Sarguja

Dr. Sachin Mandilkar awarding Quiz Winners at the Village School, Sohga

DELHI

Conservation Projects

The Delhi Chapter had signed a MoU in 2008 with the Department of Archaeology for the Protection and Conservation of 92 monuments in Delhi, a part of 250 monuments listed by the Department of Archaeology. Under this MoU, work
was undertaken on 16 monuments located at various places like Dwarka, Sadhna Enclave, Vasant Vihar, Greater Kailash-1, Gautam Nagar, Katwariya Sarai, Mehrauli Village, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Badarpur, Paharganj and Northern Ridge and completed. Detailed project reports (DPR) were prepared for each before any intervention at site. It comprised documentation and condition assessment data based on site surveys and assessments before conservation is undertaken.

**Conservation of Cathedral Church of Redemption**

The Cathedral Church of the Redemption is not only a revered place of worship in Delhi, but also an iconic heritage structure for its architectural style. It forms an integral part of New Delhi’s Capital Complex. The main conservation work was at the roof level which combines a dome and a slope. Many segments of the roof were inaccessible from inside the church. Assessment of such segments could only be done after the scaffolding. Delhi Chapter team climbed at a height of 148 ft. to inspect the causes of damage before decisions were taken. Presently the work is ongoing at site.

**Heritage Walks**

Delhi Chapter collaborated with YES Institute and re-launched its regular heritage walks in partnership with them, in the month of January this year to spread the message of Heritage Awareness among Delhi citizens.

The Chapter also participated in Delhi Walk Festival to cherish the city’s heritage in a week-long celebration from 22nd-28th February. The most memorable walk was to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where participants got a chance to interact with the great-grand niece of Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, architect of New Delhi, apart from viewing the much renovated President’s House.
INVENTOR AYYUB SAIYED

It takes engineering skills and know-how to create 4-wheelers, but Class VII pass Ayyub Saiyed of Nalbandwada has manufactured a battery operated three-wheeler to beat pollution threat. His eco-friendly invention at Vadodara needs to be widely publicized. He was inspired by electronic scooters that he had been repairing in his workshop, and by a Thailand vehicle he once saw on Internet. He set to work and spent many sleepless nights on his magnificent obsession to create a replica, that is now an inspiration for people. His vehicle runs on 48 volt batteries, moves at a speed of 40 kms. per hour, has a flexible roof of heat resistant rubber sheet, a body made of cold-rolled steel coil. And even looks like a stylish golf cart!
**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**Jammu**

Convenor S.M. Sahni organized a visit for Chapter Members to the ancient Abtal Village, Bamoochak in Ramgarh tehsil of Samba District. Secretary Culture Hemant Sharma, Samba DC Sheetal Nanda along with her District Officers accompanied INTACH Members to the ancient Bamoochak where they were received by the host community. The Temple has traditional architectural features with wall paintings and is lying in an abandoned state. There is another such heritage temple in the Abtal Village as heritage awareness and reference material for the local community. It has a guide map for tourists visiting Dharamshala, and will be available to tourists and the public through tourism and private hotel desks, tourism centers, newspapers, airport, etc.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**Kangra**

A book on the folk songs of *Kangra Swaranjali*, written by INTACH Member Janmjay Singh Guleria and Prof. Chandra Rekha Dadhwal was released by the Chapter.

The Chapter prepared a heritage map of Dharamshala
that also is in urgent need of conservation. The inclusion of Government representatives on this visit including Hemant Sharma, Secretary Department of Culture, DC Samba, and District Officials will hopefully expedite the much needed preservation of these heritage assets.

The visit concluded at the famous Baba Chamblyal shrine on the Indo-Pak border, where devotees of both countries offer chaddars and take mud baths for curing skin diseases – an irony of shared heritage!

KARNATAKA

Bengaluru

The Chapter inaugurated the New Year with an exhibition Bengaluru, Then and Now at Cubbon Park from 3rd–10th January. It was designed on the 1985 INTACH Listing of iconic heritage buildings of the city then called Bangalore. In late 2015, INTACH volunteers revisited all the buildings and updated the list. It was a major exercise in itself that involved four months of field work and a month of data collation and analysis. The highlights of this work were shared with the public in this Exhibition. Through maps, info-graphics and photographs taken then and today, the Exhibition provided a resume of the changes in heritage buildings during the intervening thirty years. The 1985 INTACH listing contained 823 buildings; today shockingly only 43% of those buildings still remain. The Exhibition also highlighted how some heritage homes have been lovingly preserved against all odds, by adapting them for other uses such as boutiques and office spaces. A great eye-opener for people stricken with building mania!

Dharwad

The Yakshagana play was held by the Chapter on 23rd January and received a standing ovation from the large audience gathered for this traditional theatre. It is based on the mythological theme of Dakshayagny, a tale of Lord Shiva destroying his proud and haughty father-in-law Daksha. In these days of women empowerment, it was both heartening and noteworthy to see that Yakshagana, traditionally a bastion of male artistes, was enacted by a cast of enthusiastic college girls in multiple roles. The pioneering spirit of Shashikala Joshi who has been popularizing this form of drama deserves special mention. It was also her acting prowess that must have inspired her cast. Hers is a yeomen service in popularizing the splendor and drama of this ancient traditional art form.

Convenor N.P. Bhat and his enthusiastic band of Chapter colleagues collaborated with a noted cultural forum SARKAR in organizing this event. It mesmerized Virasat Editor Rajeshwari Tandon and her family who happened to be present on the occasion.

Dharwad Chapter organized an exhibition of Shyamala Guruprasad, a painter living in Hubballi where her husband is an eminent ophthalmologist. Shyamala took up painting as a hobby with no formal training, but soon her paintings began to attract considerable interest. Today she is famous for “celebrating nature in a world of
SAH Awardee
A.K. Kasthurba

The team from Mandla Chapter at the Singpur Fort

INTACH heartily congratulate her and wishes her every success, with many more accolades in future.

MADHYA PRADESH

Khajuraho

Dr. Murad Ali is the newly appointed Co-Convenor of the Khajuraho Chapter. We welcome him with many good wishes for a long and happy association with INTACH.

Mandla

The Chapter undertook a survey and inspection of the Fort at Singpur, at the behest of the Tribal Welfare Minister Gyan Singh. The Fort has a significant place in the history of the 1857 ‘war of independence’ but presently it is in a state of ruins. The Chapter has taken up the matter for preservation and restoration of the Fort with the State Archaeological Department. It will require considerable follow up though the survey has official backing.

Jabalpur

Jabalpur Chapter published a mega book on the Narmada, one of the seven most revered rivers of India. Mythology traces its origin from the peaks of Amarkanta Hills, flowing westwards through present day Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Gulf of Khambat into the Arabian Sea. Its divine character finds mention in epics, Puranas and even literary works. Pilgrims perform the Narmada parikrama to this day. This book on Deification of the Narmada, a project undertaken on the socio-religious and intangible heritage aspects of the River by Dr. R.K. Dharma, Dr. S.K. Tiwari and Anuradha Khandekar is an exhaustive compilation of many historical, cultural and spiritual facets of the Narmada. According to legend even the Ganga must dip into the Narmada once a year; she comes in the form of a coal-black cow and returns home snow-white, freed of all the sins she acquired from pilgrims who dipped into the Ganga waters. More substantial than the myth and religious aspects of the Narmada, is the research on its intangible heritage through the ages that has been exhaustively researched by the authors. During modern times, the sustainable development along the Narmada has given rise to the “politics of resistance” due to the inevitable submersions and the fear of losing its cultural values.
MAHARASHTRA

Aurangabad

Shri Ajay Dattatryarao Kulkarni is appointed the new Convenor of the Aurangabad Chapter. Ms. Maya Vaidya is the new Co-Convenor. INTACH wishes them every success in conservation work at one of India’s major tourist centres. Ajanta and Ellora attracts the world to these heritage sites.

Chandrapur

The Chapter participated in the Kalidas Mahotsav displaying a collection of ancient coins and built heritage of the District. The stall put up by the Chapter caught the attention of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis who inaugurated the event. Convenor Ashok Singh who is a coin collector guided him around the stall.

Mumbai

The Chapter donated 25 INTACH publications to the Sir J.J. College of Architecture Library on 26th January. The following day, it brought out a E-Newsletter on INTACH’s 32nd Founder’s Day.

Conservation Lab experts conducted a book binding lecture cum workshop. Conservator Rutwik gave an overview of various types of bindings around the world, while Lab Assistant Santosh demonstrated basic Indian style binding. A hands-on workshop was conducted subsequently in the open museum plaza under guidance of conservator Kirti and lab assistant Jeetu.

On 10th February, the Chapter hosted 78 students and 14 teachers from different schools at the Filmit Film Festival at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum. They had chosen interesting subjects on monuments and cultural heritage. Interacting, Vice Chairman Tasneem Mehta explained the importance of becoming guardians of their heritage. Former Chairperson of the Children’s Film Society and film actress Nafisa Ali also interacted with them on the nuances of film making and encouraged their good effort.

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Bharat and Tapan of Khaki Tours led an exploratory walk on behalf of the Chapter within the precincts of Gamdevi on 28th February. The 25 participants on the trail visited vernacular, colonial and Saracenic architectural styles sites. They were told stories about local communities and the architectural urban planning facets of the area. The highlight of the tour was a small scale model of the city’s iconic Gateway of India accessible from the narrowest lane of Bhendi Galli.
Another guided tour was to the 5th century Elephanta Caves on 5th March with another group of 25 participants. They were introduced to the extensive initiatives taken by INTACH for the sustainable management of this World Heritage Site. Well known guide Sandhya Merchant explained the architectural intricacies of the caves and their historic importance.

The Mumbai Chapter has received 30 entries to date from school students for the forthcoming national Poster Making Competition Swach Bharat Abhiyan, Clean Monument Campaign.

The Chapter’s Facebook account gathered more than 800 Friends and 500 Likes by 4th March in less than a year of joining.

- On 13th March, the Chapter launched the Swach Bharat Abhiyan, Clean Monument awareness drive. It received wonderful entries for the poster designing competition from Heritage Club members across India. The winners will be announced in due course.

Conferences attended by Vice Chairman

Vice Chairman INTACH Tasneem Zakaria Mehta is regularly invited to speak at major Conferences on a varied range of conservation and heritage related subjects.

- On 9th January : A Panel Discussion along with former Executive Director NID on Preserving India’s Rich Heritage at the Oberoi Hotel, Mumbai.
- On 21st January : The launch of virtual presence on Google Art Project of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, with a Press Conference along with Director Google Cultural Institute Amit Sood.
- On 31st January : A conversation with Curator Arshiya Lokhandwala on her acclaimed show After Midnight : Indian Modernism to Contemporary India (1947/1997) exhibited at the Queens Museum in New York - as part of the Indian Art Fair’s Spotlight Series.
- Interacted with collectors and artists at the Dhaka Art Summit as an art connoisseur. The event was organized by the Asia Society India Centre.
- On 14 March : Speaker at a panel discussion on the launch of Standing Guard : A Year in Opposition by P. Chidambaram, at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai. Fellow panelists were Ronnie Screwvala and Kumar Ketkar, with the discussions moderated by Anil Dharker.

Pune

The fifth Pune Heritage Festival was held on 5th and 14th of February, jointly organized by Janwani and the INTACH Chapter. The Festival reached out to over 10,000 people, with approximately 3000 people participating in various activities. The Festival generated civic pride and a sense of
responsibility through this wider and better appreciation of valuable cultural and natural heritage.

Co-Convenor Sharvey Dhongde was invited to give a talk ‘Pune's Heritage Treasure’ at the Pune Expat Club. It was followed by a heritage walk conducted by INTACH Member Jui Tawade on 14 Feb. INTACH conducted a workshop on Sustainability Management for students of Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce.

Bengal Paintings Workshop and Exhibition of Patua artist Suman Chitrakar were organized jointly with Heart for Art on 30th January.

Once Upon a Time in India was a forum hosted by B.N. College of Architecture jointly with INTACH Pune. The recent sessions included - Mutha Riverfront Walk by Mandar Lawate on 29th Jan., Known…yet Unknown…the Sacred Landscapes of Varanasi on 26th Feb.

Solapur

The Chapter has been generating heritage conservation and preservation activities starting with the listing of crafts from the District. A presentation on the Lambani tribes was made by Co-Convenors Shveta S. Kothavale and Pushpanjali Katikar at the Zila Parishad School in Pratapnagar. The presentation was received enthusiastically by the students.

Wai-Panchgani

Convenor Vanita Jadhav has warmly thanked the Material Heritage Division for the support extended in coordinating the conservation and digitising of old manuscripts at the Pradnyapath Shala in Wai. The project was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Shala Dr. Saroja Bhave on 4th January, attended by officials of the Wai Municipal Corporation, senior officials and citizens who are fully supportive of this pioneering effort to preserve the old heritage of the city. Work is progressing under the guidance of Anant Shelke and his team of subject experts, and a photographic record is being maintained on the work in progress.

MIZORAM

ASI Director General Dr. Rakesh Tiwari was invited by the Chapter to visit important monuments and archaeological
sites of the region. He visited the stone monument sites at Vangchhia Village, the megaliths and settlements and pathways of ancient Mizo people in Farkawn, Dungtlang, Lianpui and Lungphunlian villages in Champhai District. Dr. Tiwari was accompanied by the Suptd. Archaeology Dr. M.K. Chauley, Asst. Archaeologist Dr. Shyam Singh and other officials of the ASI Guwahati Circle. Convenor R. Romingthanga and Co-Convenor Rin Sanga expressed their hopes that the visit will expedite steps to protect, preserve and restore these ancient sites in Mizoram that are currently in a state of much neglect.

ODISHA

Bhadrapak

The 6th Annual Day Function was held at the close of the year on 27th December, inaugurated by State Convenor AB Tripathy. The National Secretary of Lok Sevak Mandal Niranjan Rath, former State Election Commissioner Debendra Kumar Mishra and other eminent local dignitaries attended the function. Convenor Digambar Mohanty and Co-Convenor SM Farooque addressed the gathering. It was presided by Professor Dr. Sanatan Mohanty who initiated the discussions on global warming and climate change. He is the Advisor on the substantial publication of the Chapter’s book on the History and Culture of Bhadrak, edited by Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy. Dr. Mohanty stressed on the importance of the subject commenting that “history was the microscope of the past, horoscope of the present and telescope of the future”.

The audience was requested to air their views and thoughts on heritage preservation issues. Sushree Geeta Manjari Behera and Sri Lokanath Lenka were felicitated for their lifetime achievements in Odishi traditional songs and the Odia Jatra. A community lunch had been arranged for the participating intellectuals, litterateurs, freedom fighters, media and students who had gathered for this annual event.

Jajpur

The recently established Jajpur Chapter held a symposium on culture and heritage of the city at the Book Fair held in the District.

The quiz for students attracted widespread participation and an enthusiastic response.
guests and speakers invited by Convenor Balaram Mohanty. The Speakers lauded the heritage of Jajpur and the effort to preserve it. The District Administration reiterated it would extend all assistance to the Chapter’s proposed activities in future. Some research papers were circulated.

INTACH Foundation Day 27th January was celebrated by the Chapter with nearly 230 Members assembling at the ASI protected Subhastambha, considered an auspicious pillar located near the Atharanala Bridge of the city. Convenor Balaram Mohanty highlighted the history of the monument. Members discussed conservation matters and successful implementation of the Chapter’s programmes.

A heritage tour was conducted to Tarapur - a famous Buddhist site, Langudi Hill. Long ago it was described by Huen-Tsang in the account of his historic visit to India in 638-639 A.D. The final destination was Mahavinayaka Hill, famous for Ganpati Temple dating back to 12th-13th century A.D. Heritage tours present the best opportunity to connect with a large audience, and to spread INTACH’s message and heritage awareness.

Co-Convenor Dr. Binod Chandra Nayak thanked all Members for their enthusiastic participation in Chapter events.

**Koraput**

Shri Prafulla Chandra Mohapatra was appointed Convenor of the Koraput Chapter in January this year. INTACH warmly welcomes him to the family, with great expectations from one more Chapter added to Odisha State. We wish him every success.

A workshop Cultural Heritage of Koraput : Status and Preservation was held on the occasion of Dongar Meet 2016 on 12th January - National Youth Day, in collaboration with the Tribal Museum and the local Sri Jaganath Temple. Guests were received to the sound of traditional tribal music and the Dehmasa dance at the Tribal Museum. En route to the venue they had worshipped Soura Devi, and on arrival Nishani Devi at the venue.

The Chief Guest Vice Chancellor Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty was welcomed by the Bhubaneswar Convenor Hariharan Balakrishan. He stressed on the importance of the day, and drew attention to the venue and its tribal village ambience. Other honoured Guests were Anil Dhir who spoke on Tanga, that was used to carry postal bags at Jeypore. MLA Koraput Krushan Chandra Sagaria cited the example of different types of marriages, particularly the Jhika where...
a group of boys along with the prospective groom forcefully takes a willing bride to his mother’s house. Prof. Malabika Deo from Puducherry University, said in many respects tribal culture is better than ours except for a few unacceptable practices. Paresh Rath of Jeypore, who has devoted his entire life to photography of each tribe of Koraput region, was felicitated with Utaria and a memento for his lifelong work. Director Tribal Museum Professor Jagabandhu Samal talked about the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Prafulla Mishra was the Chief Guest, and N.O.U Sriram Chandra Vihar Takatpur graced the occasion. The focus of the meeting was Similipal National Park where urgent steps need to be taken for conservation and preservation of the flora and fauna. The need to widen the scope of heritage awareness activities was reiterated.

Sambalpur

Nearly 150 students from schools and colleges, traditional tribal dancers, Dungdunga musicians participated along with INTACH Members, intellectuals and people from all walks of life. Members, were formally welcomed by Convenor Dr. PC Mohapatra.

Guests were invited to plant local trees like the Rakta Chandana, Asoka, Karanja and Salap saplings. Senior Chapter Member Umakanta elaborated on the history of the Dongar Festival that was started in 1995, with sponsorship of State Government and Koraput Chapter, and the renowned Rajiv Sethi as its technical advisor.

Mayurbhanj

The Chapter held a Heritage Rally from the Maharishi Public School, Baripada to the District Museum passing by the District Collectorate and some of the heritage statues en route. Convenor Major Rabindra Nath Parida informs that school children were encouraged to join the Clean Monuments Campaign on 10th January at the Kichakeswari Temple. It was followed by a drawing and painting competition at site with a write up organized by the Chapter.

A meeting on Heritage Conservation was held by the Chapter at Baripada, attended by eminent personalities of the area. DFO Sanjay Swain gave the keynote address.

CONDOLENCES

INTACH is deeply saddened to hear that Dr. Dilip Kumar Padhi, an active Life Member of Sambalpur Chapter, passed away on 31st March at the age of 59 years. He was fondly called “Dada” by all Chapter Members. A multi-faceted person, he loved all good things in life and was a gourmand. He was a pioneer in the use of HAM Radio and adept at using the Internet. A man of many parts, he was also a photographer, hotelier and researcher in history and archaeology; and especially passionate about local art, antiquity and heritage. He will be greatly missed by Chapter Members as he played a key role in documenting monuments and involving himself in restoration of historical structures. He fronted the Sambalpur-Kosali language struggle, and other socio-cultural issues in various capacities. On top of all this, he was enthusiastic about sports and martial arts. No wonder his colleagues at Sambalpur Chapter are deeply grieved and will miss him greatly.

INTACH sends its deepest condolences to the Padhi family at this time of sorrow, and wish them strength and good wishes for the future. He was indeed a valuable asset to us and will be long remembered by the entire INTACH family. May he rest in peace.

Convenor Tarini Prasad Panda, in collaboration with the Burhampur Chapter, invited State Convenor AB Tripathy to install a plaque at the entrance of Asirgarh Fort near Burhampur. The plaque is in memory of Veer Surendra Sai, a legendary freedom fighter who died in jail after 37 years of imprisonment. The occasion commemorated his 132nd death anniversary.
MADHYA PRADESH

Khajuraho

Dr. Murad Ali is appointed as the new Convenor of the Khajuraho Chapter. INTACH warmly welcomes him, and hopes he will have every success in promoting conservation in this tourist town visited by people from all over the world as a major heritage site in India.

PUDUCHERRY

The 2nd Heritage Festival 2016 of Puducherry was a three day event that explored the built heritage of this Union Territory, how best to conserve and restore it, and in particular the restoration/reconstruction of the collapsed Mairie Building. A vital part of the built heritage of Puducherry is Freedom Fighter Bharati’s home restored by INTACH and inaugurated by the Chief Minister.

Discussions were held on Natural Heritage, the conservation and restoration of the State’s coast, wetlands, tanks and the forests. Another facet was Heritage of Performing Arts covering theatre, dance and music. Heritage of the Written Word was another aspect as extensive research is being carried out on ancient texts; on the city’s rich history by its many luminous writers that inspires young writers. Heritage of visual arts like painting, sculpture, pottery, photography
and art in public space was also in focus.

The objective of the Puducherry Heritage Festival was to create and strengthen a distinct identity of belonging as a Puducherrian for all its residents. To also show all its uniqueness and its variety to visitors who come from all over the country and the world, attracted by the idea of “Pondicherry”. Heritage Festivals create a platform for experts, historians, old and young residents to meet and learn what is special about Puducherry and how the town can preserve its distinct identity.

PUNJAB

Amritsar

The Chapter organized a Seminar on Cultural Heritage and Punjabi Literature on 3rd March at Atam School Islamabad Putlighar, Amritsar.

A visit to the Museum of Antiques was organized by the Punjabi poet and social worker Dev Dard.

Faridkot

Faridkot and Bathinda Chapters jointly organized a visit to the historical Bathinda Fort to expose students to the built heritage of the State. Convenor Prof. B.S. Brar along with other Chapter Members accompanied about 50 students.
to the fort where they were received by Convenor Kanwar Bhim Singh, Co-Convenor Ravi Pal Garg and other Chapter Members. ASI site-in –charge briefed the group about the history and architectural significance of this Fort. He also updated them on the restoration work that is currently underway.

The students visited the Bead Talaab - a bird sanctuary and a deer park to also appreciate the importance of natural heritage.

This event is significant as it was a joint collaborative effort by two Chapters.

Patiala

As part of Clean Monument Campaign, the Chapter held a seminar on Preservation of Heritage, followed by a painting and poster making competition held at the Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala. The historical and architectural significance of this College was highlighted by Convenor Sarbjit Singh Virk. It is generally felt that declaring this 1875 year College a national monument would help in its preservation as a heritage property.

RAJASTHAN

Barmer

Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma, accompanied by a few Chapter Members, was invited to address a three-day training workshop organized by the Education Department. He spoke on the importance of heritage conservation and preservation, and emphasized the role of teachers in this educational endeavour.

The Chapter celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day with focus on the natural and built heritage sites in rural areas. The Chapter discovered a site 60 kms from the town that is visited by migratory birds. Efforts will now be made to have the site extensively promoted and nationally recognised.

The Chapter welcomed the Minister of Tourism Mahesh Sharma. It updated him on various issues of concern related to tourism in Barmer.

A heritage awareness programme was organized in the Adarsh School, Setrau, a village that boasts of world famous sand dunes.

The Chapter organized a show of Gar during Holi celebrations. This folk dance form is on verge of being lost.
An exhibition *Virasat-e-Karauli* was held on 16th January to create public awareness of the importance of conservation. A booklet was printed as a handout for students and visitors which contained information about their local heritage. Convenor Shivraj Pal Singh was asked by the District Magistrate to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the development of various heritage sites in and around Karauli.

**Udaipur**

The General Body of Udaipur Regional Chapter met at the Raj Bagh, Hotel Ram Pratap, Fatehsagar. The Chief Conservator of Forests & Wildlife Rahul Bhatnagar was the Chief Guest, with former Vice Chancellor BP Bhatnagar presiding the meeting. All Members, Subject Matter Specialists and the invitees gathered together to welcome the New Year, and renew their pledge to conserve the heritage of this richly endowed city. Convenor S.K. Verma welcomed the guests, specially mentioning the senior most INTACH Member in their midst, 91 years old Ravi Bhandari. He reiterated the INTACH Pledge before presenting the Annual Report.

**Jaisalmer**

Shri Gopal Singh Bhati is the new Convenor of the Jaisalmer Chapter. He will be assisted by Shri Virendra Singh, the newly appointed Co-Convenor of the Chapter. INTACH extends a hearty welcome to them both, with our good wishes for success in promoting one of Rajasthan's major heritage centres and a tourism destination.

**Karauli**

The Chief Conservator expressed happiness in participating in what he called "the sacred cause of conservation of heritage", and assured all assistance in the documentation of heritage properties in forest areas and for conducting student awareness programmes in wildlife sanctuaries and forest areas. Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar in turn expressed eagerness to attend the interactive seminar. All present were invited to express their views on conserving the multi-faceted heritage of old Mewar.
Thakur Ranvir Singh, an inveterate traveller in Rajasthan, visited Jolpa Village in Jhalawar District and the unique Shri Laxminath Temple. Built by satrap Chandra Bhan Singh Khichi Chauhan of Gagron kingdom, it has been a landmark in Hadoti area for centuries. Thakur Ranvir Singh laments that such relics of history are now victims of administrative lapses and in urgent need of greater attention. People’s faith with royal patronage kept the temple safe once upon a time, but during the last three decades the deterioration has noticeably accelerated with each passing year. Villagers did approach the Sarapanch, the Tehsildar, the local MLA and a Rajasthan MP. Promises were given but no action was ever forthcoming.

The Rajasthan Chapter was approached as a last resort to save this majestic temple, with its elaborately carved structure crowned by an ornate Shikar. Thakur Ranvir Singh called a meeting of the village folks and talked to them about self reliance, how they can collect funds locally and preserve their own precious heritage. He reminded them that in olden days people lived by the tenets of dharma and karma and willingly bore social responsibilities. He infused them with a sense of social responsibility.

The Clean Monument Campaign along with a poster painting competition was launched on 23rd January at the Saraswati Bhawan Library and at Vavlakha Mahal of Gulab Bagh (Sajjan Niwas Bagh). The Chapter provided all the accessories to the young participants like boards, paper, stationery, etc. It was preceded by informative talks by Subject Matter Specialists to inspire the participants. Such events promote a spirit of appreciation, exploration and cultural education in the future torch bearers of the country.

SHRI LAXMINATH TEMPLE

The Chapter initiated Research Studies along with Life Member Professor P.S. Ranawat for archiving and propagation of Geo Heritage including its management. At the scenic location of Fatehsagar Lake there are ripple marks formed by oscillating waves in shallow waters. It is visited by students of several earth science institutes every year. Apart from ripple marks, the graded bedding, mud cracks and rain drop marks are preserved within the meta-greywacke and quartzite of the Aravali Supergroup.

800 years old temple of lord Shri Laxminath
INTACH is impressed by the new spirit of the villagers comprising a farming community of 4000 people. They have pooled nearly Rs. 11 lakhs to date to save their 800 years old temple. The village folks of Sonepur were also lauded by Chairman LK Gupta for their spirited show of faith and volunteerism. It is indeed a shining example of people’s participation of a kind rarely encountered in most villages, burdened as they are by their economic limitations.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai

The Chapter picked a fascinating subject Landscape and Politics of Mughal Hunting Grounds for a talk given by art and architecture historian Shaha Parpia. The speaker, based in Singapore, has a good perspective of the political landscape of the Mughal Empire. She focused on the contextual history of the Shikargah, the imperial hunting ground of the Mughal Emperors perceived as a flexible and multifunctional space whose typology extended beyond conventional definitions.

A Heritage Walk to the Madras High Court is a perennial attraction whenever announced by the Chapter. On 14th February another such walk was conducted for a tour of its magnificent precinct. A group of 50 heritage enthusiasts walked through the Court grounds, down the corridors of the building into several Courts including that of the Chief Justice, the Library and the Museum. Advocate N.L. Rajah narrated its history and its many eminent judges, also incidents of several important cases of the Madras High Court. The walks have become so popular that the Chapter plans to hold one every month.

A Marg publication In Andal’s Garden was released on 16th January. A part of the research had been supported by the Chennai Chapter. The book takes readers to Srivilliputhur to view temples as living, changing and dynamic spaces. INTACH also views the temple town as a social fabric that sustains art, craft, poetry, music and festival rituals in a celebration of life.

Coimbatore

Shaha Parpia, an art and architecture historian based in Singapore, again spoke on Landscape and Politics of Mughal Hunting Grounds on 7th February at Coimbatore.

The Chapter, in collaboration with Kumaraguru College of Technology and Indian Art History Congress, hosted a Conference on Tribal and Folk Art. The focus was on Dimensions of Tribal and Folk Art of India, Past and Present. The Art History Congress promotes intellectual thought,
debate and facilitates research and documentation efforts on various subjects related to art and its history.

Smt. Jaya Jaitly inaugurated the Congress, stressing on the need to protect tribals’ identity and culture. The distinguished guest former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India also the former Governor of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Dr. Rangarajan, released the IAHC publications. Children from Vidya Vanam Tribal School gave a cultural performance. Convenor Shankar Vanavarayar, Dr. Nagaswamy, Smt. Gita Ram, Dr. Vinu Aram, Shri Babaji Rajah Bhonsle, Shri Ramachandraprasad, Dr. Balaram greatly contributed to the success of this program.

The Chapter compiled a pictorial collection of the Talks, Walks and Films held by the Chapter to date. Archana Venkatesan, an associate Professor of comparative literature and religious studies at the University of California also spoke on In Andal’s Garden – Art, Ornamental & Devotion in Srivilliputhur on 16th January. Another speaker Crispen Branfoot, a senior lecturer in South Asian art and archaeology at the SOAS, University of London, spoke on the architecture, sculpture and painting of South India focusing on the 14th-20th centuries.

R.V. Ramani, a photo journalist, cinematographer and film maker gave a talk Nee Engey (Where Are You) at the Alliance Francaise.

Convenors of Tamil Nadu State met in Coimbatore for a meeting initiated by Chennai Co-Convenor Tara Murali. Chairman INTACH and Director Chapters added additional insights on the subject of heritage and importance of conservation.

**Nagercoil**

Convenor Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan appealed to the Madurai High Court against the violation of CRZ regulations at Kanyakumari coast and obtained a favorable verdict. However, reports of illegal construction in the area continue to be received by the Chapter. Construction is on-going in unsurveyed areas of the Kanyakumari coast without permission of the Executive Officer or that of the town

**TelANgANA**

**Hyderabad**

Convenor Anuradha Reddy was invited for a heritage lecture to Silver Oaks School. She brought forth the connection between nations across centuries. She outlined the cultural and heritage links between Iran and Hyderabad. The lecture was well received and generated a lot of interest.

**Nagercoil**

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14th February is marked as *U.P. Tourism Day* by the Uttar Pradesh Government. A seminar on *Possibilities of Tourism in Gorakhpur* was organized with the Divisional Commissioner invited as the Chief Guest. A panel of photographs on the sites listed by INTACH was inaugurated. Convenor M.P. Kandoi updated audience on all the activities of the Chapter.

Photographs of listed historical sites, private collection of coins from the 11th to 20th century, Maithili paintings depicting stories from the Ramayana were placed on display. Convenor M.P. Kandoi and Co-Convenor P.K. Lahiri well deserve kudos for successfully collating the exhibition which attracted the highest footfall in the *Mahotsava*.

**Lucknow**

Ms. Khushboo Bansal is the appointed Co-Convenor of the Lucknow Chapter. We warmly welcome her to INTACH, and wish her every success in conserving and promoting the rich heritage and reknown culture of this historic city.

**Orai**

The Chapter is actively pursuing heritage awareness activities among the youth population of Orai. Convenor Dr. Hari Mohan Purwar and Co-Convenor Dr. R.K. Gupta addressed the students at Ram Shree Public School stressing the importance of conserving all facets of heritage assets.

In collaboration with the Vedic College, a stamp exhibition was organised on 13th January. The Chapter has organized several exhibitions in the Bundelkhand Museum and the Dayanand Vedic College. A tree plantation was also carried out on the college premises.

**Gorakhpur**

The Chapter was invited to participate in *Gorakhpur Mahotsava* and provide a glimpse of the city’s culture and heritage through various exhibits. Five stalls were provided free of cost for the purpose. An impressive collection of photographs of listed historical sites, private collection of coins from the 11th to 20th century, Maithili paintings depicting stories from the Ramayana were placed on display.

Convenor M.P. Kandoi and Co-Convenor P.K. Lahiri well deserve kudos for successfully collating the exhibition which attracted the highest footfall in the *Mahotsava*. 
On 1st February, State Convenor G.M. Kapur as a member of the CII -ER Tourism Committee chaired a session on “Experience Bengal” at the Tourism Summit, Destination East organised by CII and West Bengal Tourism. The West Bengal Regional Chapters also participated.

On 4th January, State Convenor G.M. Kapur attended the Seminar on Recent Archaeological Explorations and Excavations in West Bengal organized by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums. ASI Regional Director Dr. P.K. Mishra and Principal Secretary, I& C.A Department of West Bengal Government also participated in the deliberations.

On 24th January, the Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Litfest saw a galaxy of literary stars descend on the city due to the collective concern at the changing face of what was once Calcutta. The venue was one of the last bungalows on the stretch of BC Road called the Daga Nikunj whose skyline and surroundings typify the problems of Kolkata. For the first time, a panel discussion on heritage issues was a part of the LitFest. If this becomes a regular feature it portends well for the future. Convenor G.M. Kapur and P.R. Das alongside Ifthekar Ehsan and Rupert Featherstone addressed the gathering.

On 3rd February, Alliance Francaise du Bengale organised a seminar on “What does the Town’s heritage mean to the population of Chandernagore?” on the occasion of the launching the

**WEST BENGAL**

**Kolkata**

The advent of the New Year usually sees a spate of activities popularly known as the “silly season” in Kolkata, with seminars, litfests being the more serious ones with many participating in these events.

On 3rd February, Alliance Francaise du Bengale organised a seminar on “What does the Town’s heritage mean to the population of Chandernagore?” on the occasion of the launching the

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**BISRAKH, A VILLAGE IN UTTAR PRADESH**

Bisrakh is believed to be the birthplace of Ravan. The villagers believe he is not the ‘villain’ of Ramayana, but a scholar (vidhvan), a kind brother and a devout follower (bhakt) of Shiva. Locals take pride in flaunting his name on T-shirts, sports jerseys for a cricket match, and even on the back of cars. They don’t burn his effigy during Dassera, as 30 years ago when they did celebrate Ramlila twice a village youth died both times. Many locals say the Shivling where Ravan’s father prayed goes so deep into the ground that no one knows where it ends. It is indeed a thin line between fact and fiction in Bisrakh, but it has given the village its unique identity.

*Ack : Rahul Sabharwal, Indian Express*
website on “Chandernagore Heritage” sponsored by VMF, and chaired by Convenor G.M. Kapur. Architect Aishwarya Tipnis, Co-Convenor Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, Prof Neogi, and President of VMF Philippe Toussaint were the key participants.

On 4th February, Filmit Festival was organized at Modern High School. Co-Convenor Kanchana Mukhopadhyay and PD HECS addressed the students.

On 20th February, amateur champion oarsman Sam Medora gave a talk to INTACH Members and the Consular Corps at the Calcutta Rowing Club. Kolkata has a long history of rowing clubs of the city. This 1858 Club is the oldest in the East, and records show that their first purchase was a six-oared boat for Rs. 300 from Mr. Gavin of Salka, that was parked near Chandpal Ghat on the banks of the Hooghly. Sam Medora, a qualified international umpire for rowing, has many notable achievements in his sailing career including the highest honour of participating in the Henley Regatta.

During early 1940s in British times, a paddle steamer built in Scotland by order of India General Navigation and Railways Company, ferried passengers between Calcutta and Assam. It was considered an engineering feat as it was built to negotiate shallow waters and even operate at the depth of 5 feet. It was used to transport supplies to Burma against Japanese forces during World War II. From 1949 it was in charge of the Indian Maritime University for training, burdened by the heavy cost of maintenance. Now, almost 70 years after being decommissioned, the vessel is likely to set sail on the Hooghly again. Tourism Secretary AR Bardhan is drawing up a plan for tourists to board this steamer for touring the Hoogly. A proposal to restore this vessel could not be ignored by the Chapter. INTACH got the Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd, which is under the Ministry of Defence, to inspect PS Bhopal and give an idea about the restoration process. As Convenor G.M. Kapur avers “It would be sad to lose a vessel of PS Bhopal’s stature, especially because engineering help is near at hand”.

Curator Jayanta Sengupta is in charge of two celebrated museums of Kolkata, the Indian Museum and the Victoria Memorial Hall. He tells us what a museum means to a curator? And should mean to the visitor. He says “In this day and age, a museum cannot be a passive storeroom of dead objects. We need to make it interactive and entertaining. History is about telling stories, when you write a history book, you have the luxury to tell a story through a detailed narrative…..Let’s say we are trying to talk about the statue of the dancing girl of Harappa. A good curator will tell the story of the Harappan civilization, the socio-economic position of women and then contextualize it in respect to the history of modern India through a display”.

The two Museums he is responsible for are both crowd pullers for other reasons as well! Victoria Memorial grounds are where young couples seek a few private moments. The Egyptian section of the Indian Museum is known to be haunted. “Actually, I have no problems with that, Louvre has a tradition of people proposing in front of their favourite painting. Why should we not encourage that here too? This is how people engage with history, through their personal experiences”. Well said Jayanta Sengupta!
**Santiniketan**

A two day lecture series on Mughal Paintings and *Razamnama* were organized by the Convenor Susmita Guha Roy as part of heritage awareness programme. Dr. Ashok Kumar Das, an eminent Tagore scholar was the resource person for the event. Chapter Members also welcomed Geert Robberechts, Convenor Belgium. The annual magazine *Paribesh* was released. This issue is based on restoration work of Hetampur Rajbari brass chariot.

**NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE**

**Way to Go**

Dubai has targeted Solar Panels on all rooftops by the year 2030. It will spend billions of dollars to generate clean energy in this fastest growing city state. It has a population of only 2.4 million currently, but consumes enormous quantities of energy to air-condition all its skyscrapers, mega malls and luxurious villas. The Government will also encourage all households to put solar panels on their roof tops.

**Clean Air**

Maximum number of vehicles worldwide run on fossil fuels like petrol and diesel. Their emissions are the biggest contributors to carbon dioxide in the air we breathe. Scientists have shown that carbon dioxide and water can be directly converted into usable liquid hydrocarbon fluids in a process of subjecting it to chemical reaction by concentrated light, heat and high pressure. University of Texas researchers headed by Frederick MacDonnell have
demonstrated that this one-step conversion is only the first step, and next step is to develop a photo-catalyst better matched to the solar spectrum. Perhaps new sustainable fuel technology of this kind could help in limiting global warming in the future?

**Breathing Maps**

NASA recently released an animated map to show Earth's plant life on land and in water – and they are breathing! Combined with satellite data the map creates an average 12 month cycle. Pulsating masses of colour represent fluctuations in density of plant growth on land, and chlorophyll concentration from phytoplankton in the oceans. Density of land vegetation ranges from brown to a rich green, while ocean concentrations are shown in the video in a similar effect ranging from dark blue to a dark green. In the northern hemisphere plant life is at the minimum for regions in higher latitudes due to reduced sunlight. They are shown as light beige while the ocean is a pale blue. During the same period, in tropical lands in mid-latitude regions plant life is shown as dormant, though South America boasts the rich green colour of dense growth. In the southern hemisphere, when summer is peaking, maps show dark green for both land and ocean plant. When summer reaches the northern hemisphere it is just the opposite. As months continually register the changing seasons, plant life is shown to move up and down giving the map a life-like breathing effect.

**Floating Post Office**

It is the only one of its kind in the world, a heritage Post Office floating on water at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir since British times. Built on an intricately carved houseboat, it is moored on the western edge of the lake and offers regular postal services. The seal used on everything posted has a boatman rowing a shikara. Earlier it was called the Nehru Park Post Office but was formally christened as the **Floating Post Office** in August 2011 by then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister of State for Communications Sachin Pilot. The Sub Postmaster Surinder Kaul who runs it says Rs. 1-2 crore is deposited every month at the Post Office by communities living in and around the lake and its inlets. For more than 50,000 inhabitants comprising farmers, labourers and shikara owners this Post Office offers banking service as well. In the 2014 floods the houseboat was “ uncontrollably propelled by the deluge” says Kaul and special mechanism was used to anchor it. It is now back on the waters and functioning.

**A Green Ride**

A plastic moulded rikshaw E-Raja with zero emission made indigenously was launched recently and is making news. It runs at a maximum speed of 24 kms per hour. It has a battery lasting 80 kms in a single charge. Priced at only 1.15-1.25 each, it has been approved by the International Centre for Automotive Technology in Manesar, Haryana. It is manufactured by OK Play India that makes plastic-moulded automobile products indigenously. Last mile connectivity from bus stops and metro stations now has another eco-friendly solution.
Verrier Elwin (1902–1964), born in England, was one of the best known anthropologists in India during his lifetime. Elwin’s seminal work includes over 10,000 black and white photographs of the tribes in Central and Northeast India from the 1930s to the early 1960’s taken by him. Today, this work constitutes a most significant photographic collection of this period of history. It demands dedicated efforts towards its preservation. It urgently needs the financial support of enlightened Corporations to preserve this precious legacy through research projects and publications.

In this issue of Virasat we draw attention to documentation of tribal culture in many pockets of India that are in grave threat of extinction. Corporation are requested to extend support for documentation and preservation of our intangible heritage under CSR.

Photographs copyright: Ashok Elwin

At Wancho, Senua village, 1954

CALL FOR HELP!
Enlightened Corporates to preserve and protect our National Wealth!