Folk Art at INTACH, Delhi
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*Cover:* The Worli painting on the front cover was specially commissioned to mark INTACH Foundation Day 2017. It is mounted on the wall of the open air auditorium Aangan. Many such art works are on display at Central Office.
INTACH Foundation Day celebrations this year commenced well in advance, but stretched through the month with several get-togethers dotting the month of January. It was a joyous welcome to the New Year with INTACH family at Central Office getting together in bonhomie for a picnic. The picturesque environs at Sanskriti Kendra on 20th January is an idyllic spot for staff and officers to meet together in the spirit of New Year. Sanskriti, set up by INTACH Founder Member OP Jain, is a green haven with a heritage touch as its lush terrain houses three museums - The Textile Museum, The Museum of Everyday Art and The Terracotta Museum, apart from meeting rooms, cottages, and a platform for cultural performances. A conducted tour of the Museums was specially appreciated as very few of INTACH staff have had the opportunity to visit this beautiful spot on the outskirts of New Delhi.

The amphitheatre-like corner of Sanskriti was where the INTACH staff gathered around for some banter and laughter. There were several lively team building games to promote camaraderie. Getting to know each other away from office on a more personal basis is perhaps the best way to know and respect one’s staff. And to discover their talents and their other profile! More than eighty people from INTACH Central Office participated. Not to forget mentioning a delicious picnic spread organized by our Cultural Cell. Everyone soaked in the bright sunshine that seemed to have appeared specially for a day after
several cold and rainy days of winter all week - just in time for the picnickers - as the clouds and rains did come back the very next day!

The 33rd Foundation Day on 27th January was marked with the inauguration of the INTACH Knowledge Centre by Chairman LK Gupta, Member Secretary CT Misra and Governing Council Member Anita Singh. The Centre in the INTACH basement area had been under construction for several long weeks, with the noise decibel tolerated in anticipation of a restored and refurbished INTACH Library and the Documentation Centre. It has now been rechristened as the INTACH Knowledge Centre.
Centre. It will be a knowledge repository of the nation’s rich, diverse and pluralistic art, cultural, architectural and natural heritage with the objective of promoting and disseminating this knowledge and create a legacy for future generations. Principal Director Navin Piplani had been entrusted with the charge of the renovation work that is not totally complete. IDC Consultant TS Randhawa heads this impressive and spacious Centre which is well equipped for researchers and scholars.

**INTACH KNOWLEDGE CENTRE – A VISION STATEMENT**

INTACH Knowledge Centre (IKC) is a one-point information hub for heritage and conservation issues. The IKC collects, maintains and disseminates resources on architecture, arts, culture, conservation, crafts, archaeology, intangible heritage, museums, heritage conservation and tourism, to cater to the needs of researchers, scholars, practitioners as well as students involved in heritage management, conservation and promotion in India and overseas.

With the passage of time, IKC has grown with better facilities, interiors, proper spaces for users and staff, new furniture, proper lighting system, air conditioning system, storage area, display system, etc. With all these enhanced facilities, IKC plans to provide better services to its user community engaged in the objectives of INTACH.

Technical advancements are taking place in every aspect of human lives. Knowledge/Information Centres are also using these technologies to execute day to day activities to serve the informational needs of its end users.

Recently, IKC has digitalized its holdings, architectural and natural heritage listings, project reports, archival files, maps/plans/panels/posters, INTACH MOUs with the help of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA). In future these resources will be made accessible in printed as well as digital form. INTACH plans to increase the IKC Library holdings substantially in the future.

TS Randhawa, Consultant, IDC/Library/Archives
Release of INTACH Calendars

The INTACH Calendars brought out by some Divisions were released, and have since been distributed to all Chapters. The Intangible Heritage Division also brought out one calendar on the Living Heritage of Varanasi Kasika Chitran, and the Architecture Division released a very handy Yearly Planner. Several prizes were distributed to winners of games at the picnic held earlier, and to the staff that came well decked in traditional costumes on the inauguration of this year’s Founders Day. A special recognition award “For commitment and diligence to work” was given to Sosamma Philip, who looked visibly embarrassed at all the attention this quiet worker was suddenly receiving from a large gathering of colleagues!

A Heritage Quiz for INTACH personnel was the concluding event in the celebratory series of Foundation Day held on 31st January at INTACH Multipurpose Hall. INTACH Divisions fielded teams of their youngest and brightest members determined to compete, and onlookers barely got a chance and could participate only if the answer went a-begging! It was a lively but closely fought contest, with AHD team bagging the first place followed by HECS and MH Divisions. All the teams deserve hearty congratulations for educating so many in the audience!
27th January 2017 makes one recall again that a great institution was built over 30 years ago by its Founding Members, and it is a legacy that we are all responsible for carrying forward with all dedicated INTACH personnel everywhere. We should take pride that this vast organization, with 198 Chapters across the country to date, continues to be recognized as an institute of national importance – and growing from strength to strength. Member Secretary also summed it up at one of the monthly Coordination Meetings at Central Office, “we now have a great team spirit and camaraderie”. INTACH also garners its inner strength and identity from its vast network of Chapters with their equally committed Convenors, Co-Convenors and Members. The only way ahead for all of us is a Forward March!

A Worli painting was specially commissioned to mark the 33rd INTACH Founders Day. It is now mounted on the wall of the open air INTACH Aangan where events are regularly held and is pictured on the cover of this Virasat, along with other traditional artworks that decorate INTACH Central Office.

The foundation stone for INTACH’s conservation success are respect for our built, cultural and intangible heritage, faith, integrity, and love for nature; and commitment to work for the cause.
NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 18TH MARCH 2017

INTACH Annual General Meeting is one time in the year that draws the largest number of INTACH Members to the Central Office, from near and some far places. The first business of the day was a warm welcome extended by INTACH to all, followed by a two minute silence observed in memory of our departed Members who cannot be forgotten. Chairman LK Gupta and Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra then briefed the gathering on the considerable strides taken over the past year to make the INTACH conservation efforts a national movement.

Chairman updated INTACH Members on his interactions with Chapter Convenors, and the State level Meetings held of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, and Jammu & Kashmir Chapters. He also mentioned numerous visits to individual Chapters. Some have taken the initiative to use their contacts for networking like Dharwad that established a local Heritage Museum; Kodaikanal that restored its heritage Library, and Tamil Nadu Chapter involvement with restoration of local temples of Maruvathur villages. He mentioned the MOU signed by INTACH with APSARA Cambodia for conservation of Angkor Vat and the training extended to two Cambodian conservationists. In collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs an international workshop was recently held with participants from ASEM countries. Chairman mentioned that INTACH's Heritage Education Programmes have covered 453 schools and several colleges with training imparted to a sizeable number of their teachers.

Chairman LK Gupta also touched on a number of critical heritage issues that need special attention. Orders had been passed by the National Green Tribunal recently for protection of Najafgarh Jheel in Delhi and Haryana, and a PIL filed for maintaining the habitat of wetlands at Korna in Barmer District. He hoped the conservation plan for Hindon River under preparation would draw attention to the sorry state of India's rivers state wise, and redefine river health assessment and methodology. Of special note is INTACH Green Plan for Central Office through solar panels that is generating an average 75-100 units daily. Another important programme is the Cultural Mapping of the Denotified and Nomadic Communities/Tribes for preparing a comprehensive conservation plan. Geoheritage is an entirely recent subject that is receiving national attention, and INTACH has taken the lead with the publication of a Monograph pinpointing the hitherto neglected status of 26 National Geoheritage Sites of India like the 2500 years old zinc mining site at Zawar in Udaipur.

There are challenges yet to be met. In particular Chairman mentioned increasing the Chapters networking with local stake holders, and the importance of mobilizing resource persons to carry out listing and documentation of unprotected heritage. A special effort needs to be made by every Chapter to establish a basic connect with rural and urban citizens, he said.

Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra further elaborated on several milestones established by the 196 Chapters in the INTACH family. At Central Office, she said there has been considerable consolidation and collaboration that “up-scaled their activities in the field of natural, built and living heritage conservation……we observe a fresh enthusiasm among Chapter Convenors and Members both old and new”. They have contributed tremendously by taking up challenging issues and projects across the country while striving to involve local communities in heritage conservation activities. There has been a well thought out endeavour to enroll new Members of repute and expertise in particular to advance INTACH mission in the years ahead.

INTACH Divisions at Central Office has supported Chapters both technically and financially when required to advance their heritage mission. Special orientation programmes were organized for newly inducted Chapters Guntur (AP); Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Vaishali
(Bihar); Palwal (Haryana); Jajpur and Sonepur (Odisha); Dhar (MP); Dibrugarh (Assam); Belgavi (Karnataka); and Jalandhar (Punjab). Chairman LK Gupta had visited innumerable new and old Chapters on a sustained basis over the last two years, including on occasions interaction with students, youth, local population and like-minded institutions.

Member Secretary CT Misra lauded the multifarious contributions of INTACH Divisions that resulted in several initiatives taken up by State Governments in collaboration with INTACH in diverse fields like the regeneration of water bodies, documentation of sacred lakes in the Himalayas, study of the Rudraksha tree, training in sustainable agriculture through traditional farming practices, preservation of intangible and crafts heritage, and facilitation of eco-tourism. The revival of the Old Pilgrim Routes to Kedarnath is another project under research. One of the most important initiatives has been the preparation of a pan-India State of Built Heritage of India (SoBHI) and a seminal work on the unprotected built heritage of India. The Heritage Craft & Community Division has put up permanent heritage exhibits in the public eye at Metro Stations - The Medieval City of Siri at the Green Park and The Bagh-e-Jud at the Jor Bagh Metro Stations. The INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA) offers an array of scholarships for UK citizens to follow any course of research that is beneficial to both countries, in addition to scholarships and a post graduate Diploma course offered to Indian researchers. A very significant development has been the most recently inaugurated INTACH Knowledge Centre at Central Office with digitalized listings, projects undertaken, archival files, maps/plans/posters to date and INTACH MOUs signed, along with INTACH Library, at the newly designed and expanded space at INTACH to facilitate advanced level research on cultural subjects.

INTACH’s most prestigious work is the conservation of wall and textile paintings at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for its new Museum that was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. INTACH is also closely associated with the Government on its projects HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) and with four of the Smart City projects in progress.

A General Discussion open to Members followed, with Questions raised in earnest, and answered at length – before the Vote of Thanks. A happy gathering then moved to the sunny lawns of Indian International Centre Annexe next door for a sumptuous lunch; the acquaintance with Members renewed once again.

Results of the Annual Election

Founder Member Category: Shri OP Jain
Prof. AGK Menon

Life Member Category: Shri Ashok Singh Thakur
Ms. Sujatha Shankar
Shri Lalit Surjan
Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyaya
Shri M Gopalakkrishna
Shri VK Kapoor

Ordinary Members Category: Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari
Ms. Dharmendar Kanwar

Donor Member Category: Ms. Diya Kumari,
The City Palace Jaipur

CONDOLENCES

INTACH Founder Member Padma Vibhushan Professor MGK Menon passed away on 22nd November.

Professor Menon served as Director of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research at the young age of 35, and was one of the few Indians to be Fellow of the Royal Society of London. During a career spanning 50 years devoted to science, he was Advisor to the Department of Space/Indian Space Research (ISRO) during its critical period in 1972.

Professor Menon was Life Trustee of the India International Centre, and its former President for two terms. A Memorial Meeting was held on 30th November at the IIC Fountain Lawns attended by people from many walks of life who recounted dear memories about him. Devotional songs were rendered by Radhika Chopra and by Dr. Shruti Sadolikar.

INTACH sent its condolences to Smt. Menon and their daughter and son. Our sincere sympathies and heartfelt good wishes are extended to them for the future.
CHAIRMAN VISITS JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

Chairman LK Gupta was invited as the Chief Guest to attend the 5th Habib Rahman Memorial Lecture on 22nd March, an annual event organized by the Subject Association of the Department of the well known Jamia Millia Islamia College. Chairman in his address stressed on architectural practices using traditional materials like stone, wood, lime and bricks; and imparting knowledge of the ancient master builder Sathapathy to architecture students of today.

Habib Rahman was another visionary architect of independent India who played a pivotal role in shaping the architecture of Delhi. He deployed the Nehruvian concept that “modernism should be the tool to propel India to the future”. Habib Rahman used jails, chhajjas and domes extensively in his architectural designs that combined modernism with traditional visual aesthetics. It is a luxury long forsaken in this time of hectic development and space constraints. The Lecture was part of a series on Heritage Conservation in India: Practices and Challenges (Built, Cultural and Natural) held annually by the College.

Chairman also pointed out that India’s architectural heritage is the permanent reminder of the culture of our past civilisation. One of the challenges we face is the listing and documentation of unprotected heritage both architectural and the natural settings. There is lack of knowledge and research on the subject of old architectural practices adapted to climatic conditions. Lastly, the challenge we face is the adaptive reuse of our older building stocks.

ANIRUDH BHARGAVA AWARD

The Anirudh Bhargava-INTACH Award instituted in 1999 is awarded for “Exemplary contribution to the protection of Environmental/Natural Heritage through steps to stop environmental destruction or contributing to re-generation”. The award comprises a cash grant of Rs. 50,000, a memento and a citation. It will hence forward be awarded annually on 18th April, World Heritage Day.

The proud recipient of the Anirudh Bhargava Award 2016 is one of our own conservation stalwarts, Dr. RS Lal Mohan, INTACH, Convenor of the Nagercoil Chapter. A man of many parts, he has a wide range of conservation activities to his credit in addition to Chapter responsibilities. He is a Member of multiple organisations like the Cetacean Specialist Group IUCN, Geneva; National Geographic Society, USA; Marine Biological Association of India, Cochin; Dolphin Protection Committee, India.

Dr. RS Lal Mohan is the author of several books on subjects like Ecology of the Wetlands of Kanyakumari, Sacred Groves, Whales and Dolphins of India; Forests of Kanyakumari District; Coastal Heritage of South Tamilnadu, etc. He has convened a number of Seminars on conservation related subjects, presented papers at International Seminars, and published some scientific papers. He has scientific achievements to his credit like establishment of a Public Aquarium in Calicut, and establishment of a fish and prawn farm. His social activities have contributed significantly to improve the amenities of Nagercoil city; and he is now officially a member of the District Collector Town Beautification Committee. INTACH extends its heartiest congratulations to him for this well deserved recognition.

STOP PRESS

Dr. Sarayu Doshi was elected Vice Chairman of INTACH by the Governing Council at their Meeting held on 7th April.
Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD)

DIRECTORY OF TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFTS

The HC&C Division is compiling a Directory of Building Crafts to serve as a Documentation of the Crafts that have been traditionally used in Indian architecture, including the various techniques and materials used. The Directory will contain examples and illustrations of buildings and structures using these crafts. The Directory will also document artisans and craftsmen still engaged in these craft practices.

The listing and documentation of traditional and vernacular building crafts of Kottayam and Alpey region in Kerala is in process. The focus is on the traditional architecture styles used in different areas such as Kuttanad houses in Alleppey, Malabar houses in Kozhikode (Palakkad), Key houses of Thalasseri, Travancore roofs, buildings such as Nalukettu (rectangular houses with four halls and a courtyard in the middle), Ettu Kettu (two Nalukettu houses together), 16 Kettu (Four Nalukettu joining together), shrines of Malabar. Temple architecture of Kerala too has unique architectural styles. Some of the existing European Bungalows have Arabian architectural influence.

Prominent building crafts entail preparation of traditional lime wall, Daru Silpas (wood reliefs/ wood crafts), crafting different ceiling patterns, unique building technique of granaries (Pathayapura), making of boat houses (Kettuvallam) and wooden wheels used for irrigation (Chakram).

The HCC Division inaugurated a photographic exhibition “Bagh-e-Jud” at the Jor Bagh Metro Station on 10th February. “Bagh-E-Jud” is a royal garden cemetery laid during the Lodi dynasty in the 15th century presently known as the Lodi Garden.

This photo exhibition brings to light the monuments and bustling spaces within the Jor Bagh precinct that surrounds the Metro Station and showcases unique photographs chronicling the richness and splendor of the monuments. Delhi has a unique history, an eventful and prolific one, that is evident from the various architectural wonders that dot the urban landscape today.

Lodi Road is one of Delhi’s oldest thoroughfares. It has been continuously used in one way or another since the Sultanate era. Throughout the Mughal era, this area was a part of the estate of the Nawabs of Awadh, the second of whom - Safdarjung - is buried in a magnificent tomb at the junction of the Lodi Road. During their visit to Central Office, INTACH State Convenors and Central Office staff were taken on a conducted tour by Director HCC Division Bindu Manchanda. The display is well appreciated by the public.
SALT GOLAH, HOWRAH, KOLKATA

Salt Golab, as it is famously known, along the banks of Hooghly in the vicinity of Howrah Railway Station, was commissioned by the British in Kolkata during the late 19th Century. The establishment comprises a series of Salt Godowns used to store and sell salt during the British regime. The Kolkata site was abandoned for almost 20-30 yrs when the usage stopped and lies abandoned to date. The site is now owned by the Eastern Railways. INTACH was approached for a project proposal to develop and reuse the site.

India traditionally manufactured salt from sea water, as the country was not endowed adequately with other conventional sources like brine springs and beds of rock salt. Therefore the industry developed on the seashores of Bengal. Later, due to the steep decline and the inability of its successive reforms to generate adequate revenues, the British Government initiated an agency system in 1880 splitting Bengal’s salt production belt into six agencies. Each agency advanced money to molunghees (salt workers) at different stages of production, bought their output at predetermined prices and sold the product through a centralized system at fixed prices at establishments called Golab. One of the Salt Golab at Salkea near Calcutta was the largest of all the other golabs and continued for eight decades.

Salt Golab was set up on the banks of Hooghly River because of easy and cheaper transport and navigation to the other salt producing areas. The Howrah Bridge and Howrah Railway Station are immediately to the south of the site that was primarily used for salt storage. Its huge godowns were utilised to their full extent as the structures are closely placed and divided by alleys for easy movement of the salt carts.

The site is an excellent example of British industrial architecture of the 19th century. It covers a total area of 20 acres, with about 68 structures in the complex. Being abandoned for many years, almost every structure is covered with wild vegetation and big trees severely damaging the structure and collapsing the roofs. Keeping in view the large space in the...
middle of the Metro city, INTACH in collaboration with the Eastern Railways, has proposed to reuse the complex as a multipurpose city centre with retail areas, museum, exhibition space, food court, fine dining, boutique hotel, amphitheatre, office space, convention centre, artist village, etc. The existing structures are proposed to be strengthened and restored with roofs, trusses over the connecting passages, light tensile structures, canopies, etc. The existing big trees in the open areas are also to be integrated within the design. The existing space has facilitated the proposal to have larger walking galleries, and would showcase different periods of salt production and the role of the Salt Movement in the Independence of our country.

RESTITUTION OF BETESHWAR TEMPLES

Bateshwar, a small village situated in the ravines between Yamuna and Chambal in Bah tehsil of Agra District, has a temple complex located along the banks of Yamuna River. The Bateshwar Temple Complex, built by King Badan Singh of 17th century Bhadawar dynasty,
has a spectacular view. Some of the temples still retain their beautiful wall paintings. The State Government sanctioned the conservation projects for restoration of the Bhimeshwar and the Rameshwar Temples, out of the three projects submitted by AH Division. INTACH work comprises restoration of the dome, removal of layers of white wash and restoration of beautiful Shekhawati painting in the interiors of the temple which is now in progress.

REVIVAL AND RESTORATION OF BALAJI GHAT PALACE, VARANASI, U.P.

The 1735 AD Balaji Ghat Palace, built by the Maratha Peshwa Balaji on the bank of river Ganges, partly collapsed in 1999 and in 2009. With financial support from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the World Monuments Fund (WMF), AHD restoration work commenced in 2012. It comprises salvaging of collapsed debris and rebuilding of the south-west portion.

Detailed Project Report for 3 buildings (Main Building, Geology Block, Physics & Chemistry Block).

INTACH has completed the Draft Report of the Geology block for submission.

HISTORIC TOWNS IN INDIA

“Historic Towns in India”, an initiative by Architectural Heritage Division, identifies and lists all the historic towns of India. The document is an exploration of the history
and characteristic of these Indian towns, comprising their brief history, revolution, heritage, resources, present condition, infrastructure and administrative set up.

To date a list of 1066 historic towns in India has been generated. The inventory includes four States namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Jharkhand that has been completed. Some of the other States are under compilation.

**AHD LISTING CELL**

Director AHD & Listing A Vijaya is coordinating the listing of several Chapters that are engaged in listings:

- Pathankot District by Punjab State Chapter • Ranchi District by the Jharkhand Chapter. The old listing of Ranchi District and the town done in 1990s has about 145 buildings, which is now being updated. • Dausa District in Rajasthan by Sawai Madhopur Chapter, covering about 300 buildings and sites. • Baran District in Rajasthan by Baran Chapter, where 150 sites and buildings are proposed to be listed. • Jhalawar, Chittaurgarh and Bhilwara Districts in Rajasthan expected to cover over 800 buildings and sites. 380 sites have been identified in Jhalawar District so far. • Puruliya District, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur Districts by the West Bengal Chapter. Survey in Puruliya District is complete where 359 sites have been identified. • Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the A&N Chapter includes survey of the Japanese bunkers and the colonial heritage of the island. To date around 120 buildings and sites have been identified. • Listing of old bridges of four Districts of Uttarakhand (Dehradun, Pauri, Tehri and Nainital) is being undertaken by the Dehradun Chapter.

The Final Report for the listing of Nagapattinam and Nagor in Tamil Nadu, comprising 60 heritage sites, has been received. Kargil listing Phase II comprising 150 sites has recently been completed by the Ladakh Chapter.

**MISSION MUNICIPALIKA**

A presentation indicating the significance of the project and highlighting the role of State Convenors in this initiative was prepared for the *State Convenors Meet* held at Central Office on 9th-10th February. A letter attached with the listing of the heritage sites in the short-listed 31 cities was sent to the concerned Municipal Commissioners and City and State Convenors of INTACH.

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR APSARA**

Ms. Sun Vina, Temple Head of Angkor Tourism Development Department and Miss Dy Lakena, member of the Tourism Management Plan visited INTACH from 30th January - 1st March as part of the training programme for APSARA, with whom INTACH has signed an MoU for the restoration work at Angkor Vat, Cambodia.
Archaeologists from Egypt and Germany who found a massive 8 metre quartzite statue submerged in ground water in a Cairo slum believe it is the revered Pharaoh Ramses II who ruled Egypt more than 3000 years ago. He built the Sun Temple in Heliopolis, one of the largest in Egypt and double the size of Luxor’s much visited Karnak, but it was destroyed in Greco-Roman times. The Antiquities Ministry hailed the statue as one of the most important discoveries made near the ruins of this temple of Ramses II in the ancient Heliopolis which is located in the eastern part of modern Cairo city. Ramses the Great as he was known was the most powerful and celebrated leader of ancient Egypt. His successors referred to him as Great Ancestor who ruled from 1279-1213 BC, and led several military expeditions that expanded his empire to stretch from Syria in the east to Nubia in the south. The joint Egyptian-German expedition which included the Leipzig University also found a life size limestone statue of Pharaoh Set II who was Ramses II’s grandson, in the Mattarya District. The ruins of ancient Heliopolis (city of sun in ancient Greek) are located in the north eastern part of Cairo city. Many of its obelisks were removed to Alexandria or to Europe and stones from the site were looted and used for building as Cairo developed – alas.

**NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (NHD)**

**CONSERVATION OF HINDON RIVER**

The National Water Policy of India, 2012 states that “Large parts of India have already become water stressed. Rapid growth in demand for water due to population growth, urbanization and changing lifestyle pose serious challenges to water security.” As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2015 Report, half of the India’s river are polluted and fall in Class C (unfit for drinking and bathing). Hindon – a tributary of Yamuna in West Uttar Pradesh is no exception.

Ecosystem services provided by rivers are very much undervalued while rivers support livelihoods of millions of people in the world. They provide fisheries, fibre, vegetables, water, land for agriculture and home to many homeless people. Importantly they are the only ecosystems which absorbs tons of industrial, agricultural and residential effluents and contribute significantly in the development of modern society. With our unsustainable practices and ignorance we are not only killing rivers but also innumerable ecosystem services offered by them. Natural Heritage Division is studying...
Around 350 factories discharge their waste into the river contaminating both surface as well as ground water, and threatening people’s health and livelihoods. The river has also witnessed a social-cultural disconnect and lost it identity of being a pious Harnandi of old times.

NHD study will generate detailed maps and remote sensing evaluations to assist conservation plan. The objective is to empower decisions by Government and public authorities.

INTACH’S PILOT PROJECT ON ASSI NADI (24TH JAN–26TH FEB) - Principal Director NHD Manu Bhatnagar

High pollution load in holy River Ganga at Varanasi is due to domestic wastewater flowing into the river through 33 nallahs and rivulets. Sewerage systems and treatment plants are going to take several years to be effectively in place. In the meantime the river will continue to remain polluted. Based on its experience in Delhi and Agra, INTACH initiated a month long pilot project for cleaning waste water flow in the 3.5 km long Assi Nadi meandering through densely populated areas, using the process of bacterial bio-remediation.

The water is fast flowing owing to the elevation difference of 27 m. between origin and river level.

The pilot project consists of making 4 weirs (HDPE bags filled with boulders/chips), coir log filters at 20 locations, plastic media in gabion cratons (for providing surface shelter to bacteria). These fixed works increase detention time of the water as well as provide filtration effect on suspended solids. The most potent action however is the dosing of 100 litres of bacteria concentrate (including anaerobic strains) at 7 locations that degrades organic

the 400 km Hindon River which is a tributary of Yamuna River and one of the most polluted minor rivers in India. It is fed river with a catchment area of about 7083 sq. km - originating from upper Shivalik region in the lower Himalayan range. The river which has been the main source of water for the agrarian communities of the six districts viz. Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad and Gautambudh Nagar is dying a slow death due to substantial water abstractions and pollution loads it receives from various industrial units along its course.
pollutants, enhances dissolved oxygen levels, and removes odours.

Interaction with residents along the Nadi indicated their relief from the foul odour and their positive impression of water quality improvement. Regular bathers at Assi Ghat also vouched a palpable improvement in water quality. Laboratory tests are now awaited to confirm measurable improvements.

It is expected to remove at least 70% of the pollution load at a fraction of the cost of conventional arrangements. During the course of the work it was observed that in the absence of garbage removal, most of the area solid waste is dumped into Assi Nadi. The lesson for Varanasi is clear:

• There needs to be strong emphasis on Municipal solid waste collection and removal.
• Landscape elements and aquatic plants need to be planted along the banks and in the water courses wherever possible.
• Filtration and settling elements on the courses of all 33 water courses out falling in the river along with bacterial bioremediation can have a salutary effect on reducing pollution in River Ganga.
• These arrangements can continue till capture of generated sewage and its treatment is not effectuated by other means

• The cost of this treatment annually would be around Rs. 3 crores.
• In contrast conventional treatment would require Rs. 75 crores of capital cost, plus land cost for 10 ha, plus annual operational cost of Rs. 12 cr., plus laying of sewer lines from individual houses as well as trunk sewer lines, a matter of few years.

POST TREATMENT RESULTS ACHIEVED NEAR OUTFALL

Zawar: A Geo-Heritage - Abhishek Kumar

Zawar has rich historic origins and boasts of valuable scientific skill in the field of archaeometallurgy. This is the world's first Zinc smelting site, situated 40km south of Udaipur along Udaipur - Ahmadabad NH-08, a rugged undulating terrain. It is part of Aravalli Mountain range. The area has 2500 years old underground mines as well as remnants of smelting retorts in abundance. The area also has rich archeological remains like 80-90 ancient temples representing the rich civilization of tribal people in history as well as ruins of an old dam adjacent to the Tidi River.
The region poses enormous potential for a geo-heritage site, and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has already taken note of it. However the area needs to be planned with relevant interventions to promote the site as a geo-heritage site of public interest in order to garner tourism revenue.

INTACH has prepared a development plan to promote some and not so obvious features of interest, along with other additional supporting features for better exposure of the area.

- **Proposed Interpretation Centre**: It can be developed with external facade made of retorts or in indigenous tribal style, where along with models, interactive display, maps can be exhibits. An open air display of working furnace can be established to share the method of zinc extortion. Some tourist facilities such as rest room, cafe, souvenir shop carrying various memorable cast from zinc ore can be planned to support the interpretation centre.

- **Cross Section of Slag & Retort Mount**: It needs protection as well as signage and information board, with preparation method, usage of retort, etc.

- **Post use of retort in making house can also be displayed.**

**ANCIENT TEMPLE**

There are a large numbers of temples located in groups that require restoration work such as repair of architectural components, moving vegetation growth. It also requires site management and signage and lighting.

- **Restored Ancient Open Stope Visit (underground mine)**: A part of excavated mine can be open for tourist with proper safeguards such as helmet, boots, etc. Perhaps herring guide system can be made available to know the detailed process of mining. Interested locals can be trained as guides which will provide employment to people. • Trail can be developed connecting major temples, old Zawar, Zawar Fort and wildlife. Cycles can be provided on a rental mode basis.

To promote the above proposed plan requires several stakeholders to work together with assigned responsibilities.
Major stakeholders have to be District Administration, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, Tourism Department, GSI, State Department of Archaeology and INTACH. Representative of all stakeholders should constitute a committee for decision making and consultation.

**INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTES (ICI/MHD)**

**ICI DELHI**

**Conservation of Japanese Embroidery Scrolls**

ICI Delhi received five beautiful Japanese embroidery scrolls, over 1600 years old from the personal collection of Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Embroidery in Japanese is called ‘Shibu’; the style of embroidery is *nuido nui* meaning “sewing”, and *do* means “way”. The Japanese tradition, *nuido* has three aspects: rationality, sensitivity and spirituality. Rationality signifies the acquisition of skills and knowledge; sensitivity the artistic acuity and awareness; and spirituality the spiritual understanding of *shibu*, the balance and harmony achieved when people stitch.

Traditional *nuido* is worked with silk or metal threads, extensively using gold-wrapped and silver-wrapped thread. Silk satin is the preferred fabric, which is mounted on a paper support. Like many Eastern artworks, the pieces use flowers, plants, birds and insects as the major images. The *Kurenai Kai Hoitsu* scrolls, embroidered copies of paintings by Sakai Hoitsu by a Rimpa artist during the Edo period, are considered the finest examples of a *nuido* masterpiece. The
Scrolls before and after conservation

original work is preserved in the Tokyo National Museum, and consists of two seven-meter sections.

The five scrolls had embroidery on silk satin textile that was pasted on paper; the borders of scrolls were brocaded textiles pasted on the same paper support and also supported by dowels. The images included mostly birds and flowers (lotus, cherry blossom and peonies). The scrolls were received in rolled condition in a very fragile condition, with rolling and unrolling resulting in fold marks, creases, bulges and separation of layers. There were tears and detachment of the textile from the paper support, with water stains and mold in one of the scrolls. Mechanical and solvent cleaning removed accretions, and after tears were mended a full lining was provided to give additional support to the scrolls.

*Ceremonial Zardozi Textiles from Rashtrapati Bhavan Collection*

ICI Delhi received five *zardozi* textiles (spreads) displayed as wall hangings from Rashtrapati Bhavan. *Zardozi* (‘zar’ meaning gold and ‘dozi’ meaning embroidery in Persian) is an ancient form of embroidery executed with gold and silver threads, often using pearls and semi-precious stones in the design. It flourished during the Mughal times with intricate and heavy *zardozi* work executed mostly on the borders. Strong fabrics like silk, satin, crepe and velvet supported the heavy metalwork in the clothes for the rich and royalty; also for wall hangings, ceremonial spreads, rugs and bed sheets. Nowadays, cheaper coloured and synthetic metal threads are used.
The size of these old heavy textiles varied from 14–16 feet x 10–12 feet. Some beautiful textiles were extensively used in 1921 Durbar Hall for ceremonial purposes. The textiles from the President’s house were received in very poor condition with loss of pile and weakened velvet support. Previous restoration attempt had been poorly done with strips of inferior velvet cloth supporting the zardozi textile, and zari threads tangled and missing and using polyester threads, and weakened with age. All previous interventions were removed and components like back cloth and tassels on fringes were separated. Cleaning was done of all the parts separately to remove the ingrained dust and dirt. The loose piles of velvet were consolidated, every strand of zari threads were straightened, and previous patterns re-constructed. To prevent further loss, conservation grade fine silk crepeline cloth was secured from front. The back supports were mended and missing areas recreated with darning process. The velvet cloth with zardozi work was finally stitched to a lining cloth for additional support.

**Lime Testing Unit**

The ICI Delhi unit has been doing substantial scientific testing work on Water Vapour Permeability Study: Water absorption by total immersion, water absorption by capillary action; and the study of

Initial weight is taken of complete set and after that weight is taken every 7th day till three consecutive weights are achieved.

Water absorption tests. Sample preparation for Shahi Masji conservation, Lucknow
paintings belong to Bundela school of art, and represent Hindu mythological stories from *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Bhagwat Purana*. The paintings also narrate the scenes of *Krishnarasila* and *Govardhandhari*.

**Sri Chaturbhuj Nath ji ka Mandir, Rajasthan**
This 300 years old temple built by Paliwal Brahmins, with its Haveli style architecture, is very similar to other heritage temples in Jaipur. The entrance has geometric patterns decorated with Hindu god and goddesses. The beauty of this temple is the paintings on walls and ceilings portraying Hindu mythologies and Sanskrit shlokas. These paintings are made in araisb (lime plaster).

ICI BENGALURU

Conservation of Historic Tiles, Velankanni, Tamil Nadu

The Shrine Basilica of Lady of Our Good Health, Velankanni, Tamil Nadu draws pilgrims from all over the world and from all faiths. Recognizing the importance of this town, the Vatican has declared Velankanni as a Holy City.

ICI Bengaluru had the privilege of conserving an unusual material—ceramic tiles, adorning the altar piece of the Shrine Basilica.

The ceramic tiles are white and blue in colour depicting biblical, pastoral, and maritime themes. The colour scheme, the motifs, and the rendering of the narrative are in 17th century Delftware square tiles numbering about 350, with each measuring 13x13 cm. They have motifs on the four corners, a double circle, and the narrative depicted within the circle. Criss-crossing these tiles are fixed thin wooden beadings, covered with a thick coating of paint, which was probably
applied on many occasions without removing the earlier application. The passage of time has taken its toll on the tiles and the wooden beadings.

**Conservation Process**

The challenge lay not only in the numerous concerns in conserving the ceramic tiles but also the limited time frame stipulated by the Church authorities. The team worked day and night on the conservation treatment that required extensive literature study to identify the provenance of the tiles, understanding the material and technique of these tiles, followed by detailed documentation. Various scientific tests were conducted for identification of best methodology and safe treatment of the historic tiles.
ICI KOLKATA

Restoration of Paper Painting

A 38.1 cm X 38.1 cm water colour painting pasted on an acidic board had made it highly brittle. It was received by the ICI Centre with fungus stains. Careful conservation treatment involved fumigation to eradicate fungus, chemical cleaning and stabilization of the painted surface. A new acid-free mount was given.

ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation at Tagore Library, Lucknow University

The seventh lot of sixty paintings was received at the Institute for the on-going conservation work being undertaken at ICI Lucknow for the Tagore Library.

Conservation of rare printed books of His Excellency Library, Muscat

255 birch bark manuscripts from Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad, Lucknow were also conserved by ICI Lucknow.
ICI MUMBAI

A lacquer ware round box with perforated lid from Muradabad dating to late 19th century was conserved at the Centre. It was highly deteriorated with a tarnished surface and considerable amount of dirt. It also had hard whitish deposition in grooves of the design and was browned due to corrosion.

After careful scientific testing, the safest course of treatment was established.

ICI BHUBANESWAR

The paper manuscripts of the K R Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai are under conservation by the conservator specialists of the Bhubaneswar Centre.

Training in Conservation of Manuscripts

Bhubaneswar ICI Centre conducted a one month training course on *Curative Conservation of Manuscripts* from 14th Feb. -15th March supported by the National Mission for Manuscripts, Dept of Culture, Government of India. Twenty-two trainees from various institutions of the country participated in the course.
**WHITE WORLD ESPACE DES MONDES POLAIRES**

Espace des Mondes Polaires is a permanent museum, conceived by anthropologist Jean-Christophe Victor in France, that is the world’s first polar lands museum “to freeze the beauty of polar landscapes”. He provides a compelling visual tutorial on climate change and its effects on the Arctic and Antarctic regions due to climate change and global warming that will reshape these remote parts of Earth in the future perhaps? Jean-Christophe is the son of French polar explorer Paul-Emile Victor. The museum has many objects and documents of the expeditions of his father who passed away in 1995. Naturalist Stephane Niveau and Jean-Christophe have provided a visual tour of these icy regions to make visitors “feel the beauty of these polar landscapes and lights”. The photos and videos on eco-systems and sea levels bring to life the polar environment and expose its vulnerability. The Arctic surface temperature has risen by more than 2 degrees Celsius since the 19th century, i.e. double the pace of the rest of the world. Scientists are concerned about the antarctica’s western peninsula in particular. It has enough frozen water underneath a kilometer-thick ice sheet to lift global sea level by more than 20 feet - if it melts!

The Museum is built in the shape of a jutting iceberg, with 60% of its volume buried underground where visitors can walk into a world of intense white. Huge video screens show ice caps amid the noise of an icy blizzard. There are many frozen exhibits. One needs to be well and warmly clad for this exhilarating experience!

**RIMZON : TOTEM & TABOO**

Thiruvananthapuram based NN Rimzon is considered one of India’s deeply intellectual artists. His first solo show titled Forest of Living held recently at Talwar Gallery, Delhi explored the themes of creation and annihilation. Most of his works combine painting and sculpture and are usually connected to festivities and agriculture. The artist says his works are symbolically about mother goddess and creation that “is conceptual rather than dividing it into categories like figurative and non-figurative”. The presence of humans is often accompanied by skulls suggesting both life and death. Some of his works may be interpreted as symbols of creation, fertility or inner peace.

**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)**

**KASIKA CHITRAN : CULTURAL MAPPING OF LIVING CULTURE OF VARANASI**

*Khaak bhi jis zameen ka paras hai,
Shehar mash-hoor yeh Banaras hai.*

~ Vishwanath Mukherjee

Varanasi, one of the most ancient cities of the world, is a repository of a vast intangible cultural heritage emerging from a series of invasions and inhabitations that characterise its secular and spiritual nature, each carrying with it a plethora of intangible and tangible properties, social contracts and related norms of knowledge, traditions and customs. The audio-visual documentation of Kashi, Banaras or Varanasi reflects its unique identity that resulted from the immutable living memory of the communities settled here, and the multi-dimensional cultural influences accommodated by the city over the ages. The steadfast
river Ganga, the famous galis, the magnificent ghats, the countless temples, the kunds and places of religious interest, the historic Banaras Hindu University, the sadhus and varied cults, the profound theories of life and death, the commerce, the craftsmanship, the culinary flavours and the vitality of Banaras gharana and its exponents in the field of music and dance, make the intangible cultural heritage of Varanasi truly exceptional.

The ICHD project to map and document the intangible cultural character of Varanasi has been widely studied and documented over the years. It unravels the contoured elements of city life, both historic and contemporary, attaching as much value to the ancient and the authentic as to the transitions and transformations witnessed over time.

The conceptual framework of the project spanned extensive interviews with community members; knowledge holders; and representatives from institutions, crafts people, performing artistes; as well as individual data such as family histories and photographs manifested as dynamic and sometimes indefinable social assets of cultural heritage. The Report of the project is well underway and part of the project was inaugurated with a 2017 Calendar on INTACH’s Foundation Day. A short video documentation and a tourist brochure cum map have been created as well. This endeavour to document the intangible inheritances stored and scattered across the city, resulted in a research-oriented study categorised as follows:

**ART AND CRAFT**

Multiple forms of arts and crafts seen in objects, performances, related practices and skill-sets that are evident in the city. Thatheri Bazaar, Chowkhamba and Hadha Mahalla still remain the center for brass-work, jewellery, toys, clay work and sculpture. The arts and crafts seen today in the city culture represent a mix of the traditional and contemporary, with their boundaries often blurred. Given this, one can find sculpture, wooden toy-making, and gulabi meenakari items made of ashtadhatu, metal repousse work, bamboo umbrella-making, pottery items as well as wall paintings.

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**ART AND CRAFT**

Multiple forms of arts and crafts seen in objects,
CUISINE

The food found in Varanasi reflects the culture of inhabitants from all parts of India settled in the city. Apart from retaining 'traditional' gastronomic items and food preparations like tamatar chaat, suhaal ki chaat, thandai and kachori-jalebi, an appealing assortment of chhena and other sweets like kheerkadam, exclusive winter sweets like malaiyo, are to be found here. The city offers everything from Korean cuisine to an authentic Marwadi thali; from vegan and organic food items to fried momos, spicy noodles and also mutton and chicken dishes.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Kashi ka adhbhut vyavhaar
Saat vaar, nau tyohaar

Varanasi is known as the city of numerous fairs and festivals. The city observes as many as 9-11 festivities every month with its unique culture reflected in some major celebrations like Dev Deepawali, Chhath, Makar Sankranti/Pongal, Durga Puja, as also in the various small and big fairs like (Lakbbi Mela) Saawan ka Mela, the Nakkataiya of Chetganj, Pyaale ke Mela, and so on. All celebrations come with specific performances, and their rituals and cuisine. The onset of monsoon for example is celebrated as Kajri by way of folk songs composed on the themes of love, romance and farming, with group performances by women who dance and celebrate all night. In some areas, Dhunmuniya Kajri is performed by men as well.

ORAL TRADITIONS AND PERFORMING ARTS

The oral traditions passed from one generation to another are deep-rooted in the context of the ‘Gharanas of Banaras’. Notable musicians such as Pt. Ram Sahay, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Pt. Kanthe Maharaj, Pt. Ravi Shankar, Smt. Girija Devi and others, have played a vital role in developing and transforming the musical traditions of Banaras. Their knowledge is retained and transferred to the younger generations through age-old traditions.
like the “guru shishya parampara”. The Banaras Gharana of Kathak, Hindustani classical music, instruments like tabla, shehnai, flute and sarangi continue to incorporate traditional aspects, and have transformed to adapt to the changing times. Enactments of Ramlila and Krishna Leela depicting different episodes in the lives of Rama and Krishna popularised during the 18th and 19th century, are performed with the same fervour and faith even today. Apart from the month-long, world-famous Ramlila of Ramnagar, interesting variants and episodes of this performing art can be witnessed at the Manikarnika Ghat and Assi crossing (Dhanush Yajna).

GHAT AND GANGA RITUAL/OTHER PRACTICES

The holy river Ganga and 87 prime Ghats make the landscape of Varanasi exceptionally picturesque. Various fairs and festival-related practices are performed here, along with the daily community activities. The temples like Kashi Vishwanath and Sankat Mochan, the Ghats and the river, witness hordes of people gathering there throughout the year to pray and perform bathing rituals, observe death rites; hold cultural activities and celebrate festivals. These spaces have assumed a pivotal role in shaping the cultural ethos of Varanasi.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Raand, saand, seedhi, sanyasi
Inse bache toh seve Kashi...
~ Local saying

The cultural history of Varanasi comprising city narratives, folklore, myths and countless memories lie buried, but elders and the custodians of traditional knowledge and scholars have shared their experiences of witnessing the transformations that ‘Kashi’ has undergone to become the Varanasi of today. Their anecdotes reveal the innate personality of the ‘Banarasis’ often encountered in the form of their Akkhadpan, Phakkadpan, Mauj Masti, and the vibes of ‘desirelessness’. Ayurveda, Yoga, Kushti, Veda

Ramitila at the Manikarnika Ghat

Subah-e-Banaras

Gurukul run by Shri Kanhaiya Lal Mishra

Morning prayer at the Ghat

Gurukul run by Shri Kanhaiya Lal Mishra
and Yajna Gyan centres, and institutions like Banaras Hindu University, Sampurnan, Sanskrit University and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith. They continue to impart knowledge to the younger generations.

**ICH RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION DATABASE PROJECT**

The ICH Division has started an ambitious and unprecedented pan India project in the field of Intangible Culture which is an on-going process, to create an exhaustive template for the database. A large volume of India’s Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) wealth, documented over more than six decades is stored in printed form with various governmental and non-governmental institutions, academic institutions and even individuals, enshrining the creativity and knowledge of India’s diverse heritage. This is an invaluable national heritage that needs to be preserved and made accessible to all readers and researchers. ICHD database listing all such works is an ongoing process. It welcomes any listing (published/unpublished work) in the field of Intangible Culture that individuals or organisations may like to provide. The project has been initiated in various parts of the country where INTACH Chapters, with the support of their respective Convenors and Co-Convenors, will contribute to the project. The two objectives:

* To create one single unified search portal for our Chapters and researchers across India in order to bring it into public domain (http://intangibleheritage.intach.org/resources/ich-research-and-documentation/ this link is under construction) and as a resource for scholars.  
* To avoid duplication of research and documentation in the field of intangible culture and encourage impactful research.

Crucial data and information has been collected to date and compiled from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh and Kolkata; and is being uploaded on the above mentioned web section. This year the project will be initiated in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala.

**CREATION OF A CULTURAL MAP OF THE SAURA TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN ODISHA**

“Faith is the physical description of God. That’s what He is. It’s the only language to accurately describe his physical form”

- Jim Rowe

The Sauras, considered to be one of the ancient tribes of India, are a vulnerable tribal group of Odisha who find mention in Ramayana and Mahabharata. Their faith is reflected in their paintings, in the belief that through *iditals (wall paintings) they can connect to their deity and cure various ailments, appease the God, and keep away evil spirits.

In recent times some of their traditional practices are transforming. The paintings that served as a communication bridge between community and deity, and as an expression of their identity, are now also a
It serves as a platform for teaching folk songs and stories to the younger generation. In Soara society, women and children share the responsibility of working in the fields and earn a living. Under the polygamy system, the man distributes his land to all his wives and relies on their earnings. Men go to the forest to collect minor forest produce.

**PEOPLE OF THE PALANI HILLS**

The Kodaikanal Chapter undertook a project on the people of Palani hills supported by ICH Division. It covers various aspects of the intangible cultural heritage elements of these people, including details of the origin and historical evolution of the people of Palani Hills, their livelihood, sustenance strategies, heritage and traditional practices. The communities under this project include the indigenous Paliyans and Puliyans, the Mannadiars, Arunththiyars, Aasaris, Telugu Chetniks, Pirimali Kallars, Sri Lankan repatriates and others. The report is illustrated with important maps, images and datasheets strategically placed. It was collated on ground over an eight month period and 60 villages were studied through personal interviews, videos and photo documentation. In chronological order of study, the report describes the Dolmen people as the earliest inhabitants followed by the Paliyans – the hunter-gathering community, and Puliyans and other communities sharing similar cultural traits. The report makes several other references to the folklore, customs and rituals of these communities.

*Saora* is one among the very few tribal languages of India for which script has been developed. SP Mangei Gomango, known as Pandita Sabara Mangei Gomango is the inventor of the *Saora* dialect. Traditionally *Saoras* have been agriculturists - practicing terraced and shifting cultivation that is known as *podu* or *jhum* in many parts of the country - but the *Saora* refer to it as ‘*bagadachaas*’. *Saoras* are a low-income community, and follow the barter system within their community. They follow the system of *ansir* with community members sharing responsibilities and helping each other in building a house, sowing of seeds, harvesting, etc. The rate of migration for earning a better income has increased manifold in recent times.

*Saoras* have a rich folk culture that calls for a celebration every evening, to enjoy country liquor and sing folk songs.

A wind instrument called Kombu. Different kinds of drums are made by the Arunththiyars using buffalo and cow hide.
This international Workshop held on 6th-7th February at IIC and INTACH, New Delhi was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India bringing together experts from ASEM countries working in the field of heritage conservation. It was co-hosted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) as the ‘Knowledge Partner’.

INTACH Chairman LK Gupta welcomed the dignitaries from MEA and the participants. The Inaugural Address by MEA Secretary Preeti Saran welcomed the delegates and highlighted the need to focus on expanding and understanding our cultural heritage, and taking measures to ensure its conservation for posterity. She stressed on the process of conservation of buildings and artefacts that merit application of vastly different techniques and technologies, and a follow up on the equally diverse challenges faced by them. She hoped this workshop will jointly develop a more cohesive and integrated method of working that can further strengthen the relationship between two vibrant continents. Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML) Pooja Kapur and Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra were present during the inaugural session.

ASEM is a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe - two of the oldest and most dynamic continents on the planet. It is another milestone in INTACH interactions with ASEM.

The concept of the workshop was developed in consideration that whilst heritage conservation as a field is growing manifold, the gap between theory and practice is also widening. Some nations are taking big leaps in technology and techniques, while others are continuing with practices that have culturally evolved on the basis of traditional knowledge and craftsmanship. The broad aim of the workshop was to share some of these advancements and challenges in conservation techniques and instruments, both traditional and modern, to create an environment of shared learning and progress.

The technical sessions, interactive discussions and guided tours of conservation laboratories and heritage sites highlighted the strengths, essayed the further requirements in the field of techniques and instruments that are used in the conservation of monuments and artefacts.

**POTENTIAL OUTCOME**

The expected outcome from the Workshop are an exchange of knowledge, skills, instrumentation and technologies; developing opportunities for joint collaborative projects and research; exploring the development of local solutions and production units; capacity-building in modern scientific techniques for conservation; developing projects focused on methodologies of modern equipment, advanced techniques, new materials, etc.; and addressing...
issues related to documentation, archiving, interpretation, conservation and management of heritage.

PARTICIPANTS

Over 80 participants from India and the overseas attended the Workshop. There was substantial representation from ASEM countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Mongolia, Norway, Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

KEY DISCUSSION

Among a wide range of disciplines and expertise, this Workshop comprised an inclusive international dialogue amongst restorers, conservation architects, administrators, decision-makers, technocrats, cultural advisors, engineers, architects, archaeologists, museologists, interior designers, conservators, archivists, students and researchers. The event was truly multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural.

The Technical Sessions covered various aspects of conservation techniques and technologies with eminent national and international speakers sharing their knowledge and experience. PD INTACH Heritage Academy Navin Piplani set out the 'context to the workshop and projected outcomes', emphasizing the need to share and exchange knowledge and skills for enhancing conservation techniques and technology in ASEM countries. He urged participants to think of out-of-the-box solutions for research and development in this area. Efforts need to be made to link some of the key ideas to Government programmes and schemes in their respective countries. In the Indian context particular reference to projects like 'Make in India', 'Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana' (HRIDAY), 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) and 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) can be effectively tapped. In subsequent presentations, INTACH PD ICI Nilabh Sinha and colleague KK Gupta, and art conservationist Anupam Sah from Mumbai, highlighted the ‘advancements in art conservation and training in India: contribution from INTACH’; ‘Conservation in India with special reference to National Museum’, and ‘phased acquisition of conservation paraphernalia’ respectively. They shared significant works demonstrating the techniques, and advancements of these processes, with focus on traditional as well as modern practices of conservation and restoration of material heritage. Mr. Pavol Izvolt (Slovak Republic) made a presentation on ‘prevention by maintenance: experience with the maintenance of the historic buildings and promotion of the traditional crafts’. Mr. Roberto Bello (Italy) made a presentation illustrating ‘conservation equipment: the Italian view’.

The second Technical Session included guided tours of the two premier conservation laboratories in the country: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Conservation Laboratory and INTACH Conservation Laboratory. The visit facilitated interaction of participants with conservators working on textiles, paintings, paper and 3D objects. Both labs are well-equipped with modern instruments and technology, and support a wide range of imaging and analytical techniques that help to examine and determine the structure and condition of artefacts. The visit to the IGNCA lab showcased a range of approaches to the conservation, storage, documentation, cataloguing and archiving of artefacts, particularly paper, manuscripts, paintings and textiles.

The second day session of the workshop focused on conservation practices and processes for monuments and historic buildings in a wider international context. The third technical session began with a presentation by Ms. Jainab Aimee Tahil-Altillero (Philippines) on ‘techniques and instruments at the conservation of La Inmaculada Conception Church Guiuan, Eastern Samar’. Dr. Amara Srisuchat (Thailand) shared her insights into the ‘challenging tasks on application of traditional or modern techniques in conservation of Thailand’s heritage at risk’. Ms. Archana Jayaraman illustrated the techniques and technology used at the UNESCO-International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage for cultural heritage documentation and mapping. There was a stimulating presentation by Mr. Nicolas Boyes (the United Kingdom) on the ‘current UK conservation practice as illustrated by Rosslyn Chapel Conservation Project: the conservation of a 15th century unfinished Chapel located in Scotland’. In the Indian context, PD AHD Divay Gupta
shared the development of conservation techniques by using examples from projects executed by INTACH, with a presentation on ‘using instrumentation in INTACH for heritage conservation’. Focusing on modern technological advancements in Cambodia, Dr. Kou Vet (Cambodia) delivered an illustrated presentation on ‘technology circle to the usage of modern technology for cultural heritage in Kingdom of Cambodia’. Ms. Ieva Blinstrubiene (Lithuania) shared her insightful views on ‘restoring history for future generations; causes and consequences: cases of historic building restoration in Lithuania’. The final and most gripping presentation of this session was delivered by Mr. Sjur Mehlum (Norway) addressing issues of ‘the relationship between theory and practical work: some examples from the restoration of the Norwegian Stave Churches’. In the 4th Technical Session, participants were taken on a guided tour at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun’s Tomb for a practical and first-hand experience of its conservation work. They were shown around the site with special attention to the conservation of stone, lime plaster, water channels, charbagh gardens and the finial
which has been recently restored using traditional techniques and craftsmanship.

The final enriching session, with interactive discussions and deliberations, was attended by Chairman LK Gupta and Member Secretary CT Misra, and moderated by Anupam Sah and Navin Pipani. The discussion highlighted strengths, challenges and potentials in the field of techniques and equipments for conservation of monuments and artefacts. MEA JS Pooja Kapur delivered the valedictory address expressing delight at the heart-warming interest and enthusiasm of the delegates. She thanked INTACH for co-organizing this Workshop and all the Speakers for their keen participation. She hoped the various visits organized by INTACH had been useful, and invited their feedback.
A lecture on “New York City’s Landmark Preservation Commission-Roll and Issue” was delivered by its Chairperson Meenakshi Srinavasan at INTACH on 20th February. The Commission’s role and issues were elaborated by the speaker to a highly interested audience invited by INTACH.

**SHILPA SHASTRA AND STAPATHYA**

The ancient Indian architectural texts - *Shilpa Shastra* and the *Stapathy Ved* - are not part of the architectural syllabus in India. There is a general ignorance of these ancient building traditions and lack of exploring them for application in the modern context. INTACH Heritage Academy can provide:

- Introductory courses
- Appreciation courses (especially for the Hindu Temple and its cosmology)

Another one-off offering could be an illustrated lecture on the construction of the *Taj Mahal*. Considerable material exists in historical records and scholarly articles, land records, evolution of design, the craftsmen, the construction techniques including unique wooden foundations, the arts and crafts involved, the costs etc. This could be of great interest to many if widely advertised and structured as part of traditional architectural study.

**NHA REQUESTS IHA**

- An increased emphasis on research on the theme of the workshop will collaborative projects within the ASEM countries.
- Accreditation of heritage professionals including heritage contractors, traditional craftsmen and artisans be considered in order to establish quality assessment and control mechanism.
- South Asian and South-East Asian countries look forward to bilateral cooperation with India for documentation and conservation of cultural heritage and to share both traditional and modern advancements in conservation techniques and instruments.
- Pilot projects for heritage documentation and mapping, use of space technologies to be explored. However while innovation is encouraged one must not reinvent the wheel.
- Establishment of conservation and heritage information resource banks. Initially, a desk study may be undertaken to document the existing conservation information platforms in the ASEM countries.
- Regular reporting and dissemination of research initiatives and conservation projects.
- Exploratory joint projects to develop conservation tools and materials, particularly between India and countries like Italy, Germany, Norway and the UK.

**INTACH CULTURAL CELL**

*Exhibition-‘Feminists of Awadh’-8th March*

On the occasion of *International Women’s Day*, Cultural Programme Coordinator Manisha Singh organized a unique exhibition on women pioneers and feminists of Awadh. They have left behind an inspiring legacy long before any feminist movement of recent times. These are stories of women who may not have necessarily stepped out into the public domain and assumed roles traditionally associated with men, but through their writings, art, social work and even effective management...
of the domestic place, they succeeded in engaging with the outside world. They asserted their identities and have left a strong impress for generations to come.

The stories ranged from Begum Akhtar, the first woman to have performed on stage; writers like Shivani, Attia Hosain, Ismat Chughtai Qurratulain Hyder, writer Rashid Jahan; member of the Constituent Assembly Begum Aizaz Rasul; doctors like Dr. Engineer and Dr. Kutty; peasant leader like Jaggi Devi and Nautanki; performer Ghulab Bai and then the unknown ‘meri bua’, ‘meri dadi’ and ‘meri ma’.

Short book readings and Qissas (tales) about some of these exceptional women followed the inauguration of the exhibits.

**Gangalabri, 18th March**

The inaugural event of *Ganga-River of Life and Eternity*, is an initiative of *National Mission for Clean Ganga*. It was held at Central Office on 18th March, reflective of INTACH’s involvement with Ganga, “Gangalabri” is a devotional poem comprising 52 shlokas dedicated to Goddess Ganga by Pandit Jagannath, a Sanskrit scholar at the court of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. These shlokas have been translated into English by Professor Monica Horstmann who graced the occasion. She gave an erudite lecture on the subject, followed by a recital by Vidya Shah.

INTACH Chairman spoke extensively on INTACH’s engagement with the Ganga.
HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE (HECS)

The on-going HECS nation-wide programmes are systematically covering most cities where INTACH has established its Chapters. Principal Director HECS Purnima Datt makes the effort to be present at most locations to highlight the importance of heritage conservation to students and teachers alike. She encourages the formation of Heritage Clubs in their respective schools, and addresses teachers to develop innovative teaching modules in heritage education. HECS emphasis is on training in educational institutions at both student and teacher level, for which programmes are held with the support of the local INTACH Chapters, Convenors and Members. Thus Teachers Training Programme, College Volunteer Programme, essays on My City My Heritage by students, and Filmit Festival that grab much interest and are a fascinating experience for young people, are all held through the year. PD Purnima Datt stresses in particular the utilization of resources provided to teachers. And the importance of living in harmony with heritage.

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TTW)

Kolkata, 9th - 10th January

In collaboration with the Sarva Shiksha Mission and West Bengal State Chapter 30 schools participated. Deputy Chairperson, State Advisory Council Dr. Arun Kumar Chattopadhyay talked about the rich history and heritage of the colonial city.

Pokhran, 16th January

The TTW was organised for 46 teachers from 25 schools in coordination with the Jaisalmer Chapter. Distinguished speakers historian and poet Jordan Singh, artist Ram Singh Rathore, and historian Manohar Singh Rathore addressed the gathering.

Jalandhar, 30th January

The TTW was held at the Jalandhar Army Public School, the first workshop since the inception of this recent Chapter headed by Convenor Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Balwinder Singh. The emphasis was on the living heritage of this cantonment town. It concluded with a vote of thanks from the school Principal Ashok Jain.
Kathua, 27th - 28th February

The TTW workshop was held in collaboration with local Government Degree College and Wildlife Training Centre, Jasrota, J&K attended by teachers from 54 schools. Jammu Convenor SM Sahni encouraged participants to utilise the training effectively. Chapter Chairperson Dr. CM Seth (of WWF-India) talked about traditional water harvesting systems in Kathua District. The teachers received hands-on demonstrations on how to develop innovative HECS lesson plans as well.

On the heritage walk to the Jasrota Fort, the Teachers were told about its history by Prof. Anita Billawaria, Director, Center for History, and about the culture of Jammu and Ladakh Regions. It is believed that Jasrota Fort was so strongly fortified that Akbar was unable to annexe it, despite many efforts!

Tuni, 5th March

The TTW was held at Tuni (near Visakhapatnam, AP) and attended by 23 schools and colleges. East Godavari Convenor Sesha Kumari delivered the inaugural address. Resource person Narayan Rao spoke about the Buddhist sites of Andhra Pradesh – Kummani Lova, Tundi Patram Agrahara, Chikkadu Agrahara, etc.

FAMOUS TEMPLES OF ANDHRA PRADESH

- Venkateswara Temple, Tirumala-Tirupati. The abode of Lord Venkateswara, his wife Padmavati and his second wife, a Muslim. The Bibinanchari Shrine is also located here.
- Srisallam Temple, abode of Shiva worshipped as Mallikarjuna and goddess Parvati. It is one of the 18 Shaktipithas and one of the Jyotirlingas worshipped by devotees of Shiva.
- Annavaram Temple situated in East Godavari District. It is the abode of Lord Satyadeva or Satyanarayana Swamy.
- Simhachalam Temple, in Visakhapatnam District is the abode of much worshipped Varaha Narasimha.

COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (CHVP)

Delhi, 19th January

The CHVP Workshop was held for undergraduate students and faculty from 10 colleges of Delhi University. PD HECS introduced various aspects and components of heritage. ICI Centre Coordinator Dr. Padma Rohilla coordinated the visit to INTACH Lab. Urban Planner Prof. AGK Menon spoke on ‘Delhi - Then and Now’
referring to heritage based developments in the city. Historian Dr. Narayani Gupta also addressed the trainees. Delhi Convener Dr. Swapna Liddle conducted the heritage walk to Lodhi Garden.

**Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC), Delhi University Delhi, 6th February**

PD HECS Purnima Datt and National Coordinator Shivaa Rawat conducted a Heritage Education session for 60 undergraduate history students of Delhi College of Arts and Commerce during their annual history festival 'Dharohar'. Faculty members Associate Professor Neeru Ailawadi; Associate Professor Sudha Sharma; Assistant Professor Dr. K Suresh Kumar; and Assistant Professor Awadhesh Kumar Sah also attended the session.

**Heritage Education Session, School of Architecture, Delhi Technical Campus, Greater Noida**

PD HECS addressed the professors and faculty of the School of Architecture, Delhi Technical Campus, Greater Noida, explaining role of HECS in raising heritage awareness among young minds. Ms. Shivaa Rawat elaborated on the College Heritage Volunteer Training programme and its objectives. The Faculty appreciated the various heritage activities undertaken by INTACH.

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

JAGO was launched last quarterly year to promote good citizenship values and create greater heritage awareness and conservation in close coordination with INTACH Chapters across India that are conducting several such HECS workshops. It is now an ongoing programme.

**Jaipur, 6 - 7 December**

The H&CTW was held at Jaipur for the participants of the West Zone INTACH Chapters.

**Bhilwara, 19th February**

The first in the subsequent series this quarter of H&CTW was held by the Bhilwara Chapter on *Heritage and Good Citizenship Training Workshop* at Hotel Nandini, attended by 75 participants, including active representatives from educational institutions. The Chief Guest Jaipur High Court judge Dinesh Somani, former chairperson of urban improvement trust LN Dad; senior architect RL Dargar,

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**JAGO - HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP BOOKLET**

This Handbook is based on material prepared for trainers attending the Heritage and Citizenship Workshop. The interactive booklet put together by HECS has indicative exercises, worksheets and ready-to-use resource material for envisaged heritage activities. It will support constructive civic action and inculcation of heritage sensitive values among its readers.
Karauli Chapter Co-Convenor Shivpal Singh Rav were the special guests. It was presided by Udaipur Chapter Convenor SK Verma, IFS (Retd.) together with Bhilwara Convenor Babu Lal Jaju. The workshop concluded with a field visit to Smritivan; Harni Hills and Harni Mahadev Temples.

MONUMENT SPEAK

Creative Presentation by Delhi Schools

Delhi, 24th February

As a part of the INTACH Foundation week celebrations, HECS invited Delhi schools to make creative presentations on monuments adopted by them at the India International Centre, New Delhi. About 144 school students from 19 schools showcased their respective monuments through varied presentations, with power point digital documentations, nukkad natak (street play), dastangoi (story telling), theatre, songs, frame freeze, and other such presentations. Reports from 30 schools on selected monuments and envisaged heritage activities were also submitted. The learning and drawing inspiration from the creative workshops (Dastangoi, Theatre and Calligraphy) organised earlier during World Heritage Week in November were utilised to showcase their monument during the programme. The panel of jurists comprised IIC Senior Programme Officer Tete; INTACH Delhi Co-Convenor Dr. Swapna Liddle; Ms. Director-Consultant Publications & Heritage Tourism Rekha Khosla, and INTACH Cultural Affairs Co-ordinator Manisha Singh.

HERITAGE WALKS

Delhi, 16th – 17th January

HECS in collaboration with Delhi Chapter conducted a heritage walk to Purana Quila on 16th-17th January for 230 students from Father Agnel School. It acquainted students with various monuments of the area, and understanding the historical significance of the complex. Another such endeavour was the heritage walk for 76 students of Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Delhi University to promote and expand heritage values among college students, and make them aware of the historical value of this World Heritage Site.

MY CITY MY HERITAGE COMPETITION (MCMH)

About 22 State Chapters were a part of the My City My Heritage – an essay and painting competition. It was held by the following Chapters at:

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, 26th January:
Around 75 students from 10 schools participated in the All India MCMH competition.
Six INTACH Chapters and two State Chapters were awarded the “Best Chapter Award” at the State Convenors Meet held in February at INTACH New Delhi for conducting the Heritage Quiz-2016 in an exemplary manner. The award winning Chapters were Ambala Chapter; Bijapur Chapter; Jammu Chapter; Karauli Chapter; Machilipatnam Chapter and Sikkim Chapter. While the State Chapters were Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Assam, Dibrugarh, 26th February held the MCMH at Sampoorna Kendra Vidyalaya with Chandan Sharma, Deptt of History, Dibrugarh University as the Chief Guest.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Srikakulam, 28th January: The Chapter conducted MCMH with the participation of 10 meritorious Government schools. District Education Officer Devananda Reddy and the Deputy Educational Officer Subbarao interacted with the students.

East Godavari, 29th January: MCMH was conducted for 14 schools of the city. Associate Prof.& Head of the Department of History Dr. Abel Raju Babu, SKVT College Rajahmundry was the Chief Guest.

Machilipatnam, 13th February: MCMH was held for 12 city schools each with 50-60 students making it one of the largest participation.

Visakhapatnam, 25th-27th February: MCMH was conducted in two parts, to facilitate a larger number of 100 students from seven schools of the city attending the event.

Kadapa, 6th March: MCHH was conducted at Sri Shantiniketan High School with students from 8 schools; the programme was covered by local media channels.

BIHAR

Bhagalpur, 27th January: MCMH was held as a part of the Chapter festivities for INTACH Foundation Day with 84 students from 6 city schools attending the event.
CHHATISGARH

Bilaspur, 16th January:
Conducted by the Chapter at Deokindan Girls Higher Secondary School, 19 schools attended the event. Its former Principal Bharti Bhattacharya spoke to the students on the importance of protecting their heritage.

Raipur, 3rd February: The Chapter conducted MCMH in collaboration with the Inner Wheel Club at the Balaji Vidya Mandir, with students from 9 schools participating. Historian Dr. DN Parihar, and Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla of the Tourism Department were the Chief Guests. They highlighted the history of Chattisgarh and urged them to take a keen interest in our history, culture and society.

GOA

Panjim, 28th February:
The MCMH was held at the Sunaparanta Centre for the Art, Altinho, Panjim. Six schools from Panjim, Salcete, Saligao, Ponda and Sanquelim with a total of 28 students participating in the competition with great enthusiasm.

GUJARAT

Rajpipla, 4th January: INTACH Chapter conducted MCMH at the heritage building Rajpipla Club with students from 14 schools writing essays in English, Hindi as well as Gujarati. The Chief Guest was District Education Officer Baria, and the event was well covered by the media.

Jamnagar, 13th February: The Summair Sports Club, hosted MCMH competition with students from 5 schools writing in their mother tongue Gujarati. The Club is a heritage building donated by late Jam Saheb HH Ranjitsinh of Nawanagar in 1929.

HARYANA

Yamuna Nagar, 4th February: The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition at Dyal Singh Public School, Jagadhri for student from 10 schools. Eminent doctor and educationist Dr. Rupinder Singh was the Chief Guest at the event widely covered by the local media.

Panipat, 9th February: Students of class VI -IX from eight
schools, Panipat participated in the competition held at Arya Girls’ Public School.

Ambala, 10th February: Fifteen schools participated in the prestigious all India competition My City My Heritage. Lt. Gen. Ranjit Singh (retd.) was the chief guest. The event well covered by the local media.

Karnataka

Bengaluru, 26th November: The Chapter held the Essay and Painting Competition in collaboration with National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru. Their premises also houses the NGMA. Children wrote and drew about the city’s old markets, its two palaces and its gardens.

Karnataka

Himachal Pradesh

Kangra, 21st January: Kangra Chapter organised the competition on 21st January at Govt. Sr. Secondary School for students from 13 private and Govt. schools who participated in spite of bad weather. Chapter Members also invited rural area schools instead of just focusing on urban kids. Principal Ashwani Dhiman of the host school gave a talk on heritage.

Mandi, 1st February: Mandi Chapter successfully conducted the MCMH essay and painting competition – with participation of 81 students from the District. Dr. KK Pruthi spoke to the students about Mandi.

Jammu and Kashmir

Leh - Ladakh, 9th December: The Ladakh Chapter conducted the MCMH competition with participation from 7 schools. Eminent artist Mipham Otsal an alumni of National School of Drama was the Chief Guest at the event.

Dharwad, 22nd December: Baalabalaga High School hosted the MCMH competition for 30 participating schools.

Belgavi, 8th January: MCMH competition was organised at Kamal Basti for 64 students across the city. The Chief Guest was nationally renowned artist and art teacher Prakash Sidnal who demonstrated his art by sketching. INTACH Member Swatee Jog anchored the event.

Bijapur, 4th February: MCMH was held at the historic Gol Gumbaz with students from 12 schools participating.
Susilendra Nayak Local Times of India reporter inaugurated the function, while Vijaypur Maha Nagar Palika Member Premanand Biradar was the Chief Guest.

**Gulbarga, 18th February:** MCMH competition was held at Rotary School in collaboration with Rotary Club. It was inaugurated by MLC, Legislative Council, Karnataka BG Patil, and well known Kannada writer Prof Vasant Kustagi gave a special lecture on heritage of Gulbarga to students from 22 participating schools.

**KERALA**

**Kasargod, 18th & 27th February:** The Kasargod Chapter conducted the MCMH Competition in two parts to cover the entire district, with 16 Malayalam and English medium schools participating. Renowned art historian KK Marar addressed the students stressing on the need for conserving heritage for posterity.

**Trivandrum 25th February:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH Competition at the Trivandrum Golf Club, an iconic heritage structure of the city. The Chief Guest SN Raghuchandran Nair, Hon. Secretary of the Golf Club, spoke about various heritage structures of the city and the challenges faced today. He explained the historical value of the Golf Club and efforts made to maintain its heritage character.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**Jabalpur, 6th and 8th December:** The Jabalpur Chapter conducted the MCMH competition in two phases as there were 269 students from 9 schools of the city participating in the event. It was also covered by the local media.

**Gwalior, 19th January:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH Competition at the Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya for students from 14 schools. INTACH GC Member Kamakshi Maheshwari spoke about the importance of heritage in our lives. MP State Convenor Dr. HB Maheshwari acquainted the students with the history and heritage of Gwalior.

**Dhar, 22nd January:** The Chapter conducted the My City My Heritage Competition at the Dhar Fort. The
Convenor spoke to students from 13 schools about the city’s heritage.

**Shivpuri, 18th February:** Shivpuri Chapter conducted the MCMH programme at Happy Days School; 65 students participated in the event.

**Burhanpur, 26th February:** The Chapter conducted programme for students, with the participation of INTACH Members, teachers and parents who lent their whole hearted support for the event.

**MAHARASHTRA**

**Mumbai, 24th November:** Seven schools participated in the MCMH competition organized by Mumbai Chapter at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum. Architecture expert Kaiwan Mehta, who is also knowledgable on literature, Indian aesthetics and cultural studies, was invited as the Guest Speaker.

**Solapur, 10th February:** 21 schools participated in the MCMH event organised by the INTACH Chapter.

**Chandrapur, 19th February:** Convenor Ashok Singh Thakur inaugurated the MCMH competition held at Hindi City High School, with Pravin Kaveri as the Chief Guest. The event was coordinated by RR Bhramane.

**MIZORAM**

**Aizawl, 28th January:** Eight schools participated in MCMH competition at Govt. Chaltlang High School in Aizawl. Chapter Co-Convenor C Chawngkunga addressed the students, teachers and parents present at the event that was widely covered by the local media.

**ODISHA**

**Bhubaneshwar, 18th December:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH at BM Bagurai High School for 11 high schools of the city. The students were acquainted with the importance of preserving and conserving tangible and intangible forms of the city’s culture.

**Balasore, 19th February:** The Chapter conducted the
MCMH competition for students from 8 schools. The emphasis was on instilling the idea of conserving heritage in young minds with reference to Indian aesthetics, literature and cultural studies.

**PUNJAB**

*Amritsar, 17th February:* An essay writing and poster making competitions on MCMH was organised by the Chapter at Khalsa College Public School inviting participation from different schools, along with the school teachers in charge.

*Patiala, 23rd February:* The Chapter organised the competition at Senior Secondary Model School, Punjabi University, Patiala with participation from 5 schools.

**RAJASTHAN**

*Shekhawati, 5th December:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH Competition in schools of Dundlod. An effort was made to make young students aware of their city's endangered heritage.

*Sawai Madhopur, 14th January:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH for students from 25 schools of the city. The local media also covered the event.

*Barmer, 27th January:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH programme for students of 11 schools, as part of the celebrations of the INTACH Foundation Day. The Convenor outlined INTACH organisation. Chief Guest Jasol Rawal Kishen Singh spoke about the natural heritage of Barmer, especially the Luni River that is gravely threatened due to environmental pollution. It made the youth recognise the urgency of protecting heritage.

**Udaipur, 2nd February:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH Competition at the Maharana Mewar Public School for students from 9 schools. Chief Guest Dr. Shri Krishna Jugnoo, a renowned Indologist stressed on the need for preserving art, heritage and culture.

*Alwar, 12th February:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition at the Fatehjung Gumbad premises for students from 8 schools. The event was reported by the local press as a unique attempt to rescue and bring into focus the city's heritage.

*Jodhpur, 23rd February:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition for students from 15 schools. Convenor Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar stressed on the importance of heritage education as the first step towards conserving national heritage.

*Karauli, 4th March:* The Chapter conducted the MCMH event for students from 11 schools. The participation of 30 differently abled children from a school for deaf and dumb students made this a very special and unique event that other Chapters may take note.
**Jabalpur, 4th March:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition for students from 10 participating schools. The Convenor acquainted students with the work of INTACH as India’s premier heritage conservation organisation.

**Bikaner, 15th March:** The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition at I.G.N.D High School for students from various schools.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Orai, 8th & 15th December:** MCMH competition was held at Gurukulam Public School and Ramshri Devi Public School with nearly 100 students participating in the event.

**Mahoba, 27th – 29th December:** Mahoba Chapter conducted MCMH competition in Mahoba with students from Saraswati Bali Vidyamandir, Vidyamandir Inter College, Nehru Inter College, Inter College and from Gyansthal Public School participating over the three days.

**Varanasi, 21st January:** The programme was organised at Little Flower School. More than 100 students from 12 schools participated. Dr. Ratnesh Verma, Regional Culture Officer was invited to speak on the heritage of Varanasi. The event received good media coverage.

**Gorakhpur, 22nd January:** An essay and painting competition was held at Mahatama Gandhi Inter College Bank Road Gorakhpur for students from 12 schools participating in MCMH programme. Former Head of Department of Ancient History of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, a renowned authority on heritage, gave a heritage lecture to the young audience.

**Allahabad, 25th January:** On World Tourism Day, Allahbad Chapter organised the MCMH at K.P. Girls Inter College. Convenor Pragyana Mehrotra welcomed participants and guests stating that heritage preservation was the duty of every citizen. Freedom fighter Bagwig Prasad Biguliya, possibly the only soldier of Independence struggle in Allahabad, spoke about life and times during the freedom struggle. Ten schools participated in the event with 25 accompanying teachers.

**Brajbhoomi, 22nd February:** MCMH was conducted at Brilliant Public School Aligarh. INTACH Member Dr. Lalit Upadhayaya spoke about the work of INTACH and Aligarh’s heritage.

**Rohilkhand, 8th March:** MCMH competition was held at Jamuna Devi Inter College focusing on participation from rural areas of Rampur. Co-Convenor Kashif Khan Prasad Biguliya, possibly the only soldier of Independence struggle in Allahabad, spoke about life and times during the freedom struggle. Ten schools participated in the event with 25 accompanying teachers.

**Brajbhoomi, 22nd February:** MCMH was conducted at Brilliant Public School Aligarh. INTACH Member Dr. Lalit Upadhayaya spoke about the work of INTACH and Aligarh’s heritage.
 urges the students to take pride in heritage of the rural areas. The event was well covered by the media.

Tamil Nadu

Nagarcoil, 7th January: The Chapter conducted the MCMH competition at Scott Christian Higher Secondary School, with 10 schools participating in the event.

Madurai, 27th January: As part of INTACH’s Foundation Day Celebration, Madurai Chapter conducted the MCMH programme at the Thiagarajar College with the participation of many schools of the city. Retired professor of art history at the Madurai Kamraj University Dr. R Venkatraman was the keynote speaker on the heritage of Madurai.

Thanjavur, 31st January: The Chapter conducted the MCMH programme at Nav Bharat Matric Higher Secondary School. Convenor Bhonsle also inaugurated the Tamil issue of the Young INTACH newsletter. Students from 14 schools participated in the event. AHD & Engineering Division S Rajendran spoke on the heritage of the city.

Chennai, 4th February: The Chapter conducted the My City My Heritage Competition in around 20 schools of the city.

Nilgiris, 10th February: The Chapter conducted the MCMH at the YWCA with the participation of 5 schools from English and Tamil medium schools. Former Hindu correspondent MD Radhakrishnan was the Chief Guest. He spoke about the heritage of Ooty with an interesting presentation.
HECS FILM FESTIVALS

*Filmit* is another on-going HECS multi-cultural project that helps students make short films on their city’s heritage. It culminates in an annual *Filmit Festival* which screens the best movies and awards schools in various cities.

**Kolkata, 2nd February**

The Annual *Filmit Kolkata Festival 2016-17* for students from 12 schools was inaugurated by Kolkata Convenor Gour with State Convenor GM Kapur presiding as the chief guest. Director, Centre for Contemporary Communication Mallika Jalan was also present.

**Delhi, 8th February**

*Delhi Filmit* Festival was organised in collaboration with IIC, Delhi with 37 teachers and students from 32 schools present. Nila Madhab Panda encouraged the students that a story is what inspires people, so children must utilise opportunity and create stories which the world is waiting to hear. Arushi Mudgal encouraged the students to document their local heritage. The festival concluded with the certificates in different categories of film making and distribution of prizes by INTACH Chairman LK Gupta.

**Ahmedabad, 10th February**

*Filmit Ahmedabad Festival* was celebrated on 10th February at the Shreyas Foundation with 6 schools participating. It was inaugurated by the Chapter Co-Convenor Pavan A Bakeri and presided by the chief guest Aditi Thakor, initiator and founder of Broken Box Filmz. Each school was felicitated for the efforts at film making and received awards.

**Mumbai, 10th February**

*Filmit Film Festival* was organised at Bhau Daji Lad Museum for 9 schools, along with their teachers attending the event. Participants were welcomed by Ms. Gargi Mashruwala, an active member of the Mumbai Chapter. Students shared their *Filmit* experiences. The Chief Guest Sukant Panigrahy is an established art director. The festival concluded with the distribution of certificates and awards.

**Goa, 11th February**

*Goa Filmit Festival* was organised at Sharada Mandir School in collaboration with the Goa Chapter, with the participation of students and teachers from 12 schools.
India, followed by the prize distribution ceremony, with Dr. Vasanthi awarding certificates and prizes.

**Hyderabad, 17th February**

*Filmit Festival* was held on 17 February at Jubilee Hills Public School with 11 schools from the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad participating. Convenor Anuradha Reddy welcomed everyone to the festival. HECS Programme Coordinator Abhishek Das elaborated on the *Filmit* project. Chief Guest Chandrasekhar Singh, a film maker and photographer, and the Guests of Honour were Anurag Singh (filmmaker, photographer) and Ms. Pulkita Parsai (Tuning Folk Films).

**Publications**

**Adopt a Monument**

The Hindi translation of the popular resource material has been put together for teachers, students, and enthusiasts to learn how to conserve India’s magnificent built heritage. The book explains in steps various measures to be taken to protect a monument.

*HECS Calendar* on the theme of *Clean Monument Campaign* undertaken by students was released on 2 January 2017, along with the *HECS Planner* on theme of Clean Monument Campaign prepared for Heritage Clubs.
**NOTE**: The 4th Capacity Building Workshop for INTACH Members (other than Convenors/Co-Convenors) / INTACH Institutional Members is scheduled to be held 23rd-26th April 2017 at Central Office by the INTACH Heritage Academy. One or two Members from each Chapter may attend. Nominations from Chapter should be forwarded at the earliest. For any information, lodging and transport expenses, etc. please contact Chapters Division Director Gr. Capt. Rahul Pathak.

**NOTE**: Chapters are advised to seek clearance from Central Office for taking up Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA). The Assessment Report prepared must also be vetted by the Central Office before submission to the sponsor concerned.

**NOTE**: Chapters are once again requested to ensure that their reports are sent latest by 15th-20th of the closing month of the quarterly Virasat. No complaints will be entertained or appreciated regarding non coverage of reports received after 20th March, 20th June, 20th September and 20th December.

**NOTE**: Chapters are requested to submit the Annual Audited Accounts and the Annual Activity Report for the financial year 2016-2017 at the earliest. This is essential for timely publication of INTACH Annual Report (AGR).

**NOTE**: Chapters are requested to update Membership details as on 31st March and forward them to Chapters Division latest by 30th June 2017.

**STATE CONVENORS WORKSHOP 2017**

State Convenors Meet at INTACH Central Office annually coincides with our Founders Day. This year however the meeting was held on 9th-10th February for wider consultations and in-depth interaction with INTACH personnel.

Chairman welcomed the State Convenors and Co-Convenors expressing his gratitude for their sustained commitment to INTACH missions. He specially mentioned Convenor Saleem Beg who was honoured with a well deserved Lifetime Achievement Award by the J&K Government for his contribution to heritage conservation. Chairman made several suggestions that should be the guiding force for Chapter activities like encouraging community partnership and ownership in conservation, citing in particular the successful example of the conservation of ancient Jolpa Temple in Jhalawar. He felt it is important to demystify the term heritage and define it in simple terms of ownership to directly connect with local people. Chairman advised Convenors to seek corpus funds through State Government and Corporates as such general welfare activities will find greater resonance. Pilot projects that have a direct connect with people, like water conservation project at Assi Nala in Varanasi through bio-remediation, should be encouraged with support of INTACH Division concerned.

Chairman drew attention to IHA-led workshops, advising Convenors to encourage Chapter Members and stake holders to avail of this capacity building opportunity. INTACH now has a well equipped Knowledge Centre (IKC) with an extensive library, archival and documentation services. It is in a position to enter into Knowledge Partnerships on the lines of the MOU recently signed with APSARA (Cambodia) for conservation of Angkor Vat.

Individual briefings by the various Heads of Division gave Convenors an overview of INTACH Central Office and the multiple expertise available to them with easy access for any projects that Chapters might take up in collaboration with their State authorities.

Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra in her welcome address
offered administrative suggestions. There is need to audit and assess membership strength, and identify gaps in capacity building. INTACH plans to invite institutional members also for capacity building courses. Recently a workshop was conducted for the Ministry of External Affairs. Twelve countries of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) attended the workshop on conservation techniques. The delegation from Bhutan visited Central Office to learn about INTACH mandate and explore feasibility of conservation work. Member Secretary mentioned that the UN has declared 2017 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism Development. INTACH proposes to connect with the Indian Ocean rim countries for better understanding and cooperation.

Chairman invited the State Convenors/Co-Convenors to discuss issues of common concern that need wider consultation like approaching NITI Ayog/Culture Ministry to revive Central Government sponsored heritage conservation schemes; tapping CSR Funds or other institutional support; adoption of a multi-pronged strategy to approach stake holders; and Exchange Programmes between Chapters. The proposed amendment AMASR Act 1958 entails a stringent cultural impact assessment before executing works essential for public welfare in a prohibited area.

PD ICH Division Nerupama Modwel spoke on on-going ICH Research and Documentation Database Project. She introduced the Chairperson, Crafts Revival Trust Ritu Sethi who made a presentation on ICH Documentation, Conservation and Revival. PD AH Division Divay Gupta briefed participants on the progress of the Mission Municipalika, the Jolpa Temple Project and suggested Chapters to initiate such project. NH Division presented a case study on the Assi Nala Project. The State Convenors/Co-Convenors had the opportunity to present an overview of the activities undertaken by their respective Chapters and highlight forthcoming projects, etc. Chairman appreciated their spirited participation and suggested new initiatives like publication of an annual State Chapter Newsletter. Other important suggestions he made were setting up local ICI Centres, adoption of a village with heritage potential like a mascot to better the lives of village folks; and creation of mini knowledge centres on local heritage.

**CONVENORS’ DINNER - ‘DELHI DAAWAT’**

*(9th February)*

The State Convenors and Co-Convenors were treated to a very special dinner - Delhi Dawat - concluding the Annual INTACH State Convenors’ Conference. Dr. Pushpesh Pant curated the Avadh Cuisine offered to them, a gastronomic heritage of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The Professor is an eminent writer, historian, and food critic who curetted the special menu and gave an illustrated talk delving into the history and places where it is currently available. He had fascinating stories to tell about foods identified with the culinary landscape of Delhi in historic places like Chandni Chowk. Coordinator Manisha Singh did not forget to invite everyone present to also partake of the delicious treat laid out at a India International dining room exclusively for the hearty diners from INTACH!

**CHAPTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Chapter Advisory Committee held a meeting on the eve of State Convenors Meet on 8th February. An exchange programme of young INTACH Members between Chapters was suggested to attract greater youth membership. The Committee recommended encouragement of rural craft and heritage. It also advised the adoption of the Hindi translation of Chapter Guidelines by the Barmer Chapter for general circulation.

**CONVENORS/CO-CONVENORS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP**

The Workshop for the newly appointed Chapter Convenors and Co-Convenors was held at Central Office on 16th-17th March to orient them with INTACH’s mandate and Chapter Guidelines. They were advised to strictly adhere to the policies, regulations and practices enshrined in the Memorandum of Association, and as laid down in the Chapter Guidelines issued to all Chapters. A few eminent and experienced State Chapter Convenors were on hand to share their personal experiences and strategies they adopted to acquaint the new Convenors to facilitate executing their new responsibilities. Chairman LK Gupta extended a warm welcome reminding them that it was a constitutional duty as mandated in the Constitution to protect and conserve national heritage. He also gave them a brief overview of INTACH’s humble origins and the rewarding journey over the last three decades to become
“an institute of national importance”. INTACH’s role, vision and future objectives were elaborated by Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra. To encapsulate: INTACH’s mission has been “to conserve India’s heritage and to sensitise communities and the Government towards the need for its protection”.

The newly inducted Convenors were given an overview of INTACH Divisions at Central Office through the presentations made by the Heads of all Heritage Divisions like Architectural Heritage, Listing and Documentation, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Crafts and Community, Art and Material Heritage, Natural Heritage, INTACH Heritage Academy, and Education and Communication Service. Chairman LK Gupta mentioned in particular some outstanding examples of Chapter initiatives taken by their respective Convenors like the Dharwad Chapter which set up a local museum; the Kodaikanal Chapter that restored a heritage library; and the Tamil Nadu Chapter which obtained the requisite permission for restoration of temples of Maruvathur and Vedal (near Kanchipuram) by villagers themselves. There are indeed infinite possibilities for Convenors to rise and shine!

The new Convenor and Co-Convenors had many opportunities over lunch and dinner to interact with the stalwarts present and seek clarifications. INTACH wishes them every success for the onerous responsibilities they will now be undertaking.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Guntur

The Chapter conducted the famous Sankranti festival under the aegis of Sankranti Sambaralu at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan grounds. It attracted a wide participation with various events like Rangavalli, folk dance, fancy dress competition, cooking Pongal as part of the celebrations. The famous bull dance was a major attraction covered by local TV channels.

Kadapa

The Chapter organized heritage awareness programmes at the Government P.G. and Degree College highlighting various heritage sites of Kadapa. A copy of the presentation was handed over to Principal Subba Narasaiah.

Principal and Professors of History Department of the
College - Smt. Siva Parvathi and Ramesh, Convenor S Elias Reddy, Co-Convenor Dr. P Venu Gopal and INTACH Member M Suresh attended the programme.

On 1st January Convenor S Elias Reddy accompanied by Co-Convenor Dr. P Venu Gopal and Advisory Committee Member P Subba Reddy called on District Collector KV Satya Narayan who is the Chapter’s Chief Patron. He has allotted two rooms for INTACH Library and Art Gallery in the 205 years old heritage building that once housed the Collectorate. Greetings were extended to him with many thanks for his guidance and sustained association with INTACH activities.

**Machilipatnam**

Convenor Dr. Udattu Srinivasa Rao held a Essay Writing & Drawing Competition on a mega scale at 12 High Schools, with as many as 50-60 students participating in each event. In view of the large participation, it was not logistically possible to combine this into one event for the 15 participating schools.

**Srikakulam**

The Chapter organized a cultural programme at the behest of the District Administration on 26th January. Convenor Dharmarao held a cultural programme based on the 17th century saint poets - Thyagaraja and Vaggeyakara. He also gave a presentation on the Chapter’s activities at the State Convenors Meet held at Hyderabad.

The Chapter hosted and coordinated a Book Fair of 100 stalls of publications across the country for 10 days. A two km rally of over a thousand students was organized as a buildup to the book fair to attract public interest in this event.

Convenor Dusi Dharmarao conducted the *Sankranti* celebrations at the Visakha Valley School inviting the special guests to the stage. He was accompanied by Principal N Vallisnath and the Vice Principals of School. District Collector Lakshmi Narasimham addressed the gathering of students and invitees.

**Visakhapatnam**

The Chapter conducted a heritage walk to the 19th century Bobbili Fort situated 140 kms from Vizag. It has a historical link to a nearby mud fort of the same name that was destroyed in 1757 when the Rajas of Bobbili feuded with the neighbouring Rajas of Vizianagaram that ended in a tragic massacre. The present fort came up later built by Chinna Ranga Rao the child survivor of the bloody war fought by his family and his descendants as they had been deprived of an ancestral home. The 40,000 sq. ft. Fort has the elegance of a palace with a gate built in
Indo-Saracenic architectural style. It has a Durbar Hall constructed in 1893, with two stone elephants guarding the Durbar area where the Rajas held their coronations. The Pooja Mahal stands inside the Fort and is functional to this day.

The name Bobbili still conjures up an image of valour and sacrifice among its Telugu population. Today the town is famous for its fine arts, especially its unique musical style of playing the Bobbili Veena Sampradayam.

**FIRST SEPOY MUTINY**

The native sepoys of Vizagapatnam, as they were known earlier, were the first to take up arms in October 1780. It was the time when British forces were facing war with Tippu Sultan and minor disturbances took place in ‘native’ military units. They tried to mobilize forces from Eluru, and Machilipatnam on the journey to Madras, but the sepoys of Vizagapatnam rebelled and took up arms. They shot dead three British officers while injuring others and imprisoning the Chief of Vizagapatnam Fort JH Casanajor, and marching towards the south to join forces with Hyder Ali to fight the British. However 20 miles out of the city the ‘rebels’ were apprehended and their leader Subahdar Sheik Mahomud was tried along with those who failed to escape. Reports on this Mutiny exist in many British records. In India the only testimony is a poetic inscription on the grave of 19 years old Cadet Kingsford Venner at the European Cemetery in the old town of Visakhapatnam, where many such tombstones are missing.

**ASSAM**

**Shri Dinesh Baishya is appointed the Convenor of Kamrup Metro, Assam. INTACH welcomes him to our fold with many good wishes for the onerous responsibilities ahead. We wish him every success.**

Director Chapters Gp. Capt. Rahul Pathak was invited by State Convenor to attend the Meeting held at the heritage building Cotton College Coffee House on 19th March. INTACH Members of the Kamrup Metro and Dibrugarh along with special invitees like Chief Secretary Ms. TY Das, senior bureaucrats, academicians, professional and architects attended in a large number.

Director Gr. Capt. Rahul Pathak representing INTACH Central Office was specially introduced to the gathering by the Assam Convenor Prof. Sheila Bora. She explained INTACH mission in detail and specifically covered the work accomplished to date by the Assam Chapter in Guwahati. It was proposed to appoint Life Member Dr. Dinesh Baishya as the new Convenor of the Kamrup Metro Chapter. The unanimous suggestion for the post of State Co-Convenor was former bureaucrat Swapnanil Barua. Convenor Sheila Bora requested the invitees to enroll themselves as INTACH Members and strengthen the Chapter.
The open house discussions resulted in exploring ways and means by which some of the new ideas floated by the invitees could be implemented. It was unanimously agreed that listing of heritage sites and involving indigenous communities need to be prioritised in heritage conservation. Director Chapters explained the various training programmes initiated by INTACH that Chapter Members can avail.

BIHAR

**CONDOLENCES**

INTACH Life Member Shri SK Sinha passed away at his residence on 14th January. He was the former Chief Town Planner of the Bihar Government. Post retirement he associated himself with INTACH and the various conservation projects of INTACH. His association and advisory contribution will be missed by the Chapter Members. We extend our deepest condolences to the Sinha family, and our good wishes for the future.

**Patna**

INTACH Member Md. Danish, who is Asst. Professor Dept. of Agriculture at the Birla Institute of Technology, has presented several papers at national and international conferences. He has currently taken up research on Economic Sustainability of UNESCO World Heritage Sites under a Ph.D. programme. During Chairman LK Gupta’s visit to the Chapter last quarter he presented a paper on the 15th century Maner Sharif Dargah and its precincts, located 25 kms from Patna. It is a learned treatise on Indo-Islamic Architecture. Chairman is of the view that it deserves to be included in the list of World Heritage Sites. Patna Convenor JK Lall has sent a paper on the Maner Dargahs which has been forwarded to the AH Division.

*Maner Sharif Dargah* is located in the small Bihar town of Kasba, 25 kms from Patna. Its profusely carved ceiling, bracketed columns, intricate *jali* works, and a monumental gateway supporting a spherical dome, are an iconic and concrete treatise on *Indo-Islamic Architecture*. It was an important centre of spiritual knowledge and learning, and for the spread of Sufism across the world. Made of *Chunari* stone, it consists of *Chhoti Dargah*, *Bari Dargah* and *Khanquah*. The first of them was built by a disciple, the Governor of Gujarat in memory of Hazrat Makhdoom Shah Daulat Maneri who was born in 1492 at this place. It attracts visitors from many regions to this day.

**Vaishali**

Dr. Ram Naresh Rai is appointed INTACH Convenor of Vaishali Chapter. We wish him every success in this appointment, with many good wishes. Welcome to the INTACH family.

**CHHATTISGARH**

**Raipur**

Convenor Lalit Surjan wrote about INTACH interaction with a large number of institutions like schools and universities as well as Institute of Architecture, ASI, NMA, IGNCA, Hotel Associations, Railways, Delhi Metro and Government Departments. There are other organizations who in their own sphere are working on objectives similar to INTACH. He suggests a strategy be drawn up to bring together different agencies to exchange information on common subjects. It could result in pooling resources to ensure optimum results. INTACH should take the lead and examine this potentially promising concept. As the Chief Editor Deshbandhu Convenor Lalit Surjan will promote this idea and organize a series of conferences, each on a specific facet of heritage. It will indeed be a good experiment and a prototype for other Chapters to follow.
DELHI

The Chapter launched a series of Heritage Walks during weekends of January, heralding the historic assets that are the pride of the capital. The Walks were conducted to the Town Hall and Mirza Ghali’s Haveli on 8th January; to the Hum Sab Mehrauli – its village and neighbourhood Museum on 14th January; the Trail of the Phoolwalon ki Sair from Mehrauli Vilage on 22nd January; and an interesting session titled 3 Poets 3 Epochs 1 City on 29th January. It is hoped that Convenor Swapna Liddle and Project Coordinator will promote many more such walks that are now publicized on Twitter and Instagram, but need newspapers Ads to tap the non-twittering clientele.

GUJARAT

Jamnagar

Shri Nilesh Dave is appointed as the Additional Co-Convenor of the Jamnagar Chapter. We wish him every success and a long and happy association with INTACH. Welcome!

HARYANA

Haryana State Chapter held a Seminar on Potential of Tourism and Cultural Preservation of Indus-Saraswati Heritage on 18th February. It was held in collaboration with Rasika Art & Design along with an exhibition of works of the Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Ansal University, Gurugram highlighting recent excavations. It was chaired by the DG National Museum Dr. BR Mani.

The inaugural session addressed by Chairman LK Gupta was followed by Dr. BR Mani. It was attended by Advisory Committee Member Komal Anand who is also the Vice President of the Centre for Art and

Archeology. Chief Guest DG National Museum Dr. BR Mani along with Prof. Shinde inaugurated the exhibition Rakhigarhi, A Living Testimony of Cultural Heritage. Its seven panels threw light on the extensive research carried out on the lost River Saraswati by INTACH State Convenor AR Chaudhri, who is Professor, Department of Geology, Kurukshetra University.

A picture book Legend of Rakhigarhi, conceptualized by interns of Ashoka University along with Haryana Chapter, was released. The book centres on Rakhi, a girl child who visits her grandfather at Rakhigarhi, and is a fictional legendary narrative of the Harappan civilisation as told to the little girl by her grandfather. The research is on-going at Rakhigarhi after its excavation which was elaborated by the Vice Chancellor of Deccan College Prof. Vasant Shinde. Director Rasika Art & Design Surbhi Gupta suggested the setting up of a International Museum & Research Centre on Indus Saraswati Civilisation, as a thought for the future.
**Ambala**

Chairman LK Gupta visited Ambala on 2nd-3rd March. Convenor Brig. GS Lamba updated him on the Chapter activities, with nearly 20 Members at his residence. Chairman highlighted the importance of Ambala in our freedom struggle and its rich heritage.

Co-Convenor Col. RD Singh accompanied Chairman and Smt. LK Gupta to various heritage sites, including the Shiv Mandir and the historic Panjokhara Sahib Gurdwara where they paid obeisance. During the tour of the city, Chairman appreciated the upkeep of Patel Park by the Cantonment Board army personnel. He was welcomed by well known educationist Dr. Deshbandhu at the interaction with students of Heritage Club who laid on a splendid show displaying creativity and heritage awareness. Chairman announced an incentive of Rs.5000 to the Heritage Club. He also visited the Air Force School where a presentation was made by children displaying their paintings. At the Cantonment Board Middle School, Parade he witnessed children learning pottery making and saw their paintings and heritage artefacts collected by them. A young girl recited a spirited poem on women. The Chapter endeavours to give opportunities to underprivileged children and has encouraged Government and CB Schools to start Heritage Clubs and participate in heritage related activities. Chairman awarded a cash encouragement to the CB Middle School. He also visited the CJM School where a presentation was made by the girls on their Heritage Club activities.

The Chairman was briefed on the gravity of the water supply from Handesara Waterworks at the Kharga Heritage Park. The Ambala Chapter is highly motivated and it is not surprising that it won the Best Chapter Award in the Heritage Quiz recently.

The Sirhind Club in the Cantonment was described as an “area of bonhomie between Civil and Defence Services Members”. Ambala Cantonment was established during British times in 1843 to house offices and military personnel. Today it is categorized as a Class 1 Cantonment, and since 2006 the Cantonment Board has been entrusted with several municipal functions. It undertakes improvement of public places which are unique responsibilities for a Cantonment. The Convenor had invited a cross section of people for its 125th Year Celebrations held recently.

**Faridabad**

Convenor Anand Mehta informs that an Inter-Collegiate Declamation with a on-the-spot painting was held at the KL Mehta Dayanand College for Girls on 17th February.

**Gurugram**

The 9th Gurugram Haat was held on 25th February at the DLF Community Centre. The Chapter arranged 50 stalls for artisans and display items with an attractive publicity brochure. It offered a rich variety of attractions for visitors. Many Chapter Members visited the Haat with their families. The efforts of the organizing team Satinder Duggal, Monica Kumar, Ruchi Rai, Namrata Mishra,
Nischint Manmohan Singh, Sunita Bali, Namit Chhibber, Nishita Chahal Ouri and Saurav Singh were greatly appreciated by the Convenor. INTACH joins him in congratulating them for the joint effort in making this annual event a great success.

Rewari

On 6th January, Convenor Sudhir Bhargava presented a map of ‘Brahmavarta’ to INTACH Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) LK Gupta. Brahmavarta was the Vedic state where Aryans developed spiritual concepts and composed the oldest Vedas, Upanishads, Manusmriti and many other Sanskrit scriptures after the end of Ice Age some 10,000 years ago. The Convenor has carried out research under INTACH scholarship. He has located some Ashrams like Bhrugu, Chayvan, Uddalak, Dadhich, Pipplad, Nachiketa, etc. associated with Vedic scriptures and seers. Excavations at some of the identified Ashram sites might reveal further important information.

Convenor Major RS Bhatti informs that after the release of the film Kuru Buddha, the Chapter undertook presentations and screenings of this docu-drama in schools, colleges and among social groups. People were amazed to discover that Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhari, Chandigarh and other districts of the State have such a rich cultural and historical heritage. The response has encouraged formation of volunteer groups especially from colleges. As INTACH Members, they will carry out research and documentation of some heritage aspect compatible with their college curriculum under supervision of their faculty. Subjects like biodiversity of Yamuna Nagar District, the cultural and historic evolution of ancient settlements like Chhachhrauli, Darwa and Sadhaura; the listing of baselis, frescoes and wall paintings in Jagadhari, Buria, etc. will be suggested by the Chapter in consultation with the college faculty.

Chairman LK Gupta visited Yamuna Nagar on 1st-2nd March. The town was once famous for minting silver coins till overrun by invaders. Later the Grand Trunk Road passed through Yamuna Nagar. Chairman visited the Buddhist Stupa at Chaneti, the ancient Kaleshwar Mahadevi Temple and the Rajaji National Park at Kalesar for a jungle safari with a night stopover at the Herbal Park Chourpur. Members were invited to join Chairman on the visit to Kapal Nochan and the heritage museum at Adi Badri giving him an opportunity to interact with many Chapter Members. The President of the Jagadhri Rotary Club was specially thanked by INTACH for facilitating these successful programmes.

Himachal Pradesh

State Convenor Maalvika Pathania was invited to speak at the Vienne Conservation Conference: Crossing Borders held at Vienna, Austria. She focused on Chamba – A Millennium Town and Beyond. Chamba was on the oldest Native States during British era. Maalvika described it as a “classic example of continuity in antiquity” as it remained with one family since the 6th century up to 1945. It was only in the 18th century that its hidden antiquity saw the light of day when a European traveller Vigne wrote about it in his travelogue. Its topography and its cultural and intangible heritage had remained largely undisturbed as there were no outside forces or inroads into this territory.
Later Sir Alexander Cunningham mentioned this region in his early travels which aroused the interest of John Vogel. He started visiting the area regularly during his holidays and collecting valuable stone sculptures. He befriended the Raja of Chamba Bhuri Singhji and under his patronage the first museum was established. Heritage documentation of the region also commenced with the help of the old Vanshavali.

Maalvika Pathania’s presentation at the Conference covered the establishment of INTACH in 1984 and the process of this documentation since Himachal did not come under the purview of ASI. Of special interest was restoration technique used at the Sarah Temple of Kangra and at the Shri Bhootnathji Temple in Mandi. The presentation concluded with the overall role of INTACH in conservation of multi faceted Indian heritage which greatly impressed the audience.

**Kangra**

Kangra Chapter jointly with Himalaya Pariwar celebrated the festival of Makar Sankranti on the 14th January. Discussions were held on the conservation of cultural heritage of the State.

**Mandi**

The Chapter held a series Heritage Talks to highlight the plethora of historical monuments and cultural heritage of Mandi. This town is described as Chhoti Kashi as it has over 50 temples of historical and architectural importance. As part of a proposed series, the Chapter held a Heritage Talk on Das Mahavidyain by well known historian Dr. Kamal Payasa who elaborated on the religious sanctity and practices of 10 Kali temples dotting the town.

A week long Shivaratri Festival was organized in Mandi in March by the State. It originated during the reign of Mandi State Raja Suraj Sen in the 16th century, who had dedicated his kingdom to Madhorai, the symbol of Vishnu. Over 200 deities are brought from different parts of the District, often through difficult terrain involving travel by foot two days, and participate in this popular Festival that commences with an obeisance to Madhorai. INTACH banners welcomed one and all this year.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Dr. Chander Mohan Seth, IFS (Retd.) is appointed State Co-Convenor of Jammu & Kashmir. There are heavy responsibilities to share with an active State Convenor and the many J&K projects launched by him. INTACH extends all good wishes for his assignment and every success.

The Chapter organized a session on Preserving the Built Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir & Evolving Technologies & Processes on 8th March at the Institute of Engineering, Jammu. Chief Guest Minister for Public Works Jenab
Naeem Akhtar Sahib and INTACH Chairman LK Gupta were the Chief Guests at the function attended by 70 senior PWD Engineers and the Managing Director Projects Construction Corporation. The objective was to sensitise stakeholders and engineers on their vital role in conserving the abundant cultural assets of the State.

INTACH Chairman emphasized the need to adopt traditional techniques and material, as well as local architectural practices, for protecting vernacular heritage as well as the use of local material and crafts. Convenor Saleem Beg emphasised the important role the engineering fraternity can play in the State conservation efforts. Co-Convenor CM Seth focused on preservation of natural heritage, water bodies, forests and tree cover in preparation of conservation plans. Minister JN Akhtar appreciated INTACH efforts and assured strategies would be devised with INTACH involvement. Technical workshops would be organized in all three regions of the State so that engineers can evolve innovative technique and ideas to preserve architectural and natural features to preserve heritage. He issued orders that all projects prepared by PWD engineers must ensure documentation and an impact assessment of projects with a mitigation plan wherever heritage is identified. Chief Engineer Alok Mengi assured the Minister that his directions would be followed in letter and spirit.

Chairman LK Gupta held a meeting of J&K Chapters also on 8th March, the first to be held at State level where Convenors were advised on future plans and in particular the need to sensitise the public about the pluralistic legacy of India; involving school children in heritage activities; and efforts to be made to reach out to the public in preserving their cultural heritage. Chairman announced the appointment of Dr. CM Seth, a Jammu Chapter Member, a wildlife expert and environmentalist, as the Co-Convenor of the J&K Chapter. Chairman advised Chapters that names and particulars of specially skilled papier-mache, wood work and other artisans involved for example in the reconstruction of Peer Dastgeer Sabih Shrine at Srinagar be sent to Central Office for the records of the newly set up INTACH Knowledge Centre. Chairman reiterated the importance of Environment Impact Statement as mandatory for any projects taken up by Chapters. A book may be brought out with the support of Central Office on religious wooden architecture in shrines in Kashmir, and on springs and ponds in Jammu. A note on protection of Old Town Leh covered under the MoUD is awaited before Central Office can take up conservation of traditional mud architecture of Ladakh with the H&UD Ministry.

The J&K Chapter published an informative Newsletter that merits wider circulation. Srinagar for example is 2000 years old, its foundation laid during the reign of Ashoka around 250 BC. Its location was known as Pandre then, close to present day Badami Bagh Cantonment. Ashoka was followed by numerous other kings who moved the capital around, to the Hariparbat hillock in 6th century AD, and to Parihaspora near Pattan in the 7th century AD; with main development along the river front taking place from 14th century onwards under the Sultanate. Today after the passage of eight centuries, the Jhelum river front survives as a cohesive urban unit known for Kashmiri art and vernacular architecture. The Newsletter has many articles of contemporary interest. The J&K Chapter carried out the Cultural Resource Mapping of Srinagar City, and was invited by the J&K Government to prepare a revitalization plan of Jhelum River and traditional waterborne transport system like shikara rides etc. to highlight the socio-cultural importance of the riverfront.

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti recently inaugurated the state-of-the-art Central Asian Museum, Leh at 18,000 sq.ft. Tshas Somna (new garden), built by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the local community service group and actively supported by the J&K Chapter that coordinated efforts of the Tibet Heritage Front. A German based NGO is also doing some pioneering work in preserving vernacular heritage of upper Himalayas, along with Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam and INTACH.

Jammu

Shri Kuldip Wahi is appointed Co-Convenor of Jammu Chapter. Welcome to the INTACH family. We wish you all success in your assignment, and a long and happy association with the Chapter.
The conference *Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir: Challenges and Prospects* was held at the Gandhi Memorial Science College, formerly the Prince of Wales College, of Jammu on 17th–18th February. Jammu Convenor SM Sahani chaired the meeting, with Principal Dr. Ajeet Angral welcoming senior members of the Faculty. Eminent speakers and scholars like retd. Principal BL Bhardwaj, writer Prof. Nirmohi, Director of Centre for History and Culture of the University of Jammu, and Director of the Centre for Musiology Prof. Poonam Choudhury and Prof. RK Ganjoo addressed the gathering. The Seminar covered a wide range of heritage subjects including the literary, art and science facets. The emphasis was on the importance of civil society participation as the ultimate bulwark for preserving and protecting heritage.

**JHARKHAND**

**Hazaribagh**

Convenor Bulu Imam writes about the Jharkhand tribal festival of Sarhul, and sent some beautiful pictures of the *Saal* (*shorea robusta*) trees in full bloom lending a picturesque setting for the celebrating dancers and viewers. *Sarhul* signifies the marriage of the Sun and the *Saal* forests and is celebrated in the State annually. INTACH reciprocates the good wishes sent by Bulu Imam from his *Sanskriti Centre* on the occasion of this festival and thanks him.

**KARNATAKA**

**Belagavi**

The Chapter released the book *Tending our Land – A New Story* authored by Dr. MG Jackson and INTACH Member Nyla Coelho. Convenor Vinod Doddanavar invited Swami Madhava Dasa Prabhuji of ISKON and eminent environmentalist Dileep Kamat as the Chief Guests. Member Nyla Coelho said that the book was born out of the thought to write “an obituary of the green revolution”, but added that though Mother Earth is much

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**CRIPPLED VILLAGE**

It is unbelievable in this age and time that Pratapgarh Village (Garhwa) is not supplied with clean water on a war footing. Its borewells have long been contaminated with chemicals. And most of its people have succumbed or succumbing to the fluoride-laden ground water. The choice is of dying of thirst or succumbing to a slow dying of skeletal fluorosis that leads to horrible distortion of bones. Many of its people can barely stand with “hands and legs twisted like malleable wire, legs resembling wooden oars, and near-visionless eyes staring into a sordid future”. Or perhaps praying for death. And this in the 21st century when medical science is more advanced than ever before and all States take pride in development projects. So far only land has been earmarked for setting up a water treatment plant, and a waterway project from neighbouring village is planned. But after so many casualties? And 5 years after a rural development team suggested measures to alleviate the situation? Here is a wonderful opportunity for INTACH Jharkhand Chapter to help and hit headlines for a humanitarian cause in a State that has such a plethora of heritage assets.
abused she has a tremendous resilience and is able to heal herself. In the past 50 years because of the tremendous thrust on more food production and high usage of chemical fertilisers she has suffered. Conservation of natural heritage is one of INTACH’s major concerns. The Chapter has focused on educating of young people about preserving this heritage and on the values of “Parampara”.

**Bengaluru**

The Chapter recently completed the conservation of author Shivram Karanth’s house, a Jnanpith award winner. The 1920 house is a fine example of traditional vernacular architecture built with laterite and mud, with Mangalore tiled roofs and red oxide floorings. It was funded by the State Government, for renovation by conservation architect Pankaj Modi. The work was coordinated by Executive Committee Member A. Aravind.

Chapter Members have been attending several meetings with Government officials regarding implementation of heritage regulations. A detailed listing of old neighbourhoods like the Fraser Town was completed, funded by a donor. The Chapter was invited to be a member of the **Bengaluru Tourism Action Committee**. It is a great opportunity for the Chapter to project its heritage credentials.

**Dharwad**

INTACH Heritage Museum has received a munificent grant of Rs.10 lakhs from well known philanthropist Padmashri Dr. Sudha Murthy. The cultural heritage Museum, first of its kind in Dharwad, is gradually being developed under Convenor NP Bhat and the able support extended by his Co-Convenor Brigadier Bhagwat.

The Chapter joined hands with the Varanasi Chapter to organise the **Banaras Dharwad Music Exchange** programme held on 22nd January at the Little Flower House, Varanasi. Prof. Soni and Dr. Kumar Ambrish Chanchal from the Faculty of Performing Arts, Banaras Hindu University spoke on the linkages and variations of Vocal Music style of Banaras and Dharwad. It was followed by a vocal recital by Radha Desai and a *Kathak* dance recital by Shruti Desai, both artistes belonging to Dharwad.

Next on the Chapter agenda is a proposal for documenting the **Yakkshangana Folk Dance**, an ancient art form that is still prevalent in the west coast of Karnataka and never fails to attract large audiences.

**Kalaburgai**

Convenor Dr. SS Wani reported a series of events organised by the Chapter in the closing week of last quarter like **Foundation Day** celebrations; city tours for college youth; highlighting historical heritage buildings of the city; special lectures on monument awareness; culminating in an interactive session with well known writer and Gandhian Prof. Vasant Kustagi as the Chief Guest.
**Kerala**

**Calicut**

The January issue of the Calicut Regional Chapter carries extensive information on Malabar's Maritime Legacy. Geographical features controlled the maritime history of the region largely subject to the course of the monsoon. Several traders from both West and East came to South India in search of profits. The Malabar Coast had the monopoly for pepper of greater value to European lands, and grew in abundance here. In one of his articles K Mohan has written about the maritime activities viewed from Calicut in particular with reference to the Roman trade route, the China silk route and Arab *dhows*. As far back as 1340 the Moroccan traveller Ibn Batuta chronicled the port of Calicut. The maritime activities contributed to the traditional craft of ship building.

For a third successive year the Regional Chapter promoted the unique initiative *Heritage on Walls* with children painting heritage sites on their school walls assisted by local artists.

**Kasargod**

The Chapter commemorated the 70th death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 30th January with a Heritage Walk and a public invitation to all people to participate in the INTACH event. It commenced from a heritage venue Uliyathkadavu, the old Police Station Payyanur that had witnessed the *Salt Satyagraha* and the *Quit Indian movement*.

**Thrissur**

The Chapter hosted a rather unique Seminar on *Kerala Houses : A Scientific Interpretation through Vastu Shastra* on 14th January at the Elite Hotel International in the city. It opened with a prayer song by students Mary and Indulekha of the Government College of Engineering. Convenor MP Surendran welcomed the gathering and invited Kanippayyur Krishnan Namboodri to inaugurate the Seminar. He is well known as an eminent Vastu practitioner and custodian of Kerala’s architectural traditions.

Founder of *Akash Foundation* Dr. Prabhat Podar, another internationally known Vastu researcher delivered the keynote address. He highlighted the scientific aspects of Vastu Shastra. A brief introduction by Ar. Vinod Kumar MM explained the objectives of the Seminar. He gave a presentation on the work done by *Akash Foundation*, Puducherry on the subject, and its documentation of 50 traditional houses of Kerala. His talk was complemented by observations of two well known Vastu practitioners Dr. CS Unnikrishnan and Sethumadhavan C. A lively panel discussion ensued on a visionary assessment of Kerala’s traditional architecture. A responsive audience suggested a follow-up workshop for an in-depth study on Vastu Shastra. Co-Convenor Prem Manasvi presented mementos to the distinguished speakers and gave the vote of thanks.

The Bird Watch at the Thrissur *Kanimangalam Kole Wetlands* organised by the Chapter attracted considerable interest and participants. This important ecosystem is the habitat of a large number of birds, mammals and reptiles that support huge biotic communities. It is a part of the wetland systems on the south-west coast of India, and was declared a Ramsar Site in 2002.

**Madhya Pradesh**

**Burhanpur**

Shri Hoshang Sorabji Havaldar is appointed the new Convenor of Burhanpur Chapter. INTACH extends a warm welcome to him and wishes him every success in promoting this richly endowed region with a tourist potential.
15th century Burhanpur of the Farooqui dynasty later became the southern capital of the Mughal empire. The Grand Trunk Road passed through this town. Some of its 126 monuments like the Jama Masjid, the only Indian mosque to have inscriptions in Sanskrit, Arabic and Farsi; the Dargah-e-Hakimi for worship of the Daudi Bohra community; the Gurudwara Badi Sangat Padshahi bearing the golden ink signature of Guru Govind Singh; the unique 16th century Kundi Bhadara constructed during Emperor Jehangir’s time; the Hamam of Queen Mumtaz Begum; the 205 years old Digamber Jain Temple with ancient statues and manuscripts; these are a few examples of the heritage wealth of this town and are also outstanding architectural examples of their time. The Kundi Bhadara has water sprouting from a depth of 80 ft. and travelling through a 3 kms tunnel to come to ground.

Shri Chandrakant Paridar is appointed the Co-Convenor of the Burhanpur Chapter. You are now part of a new and promising team, and we wish you every success in the responsibilities you have undertaken. With many good wishes of INTACH.

Dhar

The Chapter celebrated INTACH’s 33rd Foundation Day with a musical exchange programme between Dhar and Dharwad in a cultural exchange of music culture of the two cities. Senior Member of Dhar Chapter Krishnakumar Dubey and the famous sitarist of Dharwad Mosin Khan inaugurated the programme with the lighting of lamps; and an introduction to INTACH given by Member Parag Bhosle. There was a duet performance of sitar and tabla, starting with Raag Keervani and ending with Jhala in Raag Bhairavi.Tabla artistes Utkarsh Pujari and Abhijit Sathe of Indore gharana joined them with tabla in a musical duet.

Gwalior

National Award winner Narmada Devi (a Batto Bai doll maker) was invited to train students at a one day workshop held at the Woodstock School for more than 150 students. These puppets are a traditional folk art of Gwalior region and deployed annually to celebrate the Gangur Festival. In ancient times, Marathas made male and female dolls using waste material. Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari spoke on the significance of Batto Bai on which she has considerable knowledge.

Mandla


Research papers were presented by Dr. Sharadnarayan Khare, Dr. Vibha Rathore Bhopal, Kailash Chandra Pandey Mandsore, Dr. Anil Kumar Pandey (Fort Chhattisgarh), Dr. Naresh Jyotishi, Girja Shankar Agrawal (Mandla), to mention some of the eminent scholars who made
presentations of their research papers. An exhibition of tribal ornaments collected by Rajiv Mishra elicited considerable praise from the delegates. There was also a notable photo exhibition related to memories of Dr. Rai Bahadur Hiralal by Dr. Chhaya Rai and her colleague. The participants were taken on a walk to Mandla and Dindori historical and natural heritage sites like the Motimahal of Ramnagar, Vishnu Temple, Begum Mahal, Devgaon of Saint Jamadagni where the interflow of the Narmada and Budhner Rivers takes place, and they also visited the idyllic Kikar Kund in Dindori District.

MAHARASHTRA

Chandrapur
Shri Pravin Vasantrao Nikhare is appointed Co-Convenor of the Chandrapur Chapter. INTACH is happy to welcome you, with our many good wishes for every success in the responsibilities you have undertaken.

Nanded
Shri Suresh Shankar Jodhale is appointed Convenor of the Nanded Chapter. Welcome to INTACH. We wish you every success in your new assignment, with all our good wishes.

Pune
The Maharashtra Convenors Meet was held with venue partner MKSSS Dr. BN College of Architecture on 1st February, and attended by Chairman LK Gupta. He urged the assembled Chapters to use social media for awareness campaigns and emphasized on capacity building within each Chapter. The Meeting was attended by State Convenor Mukund Bhogale and State Co-Convenor Prof. Sharvey Dhongde along with their Chapter colleagues from Pune, Nanded, Dhanu, Wai-Panchgani, Nashik, Aurangabad, and Mahableshwar. Also present were PD IHA Navin Pipali and Chapters Director Gp.Capt. Rahul Pathak from Central Office. The concluding session ended with Sharvey Dhongde regarding the status of heritage bye laws and listings at District levels across Maharashtra, and the concluding remarks of the State Convenor.

The Pune Heritage Festival, a people’s movement and largely a voluntary effort, is organized jointly by INTACH and Janwani annually. It was held from 2nd-12th February and was inaugurated with a Symposium on Urban Heritage open to the public, with 31 other partners and six associates participating in this popular event. Convenor Shrikant Nivasarkar said “it would improve the quality of life for present and future generations in the city” as all such festivals enhance both community and civic spirit. The Festival had as many as 55 events galore including heritage walks, nature trails, workshops, lectures, film screenings, nature tours, exhibitions and quizzes. The exhibition titled Pune, A Confluence of Cultures highlighted the exponential growth of cosmopolitan Pune and how it has been impacted by people from across the nation and the world.

The Festival showcased not only the city’s heritage but created build public awareness sensitising them towards the benefits of conservation. Special attractions included a fusion event Music of Pune: Djembe-Gondhal-Mardani Khel at Amanora Mall; River Heritage Cycle Ride; Jajwallaya Abhiman – Pune Quiz, and a special tour of the only surviving black and white Film Lab with a heritage walk through the FTII - the alma mater of many leading ‘Bollywood' film stars. There were film screenings on nature trails and heritage sites, a special tour of Bharat Gayan Samaj, an ancient manuscript exhibition, special paper conservation workshop at BORI, a tour of the Botanical Gardens with a Workshop on Herbarium; workshops on ancient scripts such as Modi, Brahmi and Persian. This is perhaps one of the most exhaustive Festivals hosted by any INTACH Chapter. INTACH heartily congratulates the
Pune Chapter on this highly popular marathon exercise.

The Chapter packed this quarterly year when the climate is at its best with a host of other events like a Cultural Resources Management Conference on 1st–3rd February; another exhibition on 9th February titled Heritage and Us to connect people with their roots that was inaugurated by former Convenor Aarti Kirloskar, with Prof. Sharvey Dhongde present at the DES Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce to conduct a guided tour of the exhibition. Overlapping this period from 4th–11th February, the Kirloskar Vasundhara Environment Festival was held on the theme Save River, Save Life with the Chapter’s documentary Haravilela Rasta/Road to Nowhere screened at different locations and interactive sessions with experts. It included a river walk and bird watching at the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, and a Dev Nadi Walk highlighting encroachment issues. Additionally, Discover Pune was a parallel event organized jointly with the Rotaract Club. It appears to have been a quarter full of ‘carpet bombing’ of heritage awareness programmes – for which the Chapter is much lauded and heartly congratulated.

Solapur

The Chapter organized a heritage visit to Sakhar Peth, a medieval community well, on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivaratri when it is the only time opened to the public all day to worship the idols of Shiva, Nandi and Nagoba. It was built in 1683 by a trader Mahatramal, the grandson of Daulatchand who served in Aurangzeb’s army like many Kashatriyas of the time. Aurangzeb had camped at Solapur for four long years. Mahatramal’s grandfather was from Kulu-Kanda Valley but like so many Kshatriyas from other parts of India he enlisted in the Mughal army to earn a living. Later the well came to be known locally as Sakhar Bawali (meaning sugar well) because of its pure water and it provides water to the surrounding community even today. Later the area began to be known as Sakhar Peth. It was covered and built over with a commercial complex by the Municipal Corporation. INTACH Member Nitin Anavekar took the initiative of recovering a stone inscription from the construction debris and placing it in one of the niches inside the well.

History enthusiast Nitin Anvekar with Members

The travelogue exhibits at the Anuriya Exhibition last quarter highlight traditional products made and local craft objects by Life Member Kishore Chandak. The promotion of local art and craft materials could be a very worthwhile and popular activity for all Chapters judging from the popular response it received at Solapur.
The Chapter is in constant dialogue with the CEO of Smart City and its team for restoration and re-use of heritage structures of the city as Solapur is one of the cities identified for retrofitting and city renewal.

It was on 12th January, 1931 that four Hutatmas sacrificed their lives to the cause of Indian Independence from British rule. In their remembrance a Heritage Walk was conducted to Mangalwarpeth Police Chowki, Mariar Mandir, Mallappa Dhanshetti’s Bembalgi School, the location of bullet holes from the 1930 firing, Mallappa Dhanshetti’s home and grave, and to Balidan Chowk.

Wai Panchgani

Professor Nitin T Kadam is appointed Co-Convenor of the Wai-Panchgani Chapter. We wish him every success in his new assignment and successful fruition of the many interesting initiatives the Chapter has been undertaking. Welcome to INTACH!

INTACH Chairman LK Gupta visited Wai, Menavali Ghat, Dhom with its beautiful stone sculpture, river Krishna and several picturesque places around Wai. He also visited the Chapter’s pilot projects at Ganesh Mandir, Kashi Vishveshwar Mandir, Pradnya Pathshala where the Chapter did conservation of manuscripts and their transcriptions. He met the local bodies and some eminent people working for social causes, sharing with them some of the experiences of other INTACH Chapters visited by him.

Convenor Vanita Jadhav made a power point presentation on her recent exhibition of paintings and photography – Soul in Stone – which is remarkable work. The exhibition was also organized at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai to promote the heritage tourism of Wai-Panchgani.

ODISHA

Balasore

Convenor Himanshu Das called a Press Meet on 5th January to draw attention of Government agencies to the apathetic condition of heritage structures in the District. The PWD was even preparing to demolish Baramuba Pol, the bridge on the Jagannath Sadak at Jaleswar, a heritage structure enlisted by the Bhubaneswar Chapter. Convenor Himanshu Das and the principal lister Anil Dhir brought the matter to the attention of the authorities in the presence of reporters of all local leading papers. The matter received wide coverage in the daily vernacular and English dailies, and hopefully put an end to such a travesty.

On 15th January the Chapter held a Seminar on Listing and Documentation at Chandipur on Sea, inaugurated by State Convenor AB Tripathy. It was attended by other Odisha Chapter Convenors – Himanshu Das from Balasore, Digamber Mohanty from Bhadrak, Rabindra Nath Parida from Mayurbhanj, with each presenting brief reports on the
listing and documentation undertaken by their respective Chapters. Architect Nikita Kumar from Central Office Listing Cell made an educative presentation on the finer points of documentation and listing of built heritage, and how to prepare project reports for restoration of heritage structures. From Bhubaneswar Chapter Anil Dhir made a video presentation on the listing of the old Jaganath Sadak connecting Kolkata to Puri. There were over 75 members and guests in attendance from all the Chapters.

**Mayurbhanj**

Convenor Major Rabindra Nath Parida informs that the Chapter held its Annual Day function on 26th March at the Rotary Club. Vice Chancellor North Orissa University Dr. Prafulla Kumar Mishra was the Chief Guest; with ADM Suratha Chandra Mallik invited as the Guest of Honour.

**Bhadrak**

The 7th Foundation day of Bhadrak was celebrated on 22nd January at the city’s Zilla Parishad Conference Hall. Convenor Digambar Mohanty welcomed State Convenor former DG Police AB Tripathy and former ADG Doordarshan Dr. Mrutyunjay and other dignitaries like Prof. Sanatan Mohanty, Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy and distinguished guests. They were invited to share their views on the preservation and conservation of built and intangible heritage. Folk artist Rabindra Barik and his two companions were felicitated. There was a live performance by Dasakathia-Pala artiste.

**Bhubaneswar**

The Chapter took the heritage awareness programme to rural areas of Ramchandrapur Village in collaboration with the Rotary Club of New-Horizon, with the focus on intangible heritage of the area. Convenor Sukubina spoke on INTACH mandate to more than 100 women from the village.

A literary seminar was organized on the 150th anniversary of Fakir Mohan Senapati who played a leading role in establishing the distinct identity of the region. He is referred to as *Utkal Byasa Kabi* (meaning Supreme Poet in Odiya). Four eminent speakers - Prof. Dr. Babaji Patnaik, Prof Jitendra Dash, Dr. Bhagyalipi Malla and Dr. Debasis Mahapatra - were invited to make presentations while 25 others participated in the discussions. The news-bulletin of Odisha Chapter *AYITIHA* was released by the State Convenor AB Tripathy.

The *Prachina Odia Sabityara Bibhaba, a Fakir Mohan Jayanti* (150 Years) Literary Seminar was held on 18th January at the Botanical Garden of the city. This programme also commemorated the 100th “Sradha” of Fakir Mohan observed by the State. The Chapter to date has not organized a programme on literature, though Odia is recognized as the only classical language of northern India.
Convenor Sukubina had organized a preparatory meeting inviting four eminent speakers to present base papers, with the participation of some scholars. Prof. Dr. Babaji PatnaillIt, Prof. Jitendra Dash, Dr. Bhagyalipi Malla and Dr. Debasis Mahapatra presented various aspects of ancient Odia literature to INTACH Members and acquainted them with the richness of their ancient literature.

Additional Co-Convenor PC Dhir was recently honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Federation of Photography at their 28th Annual Convention held last quarter at Udaipur.

**Cuttack**

**CONDOLENCES**

Co-Convenor Tushar Kanta Ghosh informs that Prof Dr. Sabyasachi Das, a valued member of the Chapter, passed away on 15th March 2017. An extremely popular Doctor, he served at his Alma Mater SCB Medical College, Cuttack with distinction. He was a guiding and motivating force for Chapter Members inspite of his busy schedule. His inspiring presence will be greatly missed by all Members. INTACH joins them in expressing our sympathy to the Das family.

**Jaipur**

In the closing week of December, the Chapter held an awareness programme, Quiz Contest and Painting Competition, to coincide with the State Book Fair. Prof. Udayanarayan Parida presided over a symposium where eminent speakers like Dr. Bijaya Kishore Samal, Adwaita Prasad Mishra and Prof. Asoka Kumar Das spoke on the importance of ancient cultural heritage. Convenor Balaram Mohanty talked on the continuous efforts being made by the Chapter in listing ancient buildings, temples, tanks and wells of the District. Advisor Dr. Ekadashi Padhi drew attention to the people’s responsibility towards heritage protection.

The Chapter participated in the celebrations of Maha Baruni Mela at the Baruni Tirtha on 23rd-26th March. It was a rare occasion for Hindu devotees as it occurred after 85 years. More than 6 million people from all over India and abroad gathered at the Dasaswamedha Ghat of Vaitarani River for the sacred bath and offered “pindas” to their ancestors to get rid of their sins. Earlier a party of seers had proceeded in a decorated chariot to Gonasika of Keonjhara District, the emerging source of the sacred river Vaitarani before the festival. The sacred Purana Kumbha
was received by the sadhus and the district officials. INTACH Members participated in serving prasad and helping the District Administration in crowd control.

On 27th January INTACH Heritage Day was celebrated on the premises of the Biraja Women’s College presided by Chapter Senior Advisor Prafulla Chandra Samal. The occasion was made special with the addition of 12 new Life Members who were administered the INTACH oath by Convenor Balaram Mohanty, and a warm welcome. Along with other Members the progress on Listing was discussed. A heritage tour to cultural sites of Bhadrak and Baleswar districts on 26th February was proposed. Co-Convenor Dr. Binod Chandra Nayak thanked all the Members for their participation.

Koraput

The Chapter organized a workshop in the Dongar Samabesh 2017 to mark National Youth Day on 12th January, held in collaboration with the Tribal Museum and the local Sri Jaganath Temple. Chief Guest State Convenor Amiya Bhuan Tripathy, and other former officials of the Civil Services Sanjib Chandra Hota and Kulamani Deo graced the occasion as Chief Speaker and Guest of Honour respectively. The guests were welcomed by Dhensa dancers and local drums by the Bhumia girls. The troupe worshipped the Tribal God and Goddess with the help of a tribal Disari and Gurumais of the nearby village in front of the Tribal Museum. Apart from over 50 invited guests, the event was attended by students, NGO representatives and INTACH Members. The special invitees planted a tree.

The Chapter proposes to get the folk tales of the tribal region that need to be preserved written in both the tribal and Odiya languages. The traditional Baja performed by the local Dombs as well as the Natya Saili need to be videographed. Heritage conservation and recording work is required on the local Sura paintings on walls, vegetable dyeing of Kotpad, functioning of village committees and dormitories for both girls and boys among different tribal communities, as well as the marriage ceremonies among tribals.

Sonepur

The Chapter organized a seminar at Sidhartha College, Banika in Subarnapur District. Eminent research scholars talked about the rich heritage of the District. Assistant Professor of Rampur College who is an INTACH Member spoke on the ancient history of Sambalpur. Chapter Convenor Sarat Kumar Satpathy elaborated on
the rich heritage of the area indicating how it is can be best protected by creating greater awareness among its people.

The Chapter celebrated its 7th Foundation Day on 22nd January at the Conference Hall of Bhadrak Zilla Parishad. State Convenor AB Tripathy, former ADG Doordarshan BN Panigrahi, and other dignitaries Dr. Mrutunjay Rath, Prof. Sanatan Mohanty and Dr. Bhagabat Tripathy shared their views with the guests. Convenor Digambar Mohanty conducted the proceedings effectively centred on Preservation and Conservation of Built and Intangible Heritage. Folk artistes Rabindra Barik and his two companions were felicitated. Students who participated in heritage programs held earlier were also awarded. The event concluded with a programme by Dasakatbia-Pala artistes, followed by a community lunch for all present.

PUNJAB

Patiala

The Chapter held a Seminar Heritage : Importance and Law at the Senior Secondary Model School, Punjabi University with the participation of teachers, students, and people from different walks of life. The Registrar Punjabi University Dr. Devinder Singh, School Principal Nirmal Goel, eminent writer Dr. Baldev Singh, and Dhaliwal Sukhwinder Kaur Virk from the Rajiv Gandhi National University who stressed on heritage as a source of inspiration for national progress were all present. Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur Singh cited cases when Courts gave Orders to protect heritage monuments and natural assets. Convenor Sarbjeet Singh Virk said heritage is the sum total of qualities and achievements inherited from past generations and should be used for the betterment of future generations. Many others who spoke urged the younger generation to now take the lead in preserving this ‘inheritance’ and the values of society. The Seminar concluded with a Writing and Painting Competition in which students from different schools participated.

The Chapter organized several heritage tours to Qila Bhabadurgarh to sensitize students on their rich heritage. The Qila was considered impregnable due to its unique architecture. It was constructed in 1658 AD by Nawab Saif Khan, a relative of Emperor Aurangzeb. Guru Teg
Bahadur lived here with Saif Khan for over 3 months. The Quila was later renovated in 1837 by Maharaja Karam Singh of Patiala. The fort houses the tomb of Saif Khan and a Gurudwara in memory of Guru Teg Bahadur.

RAJASTHAN

Ajmer

Convenor Mahendra Vikram Singh was honoured on 26th January by Education Minister Vasudev Devnani for his contribution to the first Bird Fair held in Ajmer and for environment protection activities of the Chapter. District Collector Gaurav Goyal was present, hopefully this augurs well for INTACH receiving official support when required.

A Nukar Natak directed by INTACH Member Umesh Kumar Chorasya was held on INTACH Foundation Day 27th January at the historic Baradari built in 1637 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan on the banks of Anasagar Lake. Certificates and mementos were presented to the participants of the show.

A set of 11 CDs on traditional Rajasthani songs, instrumental pieces and bhajans recorded by Member Ravi Kant Sharma is named Eleven Wonders of Rajasthan. He presented a set of these songs, bhajans, Sufi quawals and fusion music of Rajasthan to State Convenor Gaj Singh.

Ajmer celebrated its Foundation Day on 27th March.

Barmer

The Chapter discussed at a specially convened meeting the various aspects of heritage preservation at Lalgarh Palace. Padmshree Rajshree chaired the meeting and gave several insights into the agenda under discussion. It was attended by Convenor Dr. Prithviraj Ratnu and several INTACH Members.

Barmer Chapter organized details of the Bird Fair on the border of Barmer-Jodhpur on 28th January where many students gathered to enjoy Mother Nature at the ponds of Ganavas and Korna where bird watching opportunities are the best. Dr. Poonam Singh Jhakad and Vinod Goswami gave them a general brief on bird watching. Bird watcher Shaitan Singh also explained the importance of birds in conservation. Bird researchers Surendra Chauhan and Hukam Singh elaborated on techniques of identifying
and recognizing birds at these ponds. The event was a flying success.

**Jodhpur**

The Jodhpur Chapter lent its support to Barmer Chapter for Bird Watching at Gangavas and Korna Lake for school students as the surrounding areas are natural habitat for diverse bird species. A drawing competition was also held for students to impart information on bird conservation.

**Sawai Madhopur**

Co-Convenor Javed Anvar received a certificate of appreciation from District Administration of Sawai Madhopur on the occasion of Republic Day 26th January. It was for *Scout Ground Plantation*, a natural heritage project coordinated by INTACH Natural Heritage Division and the Chapter.

**Udaipur**

The General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held at Hotel Anand Bhawan chaired by former officer of the Administrative Service SS Ranawat who lauded the steady growth and achievement of the Udaipur Chapter. Former faculty member of ML Sukhadia University Prof. Meena Gaur was the Special Guest at the gathering that included Student Members.

Convenor SK Verma presented the report of the last financial year, along with the framework of projects to be taken up in the coming period. He welcomed all new Members, especially the youth and teachers in charge of Heritage Clubs and drew special attention to the multicultural wealth of Mewar Region.

Convenor SK Verma announced that the next 36th International Geological Congress is going to be held at
New Delhi. Following the Regional Seminar on National Geological Monuments and Geo-heritage Sites held last quarter at Udaipur, the Chapter is keeping track on follow up action, especially the fructification of the Zawar Geo-heritage Site. This is entrusted to Life Member PS Ranawat who is the Co-Convenor Geo-heritage Working Group. He is in contact with Principal Director NH Division Manu Bhatnagar who will visit shortly in connection with a Vision Document for Geo-heritage Site, Zawar. The Chapter will ensure that it is included in the itinerary of field visits of the global earth scientists during the proposed International Geological Congress.

Tamil Nadu

Chennai

The first programme of the Chapter in the New Year was a talk on Shadow Puppetry in Cambodia by Prof. Terada Yashakita, a happy get-together for INTACH Members and their invitees. Especially when INTACH is now formally associated with the restoration of the Angkor Vat Temple.

State Convenor Dr. Suresh Sethuraman delivered a lecture on Shivaji’s Shadow: Maratha Architecture and Art in Tamil Nadu at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrabalaya, Mumbai on 31st January. His talk focused on the little known aspects of art and architectural relics that are an amalgam of Maratha, Tamil, Islamic, and British Colonial styles in Tanjavur during the period 1676-1855. It was during the time of Maratha rule under Shivaji’s half brother Venkoji. It thus has many stylistic similarities with that of other Maratha dynasties elsewhere in India.

Dr. Suresh particularly mentions that every family in the village neara Kanchipuram contributed in cash for the restoration of the Mahadeva Temple. It moreover included free labour on their convenient days of the week and free water supply for restoration, for which Dr. Suresh conveyed his warm appreciation to the Village Headman and other people in the village. Conservation Architect from Tanjore Chapter also helped in the documentation and restoration work.

Madurai

Shri Arvind Kumar Sankar is appointed the new Convenor of the Madurai Chapter. He has long been associated with conservation activities and highly recommended by his predecessor for taking up responsibilities of this active Chapter. INTACH extends a hearty welcome to him, and our good wishes for the onerous assignment he has taken up of an active Chapter.

On 1st January New Year Day Co-Convenor P Rajesh Kanna organized Thirairangangal, a first of its kind Carnatic musical event to popularise classical forms through film songs among younger generation. The LED
A projector added to the appeal, with resource persons explaining each piece of music for the audience connect. Associate Professor Vijayalakshmi Vijayaraghavan of Sathguru Sangeetha Samajan Music College explained “each raga has an emotion and we carefully picked six ragas that are widely used by different music composers”. She spoke about the salient features of Nattai, Kalyani, Kapi, Charukesi, Sindhu Bharavi and Simhendra Madhyamam ragas. She highlighted some popular film numbers based on classical ragas and the emotions they evoked. The first of these had a close resemblance to Hindustani raga Jog meant to invigorate the listener and relieve stress. Ten young musicians were awarded, among them a young self taught folk singer and a college medical college student who composes his own music. The Quiz contest on ragas and film songs was of special interest to the young and the audience as well. The Chapter hopes to make this an annual event considering the popular interest it elicited among all generations, and as Co-Convenor Rajesh Kanna said to “ignite the music temper in them.”

The Madurai Chapter Executive Committee Meeting was held on 10th January at the Thiagarajar College on 10th January. Convenor Uma Kannan extended a warm welcome to all present - particularly mentioning Dr. Krishna Kumar Rathnam and Dr. Jamuna Krishna Kumar - the two new Members of the Committee. Dr. Uma Kannan hopes to relinquish her responsibilities as Convenor, but will continue to associate herself with INTACH activities.

INTACH Madurai Heritage Trail was organized for senior students of the SJB School of Architecture and Planning, Bengaluru on 15th January. Senior Advisor of the Chapter Dr. Venkataraman was the resource person for this outing, along with Shri Balaji from the TCE Architecture Department who explained features of the Meenakshi Amman Temple. They also visited the Thirumalai Naicker Palace, Gandhi Museum and Pudumandapam.

Convenor Dr. Uma Kannan and TCE Architecture Department Balaji accompanied the students to the Temple. Co-Convenor Karthik Manimozhiyan extended a special welcome to the school children. Dr. R Venkatraman highlighted the special architectural features and historic background of this much visited and revered landmark of the city.

On 21st March, Convenor Arvind Kumar Sankar with INTACH Members, associates and enthusiasts accompanied by school students visited the ancient Goripalyam Dargah that opened many eyes to this heritage site. Former Regional Director explained Gor means tomb in Persian language and thus this place housing two tombs of the Delhi Sultans got its name. Former Assistant Director of Art and Culture Sulaiman was the Resource Person for this visit. He explained the historical significance of the famous Dargah for which land was given to the Sultans by Pandya King Maravamam Sundarapandian in the 13th century during the rule of Nayaks. The rights of Muslims was inscribed on a stone tablet which was shown to the visitors. The crown of the Dargah, measuring 70ft x 20ft in height is kept as the roof of the Dargah to be seen from far and wide. It is a fine example of inter-religious co-existence and harmony that prevailed in those times.
The Chapter undertook a spot study of the 13th century Centaurus Dargah on 21st March. Retired Regional Director Culture Sulaiman was the resource person. He explained its historical significance showing a stone tablet written by the Pandiyas. King Maravarman Sundarpandian had given the land to the Sultans, but during the period of Nayaks a dispute was sorted confirming the rights of the Muslims. It was then known as palayam and the person in charge was Kori so with time the dargah was named Koripalayam. Co-Convenor Karthik Manimozhiyam was accompanied on this visit by many INTACH Members and Matric students of two schools.

**CHANTAL JUMEL**

Chantal Jumel, a graduate of Sorbonne University, Paris has authored books in French and English Voyages dans l’imaginaire Indien, Kolam which is a graphical journey of ephemeral drawings by Tamil women, the Kolam and Kalam of South India ephemeral and ritual paintings. She is also part of the annual Mylapore Festival. She says “I weave together the spirit of ephemeral paintings, cosmograms, symbolic and ritual designs, deities, images inscribed with letters and mantras inspired by Indian spiritual traditions. Whether it is on rice, bamboo or mulberry tree paper, I use and repeat the syllable Om as a unique script character to create visual poetry between drawings and writing…. My work is a celebration of the universal need for connection with something greater than oneself and the expression of humanity”.

The Kalam Ezhuthu of Kerala is another predominantly temple art form that is colourful and animated. Mostly done by men, anthropomorphic images of Gods and Goddesses are painstakingly drawn on the floor of the Kalam, a central courtyard used to thrash paddy found in temples. Mandana in Rajasthan’s Sawai Madhopur that decorates homes with intricate drawings of animal motifs and Lakshmi’s feet during Diwali is another art form that captivated Chantal. She says her work “is a celebration of the universal need for connection with something greater than oneself and the expression of humanity”.

**Nagercoil**

Convenor Dr. RS Lal Mohan informs that the degraded area around the old Chemmankulam Tank was in a complete state of neglect and filled with garbage. It was formerly known as Umapankaneri Tank referring to Lord Shiva’s wife Uma. Its beautification resulted in a park designed to highlight its heritage value. The Chapter received financial assistance from the IT firm Nasdaq. It has been fenced with steel mesh and has a 250 feet long and 8 feet wide walking path, 8 benches, about 80 croton plants. The initiative has been hailed as the Chapter’s gift to the district.
**Nilgiris**

The Chapter organized a talk by Christopher Penn at the Heritage Nilgiris Library. He is the grandson of ATW Penn who in the 19th century had extensively photographed the Nilgiris. His pictures appear in the monumental work *Ootacamund, A History* by Sir Frederick Price published in 1908. Penn had left England when he was barely 12 years of age and worked as a photographer in this hill station and other parts of the Madras Presidency in 1865. He photographed the first panorama of Ooty, its Boat House, Breeks School, Botanical gardens, Cinchona plantation, a Toda *mund*, and everything indigenous to Ooty. His many works are now part of a collection of 19th century photographs.

Dr. Tarun Chabbra, an authority on Todas, introducing his grandson Christopher and recalled that he had earlier come to Ooty in 2012 to pick up the trail of his grandfather who lies buried at the Tiger Hill Cemetery in Coonoor. It was an old letter by his grandfather discovered behind a drawer that made him proud of his illustrious lineage and triggered his first visit to India. During this visit, Christopher planted a sapling at the Savoy Hotel where his grandfather had stayed, then known as *Sylks Hotel*. Convenor Geetha Srinivasan presented him a Toda shawl thanking him for the talk that was well appreciated by the gathering.

**TELENGANA**

**Telengana**

The Andhra Pradesh and Telengana Chapters Workshop on 21st January was presided by Chairman LK Gupta. He thanked the State Convenor of both regions for organizing this workshop at short notice. He briefed the gathering on the various initiatives launched by INTACH to put heritage and conservation perspectives centre-stage in the developmental plans of the Government at all levels. He thanked all Convenors for their hard work and spirit of volunteerism in supporting the shared journey of INTACH. He flagged the recent emphasis INTACH has been putting on documentation, that now includes geo-heritage sites on which NH Division will be holding some seminars to develop awareness centres and bring its importance to the attention of all Chapters. Chairman also advised the Convenors to encourage research initiatives among its Members by availing of the grants/scholarships offered by IHA by way of capacity building opportunities. Such workshops can also be suitably tailored to meet local heritage requirements. It is thus an opportunity to strengthen in-house membership skills which they may avail.

The Convenors presented activities of their individual Chapters, and their broad plans for the current year. Chairman thanked all the participants for the success of this workshop. They were also advised on some of the initiatives to be taken in the remaining regions of Andhra Pradesh (6 districts) and of Telengana (26 districts).
Chapters must also prepare district maps showing their historical and heritage assets, and follow up on the establishment of Heritage Conservation Committee at District and State levels. They must also pursue their representation on Government bodies and liaison with State Government authorities, Chairman advised.

Hyderabad Chapter has completed an environmental narrative of Hyderabad District. It is a survey of the evolution and history of the town and its districts based on archives and memories of its senior citizens. Apart from the changed landscapes and climatic conditions, its flora, fauna and wildlife, the narrative covers traditional crafts and traditional agricultural practices in farming and harvesting, herbal medicines and boat building techniques. This is a good sample of what needs to be taken up for many other old cities and towns, along with details of their population and growth over the years. Narratives based on memories of senior citizens and fading generations are the most invaluable inputs to capture the life of a habitation rather than mere statistics.

**Hyderabad**

Co-Convenor Telengana Anuradha Reddy organized on 7th January the Osmania University Centenary Walk, Hyderabad to mark 100 years of this great educational institute. The architecture and ambience of the University reflects the academia and culture of this historic State.

On 11th February a monthly lecture with a visual presentation was held in association with the Salar Jung Museum at their premises.

Anuradha Reddy was invited by Director Telengana State Archives Zareena Doctor to attend the Workshop on Preventive & Curative Conservation of Manuscripts as resource person. It was conducted jointly by the State Archives & Research Institute in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts from 16th-20th March.

She was also invited as the Guest of Honour by the Nizam College for a conference on Women’s Issues, Challenges and Opportunities.

Convenor Anuradha Reddy attended the workshop on Gond Tribal Art held by a well known and immensely talented artist Bhajju Shyam from 10th-12th March. In 2001 the artist was invited to paint a mural in an upmarket London restaurant. He also beautifully illustrated the Jungle Book that was inaugurated in the London Museum. The Hollywood adaptation is based on Gond people.

**OSMANIA UNIVERSITY**

Osmania University is ranked highly among the ten Pubic State Universities of India. It was founded in 1918 with the help of its chief architect Mahbub Akli Khan-Nawab Sanwar Jung. It was named after the seventh and last Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan. Notable alumni include many eminent politicians of India including late Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao among other Central Ministers and the first Indian cosmonaut to travel into space Rakesh Sharma.

**AN ACTIVE GC MEMBER**

Governing Council Member M Vedakumar is one of INTACH’s most involved Member who participates in a maximum number of local events which is noteworthy. During the months of January-March he attended the Free Four-Wheel Heritage Treasure Hunt from Charminar to Qutabshahi Tombs in January, and was a special guest at the Shaam-e- Musi cultural and literary meet. He also visited a heritage Jatra Nagobha at Keslupur which is a well known living heritage festival celebrated annually. He presided at a Seminar on Literature-Culture-Art Forms of People – Study & Preservation at the Kalabhanav on 14th February. He was a delegate to the Global Celebrations on Buddhist Heritage
in Telengana organized under the Buddha Vanam Project of the Tourism Department. In March he was on the panel for discussion held at the Salar Jung Museum on the Mandate of Museums in this Millennium.

Warangal

**NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**
- Warangal once flourished as a spiritual centre for the Jains and even during the Kakatyya rule.
- It can be established that Jainism prevailed in Warangal even before other locations in the country.
- Jainism thanks to traveling disciples, spread from the region during the 4th and 5th Century.

Malaram caves ideal for adventurous visitors

UTTAR PRADESH

Varanasi

Convenor Ashok Kapoor along with a delegation of the Chapter’s Executive Committee met Commissioner Nitin Ramesh Gokarn to present a memorandum on the important issues that the Chapter proposes to take up. A request was made for the removal of enamel paint from the walls of Kashi Vishwanath Temple and restoration of some heritage sites. The Chapter also proposed a workshop on skill development in wooden toys and Geographical Identification granted to some other products. The Commissioner gave assurances to initiate the process.

The Chapter AGM was held with invitations extended to many prominent persons who have shown interest in joining INTACH Chapter like Principal Vasant Kanya Mahavidyala Prof. Rachana Shrivastawa, Director Alice Boner Institute Harsh Vinay, some prominent members in the music field like Prof. Minu Sagarma, and some foreign students.

As part of inter Chapter exchange programme, Radha Desai from Dharwad presented a vocal recital at Little Flower School, Varanasi on 22nd January. She was accompanied by her daughter Shruti Desai, a Kathak dancer who also gave a dance recital starting with a presentation of traditional Ganesh, Saraswati and Shiv Vandana followed by a Tarana, and rounded up the concert with a Meera bhajan.

BITHOOR RESTORATION

Advisor Rajasthan Chapter Thakur Ranvir Singh has been involved with the Kanpur Chapter and in particular the Bithoor restoration and a revival plan for its cultural, historical and religious heritage. It may be recalled that Peshwa Baji Rao 1 was banished to Bithoor by the British, and it was here that the Rani of Jhansi spent some of her childhood years, and later became Rani ki Jhansi – a brave warrior queen who along with Nana Saheb, Tantya Tope and others challenged British forces. Thakur Singh states “it has to be a collective effort of the society in a true Indian mode of devotion and dedication for a holy and romantic cause of preserving the heritage of our nation”. Recalling his experience at the Jolpa Temple in Rajasthan no doubt, he says “we cannot push everything in administrative lap and follow the Fabian socialist model where the Government takes care of everything. “We are a highly evolved society capable of taking care of our affairs……. what is stopping us?” Are we really, this question remains to be answered in the realm of possibility!

CONDOLENCES

Central Office was informed that its Member Mukund Lal Selat passed away in early February. He was one of the oldest members of INTACH, and a close associate of the late Supakarji, father of our Life Member Padmashree S Supakar. He was closely involved with the revival of Benaras textile traditions initiated by Pupul Jayakar and Martand Singh. Subsequently he became a prominent businessman, with Benaras silks and saree retail business under the name of Prabha Traders at Varanasi and Delhi.

There was also another side to Mukund Lal Selat, as a great classical music rasik and seen at nearly all the music programmes of the city as Vice President of Kala Prakash which will miss him as much as INTACH. We send our heartfelt condolences to the Suparkar family to bear this grievous loss, with our good wishes for their well being.
The Varanasi Chapter had prepared a *Heritage Map of Benaras* under supervision of Prof. Kalian Krishna. Member Secretary had suggested that it be displayed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Varanasi in late December. The Chapter succeeded in putting up these maps on two hoardings in the city during this high profile visit. Presumably that must have caught the eye of many who thronged the occasion and hopefully that of the civic authorities to good effect in future.

**WEST BENGAL**

The *Serampore Town Square Design* Competition convened by the State Chapter was judged by an eminent jury comprising Consultant of the National Museum of Denmark Dr. Flemming Aalund, Area Chair for Conservation Professor Ms. Jigna Desai, Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. Rajat Nanda, Serampore Ward Councillor Santosh Kumar Singh and Convenor GM Kapur on 25th February. It was intended to outline project proposals for regeneration of a public place in a historic context; to preserve and enhance a valuable part of Serampore’s heritage; to improve the quality of the physical environment; and to create and regulate new activities that ensure a vibrant atmosphere of the place. Evaluation criteria were set up by the jury to assess the proposals. Essentially the objective was to create and regulate new activities that will ensure a vibrant atmosphere of the place and enhance the historic value of Serampore’s heritage.

A Painting Conservation Workshop was organized by the Kolkata Chapter on 5th-7th March at *Kala Bhawan*. Conducted by Kolkata ICI, State Convenor invited all interested INTACH Members offering them logistical arrangements.

Kolkata Chapter jointly with Panchthupi College, Murshidabad District held a seminar which was a great success and much appreciated.

**Santiniketan**

The above mentioned *Workshop on Conservation and Restoration of Oil Paintings* was conducted by the Kolkata ICI in association with the Suresh Amiya Memorial Trust, at the *Kala Bhavan, Visva-Bharati* at Santiniketan on 5th-7th March, as part of the *Nabanna Utsav*. Three ICI Facilitators delivered the talks with a hands-on session for understanding the processes of conservation, restoration, identification of deteriorating factors, minor repairs,
The 45 participants – students and staff of the Kala Bhavan – received a thorough grounding on the subject. Artists from near Santiniketan also participated.

Senior Restorer Subash Baral made a presentation on the Anatomy of Oil Painting. Factors of deterioration were identified as light, temperature, relative humidity, bio-deterioration and human vandalism. The interactive session carried out use of digital hygrometer, thermometer, lux-meter, etc.

At the valedictory held on 13th March with Suresh-Amiya Trust, representative Subir Chakrabarti invited Prof. Dilip Mitra of Kala Bhavan to address the gathering. State Convenor GM Kapur and Co-Convenor Nayantara Palchoudhuri also spoke to the students before certificates were distributed. The Chapter received appreciation and many thanks for this highly successful event.

BELGIUM

The 13th Fundraising Dinner, with a net benefit of Euro 3678,44 and participation of 131 guests, was a grand success, informs Belgium Convenor Geert Robberechts. Two enthusiastic UCLL students Jana Van Pee and Ellen Verberne worked for six months on the project of the Lost Gardens of Khajuraho, and lived in the new development outside Khajuraho centre called Ravib Colony. They also toured many other cities on a trip they described as “Mad India” with their general experience of Varanasi, Lucknow, Goa, Orcha, Agra described as always being positive experiences. Another student Hilke Devos (Social Geography/Tourism, KU Leuven) later joined them to look into the tourism possibilities of Khajuraho Region. A PhD researcher (KU Leuven, RLICC) Nishant Upadhyay also spent two months in India, partly on the project.

Anjaneya Sharma, who is preparing a PhD thesis on the Lost Gardens of Khajurah, was appointed assistant professor at the Bundelkhand University in Jhansi (175 km from Khajuraho). He organized a one day conference on the Lost Gardens, with both Geert Robberechts and Nishant Upadhyay as the keynote speakers on the occasion. As part of PhD research, Anjaneya Sharma has mapped similar gardens in the Chhattarpur District, in order to identify similarities with Khajuraho Gardens and to establish a typology. The erstwhile Rani of Jagammanpur Kalpa Chauhan was amazed that he accurately pinpointed details of Nazarbagh and Rambagh Gardens of Jagammanpur.

INTACH Belgium together with Khajuraho Chapter organised a lunch to showcase the various developments of the project on New Year’s Eve with an amazing number of conservationists, architects, professors, local businessmen and Chapter Members discussing sustainable tourism management besides their gastronomic tourism!

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

ANIMALS ARE US

Monkeys for instance have vocal cords for human speech but only lack the wiring in their brains, so they indulge in monkey tricks like snatching from hands, tables and terraces, even daring to pilfer files from careless Government desks.

They do not have the tongue to voice their thoughts like us.
alarm and expressing love with distinctive sounds, according to a study conducted by the local Grenoble Alpes University.

A Berlin study revealed that constant traffic din has compelled nightingales to sing at 93 decibels to be heard over the roar of the morning rush hour - far above the permitted noise level.

Pigeons have been great friends of man flying love letters in romantic or historic tales. During the second World War 250,000 pigeons were deployed on serious missions - to carry vital messages advising enemy position and other strategic notes to their forces, with 32 of them awarded the Dicing Medal for valour. Presently, in London skies some continue to serve bravely carrying detectors to monitor pollution!

The Queen Bee keeps her hive colony under control like a dictator producing pheromones to repress reproduction, and make her drove work as ‘busy as a bee’ for the sweetness of the colony till the end of her reign. In old age, the scents she produces gets too diluted to maintain the social order. Several potential heiress are groomed in the meantime to take her place. The chosen one stings the other claimants to death and reigns as the next Queen Bee. Quite a dictator!

The rhinoceros may be thick skinned but not thick headed. United they stand when there is a threat perception by pressing their hind quarters together and strategically face different directions in military formation. They are ready to attack any hyena, lion or creature that dares to attack even one of them.

Humpback whales also stand united in peace time for their meals. As many as 7-8 lunge together with fins touching, mouth agape, blowing up bubbles to swallow a shoal of small fish, a mouthful while squeezing out the salt water through their baleen plates.

Some animals are good architects. Spiders in the Namib Desert build a near perfect circle around their burrow with pebbles of exactly same size, shape and colour to set up an alarm system that detects intruders via stone vibrations.

The female Potter Wasp is equally canny. She moulds her nest like a shapely vase to entrap a caterpillar or a spider into the pot and seals it after laying a single egg. The grub hatches and feeds on the imprisoned insect, pupates and breaks into a new cycle of life.

The bowerbird however excels in being an interior decorator. He builds a towering love nest with colourful plumes, shiny beetle wings, snail shells, berries, even flowers and beautifies the avenue leading up to this trap. The males’ efforts are judged by vain females who patrol and check out the area. The prize winners get to seduce the most promiscuous birds.

The Spider defied gravity long before spacemen or for that matter Hollywood’s “Batsman”. It uses its eight limbs, covered with 624,000 setules – that are minute hair generating a tiny electric force – and when it comes in contact with an underlying surface it produces a strong adhesive that can hold 173 times the arthropod’s weight. No wonder its tribe is now the latest focus of Man’s bionomic studies.

There are many sporty champions among animals. The tailless American Bullfrog with its powerful hind legs can jump nine times his body length. This is equivalent to an Olympic champion clearing 75 m. Another champion is the Bush Baby that leaps 10 m in 5 seconds between trees. The American Pronghorn can outdistance any predator running a constant 72 km/h. It is the Australian dragonfly that deserves the Olympic gold medal as it holds the current title of being the fastest insect with a speed of 98km/hour.

And when it comes to maternal instincts it is the polar bear. She scrapes a tunnel of 6ft x 40ft using her massive paws and creates a little cave space at the end of the tunnel, to remain snowed and keep her cubs warm when outside temperatures are as low as -22F. Such a warm and tender mother’s love!

Animals even have their vain or narcissistic moments just like some very beautiful lady might have. Even a male leopard in Gabon rain forest got addicted to the mirror hidden for an experiment. He made frequent visits to see his handsome face till a herd of elephants finally chased him away.

Animals also have intriguing courtships. One whiff of female pheromones is enough to get garter snakes wide awake to begin a frenzied mating race. It is an annual orgy that leaves all the females pregnant in half an hour. The female hare is much smarter, she uses her long hind legs to box an over amorous male. The Malaysian firefly is perhaps the smartest, each of his 130 species have their own code which are flashed like a ‘calling card’ and the female tribe flash back their desired response in case they want to drop in for a romantic tryst.

Sometimes animals can go berserk with raging hormones as reported from London. A two ton Rhino mounted a Renault Laguna in which a group of tourists were visiting a safari park and rocked it like hell and left it quite dented! The passengers just about managed to drive away!

And Dogs, man’s most trusted friend can go grey with worry. It was found the more anxious ones go grey around the face and mouth after US researchers consulted veterinary clinics and visited some dogs. They also heard some untold stories of
faithful dogs soulfully mourning death in their adopted ‘family’.

In Karnataka, there was a ritual when foxes were hunted, imprisoned, beaten and burned alive. Now they want to revive Kambala where whipped cows are raced through flowing water, and some die of broken legs unable to withstand the force of water flow. In Assam, thousands of small fragile bulbuls, were caught and released in a specially constructed arena to fight unto death. In Maharashtra a bullock and a buffalo, or a cow and a horse, oddly tied together with iron thorns thrust into their posterior were whipped to race. All this used to happen till animal activists had these cruel practices stopped by law.

In Andhra lakhs of cocks were kept in dark cages, turned vicious when poked with long sticks into their bodies, and made to draw blood of a fellow creature with razors tied to their feet. In Goa drunken bulls got into logger-headed fights egged on by an inebriated crowd.

Coming back to Jallikattu, what chance does a boozed up bull, with chilly-stricken eyes and boisterous boys at its tails, have against a crowd of excited onlookers? It is equally tragic when a few young people are needlessly gored by a highly traumatized creature. Nevertheless lakhs of people agitated at Chennai sea front, with eminent Tamil Nadu personages coming out in support of Jallikattu as quintessential Tamilian heritage. Soon there will be a cry to lift the ban on Kodipandem in Andhra Pradesh, and Bulbuli Sorair Jooj during Magh Bibu in Assam, and bird fight during Magh Bibu (harvest festivals) that have all assumed a shrill voice after the return of Jallikattu. This is one time when 'birds of a feather' flocked together much to the chagrin of humanity.

After 146 years the US based Ringley Bros & Barnum and Bailey Circus, the self styled travelling “Greatest Show on Earth” that inspired a Hollywood movie to adopt the name, ceased performances on 15th January 2017. Animal rights group said “It heralds the end of what was the saddest show on earth of wild animals”. Their animals however were healthier and better kept than those surviving in Indian circuses that continue to eek out a living in a few small towns. If one only knew how much pain is inflicted to make camels, elephants and other God’s creatures dancing to a tune for the amusement of people! Those poor creatures have never known the status of pets in humane homes. Are our animals paying a karmic debt? Isn't life enough of a circus?

Perhaps man's cruelty to inflict pain far exceeds that of animals who only kill their prey to feed themselves. This year Founder of People for Animals (PFA) MP Maneka Gandhi commented that Makara Sankranti, January 14th had become the Bakr Id of Hindus. She pointed out that communities have consistently patronized these events as their heritage, but they are not rooted in any religion. She also stated that peacock (our National Bird) feathers are used in religious places, and the trade is not sustained by waiting for peacocks to shed their feathers. So many are killed and feathers used for sacraments, hawked at road crossings and even exported without restriction. The selling price of a peacock feather Burberry coat was £22,000!

There were obdurate and interminable debates on Jallikattu on all TV channels. Animals are so much like us that in the recent election campaigns opponents were described as sher, kabootar, magarmach and worse! Advocates in the Supreme Court, Bhushan and Garg running an Animal Rights NGO pointed out, the mute cannot speak, let alone vote, and no legion of stray dogs and animals will ever descend on Jantar Mantar in Delhi to ask for protection. Surely there is no place for betting and drinking and gambling during which animals must die in the name of heritage sports?

Here are some lucky ones

Scientists have been seriously checking out which Animals can laugh; and the list is not very long. How can they laugh heartily, if at all, when surrounded by Man who ill treats them.

According to Art.15 A(g) of the Indian Constitution it is our fundamental duty to have “compassion for all living beings” - but for that we first need to be humane. Most definitely we need to be reminded what Gandhiji propounded : “The progress of a society is measured by how it treats its animals.”
Corporate Social Responsibility also covers socially vital activities like conservation of nature; environmental sustainability; protection of heritage properties, works of art, and intangible heritage. These are specialised subjects of INTACH activities since its foundation 30 years ago. The Trust is recognized as an institute of national importance by the Government, and is executing many such projects in partnership with State Governments across the country and at the Centre. The Corporate sector can take up conservation activities through INTACH. It will enhance their public image, and enable them to avail of 2% tax exemption while execution of corporate social responsibilities.

Folk Art at INTACH, Delhi

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