Wall Paintings of India
Arki Palace, Himachal Pradesh
# IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wall Paintings of India</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from Central Office</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Tourism Division</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Heritage Division</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural Heritage Division (AHD)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHD Listing Cell</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI /A&amp;MHD)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible Cultural Heritage Division (ICHD)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTACH Cultural Cell</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTACH Heritage Academy (IHA)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Cover:** Wall painting at Arki Palace, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Palace constructed between 1800–1805 by Rana Prithvi Singh
Wall Paintings of India

Wall paintings are a treasured heritage of our country spanning a vast spectrum of time – going back to prehistoric rock art to the later times when exquisite murals impacted the walls of old temples and historic palaces in artistic grandeur. One of INTACH’s major concerns has been their preservation and conservation, and belief that without listing there is no lasting of heritage. A marathon initiative for compiling a *Directory of Wall Paintings of India* has been undertaken by INTACH Material Heritage Division, assisted by INTACH Chapters and INTACH Conservation Institutes across the country. It is a major on-going work at present, and the first initiative of its kind to be taken up by a conservation organization on a all-India massive scale.

From the earliest times primitive man gave expression to his inborn creative urge by etching rocks with sharpened stones. He created match stick figures, animals, hunting scenes to portray his way of life. He adorned the rock shelters and caves that were his humble abode with outlines most familiar to his living space. Soon he began to colour them with vegetable and mineral pigments that left an imprint for future times. Indeed he did not imagine they would be discovered thousands of years after him! They are best described as pictographs, monochrome or polychrome images created by applying readily available pigments such as carbon, manganese or oxides that he extracted from animal and plant sources, from juices of fruits and flowers, and sometimes even blood. In due course primitive man turned these into pigment crayons, and applied with brushes made of animal hair or plant fibres. Most of the surviving rock art to be found today are in caves or as outdoor markings under overhanging rock. The Bhimteka Rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh are considered the earliest traces of human life dating back to 30,000 years ago. Now however
the petroglyph rock art at Daraki-Chattam near Bhanpura in Mandsura District of the State was recently declared as the world’s oldest rock art site that could even be 500,000 years old.

From these humble beginnings evolved great art over the centuries - the famed murals and wall paintings of forts, palaces and temples of historic India. Pitalkhora, Ajanta, Ellora, Armanalai, Elephanta, Sittannavasal, Tanjore and Badami ring a bell as some of the famous ancient sites that are well known on the tourist circuit. There are however thousands of lesser known locations around the country with wall paintings of different schools of art – earthly, spiritual or human. They exemplify strong affiliations to aesthetic sensibilities of the eras, to religious sentiments, to grand historic periods, and were painted by inspired artists of those times. They worked in many colours like vermilion red, yellow ochre, indigo blue, lamp black, chalk white, terraverte green, lapis lazuli, or a rainbow of colours. None of these works should be lost if we value our history and heritage.

This is the raison d'être for compiling a magnum opus on one facet of our heritage: an INTACH Directory of Wall Painting to draw attention of local guardians and concerned authorities to the urgency for protecting and conserving an inherited national wealth of a kind very few countries in the world possess. This treasure house of art flourished through historic eras and royal patrons, and were impacted by social influences or spiritual beliefs. The sheer magnitude of this artistic expression found its way from India to overseas and grace major museums of the world and private collections. Unsurprisingly that is another story altogether!

Principal Director Material Heritage Division Nilabh Sinha describes
Wall paintings as “complex and layered creations of art, with their anatomy varying and depending on the used materials and techniques to a large extent, on the basis of which wall paintings are broadly classified into frescoes and temperas. In the fresco style found mainly in European paintings pigments are mixed with water and applied on fresh wet lime plaster, and adherence is due to carbonization of lime. Tempura technique is mostly used in the paintings of India and the Asian region, in which pigments are mixed with a binding glue-like material and applied on dry plaster”.

Wall paintings in India have been traditionally an integral part of built heritage. These great works of art are now getting lost with each passing year as more and more buildings fall prey to urbanization and market economics. Nilabh Sinha points out that “The precious few that are left are affected due to poor condition of the buildings and alterations, where they are further afflicted by poor maintenance and frequent repairs. Often inappropriate methods and materials used in conservation has resulted in irreparable damage”.

It is imperative that all architectural surface decorations at heritage sites need to be declared as ‘protected heritage’. India has a veritable treasure house of art that flourished through historic eras and impacted by social influences or spiritual beliefs or royal patrons. These frescos and murals are an equally important component of historic monuments – there is a linkage akin to body and soul and breathes the history of our country.
INTACH Project: *Wall Paintings Directory* (WPD) is thus a massive documentation exercise undertaken by its Material Heritage Division and its many Conservation Centres. It is a listing of both rock art and wall paintings covering many periods of history. The inventory however will not include grading or assessing relative significance of wall paintings at local, regional or national level. It is nevertheless a marathon project supported by INTACH Chapters in identifying locations, documentation, and collection of basic data.

Creating and training survey teams has been a major challenge, and reviewing documentation and standardization of listing is proving to be a mammoth task. Survey teams are currently undertaking field visits to wall painting sites identified through INTACH listing, archival material, research papers, interviews with scholars and local population. WPD teams are also conducting field surveys in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Odisha. And there are many other States in line that will be covered in due course.

The raison d'être for this massive undertaking: *Listed sites have a more assured chance of preservation and conservation.* There is another important facet to all heritage conservation work that often does not get due importance. Well protected heritage sites with the added beauty of frescos and wall paintings are significant in a developing economy as there will be a multiplier impact on tourism, on economy, and on prosperity of local people.

The *Directory of Wall Paintings* is a marathon work in progress. It will be a record of just one facet of the treasures of Indian art. It is however one of the most significant initiatives launched by INTACH.
**ART DEFINED - AGREE OR NOT TO AGREE?**

Keith Oatley in his book ‘Psychology of Fiction’ writes Life is monstrous, infinite, illogical, abrupt and poignant. A work of art in comparison is neat, finite, self contained and rational”. Oscar Wilde thinks : The imagination imitates. It is the critical spirit that creates art.

Woody Allen being who he likes to be has an altogether different take as usual : Life often doesn’t imitate art, it imitates bad television

---

**SIGHT & SOUND OF PAINTINGS**

It is said beauty lies in the beholder’s eye, but for some with a third eye “great paintings are also like passing bells”. As Ruskin said “In Velasquez you hear the sound of the fall of Spain, in Titan that of Venice, in Leonardo that of Milan; in Raphael that of Rome – and there is profound justice in this; for the proportion to the nobleness of power is the guilt of its use for purposes vain or vile; and hitherto the greater the art the more surely it has been used, and used solely, for the decoration of pride, or provoking sensuality”. An interesting thought! Next time however when we see beautiful Indian art perhaps we should also try to catch the sound of the painting or tap into the history of our civilization?

There are others who feel paintings are like silent poetry and poetry is a speaking picture or a poem without words. Like some of the wall paintings in our temples and churches, “the heavenly figures seem to flow out of their painters’ brushes warm with life and pious thoughts – like a expression of man’s delight in God’s work, not his own”. However it is said most of us can only paint with our eyes as it is a long way from the eye through the arms to the brush or pencil or paint, and by then much is lost!

Those magnificent murals of the past eras that have lasted till now, and if conserved will be a heritage gift to future generations to come.

Today wall painting has taken on an entirely different form and are kindly described as ‘new graffiti style murals’, created by people in an entirely different genre. The world describes it as street art. Easy on the hand rather than the eye!
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 32nd Meeting of the INTACH Executive Committee was held on 15th September. Vice Chairman Dr. Sarayu Doshi was unable to attend due to a prior commitment overseas for which she was visiting China.

Chairman updated the Committee on some of the major developments. He commended the achievement of the INTACH Accounts and Administration team headed by AK Bajpayee and VK Aggarwal in successfully recovering the TDS pending with the Government from 2012 to 2014-15. It was managed without the assistance of any Chartered Accountant or charges paid. INTACH is now up to date with the recovery of this hefty sum of Rs. 2.44 crore. Another matter of concern which was resolved was the Notice given for vacation of ICI Labs in Odisha. An alternate space has been allotted which is still occupied by the Sahitya Kala Academy and the ICI Units have meanwhile moved to a temporary accommodation.

Chairman informed the Committee about some important people who have recently become INTACH Members, like former DGSI Babu Rajeev who is now appointed INTACH Convenor of Cochin. Former ASI archaeologist KK Mohammad is another important addition to our membership, as he would be a good advisor on his specialised subject.

Several Chapters were lauded for their work. Chairman thanked State Convenor Lalit Surjan for his successful visit to six Chapters of Chhattisgarh and the meeting with the Chief Minister. He got the opportunity to draw the CM’s attention to the considerable heritage destruction taking place in the State. The visit to the Ravi Shankar Vishwavidyalaya however was reassuring as Universities can help in bringing heritage awareness to students and to local population who could also become effective pressure groups against ill thought out development programmes in the State. The Committee was updated on several other news like the Kerala State Chapters Meeting at Trivandrum. The Kerala State Government is sanctioning 1 crore for conservation of each temple, and this needs to be properly used. INTACH proposes to distribute booklets in Malayalam to each temple on heritage conservation guidelines. Chairman also briefly touched on his visits to several other Chapters where he interacted with Commissioners.

INTACH has been receiving several requests for opening up of new Chapters, the first one was from the All India Women’s Conference which has 500 branches and are keen to collaborate with INTACH. This is positive development and augurs well for the future heritage pan-India thrust.

Member Secretary Dr. CT Misra briefed the Committee on the work of INTACH Divisions, and requested them to go through the brief compilation given to them of Divisional activities. In particular she mentioned INTACH’s proposed collaboration with the Embassy of Austria regarding an international workshop to be scheduled next year, as part of the centenary celebrations of the Austrian Republic. She informed the Executive Committee about INTACH Lecture Series that are being held regularly, in particular the lecture on Water by PD NHD Manu Bhatnagar and on Roman Trade by TN State Convenor Dr. Suresh that were attended by large audience at INTACH auditorium. The Lecture Series will be turned into annual booklets and add to INTACH archival material.

The new EC Members had the opportunity to seek information and clarification on some of the facets of INTACH work like Listing and profiles of INTACH Membership

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN TOURS CHHATTISGARH

Chairman LK Gupta undertook a five day tour of
Chhattisgarh State, arriving at Raipur and immediately setting off on visits to several places during 3rd-8th August as per a well planned itinerary.

The first meeting was held at the ancient temple of Sirpur where for the first time as many as 80 Members and prospective Members had gathered, presided by State Convenor Lalit Surjan. He recounted the activities undertaken in the State to familiarize a cross section of people who had come from Mahasamund, Bagbahra, Belsonda, Tumgaon, Basna, Saraipali, Jhalap, Pithora with INTACH organization. All Sirpur Members were also present. Chairman as Chief Guest addressed the gathering on the importance of heritage conservation, on how local society can play an active role in conserving their heritage assets. Village Sarpanch Yadav and former MLA Agni Chandraker were the Guests of Honour who pledged their support to heritage conservation activities that would be taken up in the District. The meeting was coordinated by Members Daulal Chandraker, Bandhu Rajeshwar Khare, Shashikumar Sharma under the able guidance of State Chapter Secretary Rajendra Chandak.

Chairman availed the opportunity to visit the world famous 6th century Laxman Temple and other sites in the vicinity with Smt. Sarla Gupta who accompanied him on this tour.

The next meeting was held at Sarangarh-Raigarh Chapter. It was Chairman’s first visit and an important one. The Chapter proposes to revive a 200 years old rain water harvesting system of Sarangarh town in partnership with the Municipal Committee. It has already launched an educational programme to sensitize local people on the wisdom of this ancient system. Former Lok Sabha MP Sushri Pushpadevi Singh presided the meeting attended by the Sarangarh SDM Thakurand and the Municipal President Amit Agrawal as the Guest of Honour. State Convenor Lalit Surjan apprised the gathering of 300 strong audience on the aims, objectives and importance of INTACH programmes. The Meeting was successfully coordinated by Convenor Kulisha Mishra and Co-Convenor Sakalu Ram Dewangan.

Enroute to Bilaspur Chapter, there was a brief stopover at Tala where stands a 7ft. Rudra statue with intriguing features, and reptiles carved all over his arms, legs, neck and forehead. It is known as the ‘Great Riddle of Indian Iconography’ as its antecedents are of unknown date. Two other old temples here called the Devrani-Jethani Mandir are in a pathetic condition. Members Dr. Manju Mitra, Dr. Bhagbali Joshi and Dr. Viola Singh accompanied Chairman.
Next was the visit to the newly established Khairagarh Chapter in a small university town with no rail connection to date. It is surrounded by three rivers the Musaka, Piparia and Aamner. The University Campus however has a Museum with centuries old archaeological remains and paintings in its Darbar Hall. Chairman visited their Archaeological Department for interaction with the faculty and students, and suggested restoration of the old Baoli. Convenor Dr. J Mohan welcomed the guests at the meeting chaired by State Convenor Lalit Surjan. Guest of Honour Vice Chancellor Prof. Mandavi Singh of Indira Kala Sangit Vishwavidyalaya recalled INTACH's restoration of paintings of previous Khairagarh royalty that now hang in the Durbar Hall of the University. Chairman emphasized that the strength and capability of INTACH depended on its Members and volunteers for the success of their new Chapter. He was accompanied by Dr. MN Jha and others from the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology on a visit to the ancient Shiv Temple in Gandai Village.

Chairman’s party stopped at Chhuikhadan to visit Bunkar Sabkari Samiti, on the return journey, but being Sunday its famous handloom products could not be seen. However 40 members from Durg-Bhilai urban conglomerate gathered together over lunch organised by Ravi Shrivastava, JN Thakur, Prof. DN Sharma and B Polamma at Bhilai. While INTACH has enlisted 25 Members in this area, this gathering will hopefully pave the way to the formation of one more Chapter in Chhattisgarh as anticipated by State Convenor Lalit Surjan.

A dinner was organized by Raipur Chapter on 7th August with invitations extended to a number of Government officials and eminent citizens who attended.

Co-Convenor Rajendra Chandok conducted the last meeting on the final day 8th August at Raipur. Chairman availed the opportunity to invite Prof. SK Pandey, the Vice Chancellor of Panditji Ravishankar University to deliver a talk at INTACH on the role of institutions in saving national heritage. Chairman stressed on the social and economic benefits of conservation and called for informed participation of citizens. Convenor Prof. RG Bhave gave the vote of thanks.

Chairman and State Convenor called on Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh who assured his support to INTACH activities and all projects undertaken in partnership with the State. Chairman’s wide ranging tour has boosted INTACH presence in this less frequented State with positive results expected to follow.
HERITAGE TOURISM DIVISION

TANJANI KONDADUVOM –INTACH TOUR GUIDES WORKSHOP

The first in the series a four day Capacity Building Workshop for Government approved Tour Guides was held in South India from 4th–7th August at Tanjavur under the aegis of Heritage Tourism Division. It was coordinated by Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. S Suresh for guides from mainly Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry regions.

In a thought provoking inaugural address, Tanjavur Convenor Babaji Rajah Bhosale, a scion of the erstwhile royal family, stressed on professionalism in Tour Guides. They must also take on the role of the ‘front office’ or ‘public relations personnel’ while conducting especially foreign tourists visiting India. He also touched on some of the tourism related problems they would have to address.

The Workshop agenda was drawn up in consultation with the officials and members of the Approved Tour Guides Association (ATGA), Chennai. It was christened Tanjani Kondaduvom meaning Celebrating Tanjavur with the main focus on cultural heritage and tourism potential of the region as a study template. There were six academic or technical sessions besides Lectures by well known experts. Group discussions and field visits were an important facet of this tourism education. There was a technical session on conservation of 11th century Chola dynasty wall paintings at the Great Temple of Tanjavur, and an equally enthralling session on Music Tourism. Participants were familiarized with art heritage including dance traditions, handicrafts and temple architecture. This wide range of diverse topics gave the ‘students’ an exposure – to a study of the history of cultural contacts between ancient and medieval kingdoms of South India and Cambodia, ancient Indo-Roman trade that once upon a time flourished, marine archaeology, and tourism related problems in Tanjavur and its neighbourhood. This kind of information equips tourist guides to conduct tours with imaginative commentaries and make tours a memorable experience for visitors.

The faculty headed by TN State Convenor Dr. S Suresh included Dr. N Athiyaman, and Dr. S Rajavelu, both Professors at the Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University; and Dr. Rama Kausalya, former Principal of Tiruvaiyaru Music College TN and Life Member of the Tanjavur Chapter.

MUSEUM JUNCTION, NEW DELHI

The National Rail Museum at Delhi has finally come of age and has become one of the capital’s notable tourist attractions. The ‘Toy Station’ is the spitting image, of the original but with no spit or stains that one usually sees at stations! Where else can you get a chance to board a Bombay-Poona Express of yesteryear, hauled by a Lumley steam engine? You might find a mail train steaming by with yellow signages all around and even an altitude reader (206 metres). One gets to see a 1886 British made weighing machine and a clunky 1891 bell that must have once rung madly to announce incoming/outgoing trains at some station? About his experience a visitor Mayank Soofi writes “The station is so serious about its pretensions that one green bench is thoughtfully reserved for senior citizens who perhaps have already browsed the bookshop specializing in bestselling pulp – sadly...... how we wish they had thought of putting up a typical rail station bookstore on the platform”. But one can overlook that and board the Joy Train offering a one-kilometer journey to the sound of whistles.

Lumley Steam Engine
SNAPSHOTS OF HISTORY – VIEW FROM THE WEST

The Oxford Circus Gallery in London recently exhibited 71 photographs of people and places of 19th century India. It had prints from 1885-1915 looking at all aspects of heritage and history including a Samuel Bourne print of 1885 to a 1915 photograph of RB Holmes from Peshawar. The major highlight of the exhibition was a four-volume album of the princes and rulers of India. A note indicated that the only other copy was presented to Queen Victoria. No one knows if it is still in Buckingham Palace. Nor is it known who commissioned it or who was the photographer – and perhaps it will never be known? The curators were looking at photographs right up to Independence but did not want the exhibition to turn into a political exhibition.

TOILETS POOP HEADLINES

‘Toilet’ has increasingly featured in our national campaign and public speeches lately. A feature film by that name with a message has been a runaway Bollywood success. One of the pet peeves that adventure tourists face in our less frequented tourist locations is also “poopcentric”. However some unassuming destinations offer picturesque toilets installed at “the most instagrammable places” in the world and might trigger inspired initiatives in a vast country like ours.

Ack: Daily Mail, 3rd August
CHAMBA BUDDHA

Chamba Buddha as he is known locally stands 32 metre high and 3 metre wide since the 7th century in the sparsely populated Suru Kartse Village in Zanskar Sub-Division of Kargil. A school of thought believes He was built in the Kushan period during 1st century when Maitreya together with the Buddha Sakyamuni together represented the most popular godly figures. However modern scholars date him around 8th century. He overlooks the National Highway 1D between Leh and Kargil a kilometer from Mull Bekh town and is visible from miles around.

There was little known of his existence when news of the destruction of Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan resonated across the world. Chamba Buddha is the tallest rock carved statue in North India carved into a rock face. Shortly to be notified it would be the first ever State Protected Monument in Ladakh. J&K Director General Archives, Archaeology and Museums Khurshid Qadri hopes it will become a major tourist destination of the region. The Chamba Buddha is a unique blend of Shaivite symbolism and early Buddhist art work. It points to the fact that Buddhist missionaries who were instrumental in carving this statue were from the east of the Himalayas and not from Tibet.

He was formally inaugurated by the Dalai Lama in July 2010

NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION

CONSERVATION OF THE COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS

National Workshop on Conservation of the Community Conserved Areas was held on 15th-16th July at the Chokelao Mahal, Mehrangar Trust Fort at Jodhpur.

Natural Dyes Conservation Project - Meenakshi [NHD]

Colours have played an important role in inspiring and establishing a connection with nature and one’s own self. Textile dyeing with natural colours has for long remained one of the important means of establishing this connection and its expression.

Earliest evidence of textile dyeing can be found from 4000 years ago in Egypt, India and Turkey. Indigo was grown and used extensively for fabric dyeing in India since 2000 BC, to a large extent and was even exported to various parts of the world like regions surrounding Mediterranean Sea. Between 14th to early 19th century India led the world in textile trade, owing to its special textile dyeing arts like Ikat, Bandhani, Patola, etc. Other than indigo, plants utilized for dyes included madder, safflower, turmeric, palash, etc. The patterns created on...
fabric depicted animals, flowers, trees and humans, and often connected with particular celebrations such as births and weddings.

However with the advent of synthetic dyes, that offered more vibrancy, higher retention capacity and higher variability in colours, the market for natural dyes soon reduced, and consequently the art receded. Currently, the number of families that are still preserving the knowledge and tradition of natural dyes and dyeing in India is extremely low. At the same time the plant sources for such dyes have greatly diminished.

However the increasing awareness about the damaging effects of synthetic dyes, in the form of pollution, intensive resource utilization and on the health of the workers, has resulted in a rising interest in natural dyes.

The Natural Heritage Division has commenced a project that studies the art of natural dyeing, the plant resources and their geographical dispersal. The project comprises researching and documenting the traditional practices and knowledge associated with it. The ultimate objective is to increase the groves bank of natural dyes and of plants that function both as a biodiversity refuge as well as increase the availability of natural dyes to match the growing interest in non-chemical materials.

MEDIUM AND MINOR RIVERS : NEED FOR STUDY – SAJID IDRISI (NHD)

Indian rivers have been reduced to dire straits in a single generation. While there are signs of awakening in civil society, the establishment seems to turn a blind eye and continue with bumper to bumper dam building, water diversions and irrational river linking schemes. Despite the thousands of crores spent on Ganga and Yamuna rivers, they are far from being restored to a healthy state.

While there has been considerable focus on major rivers as a result of media attention and civil society activism, the plight of medium and minor rivers, and thousands of seasonal or ephemeral streams, often goes unnoticed. Lack of data and scattered studies do not provide any holistic picture for rational intervention.

India has 14 major rivers (catchment area 20,000 sq.km.), 42 medium rivers (catchment area between 2000 sq.km. and 20,000 sq.km.), 55 minor rivers (catchment area 2000 sq.km)

Medium or minor rivers have either completely dried up, or lost or polluted beyond recognition turning into ‘nallahs’ (drains) especially in urban cities. For instance, courses of Katha River in western Uttar Pradesh and Sabibi River in Rajasthan are now difficult to trace. Mithi River (Mumbai), Musi River (Hyderabad), Mula Mutha (Pune), Numbul River (Imphal) are bearing the brunt of urban sewage disposal beyond their capacities.

There is an urgent need to study such medium and minor rivers and their basins. Natural Heritage Division has therefore carried out a model study of the Hindon, a medium river which is a highly polluted tributary of the Yamuna. The study includes the hydrological history of the basin, riverine and riparian biodiversity, pollution in surface and ground waters, water budget, satellite study of land use and land cover, agriculture and cropping pattern, water borne diseases in the basin, and other relevant features. The baseline study facilitates analysis of issues and threats, and creates a scientific base for remedial proposals. This 19 month long study will be completed in October 2017. Already several organizations and UP
Govt. authorities have expressed interest in the model approach. It is hoped that the pattern of this study would be followed hereafter for many other rivers in order to rejuvenate them.

SAVING THE CHINKARA (INDIAN GAZELLE) – PD NHD MANU BHATNAGAR

The Chinkaras are small deer (ranked in the vulnerable category) inhabiting the desert districts of western India. These herbivores are grazers and browsers who play a natural role in seed dispersal. With the passage of winter their watering holes dry out in the arid landscape and they turn to sources in the village for quenching their thirst. They are caught by village dogs and succumb to injuries by the thousands every year.

NHD proposes to make a series of water holes near their habitats to avert the situation, obviating their need to come into the villages. A pilot watering hole (check dam) has been created at Lunavadi, Distt. Jodhpur. This will hold water for more than a year serving the chinkaras well into the next monsoon. The work was facilitated with the help of Jodhpur Chapter (Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar and Shri Samarth Singh) and the Barmer Chapter (Convenor Shri Yashovardhan Sharma).

INTACH proposes to construct 200 such watering holes at an average cost of Rs. 125,000/- each with the help of CSR support and donations over the next two years earnestly appealing for help. Chapters could easily replicate this initiative in their own areas.

CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX - BHARTI SAREEN (PROJECT OFFICER, NHD)

According to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), “The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.” It is also referred to as the ‘Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity (SI). The idea for the establishment of the CBI was proffered in 2008 by the then Minister for National Development Singapore Mah Bow Tan. The scheme was propounded for CBI to be a yardstick for conservation efforts of a city. To develop the index the Secretariat of the CBD was aided by National Parks Board of Singapore (NParks) together with experts from various countries.
The Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity comprises:

- Profile of the City
- Twenty three indicators

The overall score of the index is calculated by assigning a range from 0–4 points to each indicator thus bringing a maximum score to 92. The core components under which these indicators are organized incorporate native biodiversity in the city, ecosystem services provided by biodiversity, and governance and management of biodiversity.

Singapore was one of the first cities in the world to
implement the SI. CBI has been applied to fifteen cities in Japan, and also European cities of Helsinki, Brussels and Lisbon and Canadian city of Edmonton. The Indian metropolis of Hyderabad was successful in implementing the CBI and released it during the Conference of Parties-11 Convention on Biodiversity in 2012. This CBI was also introduced to Mira Bhainder, a boomtown north of Mumbai.

Delhi is regarded as one of the greenest capitals of the world, yet the expansion of the urbanscape and burgeoning population pressure has led to unsustainable resource utilization pertaining to land use, forest and water which have implications on biodiversity. The present exercise of calculating the CBI of Delhi is an attempt by INTACH to bring out the status of native biodiversity, ecosystem services provided by biodiversity, its governance and management with the objective of highlighting the importance of ‘biodiversity’ as a component in policy matters which generally gets missed out under broad heads of ‘forests’ and ‘environment’ only. There is an absence of State Biodiversity Board (SBB) to be constituted by the State Government and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) which are in the line with Biological Diversity Act (2002) to promote documentation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The quantitative assessment of the CBI as a self assessment tool will embark on capturing and completing baseline information and oversee conservation efforts over time. The scope of the assessment can also be extended to encourage other INTACH Chapters in different cities to contribute to strengthening biodiversity conservation and management.

RUDRAKSH PLANTATION ON 21ST & 22ND AUGUST AT VILLAGE NAU, PAURI GARHWAL

Rudraksh is a well recognized sacred bead. The Rudraksh tree has greatly diminished in India leading to imports and fraudulent practises. INTACH is planting Rudraksh saplings in Garhwal to stabilize slopes and provide supplemental riparian income to village folk. The tree has medicinal value as well. INTACH has planted 1500 saplings and is targeting 5000 more in another 2 years.

POLYTHENE FREE ZONES AS PLASTIC BAGS NEVER DIE

The Archaeological Survey of India has declared a 300 metre ‘Polythene Free Zone’ at all protected monuments and archaeological sites. Instructions were issued to all ASI field offices, and ASI Superintending Archaeologists are authorized to issue show cause notices against cases of encroachment. District Magistrates are empowered to demolish all illegal constructions. It remains to be seen what happens on the ground as they are still in usage at many places despite NGT order.

The National Green Tribunal passed an interim order slapping a fine of Rs.5000 on anyone found in Delhi carrying non-biodegradable plastic bags less than 50 microns, which is the thickness of a human hair. Micron is the global measurement unit for thickness of such bags. For the first time Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi are requesting customers to bring their own shopping bags as no carry bags would be made available to them. Plastic bags are made of non-renewable sources that not only choke drains, leach chemicals into water but also contribute to climate change. They never die but only hasten the deterioration of human health.
ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

The Allahabad High Court built in early 20th century is located in the centre of the city covering approximately an area of 28 acres, within which the heritage building occupies around 13,500 sqm. Over the years the High Court building has undergone several additions and alterations with new materials, addition of walls, new blocks, etc. In June this year, the High Court approached INTACH for conservation of the building and a MOU was signed. AHD team visited in July and carried out a

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (AHD)

ROBIN HOOD INDEX - A PIPE DREAM?

A slice of top billionaires’ fortune in a country would be enough to buy all the carbon credits required to offset domestic green house gas emissions in their home country. It is said if each billionaire contributes as much as 70% of his/her wealth to buy carbon credit it would be for the common good. Bill Gates for example needs to spend only 43.8% of his wealth to do this in USA – despite Trump pulling out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. But an Indian billionaire may have to part with almost 72% to cover all the carbon credits in India. It is unlikely that our businessmen would turn Robin Hoods, although he/she would still have enough to lead a life of luxury and comfort.

Ack : Wei Lu, India Today

ELEPHANTINE PROBLEM

Human-elephant conflict in eastern and central India needs urgent attention, with 253 reported deaths of people and unreported elephants dead during 2016-17 to date. Elephants walked into South Bengal only after 1980s, into Chhattisgarh in the last 10-15 years; in Odisha they were concentrated in 12-14 districts but now they roam in at least 30 districts of the State. A strategic plan for creating “elephant removal zones” was discussed recently by the Wildlife Wardens of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal – as a first step towards better inter-State coordination to tackle over 3000 elephants in their zones. Only Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have opened apps that track elephant populations. Bengaluru based expert Raman Sukumar, who has “increasing range expanse and dispersal” apps is involved in drafting a regional plan. It divides habitats into zones: areas with large forest cover where elephant-human interface and co-existence zones can be created; and elephant removal zones in agricultural areas where there has been increasing conflict with crops and livelihoods destroyed. Elephants in the latter zones have to be relocated to other forest areas keeping both intact. Some may even have to be kept under captivity till an alternative place is found, and States have to take a call.

No one mentioned giving elephants as State Gifts on VIP visits to overseas countries as Pt. Nehru once did – the elephants might welcome that as their zoos are so well maintained!
preliminary survey. An initial assessment report has been submitted to the High Court, and the Detail Project Report along with complete documentation, condition assessment is currently under preparation.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN AND AROUND JAMMU, J&K

INTACH is engaged in preparation of Detailed Project Reports for a number of historic sites in and around Jammu.

**Samba Fort, Samba District**

Samba town was established in 1400 A.D. by Raja Malhdev. The Samba Fort was built in 1822 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh on the remains of an old fort. Spread over an area of 2.5 acre, the site comprises three historic structures including a stepwell. Presently the buildings are in a dilapidated state. INTACH was approached by District Development Commissioner, Samba to prepare a conservation plan for the Fort and a Draft DPR has been submitted, to be finalized shortly.

**Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu**

The Science College was built by Maharaja Pratap Singh to commemorate the visit of Prince of Wales in December 1910. The College was given ‘heritage status’ in July 2015 by the University Grant Commission (UGC), India. The college premises has five heritage buildings: Physics & Chemistry Block; Geology Block, Main Administration Block, Library and the Hostel Building. The colonial style buildings are mainly characterized by exposed red bricks, arcaded verandahs on all sides, ornamental cornices and crenellated parapets.

INTACH signed a MoU with the college to prepare DPRs for the conservation of the heritage buildings that are currently under preparation by AHD.

**CONSERVATION OF CLIVE LIBRARY, FORT ST. GEORGE, CHENNAI**

Clive's Library, located inside Fort St. George, is currently owned by the Indian Navy. Built in 1640 AD, it is the first fort to be established by the British East India Company for trade and commerce. The city of Madras developed in and around the Fort then known as the George Town.

The colonial style Library building is located at the north-east corner of the Fort. It is primarily a double story brick masonry structure with a U shaped plan. The main entrance from the eastern side is through an extended porch. Presently, it is in a completely dilapidated condition and requires immediate attention. The big trees growing all over the building with roots deeply penetrating through its walls, roof etc. resulting in partial collapse of the building is the main concern. Indian Navy signed a MoU with INTACH for the preparation of a DPR (detailed project report) for undertaking the conservation
work. Following site visit and detailed documentation, a DPR is currently under preparation.

BARSANA, MATHURA, U.P.

Barsana is known as the birth place of Radha and is believed to be the capital of King Vrishbhanu, the founder of Barsana and father of Radha. INTACH carried out the Cultural Resources Mapping for Braj in 2014 (funded by the World Bank) in which about 15 kunds (tank) and one baoli (stepped well) were identified in Barsana. While some of these have recently been restored by the Govt. of UP, the Kirti Kund and Baoli are encroached and still in a dilapidated condition. In May 2017, INTACH took the initiative to prepare a conservation proposal for Kirti Kund and Baoli with the support of the Manmandir Seva Sansthan Trust of Barsana. Kirti Kund is said to be the kund of Kirti Rani (mother of Radha Rani). The palace of Vrishbhanu called Bhanugarh is located on the nearby hill at a walking distance from Kirti Kund that was reconstructed by Rup Ram Katara in the mid 18th century. The Baoli is a stepped well located in Yadav Moballa of Barsana opposite to Sri Narinba Mandir which is believed to have been constructed by Harsingh Tantiya in 18th century for the villagers along with two other wells and the Tantiya Mahal in the same locality.

INTACH hopes to take up the work of conserving both the Kirti Kund and Baoli with the support of local community to protect the historical evidences and cultural values of the region.

STATE OF BUILT HERITAGE OF INDIA: CASE OF THE UNPROTECTED

The focus of AH Division’s pioneering pan-India initiative, ‘State of Built Heritage of India’ on ‘unprotected’ built heritage is a central cause for INTACH. The objective is to establish the threats and challenges that unprotected built heritage faces, and to cover as much expanse as possible to substantiate data for analysis, and work towards an effective ‘safeguard strategy’.

The ‘SoBHI’ report to be published shortly, and the findings disseminated to solicit involvement of Government bodies, the Private Sector and the community, is for safeguarding neglected built heritage that is fast depleting. To boost this effort, regional seminars, a short film and a travelling exhibition have been designed.

As an integral part of SoBHI study, a Heritage at Risk Register has been prepared, comprising of 359 sites from the contributions and research in all States. It is intended...
to be an ongoing database to be expanded periodically, for bringing cases to Government and public attention and for seeking assistance – and hopefully impede the rate at which our heritage is fast disappearing.

**VERNACULAR BUILT HERITAGE OF ICONIC SAREE WEAVING CLUSTERS**

Initiatives for benefit of handloom saree weaver communities, conservation and repair of identified weaver homes in Chanderi (MP) have been carried out with traditional materials. The samples demonstrated the relevance and advantages of traditional building materials, and promotes continuity and safeguarding of vernacular architecture in weaver settlements. Two weaver homes were successfully repaired in collaboration with INTACH Chanderi Chapter.

A wide-ranging approach was followed in identification of the weaver dwellings, which led to existing typologies of vernacular homes, *havelis* and shared public conveniences to be conserved. Abdul Mubeen’s modest vernacular home, Salim’s haveli and a shared toilet facility have since been repaired and conserved using traditional materials. A conscious attempt was made that vernacular skills of the local community are respected and they are also involved in the process. It has resulted in Chanderi Municipal Council officers being in agreement on the benefits of using traditional materials for development projects for Chanderi. Connection has been established with Madhya Pradesh Urban Administration and Development Department. Chanderi is one of the eight weaver clusters identified in the series *UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites of India*. INTACH has prepared draft sections of the nomination dossier for the proposal.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO “HERITAGE AT RISK”**

Architectural Heritage Division periodically gets requests from various public institutions and trusts to provide technical assistance for restoration of heritage buildings under threat or in need of urgent conservation, that AHD actively addresses and follows up. Owners and users of heritage buildings are encouraged to approach AHD for technical assistance and preliminary assessment of their heritage buildings and sites.

AHD has extended assistance for several buildings/sites: *Purmandal, Uttarvehini* (J&K), *Kushalidhara Gate* in Sawai Madhopur; *Salt Golah* in Kolkata; *Court Building* in Porbandar; *Vegetable Market* in Dwarka, *Una Fort* H.P.; *Jamal Khan’s Tomb* in Ropar; *Nageshwar Kund* in Jambusar; *Bharuch* and *Khairagarh Baoli* in Chhattisgarh. It has saved many unprotected heritage buildings from inappropriate repair works and demolition, and also helped in preparing...
technical reports for conservation works (as generally no funds are available with department or owner).

Recently, preliminary assessments have been undertaken for Lady Hardinge Medical College (Delhi), Government Arts College (Kumbhakonam, Tamil Nadu), Mansur Kund Talaab (Viramgaon, Gujarat) and Jatra Kua (Mora Village, Surat) and Jalkal and Bhaideni Waterworks (Varanasi).

**HRIDAY, VARANASI**

An Art Camp was organized in Varanasi in August under the initiative of HRIDAY by the Municipal Corporation with INTACH assistance. A series of events were organized: Art Competition for age group of 9-14 and 15-18; Mural Competition; Display and Exhibition of Art Work; and Theme Song Competition announced through Newspaper, Radio, Local Television Channels, etc. Around 750 students from 50 different schools participated in the Art Competition held on 12th August in the Rajkiya Balika Inter College, and the paintings were displayed at the Town Hall between 18th-20th August.

The waterworks Jalkal Building boundary wall was used for mural competition by different artists held on 11th -15th August and attracted hundreds of visitors who took a lively interest and appreciated their work. All these events were extensively covered by Media.

**SOBHI REVIEWED**

A survey cum peer review for SoBHI Publication, Film, Presentation and Exhibition was held by the AHD on 8th August during the monthly INTACH Coordination Meeting. Comments were invited on this impressive compilation and some suggestions were made. It was suggested that in order for SoBHI publication to be impactful, the factual findings and issues need to be highlighted prominently amidst the vast body of the text. The recommendations could be categorized into strategic, policy and implementation oriented sections. To be disseminated more effectively, it was also suggested that the main volume should also be published as smaller regional booklets for circulating to all Chapters/Authorities for ready reference by the concerned Chapters/Local Authorities as monumental works often get ‘lost’ on massive book shelves.

**JAIN AND BUDDHIST IDOLS UNEARTHED**

Nearly 500 ancient Jain and Buddhist idols, believed to be 1200 years old, were unearthed from a farmland in UP Etawah District. A perceptive tractor driver apprised the district officials of this discovery. Majority are Jain deities besides Lord Buddha in various ‘mudras’. Most interesting were two statues of Lord Mahavira on a black marble in ‘dhyan mudra’. The sleepy village has suddenly become the centre of attention with people from far and near making a beeline for a darshan of the idols. Could there be many more in this area?
SAVING STONEHENGE!

It is quite surprising that the UK Government plans to upgrade the perennially congested A303 with a 1.8 mile tunnel that cuts through the heart of Stonehenge World Heritage Site to make way for a dual carriageway. All the more shocking that it is mooted in a country known for its highly sensitive conservation approach to safeguard its national heritage. UNESCO, which oversees World Heritage Sites like Stonehenge questioned UK National Trust’s support to the tunnel plan, especially as the end of the tunnel would be inside this World Heritage Site. ICOMOS inspectors pointed out that the proposed tunnel fails to give “sufficient priority to the outstanding value” of Stonehenge.

In a joint statement the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic England said “We are disappointed that the ICOMOS report largely ignores both the benefits of removing a large stretch of the A303 and the danger of doing nothing at all”. They acknowledge that “with traffic set to increase, maintaining the status quo is not an option for anyone who cares about the history and heritage of this unique site”. They believe Stonehenge deserves a carefully designed site with utmost care for the surrounding archaeology, a chalked grassland landscape to provide a worthy setting that brings benefits in terms of both public access and nature conservation.

RAMMED EARTH IS FOR EVERYONE

Why ‘smarten’ only cities? There are vast stretches of rural areas and small towns where development is turning living spaces into building blocks of cement. Rammed earth construction is an alternative worthy of attention of builders and development authorities. The Centre for Earth Architecture Sustainable Integrated Development (CEASID) in Bengaluru is hosting a regular certificate training course in Earth Architecture.

Rammed earth walls are constructed by ramming a mixture of selected aggregates, including gravel, sand, silt and small amounts of clay put in place between flat panels called formwork. Traditional technology repeatedly rammed the end of a wooden pole into the earth mixture to compress it. Modern technology replaced the pole with a mechanical ram. Traditional wooden rammers in many countries have been replaced by pneumatic rammers. Stabilised rammed earth is a variant of traditional kind that adds a small amount (5-10%) cement to increase its strength and durability. Rammed earth gives limited insulation but excellent thermal mass. Many such rammed earth constructions are to be seen in Auroville, Tamil Nadu. Most of the energy used in rammed earth constructions is in quarrying the raw material and transporting it to the site. The use of on-site materials will of course lessen both cost and energy consumed in construction.

Rammed Earth is for Everyone – as it is a sustainable-to-build an ecologically and just society at a lower price which people can better afford. Most surely it needs to be considered by developmental authorities who need to build “smart villages and towns” for the vast majority of Indian people, and no just “smart cities” out of congested urban areas.

ON WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Ahmedabad is now a World Heritage City, the UNESCO inscription was recently handed over by its Director General Irina Bokova to Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. It may be remembered that Ahmedabad city was built by Ahmed Shah in 1411 AD.

UNESCO recently also added four new sites to the World Heritage List: Persian Qanat in Iran; Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape in China; Nan Madol, Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia; and the excavated remains of Nalanda Mahavihara in India.
AHD LISTING CELL

The AHD Cell headed by Director A Vijaya was assigned the listing of built heritage of Dausa District, Rajasthan to Sawai Madhopur Chapter. To date 350 sites have been identified. The listing covers the district comprehensively, including all its villages and tehsils.

Built Heritage in Rajasthan Districts of Dausa, Jhalawar, Chittaurgarh and Bhilwara

Listing of Jhalawar, Chittaurgarh and Bhilwara Districts in Rajasthan has been undertaken by INTACH Listing Cell, and to date 751 sites have been identified. The listing method entailed a first level research based on secondary sources to identify sites followed by settlements of historic and cultural importance. It also incorporates the old listing. The three districts have been covered comprehensively: their main cities, smaller settlements and villages too, based on the initial research. The short-listed buildings are based on their architectural merit and significance, in line with the grading rationale of INTACH. The first drafts for all three districts are being reviewed currently.

Listing of Old Bridges, Uttarakhand

The listing of old bridges in four districts of Dehradun, Pauri, Tehri and Nainital in Uttarakhand was undertaken by the Dehradun Chapter. The first draft was submitted comprising 108 bridges. The documentation of suspended cable wire bridges and iron girder bridges was included in order to also prepare an inventory of these beautiful structures for the first time.

Built Heritage Listing of Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu

Built heritage listing of Thiruvarur town was undertaken by Tamil Nadu State Chapter in collaboration with Prime Chatvapeepal Bridge, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand

Stone Chariot in Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu

Tophkana at Mandalgarh Fort, Bhilwara, Rajasthan

A watchtower in Ghoomna Village, Sikrai Tehsil, Dausa District, Rajasthan
College, and to date 60 sites have been identified. A Listing Workshop was also conducted on 24th and 25th August at PRIME College for the students by the Chapter.

**Capacity Building Workshop**

The Listing Cell, in collaboration with Chapters Division and Punjab State Chapter, conducted a *Capacity Building Workshop for Listing* in Amritsar from 29th-30th July. The participants included Members from all Punjab Chapters, as well as participants from Ambala and Yamunagar Chapters, Haryana.

**HERITAGE CRAFT AND COMMUNITY DIVISION (HCCD)**

**DESIGN AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

Director HCCD Bindu Manchanda organized a series of skill up-gradation workshops during this quarter at their respective locations:

- **Wood Inlay Craft, Hoshiarpur, Punjab** was held on 18th-31st August with 15 participants.
- **Paper Workshop, Kagzipura** in collaboration with TARA and the Aurangabad Chapter was held end September. Only handmade paper was used.
- **Wood, Weaving, Iron and Camel Decoration** was also held in September in collaboration with the Barmer Chapter.
- **Design Development of Signages for Varanasi** is under process in Varanasi for installation on streets to further enhance the ‘smart city’ concept.
- **Clay Toy and Clayware** is another workshop under planning and will be held at Varanasi in collaboration with its INTACH Chapter.

**Directory of Traditional Building Crafts**

Research on identification of various traditional building crafts is an on-going HCCD project. The Directory comprising separate sections for each craft like handmade tiles, building with earth, lime section, etc. has been completed. To date about 280 contact addresses of craftsmen, artisans and individual organisations have been collected. The compiled data was shared with the Listing Cell. HCCD Director Bundu Manchanda will be putting it up on the INTACH website after some suggested amendments have been executed.

A number of *Documentation and Listing of Building Crafts* have been taken up in collaboration with Chapters like Kasargod and Sawai Madhopur. Their final reports have been received.

Documentation of *Decorative Brick Work* is another specialized area on which documentation is currently on going.

HCCD has uploaded some building craft information on the INTACH website. Information with short videos on *Stone Carving, Jaisalmer, Lime Mortar and Plaster, Jaisalmer,* and *Madras Terrace Roof* that were uploaded have been appreciated with favourable comments. They may be accessed on [http://craftsheritage.intach.org](http://craftsheritage.intach.org)
**Skill Enhancing and New Product Development Workshop**

**Hoshiarpur, Punjab, 16th August - 31st August**

Inlay on wood is a traditional craft of Hoshiarpur with objects decorated with ivory inlay work by its artisans. Gradually the tradition of inlay work on furniture items evolved. Other items like chests and weaponry were also decorated with ivory inlay. With increased patronage, the craft flourished and several masterpieces soon adorned the palaces and mansions both in India and abroad. The craft was of such high quality that it was one of the main exhibits during the exhibition held in 1911 during the historic Delhi Durbar. Later with a ban on the use of ivory, other materials like bone, mother of pearl, silver, ebony wood, and acrylic were introduced. During the recent decades the craft has suffered due to a lack of new designs and product.

The Heritage Craft & Community Division organized a **Skill Enhancing & New Product Development Workshop** in Hoshiarpur in August this year. The artisans were introduced to a new range of utility products with motifs based on organic forms. The collection was launched at the conclusion of the workshop in Hoshiarpur, and received an overwhelming response from visitors.
INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTES (ICI /A&MHD)

ICI DELHI

Post Graduate Diploma Course in Preventive Conservation

The Art and Material Heritage Division (A&MHD) and IGNCA are jointly conducting a one-year part-time training programme on ‘Preventive Conservation’. It is a Post Graduate Diploma course sponsored by the Ministry of Culture. The course is directed towards training and capacity building of professionals in various aspects of preventive conservation, and in risk management approach to conservation of collections. The course curriculum comprises 90 classes in one semester with the addition of practical exercises, visiting guest lectures and workshops. The students undertaking the course are from varied academic and professional background interested in safeguarding the cultural heritage of the nation. The first course commenced on 14th August. The practical work is being taught at the ICI Conservation Laboratory, Delhi.

Lime Testing Unit

Fifty-two samples of new plaster were prepared with varied compositions for Artificial and Natural Weathering Tests. Studies of physical properties after proper curing and 60 days of carbonation on the samples were conducted to understand the following facets:

Water absorption by capillary action and effect of salt efflorescence using sodium chloride.
Wall Paintings of India Directory

The Wall Painting Directory under preparation by Art & Material Heritage Division is a self-generated INTACH project. During July-September, ICI WPD teams continued to survey and document wall paintings sites in Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Haryana. Around 35 lesser-known wall painting sites were documented in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh during this period. Wall paintings are mostly found in temples, mosques, palaces, forts, etc.

The 17th century Moti Masjid located in Rajasthan’s Tonk District reflects the Islamic style of architecture. It is embellished with wall paintings having floral motifs and geometrical patterns painted on arches, pillars, ceilings, and the mebrab of the prayer hall. The building and the wall paintings appear to be in a fairly stable condition.

Shri Gyan Gopal Mandir situated in Pushkar, Ajmer District of Rajasthan is approximately 200 years old, and stands on a raised platform leading to a courtyard. The temple consists of a sanctum and an assembly hall showcasing a fine example of haveli style architecture. It also reflects Rajput style architecture. Wall paintings seen on the exterior walls as well as in the courtyard and worship hall are based on Lord Krishna’s life, mythological scenes with decorative floral motifs and geometrical patterns.

Nipanikara Wada located in Nippani, Belgavi District of Karnataka was constructed in the
17th century. The Darbar Hall of the Palace is adorned with wall paintings of Shiv Paravati, Mahisasurmardhini, Krishna Leela seen in the painted niches. Color palate for these wall paintings is mostly Indian red, chrome yellow, etc.

ICI IN-HOUSE WORKS

A fire in the Times of India Building in Delhi resulted in damage due to fire fighting and water collection on art works. There were valuable paintings by many eminent artists like Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury, Ram Kumar, Swaminathan and others as well some miniature paintings. ICI Delhi team was called for preventive and emergency conservation and the condition assessment of the collection. Paintings were segregated into those most damaged or needing immediate attention, and the least damaged. Fire, smoke, soot or other fire-related residue can cause serious damage to such significant works of art, that can often be reversed with the right treatment and expertise.

Most fire-related damages cause deposition of soot on the paintings, that invariably results in blisters on paint layer due to extreme heat. Water used for fire fighting also caused considerable damage to the collection, with the paper paintings worse affected. Water had transferred the acidity of the backboard on to the paintings resulting in brown patches of water stain. The support paper of miniature paintings had also become wavy. Furthermore the high humidity resulted in mold growth. As a first step, paper paintings were removed from their mount boards and frames and then given anti-fungal treatment.
Conservation of a Trophy Animal

A trophy head of a bull, a taxidermy specimen, was received from the Rashtrapati Bhawan collection for restoration. The head was extensively damaged mainly due to insect attack. The bio-deterioration had led to shredding of animal hair resulting in bald patches, with extensive accumulation of dust and dirt. The joints in the skin and the horns were weak, having separated due to expansion and contraction over the years.

The conservation treatment entailed insecticidal treatment, stabilization of the hair to prevent further loss, mechanical and solvent cleaning, strengthening of joints, re-fixing hair at the lost areas, and filling the areas near horns with inert materials.

Conservation of a Miniature Painting

A miniature painting on paper received at ICI Delhi Centre was badly damaged with no visible details. There was heavy accumulation of dust and dirt, fungal spores and insect holes, stains and bulges, tears and losses in paper support and paint. The cleaning revealed some beautiful details. Conservation entailed antifungal treatment, both mechanical and solvent cleaning, consolidation and re-strengthening of support, tear and patch mending, and finally the re-integration of losses.
ICI LUCKNOW

Conservation of manuscripts of Meherjirana Library, Navsari, Gujarat

A team of Conservators deputed for two months completed 16 manuscripts having 3440 folios, one 540x20 cm scroll, two 64x40.5/ 56.5x53.5 cm paper documents and a 59x39.5 Vanshavali.

Conservation of Craft Documents of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

26 craft documents were received at the Institute highly brittle, repaired by cello tape, brown taped, lost areas, broken spine, flaking colours and paint layer.

Conservation of two rare printed books

Two rare printed books were conserved - Sanskrit English Dictionary, and The Alif Laila (book of Thousand and One Nights) written in Persian. They had become so fragile that it made their handling difficult. Due to ageing and chemical changes the pages had turned highly acidic, weak and were breaking even when handled carefully. The books were first documented and photographed before conservation.
Conservation of Glass paintings

This 120 x 46 cms glass painting without frame had suffered from heavy dust and dirt deposition, flaking paint layer, abrasion and loss of areas, with different type of coloured papers pasted at the back of the glass. Conservation treatment involved removal of paper, consolidation of paint and reintegration of lost areas in a reversible medium.

ICI BANGALORE

Bangalore ICI conserved several interesting art objects, and manuscripts (both paper and palm leaves). Many collections were also examined and condition assessment reports were prepared. ICI received an unsigned artwork executed in oil on canvas titled Portrait of a Lady attributed to the Ravi Varma School. It had many complicated problems like darkening of thick varnish layer, cracks, tears, losses, previous interventions, etc. One of the major problems encountered by conservators was to undo previous interventions by way of hardened fillings, darkened surface coating and the removal of artwork pasted with a strong adhesive on a hardboard.

ICI JODHPUR

The Mehrangarh Art Conservation Centre received periodicals for conservation, a collection from Maharaja Man Singh Pustak Prakash, Mehrangarh Fort titled Marwar Gazettes issued in the first half of the 20th century. Due to improper storage, they were heavily damaged by termites, also water stains and fungus with loss of paper and usual
wear and tear over a period of time. The Centre has so far conserved 4072 folios after anti-fungal treatment and de-acidification to regain suppleness. They were provided lining from both sides with lens tissue paper. The periodicals are now stored in boxes.

All the specimen and objects of the Museum are the heritage of a particular region and each has a specific value and antiquity representing a historical scenario that gives information on our ancient culture. The *Patta*, Indian sword with a gauntlet integrated as a hand guard, decorated with pieces of brass was also conserved by the Centre. It suffered from dust deposition, rust and patina along with abrasions on the surface, before it was conserved.

**ICI MUMBAI**

The Centre conserved a late 19th-early 20th beautiful carved soap stone tortoise. *Talc-Schist*, softer grade may feel similar to soap when touched, easy for carving due to presence of high content of talc. The Tortoise was decorated with geometrical and floral elements for creating design patterns. The main problems of deterioration were accumulation of dust and ingrained dirt layer with an uneven hard brown layer on the surface.

![Brass Lamp](image)

*Brass Lamp*

A beautiful brass lamp dated late 19th-early 20th Century, fully perforated by floral pattern design with a moveable oil tank, was conserved by the Centre.

![ICI KOLKATA](image)

**ICI KOLKATA**

The Centre restored a 90 cm x 58 cm paper painting by E. Horst, an early 20th century artist that was pasted on a paperboard. The supporting board was brittle with layers getting separated leading to huge losses in the original art work. Other major problems were the usual flaking, warping, tear, stain, dust and dirt, etc. The painting was fumigated for eradication of fungus and scientifically conserved. An acid free mount at back was also provided.
Restoration of a Metal Object

An antique metal object (radius 14 cm x height 32 cm.) was received from Alliance Française du Bengale, Kolkata for conservation. The patina on metal had become dark brown due to application of colour, with several parts missing and cracks present apart from mud depositions. Conservation involved stabilizing the cracks followed by cleaning, and mending of losses with a copper net. Finally protective coat was given.

ICI BHUBANESHWAR

The Centre conserved six old editions of Odiya Bhashakosh (Dictionary) and seven volumes of old editions of a rare Odiya Purnachandra Bhashakosh – 1931.

Conservation of Mounted Photographs

Damaged old Black & White Photographs mounted on acidic mount boards were conserved, de-acidified, and were then remounted on acid free mount boards.

Conservation of Rare Minutes Books of Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai

Rare volumes of handwritten minutes books of Willingdon Sports Club Archives were conserved by the Centre and given cloth mounting and cloth binding.
ICI DELHI

ICI Delhi Centre undertook the laborious task of conserving the heavily degraded paper manuscripts of Jamia Milia Islamia University, Central Library, New Delhi. The state of the manuscripts speak for themselves. It was a very challenging work undertaken with the assistance of ICI Bhubaneswar staff.

ICI Bhubaneswar Conservation Team at a temporary make shift lab at Delhi, Jamia Library

GANDHI’S VISION: FREEDOM AND BEYOND

In the 70th year of Independence, the National Gandhi Museum brought together a photographic exhibition at the India International Centre, Delhi that documented the India’s Freedom Struggle led by Mahatma Gandhiji. It highlighted his ideology of a ‘Free India’. He is seen fasting for Hindu-Muslim unity in 1924. The exhibition chronicled some of the main events leading to Independence like a 10,000 strong crowd gathered on the banks of the Sabarmati in Ahmedabad in March 1930 on the eve of the Salt March; a picture of Gandhiji in 1933 standing next to a common well built for all communities, another of 1942 Quit India Movement with a long serpentine queue of women dressed in saris marching in then Bombay; and hundreds of women going to Chowpatty with pots to collect sea water and illegally manufacture salt.

2nd October, Gandhiji’s Birthday, is a day to remember his ideals as a tribute to him and to recapture the true spirit of India – that we need to remember in our lives, our demeanour and in our politics. We are a secular state.

EXHIBITION FOR THE SIGHTLESS

Many museums have catered to the disabled providing wheelchair access, and some have even catered to the deaf visitors with sign language guides. The visually impaired remained deprived of a museum visit and experience since touching art works is strictly prohibited all over the world.

The National Museum experts joined hands with representatives from UNESCO and NGO volunteers earlier this year to create a permanent showcase for the visually impaired. It had been a successful experiment at the Prado Museum in Spain. To mark the 55th Foundation Day of the National Museum at Delhi Anubhav: A Tactile Experience finally opened its door early this after a year in the making. Twenty-two replicas of rare exhibits were specially created and displayed neatly labeled in Braille, also providing an auto guide. Curator Vijay Mathur states that the exhibits were carefully selected to offer a small representation of the Museum’s vast collection, spanning many centuries and mediums, in order to ensure a good tactile experience that would interest visitors of all ages. The Museum’s modeling department created twenty two 3D replicas with special attention to dimensions like the mid-19th century coin from Awadh region recreated in 23 inch diameter and 2 inch thickness to offer a sensory experience. It is only the beginning and many more replicas will no doubt be created in due course. Hopefully many more such specialized museums will follow suit for the sightless.
HIDDEN COLLECTION

A trove of as many as 75 Nazi artifacts of illicit origin was found in a hidden room in Buenos Aires, among them Hitler’s magnifying glass. Investigations that culminated in this discovery began when authorities found illicit artworks in a local gallery by a collector whom the authorities then trailed. A large bookshelf in his house caught their eye, and behind it agents discovered a hidden passageway leading to some 75 objects. It is known that some high ranking Nazis in Germany escaped to South America after World War II taking away valuable artifacts. One of the compelling pieces of historical importance that was found is a photo of Hitler holding a magnifying glass - similar to the one found in the boxes. Among the disturbing items were toys used in indoctrinating children and a box of harmonicas. How did all these enter Argentina remains to be discovered, and there are no precedents for a find like this. Will these objects ever likely to find a place in any museum? Probably never in the near future!

Ack : Debora Rey, Buenos Aires / Reported by AP

SEMINAL ART

Artist Jagannath Panda’s recent exhibition at the Vadehra Art Gallery in Delhi Contrasting Seminal Art continued his engagement with issues of urbanisation and dislocation. He is the son of a temple priest who presents multi-layered narratives using simple objects and explores socio-political dislocation and economic inequalities. Six years ago he exhibited Metropolis of Mirage, and there was another titled Crystal Gazing.

Another work is the Brahminy Kite from his home State, usually found near Chilka Lake, Made of fibre glass, it is supported by 2 wooden legs and below it had a model of a city. Panda says “It represents a human being who was once mighty like the bird, but greed overpowered him and he is now decaying.” It represents human traits!

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION (ICHD)

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ORAL CULTURE: PEOPLE, POETICS AND PERFORMANCE, SHILLONG

The North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in collaboration with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya (IGRMS), Bhopal and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), NERC, Shillong conducted a National Seminar on the theme – “Oral Culture: People, Poetics and Performance” at NEHU, Shillong, Meghalya on 22nd-23rd August.
The Seminar was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. David R Syiemlieh. Chairman, UPSC Dr. Temsula Ao delivered the Keynote Address stressing on the significance of transmitting oral culture, language as a vehicle for communication, and performances as the basic structure of ‘orality’. She talked of the existence of strict codes of conduct in oral cultures giving an example of the phrase ‘I hang a word here’, that was traditionally used to denote a halt in hostilities between warring parties in local communities. She mentioned the linkage between memory and oral culture, and the need to recognize the wisdom of indigenous knowledge and cultures. She dwelt upon the marginalized status of women in many communities where the name of the woman is required to be returned to the clan upon her demise.

There were a total of 43 paper presentations from researchers and scholars from various universities and institutions across the country. There were eight technical sessions during the Conference on the following themes:

- **Verbalization and Performance**
- **City Carnivalesque: Heroes, Heroines and Hierarchies**
- **Folk to Classical: Liminality in/of Performance**
- **Authorship and Authority of Oral Culture(s)**
- **Oral Tradition and Gender**
- **Vernacular Poetics**
- **“De-Shrined” Worship: Dance, Drama and Music**
- **Tradition-oriented Communication: Episteme and Praxis.**

These sessions were chaired and moderated by Dr. MD Muthukumaraswamy, Dr. Mrinal Medhi, Dr. Desmond Kharmawphlang, Prof. N Bhaktavathsala Reddy, Prof. SK Nanda, Shri Damodar Mauzo and Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya Panda.

The first day of the Seminar was celebrated as *World Folklore Day* with a cultural programme and a themed costume competition organized at the venue. Padmashree Haldhar Nag gave a recitation of a few of his Oriya poems during one of the sessions. Beautiful English translations of these were also read out and much appreciated by the audience. The Seminar concluded with the valedictory session.
COMPENDIUM – ASSAM & MEGHALAYA

A Directory on Intangible Cultural Heritage – Related Peoples Museums and Cultural Spaces in North-East India was initiated by the ICH Division for documenting existing institutions and spaces - specifically dedicated to collections like musical instruments, and ethnic collections related to particular communities or tribes. Museums or spaces dedicated to community collection and activities will be documented with details. The Directory will be based on reliable and authentic information gathered from the field. It is proposed to compare the collected material and compile it as a valuable reference material for usage of academicians, researchers and other government and non-government cultural institutions. Quintessentially it is an effort to preserve and protect oral culture that could easily get lost with time.

This ICHD project was initiated with a month long visit to various locations in Assam and Meghalaya. In the first phase there were visits to 20 Museums in Assam, some cities have more than one museum - 2 in Guwahati, 2 in Darang, 2 in Tezpur, 1 in Kaliabor (Nagaon), 2 in Jorhat, 1 in Golaghat, 4 in Sibsagar, 2 in Dhipu, 4 in Majuli within the Sattras.

In a second field visit, Meghalaya region was covered with Wankhar Memorial Museum of Entomology, William Sangma State Museum; District Museum (Jowai); Rhino Heritage Museum; Don – Bosco Museum, Mawlai; District Museum and Kwar Museum – personal collection in Jowai; Ever Living Museum with monoliths in Narthiang Village; Nongrim Sacred Groves; Clean Village – Mawlynnong. The two belonging to the Ramakrishna Mission were Museum and Weaving Centre in Cherrapunji, and Lady Kean Museum in Shillong.

GALLERY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Tucked away in Delhi’s Rabindra Bhavan, there is a Gallery of Musical Instruments - little known although it was inaugurated in 1964 by virtuoso violinist Yehudi Menuhin. It has nearly 500 exhibits of handmade musical instruments. It is a fascinating place especially for people who appreciate Indian musical traditions and respect fine woodwork aesthetics. The intricately strung Dilruba, an heirloom gifted by a music lover in memory of her mother is so delicate that it might crumble. There is even an old foot operated piano donated by the German Embassy. What one might miss is the beat and thrill with which musicians must have played them once upon a time.
LIVING ROOT BRIDGES OF MEGHALAYA

PD ICHD Nerupama Modwel along with a colleague decided to avail of Shillong visit to explore the extraordinary phenomena of living root bridges that are unique to Meghalaya. Their destination on a crystal clear day was the famed Umshaiang double decker living root bridge of Nongriat village in the eastern Khasi Hills. The root bridges are a unique form of natural architecture created by Khasi and Jaintia people to cross engorged river streams, They do not rot or decay in the perpetually humid and rainy weather. It is undertaken as a community activity to find creative solutions to their local problems.

It is indeed a stunning example of harnessing Nature’s largesse without destruction. The basic structure can take up to 15 years to contour, after which it continues to grow from strength to strength as the tangled roots get firmly enmeshed and manipulated to cross over to the other side of the river bank. This form of tree shaping lasts hundreds of years!

These bridges are created in several ingenious ways – some by maneuvering by hand the pliable roots of the Rubber Fig tree (ficus elastic) and intertwining them to create a passageway, with flat stones placed across them to make them even. Some living root trees are also grown by training young roots through hollowed-out trunks of the Areca nut palms or made to grow through betel tree trunks placed across rivers and streams until the fig trees roots themselves to the other side, with the trunks not only steering but providing them nutrients in the process of decomposing.

It was an arduous trek for ICHD duo starting from the head at Tyrna Village beyond Cherrapunji, with a deep descent of approximately 2400 feet comprising 3000 steps. Finally they reached their destination to encounter the oldest living root bridge believed to have been in existence for 180 years at Nongriat – awe inspiring enough to forget aching limbs! A gushing stream of pristine waters and a mini water cascade added to the enchantment of the place – only if Nerupama Modwel did not dare to think about those 3000 steps awaiting a journey back up the hill that would need all the latent reserves left of the duo’s stamina. They did make it back in one piece!

ICH RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION DATABASE PROJECT

The ICH Research and Documentation Database project is in the final phase of compilation. The new data in the form of publications in English and vernacular languages has been collected from organisations across the country like Indian Council for Historical Research, Marwari Library, Punjab University Library, National Library, Bhai Gurudas Dev Library, Gowthami Library, National Museum Library, Ambedkar University, SRVK Library, National Crafts Museum and material from web research as well. The project will also be initiated in Ladakh and Tamil Nadu shortly. This large data base will add more value to the proposed Database Project.
CULTURAL MAPPING OF DENOTIFIED NOMADIC COMMUNITIES

Prof. Ganesh Devy, Chairman Peoples’ Linguistic Survey of India, has been entrusted with an INTACH project on ‘Cultural Mapping of the Denotified and Nomadic Communities/Tribes’ with a comprehensive conservation plan. He is also a Member of the Dharwad Chapter. This is a significant project of great value as an ethnographic study, with a listing of ICH elements and documentation of the languages of the above communities. It would also prove valuable in throwing light on the traditional occupations of these communities and their cultural traits.

A photo-book was released on 3rd August at India International Centre (IIC) containing documentation of the Denotified Tribal Culture. It was presented to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, with INTACH Chairman LK Gupta, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Dr. Ashish Nandy and Dharwad Chapter Co-Convenor Brigadier SG Bhagwat in attendance. Chairman suggested Prof. Devy could also include aspects related to sacred groves, natural resources, livelihoods and camping grounds of these nomadic communities in the proposed documentation.

SILKEN STROKES

**Thangka Paintings:** Thangka paintings occupy a special place in the tradition of art history with a difference. The artist seems to apply his or her own interpretation of thoughts, consciousness of locations or subjects with paintings as aids in meditational practices to develop a clear vision of a particular deity and forge a link with the vision. They were usually visions that appeared to great spiritual masters during meditation at moments of self realization, then recorded and incorporated in Buddhist scriptures. Llamas would travel around the country carrying a large Thangka to illustrate their talks and convey the life of the Master. They were a sort of personal ‘road map’ to guide them to the original insight of the Master.

Sacred art of Thangka painting historically dates to 7th century and originated in Nepal. Today aspiring Thangka artists spend years studying iconographic grids and proportions, using them to draw outlines in black on a canvas prepared with a mixture of chalk, gesso and base pigment that is then rubbed all over and the cloth is no longer apparent. Powders composed of crushed mineral, vegetable pigments even precious lapis lazuli are mixed with adhesive to create colours and the painting may takes many weeks to complete. Pure gold is added last before a thangka painting is framed in a precious brocaded border.

Commissioning a Thangka was considered a means of earning spiritual merit. One does not know if it applies to acquiring a high priced one as an aesthetically beautiful piece of art that graces elegant sitting rooms today as part of one’s art collection!
INTACH CULTURAL CELL

BOOK DISCUSSION, 6TH JULY

It was an engaging session on the book *In the Shadow of the Dev* with Professor Susan Vishwanathan and Professor AGK Menon as the main discussants.

The book details the legacy of Kumaon - its people and their crafts deeply entwined with their environment. The author Manju Kak gave a glimpse of the enigmatic land of Kumaon through the prism of their wood craft, the styles of crafts people of Uttarakhand, the influences and techniques used by them, as well as Kumaon artisans’ beliefs and their world view. The book is an important documentation of the life of Paharis, their communities, status of their womenfolk, unravelling various facets of hill life, their forest policy and last but not least their demand for statehood.

A responsive and interested audience raised many questions that brought out the various nuances of the book. It also raised integrated sociological and architectural concerns towards the tangible and intangible heritage of Kumaon region.

![Member Secretary addressing the audience at the book discussion](image)

![Discussants - Professor Susan Vishwanathan and Prof. AGK Menon with the author Manju Kak (Centre)](image)

YOGA PROGRAM, 4TH AUGUST

INTACH launched an in-house Yoga Training Programme for its Central Office staff on 4th August for the first time. This quarter is the first phase of a three month schedule catering to the balanced growth of physical, mental, emotional, intellectual and spiritual dimension of INTACH personnel – at least for those who have enthusiastically enrolled and set a good example to all others! Only time will tell how it will impact their work practice at INTACH? A token fee of Rs. 500 is being paid by the participants, and the money collected will be donated to the *Vivekananda International Foundation*. It is being conducted by Manas Bhattacharjee – a Life Worker associated with the Foundation.

![Inaugural Yoga Session for INTACH staff](image)

GOLD FOR GARNETS, SILVER FOR SPICE, 31ST AUGUST

It was indeed an interesting title for the Lecture on 31st August at INTACH Central Office delivered by an
equally interesting speaker, our Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. S Suresh. “Gold for Garnets, Silver for Spices” refers to the Ancient India-Rome Commerce that flourished once upon a time. It is a little known story of the bartering commercial contacts that existed between Hindustan and the Roman Empire from around first century BC and lasted till the fourth century AD. Adventurous Romans sailors and tradesmen came to India to procure gemstones, textiles, ivory, aromatic woods, spices and peacock feathers for which India was known. In return India traded in gold, silver, copper, antimony and Italian wine.

Dr. Suresh personally conducts a series of Roman Trail Tours in Chennai taking students, scholars, serious tourists and INTACH Members to Roman trade sites in South India, mainly in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. These tours are an exploration of archaeological sites connected with the trade, with visits to Museums displaying Roman objects found in India. There is even a special Roman Dinner on the itinerary complete with garum fish sauce and a fruit-and-nut dish. Also very much on the itinerary is a 1st Century BC South Indian Dinner complete with hand pounded rice, ginger flavoured butter milk, green pepper pickle and lentil thuvayal or chutney! The Talk at Central Office included slides and pictures from his tours and also of mouth watering dinners – alas not served after the Talk!

The list of persons who went on the Roman Trail with Dr. Suresh reads like a Who’s Who List – the heads of Consulates in Chennai, leading film stars, architects, lawyers, doctors, fashion designers and some lucky others! Dr. Suresh sometimes dresses up in an ancient Roman sailor’s tunic, complete with a boat shaped collar and embroidery design seen on Roman coins found in India. Since it was not worn at this particular Talk but only put on display, Virasat however give you a picture of Dr. Suresh in his full regalia!

GAZING AT NEIGHBOURS, 22ND SEPTEMBER

‘Gazing at Neighbours’ by Bishwanath Ghosh : 22nd September, 2017

The book Gazing at Neighbours is about a creation of two provinces - West Punjab and East Bengal. At the traumatic times of ‘Partition of India’, both these territories joined the newly created nation of Pakistan—that tragically witnessed one million people being butchered and another fifteen million uprooted from their hearth and homes. An author’s curiosity led Bishwanath Ghosh on a journey along the Radcliffe Line—through the vibrant greenery of Punjab and the more melancholic landscape of the states surrounding Bangladesh—examining first hand the life on the border

This event attracted a sizable audience as expected. Special invitee the High Commissioner of Bangladesh HE Syed Muazzem Ali gave an impromptu talk afterwards. He recounted experiences from his own family, and said he was optimistic of a positive way forward for both our countries.
INTACH HERITAGE ACADEMY (IHA)

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SCULPTORS

Capacity Building Workshop for Sculptors and Sculpture-Students was held on 10th – 21st July at Mamallapuram. Organized in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Chapter, Friends of Heritage Sites and Government College of Arts and Sculpture (GCAS), the objective of the Workshop was to improve technical and artistic skills, with understanding the Pallava artistic traditions that flourished in this region during the fifth-seventh centuries A.D. A total of 14 students of second and third year of GCAS and 2 local sculpture-artists participated in the programme.

Another Capacity Building IHA Programme on ‘Conservation of Heritage Buildings’ was held on 17th – 19th August in collaboration with the PWD Department (Architectural Wing), Government of Kerala and INTACH Kerala State Chapter for the architects and engineers of the Department. The focus of discussions were on issues and complexities related to conservation of heritage buildings. A total of sixty participants attended this Workshop.

It was suggested that the Heritage Cell in Kerala PWD may consider signing a MoU with INTACH Heritage Academy for training and capacity building activities in the future. A historic building at University College was inspected as a practical exercise and part of this workshop. Its reuse as the ‘University College Heritage Gallery’ was recommended after it is conserved. INTACH has offered to provide the technical assistance to revive their Heritage Cell.
SMART CITY CONCEPT

The Smart Heritage concept was initiated in a joint meeting held during the 2014 Round Table at The International Biennial of Art and Heritage Management (AR&PA) at Valladolid. INTACH had suggested initiating a programme where a group of heritage experts, with diverse approaches, could debate on the challenges faced by heritage; and action to be taken on heritage preservation and promotion in the wake of changing global scenarios, specifically in relation to ‘Smart Cities’. The objective of the 2017 Conference was to transform these debates into a collection of ‘essential lessons’ and deliberate on ‘smart heritage in smart cities’.

IHA, in collaboration with the Bharati Vidyapeeth deemed university (BVDU) at Pune, Biennale Foundation (PBF) and the support from Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture (BNCA) and INTACH Pune Chapter, organized the ‘Smart Heritage’ session on 28th–30th August at the Bharati Vidyapeeth. It was basically a consultative meet to broadly understand the concept of ‘Smart Heritage’, and analyse the meaning of ‘Smart Heritage’ within a ‘Smart City’. Also the application of the concept within the management of a ‘Smart City’ was explored. A special field visit was organized for the participants for a direct and practical experience of the “Smart Heritage” concept and its application. About 150 participants attended the workshop.

The operational objective of the meet was to create awareness around the concept of “Smart Heritage in Smart City”. The consultations were an effort to simplify ideas like community participation, e-governance, and new operational technologies and make them better understood and widely known. The initial effect that the ‘Smart City’ project has had on Heritage to date was assessed using the entire city as a study pool, and examined the tools and solutions to further the concept.

The Mayor of Pune and CEO of the Pune Smart City Project attended the Workshop. It is a matter of pride for INTACH Heritage Academy that this exercise resulted in the heritage of Pune now being included in their Smart City proposal, that had earlier been overlooked.

INTACH – Cities for Culture Programme – a new initiative of IHA - builds upon the on-going excellent work by INTACH. It was presented by the PD IHA Navin Piplani during the in-house Coordination Committee Meeting at INTACH based on the ‘Agenda 21 for Culture’ that was adopted in 2004 by the UN-HABITAT and UNESCO.

The INTACH - IHA programme disseminates knowledge and experience, to facilitate exchange of good practices. It is envisaged as a nation-wide programme to connect efforts and enhance INTACH activities. The Programme, Concept and Details have been sent to about fifty Chapter Convenors and to all INTACH Technical Divisions. It outlines the aim, objectives, scope, methodology, outcomes and overall vision of the programme. Member Secretary also attached a request to all Convenors and INTACH Technical Divisions to study, understand and send their responses to Central Office, with constructive comments that can further refine the programme if required.
HERITAGE EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES (HECS)

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TTW)

Meerut, 13th – 14th July
30 Teachers/15 Schools

The TTW was organised by Meerut Chapter on 13 - 14 July at the Howard Pleted Girls School. Convenor Dr. RK Bhatnagar spoke about INTACH at the inaugural session of the workshop. Resource person Dr. K K Sharma elaborated on Meerut and its heritage. PD, HECS Purnima Datt made a presentation on India’s heritage resources. The teachers made presentations on heritage activities for classrooms, and attended a heritage walk to Sri Vilveshwar Temple and the Meerut Freedom struggle Museum.

Kasthuri Sreenivasan Art Centre houses an aesthetically designed art gallery that showcases work by both established and upcoming artists and a textile museum.

Coimbatore, 11th – 12th September
42 Teachers/18 Schools

The TTW Workshop organised by the Chapter was held at Dr. GRD College of Science with the support of the Tamil Nadu Crafts Council. The Chief Guests were a renowned scholar and former Coimbatore Chapter Convenor Raj Kumar and Chairman Crafts Council Cell Sushila William. It was inaugurated by TN State Convenor Dr. Suresh, Coimbatore Convenor Ramachandran Prasad, and former Convenor Coimbatore Chapter Shashi Gulati. Dr. Suresh spoke about the built heritage of Coimbatore and its museums and Roman connections. A field visit to the Kasthuri Sreenivasan Art Gallery and Textile Museum and group activities by the participants was scheduled on the second day.

Government Freedom Struggle Museum has galleries depicting important episodes of the War of Independence (1857). It has paintings, relief dioramas and postal stamp, photographs, as well as a collection of interesting archaeological objects.

Madurai, 13th – 14th September
46 Teachers/18 Schools

The TTW was held at the Mahatma Montessori School. Chapter Convenor Arvind Shankar shared how the Chapter was celebrating its 10th anniversary describing various heritage activities undertaken by it. PD HECS described types of heritage and what makes India diverse yet culturally unique. The workshop concluded with a heritage walk to Narasingham Temple and the Jain Beds in the Yaanaimalai Hills.

Madurai Meenakshi Temple – Hall Of Thousand Pillars (Ayiramkal Mandampam) is the largest mandapam in the holy temple complex with 985 pillars arranged in a way that from whatever angle one looks from within, the pillars appear in a row.

COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (CHVP)

The CHVP sensitises college students how to become a part of a nationwide-youth movement to protect heritage.

Udaipur, 24th August
80 Colleges/27 Faculty Members

The CHVP was organised by the Udaipur Chapter in
collaboration with HECS at the Rajasthan College of Agriculture in Udaipur. It was inaugurated by the Convenor Udaipur Chapter and NHD Principal Adviser SK Verma. The Chief Guest Vice Chancellor, MPAUT Udaipur Prof. US Sharma and Vice Chancellor MLSU Udaipur Prof. JP Sharma; Vice Chancellor, University of Kota Prof. PK Dashora; and former VC Prof. BP Bhatnagar attended the event. PD HECS Purnima Datt encouraged participants to appreciate heritage and shared a message from the INTACH Chairman Maj. Gen. LK Gupta (Retd.) encouraging students to become youth volunteers in the movement to protect heritage. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dean, Rajasthan College of Agriculture, MPUAT Prof. R Swaminathan.

Udaipur, historic capital of the kingdom of Mewar, is known as the ‘City of Lakes’ with its inter-connected lake systems. Also it is known as the ‘White City’ with its scenic white palaces and built heritage contributing to the grandeur and magnificence of the city’s landscape!

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

The **Heritage and Citizenship Programme - JAGO** is an ongoing INTACH thrust to promote heritage awareness and conservation as good citizenship values. It commenced with the H&CTW last year in December at Jaipur, with participants from 19 INTACH Western Zone Chapters within their respective regions, and continued this year.

**Solapur, 13th July**

34 Colleges/124 Participants/13 Citizens

The H&CTW organised by Solapur Chapter was inaugurated by Director School of Social Science, Solapur University Dr. EN Ashok Kumar. The resource persons were Bharat Chedda and Arvind Joshi; Principal, MIT Vishwashanti Gurukul Dr. Rakesh Ranjan and Sholapur Chapter Co-Convenor Pushpanjali Katikar. Dr. EN Ashok Kumar coordinated the event. Solapur Convenor Seemantini Chaphalkar made a presentation on how to identify various heritage aspects and provisions regarding constitution of heritage protection. Jr. Director Higher Education Dr. Satish Deshpande appreciated the efforts of INTACH.

**Shekhawati, 23rd August**

47 Teachers/15 Educational Institutions/NGOs

The H&CTW was organised by Shekhawati Chapter in collaboration with HECS. Sessions on the local heritage and Shekhawati history were taken by Siddharth S Jadon; Ramesh C Jangid shared a brief report of the heritage initiatives taken by the Chapter. Arvind Sharma traced the history of Amer and its rulers. The HECS team was represented by Teresa Walter and Bashobi Banerjee who conducted the session on Heritage and Good Citizenship. Shekhawati is known for its beautiful frescoes and painted havelis. Sometimes compared to ‘an open art gallery’ given the abundant and magnificent collection of exquisite frescos!

**Jamnagar, 27th August**

50 Participants

The H&CTW participation included teachers and parents apart from students from various educational institutions. The interactive workshop sessions were enriching highlighting heritage. The resource persons were Chapiya Joshi; Sahdevsinh Jadeja and Heer Mehta with each describing various aspects of their specialisation.
NHD officer Jungiwala and Chapter Convenor Air Commodore, SS Tyagi, VSM (Retd.) made presentations on local heritage that were informative and enriching. The workshop concluded with a site visit to Nageshwar and group photograph.

**Nageshwar** is famous for its ancient Mahadeva Temple which houses one of the 12 Shiva *jyotirlings* in an underground sanctum. Nageshwar was also known as Darukavana, an ancient epic name of a forest in India.

**MY CITY MY HERITAGE (MCMH)**

**National Winners Visit Delhi**

5th – 7th July

The HECS had launched the national *My City, My Heritage Campaign* campaign with the support of 100 INTACH Regional Chapters together with their network of schools in 100 cities across the country last year to raise student’s awareness about their city’s heritage and inculcate a sense of pride in them. Around 12,000 students from 6th-9th standard were a part of this programme comprising essay writing and poster-making capturing their city’s heritage. Entries were received not only in English but also in 12 regional languages (namely Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu, Bengali, Nepalese, Hindi and Punjabi). They highlighted the varied heritage embedded in each city. After a three-phased evaluation 15 national winners were selected.

Celebrating the remarkable success of the programme and appreciating the student’s efforts, the National Winners were invited for a visit to Delhi from 5th to 7th July. During their stay they visited various sites and organisations and engaged with experts associated with the field. Places included the Aga Khan Foundation; Dastangoi; Sanskriti Prathistan and INTACH. The programme concluded with a felicitation and award ceremony on 7 July at INTACH New Delhi. Chief Guests were well-known poet, writer and former civil servant Ashok Vajpeyi; young filmmaker, photographer and entrepreneur and naturalist Rupin Dang. They spoke about taking pride in one’s heritage, as well as embracing heritage sensitive values! The students felt encouraged and expressed enthusiasm to take on a leading role in protecting their city’s heritage.

**Voices of the winners:**

**Farhan Bakht Ahmed, Delhi:** Talked about the importance of built heritage of Delhi and how public apathy was leading to neglect and degradation of monuments.

**Ngurthuangpuii Ralte, Aizawl:** Shared the unique natural and material heritage of Aizawl. In addition the recent discovery of Menhirs by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as engravings on the stone slabs.

**Shruti Jeyaraman, Chennai:** Described the intangible heritage of Chennai. She shared how the legacy of Carnatic music, especially among music enthusiasts, was unmatched and unsurpassable!

**Shruti Jeyaraman, Chennai:** What made the win even more memorable was how I got an opportunity to meet students from various parts of the country. More than the award, I cherish the time I spent with my other fellow students who had come from all parts of India, some from as far as Port Blair and Aizawl!

**Excerpts from award winning essays:**

**Chikankari of Lucknow**

By: **Sonakshi Pandey, Modern Academy**

Lucknow was also known as Awadh which derived from ‘wad’ (Sanskrit word).

Lucknow hum par firadah
Tum fidabye Lucknow.

Kya takaat hai aasmaan ki jo humse churaye Lucknow.
For centuries, Lucknow has been known for its exquisite crafts, especially its Chikankari embroidery. According to historians chikan was a Persian craft that was first introduced in Mughal Emperor Jahangir’s court by his wife Empress Noor Jahan.

The exquisite chikankari work of Lucknow is traditionally done with white threads an cloths, but now it is also done with different colour threads on various fabrics. This unique technique of chikan work always has some floral motifs flaunting grace and an elegance that pleases the eye. Machine made chikankari is common these days as it costs less and done faster than handmade chikankari and is therefore popular with both buyers and sellers. Chikan never goes out of fashion.

Lucknow has a blend of simplicity and is known for the preservation of its culture and tradition whether it is the preservation of craft of Lucknow or the food or the dance and music of Lucknow.

Kwat Chhuah Ropui, Vangchhia

By: Ngurtluangpuii Ralte, IX, St. Paul’s Higher Secondary School, Aizawl

A famous quote says “The more you know about the past, the more you know about the future”. The learning about past lives is really good and helpful, and becomes very interesting.

Let us all, not only the Mizos, learn to treasure and know more about our own culture and heritage, for this is one huge step to becoming modern and respected persons. Let us learn to know more, feel good and be proud to say “My City My Heritage”.

Vangchchia is located in the district of Champhai, Mizoram. Hundreds of mandirs were found to have been discovered there. In fact, there were hundred and seventy one mandirs found. The many mandirs which have been destroyed in the past years have not been cleared out yet. This place was the first ancient archaeological place to be protected in Mizoram.

The village is now uncivilised and abandoned. However, there is still a lot to see. Researchers have come, historians and many other tourists have come here, finding this place very epic and wonderful.

We can see that the people who have lived here had so much kindness, sympathy and willingness. The tombstone making and the digging, the putting up of stones and other needs were never as they are now like good equipments, machines (to cut or process the making of tombstones) etc. were never available. So the hard work in the olden days was much more precious and valuable. That being said, there are many places and sites to be seen in different areas all over Mizoram.

Tête-à-tête with the winners:

• Farhan Bakht Ahmed, Delhi (Grandeurs of the Silver Street): Felt that history should be told as a story. He wrote about a British diplomat touring around Chandini Chowk and monuments en route.

• Sonakshi Pandey, Lucknow (Chikankari): Spoke about the history of chikankari - rise and development. Including, a decline under the British and its subsequent promotion in Modern India.

• Navdeep Gill, Ambala (St. Paul’s Church): Described the history of St. Paul’s Church and how heritage has played an important role in her life.

• Hanna Dew Drop, Dibrugarh (The Temple of Knowledge): Described the history and establishment of Dibrugarh University in the country.

• Fiza, Meerut (Nauchandi Mela): Spoke about the history and the features of the Nauchandi Mela.
**Ngurthuangpuii Ralte, Aizawl (Kawt Chhuah Ropui Vangchhia):** Spoke about how each place had its distinct story and knowing one's past, equipped one for a better future.

**Shruti Jeyaraman, Chennai (Symphony of the South):** Spoke about the annual Carnatic music and classical dance festival - *Margazhi Utsav*. She highlighted the cultural importance of Carnatic music in Chennai as a valuable intangible heritage asset.

**Malvika Chawla, Gurgaon (The Art of Making Ravanas):** Spoke about artists engaged in Ravana-making and how she now recognised the efforts of artists and their contribution to cultural heritage.

**Soban Paikray, Bhubaneswar (Festival of Dhanuyatra):** Spoke about the festival of *Dhanuyatra* in Odisha (December – January), celebrated over a duration of five to eleven days. It was highlighted how festivals were reflective of the ‘varied and rich’ culture of India.

**Nandini Malo, Port Blair (Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands):** Described the four Negrito tribes of Andaman and two Mongoloid tribes of Nicobar - highlighting harmonious co-existence and unity in diversity.

**Suvarno Laxmi P Lambture, Solapur (Solapur Fort):** Described the history of Solapur Fort and unique narratives associated with it. She talked about how ‘My City My Heritage’ competition was a reminder for everyone “to pull up their socks and protect heritage”.

**Upasana Tirvari, Delhi (A Cavalcade of Unity):** Spoke about the history and development of ‘Phoolwalon ki Sair’ festival in Delhi. Focusing on how it brought together different communities.

**Shreya Singh, Gorakhpur (Faruahi Dance):** Described the *Faruahi Dance*.

**Navaneetha, Kasargod (Neeleshvaram Kovilakam):** Spoke about the culture and heritage of ‘Neeleshvaram’, capital of Kesargod district.

**Sudhanshu Shekhar, Patna (Humare Sheher ki Akshhun Virasat):** Spoke about the heritage of Bihar and Patna.

**INTACH INDIA HERITAGE QUIZ**

INTACH’s Heritage Quiz helps students to understand India’s unique and diverse heritage; apart from fostering and supporting peer-to-peer learning. It provides a platform to explore the varied multi-cultural dimensions of India’s heritage. HECS is conducting the Quiz across 125 cities in India with the support of INTACH Chapters and Xpress Minds Edutainment. With a pan-India outreach, including Srinagar, Kanyakumari, Jamnagar, Itanagar, Port Blair and the eight North Eastern States; the Quiz is being conducted in English, Hindi and various regional languages (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi, Gujarati). Currently 48 City Rounds followed by four State Rounds have been completed. Thereafter, the State Round Winners qualify for the National Finals held in Delhi.

**City Final Rounds**

**Andhra Pradesh**

**Anantapur, 9th July:** Anantapur Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at Rotary English Medium School with 74 students from 6 schools of the city.
Kurnool, 14th July: Kurnool Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at Abdul Wahab Khan Tomb also known as the Golgumbaz, with 90 students from 9 schools.

Kadapa, 15th July: Kadapa Chapter conducted the Quiz at Kadapa Kalashetram, with 140 students from 10 schools.

Srikakulam, 19th July: Srikakulam Chapter conducted the Quiz, at Government Degree College (Women), with 46 teams from 8 schools. Joint Collector, Srikakulam PK. Rao was the chief guest, along with District Education Officer A Prabhakara Rao as the guest of honour.

East Godavari, 23rd July: 94 Teams/15 Schools
East Godavari Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at P.R. Govt College.

Machilipatnam, 30th July: The Machilipatnam Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Little Flower E.M. High School. The Chief Guest was the Vice Chancellor of Krishna University, with Circle Inspector of Police, Vasavi as the guest of honour.

Guntur, 11th August: 138 Students/11 Schools:
The Guntur Chapter conducted the city round for the Quiz at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan.

Ukkunagaram, 3rd August: 46 Teams/7 Schools
The Visakhapatnam Chapter conducted the city round of the Heritage Quiz in the steel city.

Visakhapatnam, 9th August: 65 Teams/9 Schools
The Visakhapatnam Chapter also conducted the city round of the Heritage Quiz at the Little Angels School. Members of INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter were also present at the event.

Vizianagaram, 31st August: The Visakhapatnam Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz with the active support of Principal of Fort City School Ravi Kishore Manda at the Masonic Temple.

Telangana
Warangal, 5th July: 46 Teams/9 Schools
The Quiz was organised at the New Science Degree College by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of the Chapter.
Nizamabad, 5th July: 23 Teams/8 Schools
The Quiz was organised at R.B.V.R.R. High School, Mubaraknagar by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of Hyderabad Chapter.

Mahbubnagar, 10th July: 38 Teams/19 Schools
The Quiz was organised at Govt. B.Ed. College by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of Mahbubnagar Chapter

Hyderabad, 26th July: 87 Teams/26 Schools
The Quiz was organised at the Salar Jung Museum by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of Hyderabad Chapter.

Kerala
Calicut, 11th July: 76 Students/8 Schools
The Calicut Chapter conducted the city round of the Heritage Quiz at the Shri Gujarati Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, with School Principal Poppens inaugurating it.

Palakkad, 15th July: 76 students/9 Schools
The Calicut Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at the Kerala Lalitha Academy, supported by Shri Arun from Palakkad.

Thrissur, 17th July: 30 teams/11 Schools
The Heritage Quiz was organised by Thrissur Chapter conducted by Xpressminds Edutainment at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Vidya Mandir, Poochetty.

Kochi, 18th July: 25 Teams/9 Schools
The Heritage Quiz was organised by the Kochi Chapter conducted by Xpressminds Edutainment at Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Elamakkara.

Kasargod, 19th, 20th, 21st July: 100 Students/10 Schools
The Kasargod Chapter conducted the Quiz in Government Schools across the city.

Trivandrum, 24th July: 52 Teams/9 Schools
The Quiz was conducted by the Chapter conducted by Xpressminds Edutainment at the Trivandrum Tennis Club.
**Tamil Nadu**

**Puducherry, 12th July:** 31 Teams/9 Schools

The Quiz was conducted by Puducherry Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at Jawahar Navodya Vidhyalaya, Periakalapet.

**Thanjavur, 13th July:** 100 Students/12 Schools

The Quiz was conducted by the Thanjavur Chapter at St. Antony Hr. Sec. School.

**Salem, 14th July:** 27 Teams/20 Schools

The Salem Chapter conducted the city round of the Quiz at Sri Vidya Mandir Senior Sec. School.

**Nagarcoil, 15th July:** 82 Students/10 Schools

The Nagarcoil Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Scott Christian Hr. Sec. School. Former District Collector of Chandigarh M.G. Devasahayam, and former Chairman of Haryana Electricity Board were the Chief Guests.

**Kodaikanal, 24th July:** 120 Students/12 Schools

The Kodaikanal Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at the Zion School auditorium. Invitee Rajamanikam interacted with the students and spoke about waste management.

**Nagapattinam, 25th July:** 214 Students/15 Schools

The quiz was conducted at Prime College of Education by the Tamil Nadu State Chapter.

**Chennai, 26th July:** 120 Students/20 Schools

The Chennai Chapter conducted the city round of the Heritage Quiz at the Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School.

**Madurai, 4th August:** 114 Students

The Madurai Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at the American College Auditorium. Dr. G Vasudevan gave a talk on Madurai’s Heritage.

**Bihar**

**Patna, 25th July:** 86 Students/13 Schools

The Heritage Quiz was conducted by Patna Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at Bihar State Archives.
Bhagalpur, 26th July: 18 Teams/5 Schools
The Bhagalpur Chapter conducted the city round of the quiz at the SMS Mission Sciences School.

Jharkhand

Hazaribagh, 21st July: 19 Teams/3 Schools
The Quiz was conducted by the Hazaribagh Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at DAV Public School.

Dhanbad, 22nd July: 29 Teams/6 Schools
The Quiz was conducted by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of HECS at Delhi Public School, Dhanbad.

Bokaro, 24th July: 30 Teams/9 Schools
The Quiz was conducted by Xpressminds Edutainment with the support of HECS at Crescent Public School.

Ranchi, 17th August: 36 teams/11 schools
The Quiz was conducted by the Ranchi Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at Bridgeford School.

Odisha

Mayurbhanj, 23rd July: 88 Students/10 Schools
The Mayurbhanj Chapter conducted the city round of the Quiz at Retd. Govt. Employees Association’s Hall. Convenor Maj. Parida addressed the students explaining the rules of the quiz.

Balasore, 30th July: 47 Teams/8 Schools
The Balasore Chapter conducted the city round of the Quiz at the Balasore Public School.

Sonepur, 29th July: 70 Students/ Various Schools
The Sonepur Chapter conducted the Quiz at Prangya Bharati Residential High School.

Bhadrap, 30th July: 52 Teams/11 Schools
The Bhadrak Chapter conducted the Quiz at the B.M. Bagurai High School.
Bhubaneswar, 31st August: 32 Teams/8 Schools

The Quiz was conducted by the Bhubaneswar Chapter at DAV Public School, CSPUR with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment

Rajasthan

Jodhpur, 20th July: 62 Students/7 Schools

The Jodhpur Chapter conducted the Quiz at Konark Sr. Sec. School. Co-Convenor Bhagirath Vaishnav welcomed the students and was spoke about the importance of INTACH’s conservation efforts.

Barmer, 24th July: 100 Students/10 Schools

The Barmer Chapter conducted the Quiz at Govt. Sen. Sec. School, Gangawas. This school was chosen for its location in a village, and was easily accessible to students from the adjoining areas.

Udaipur, 26th July: 51 Teams/10 Schools

The Udaipur Chapter conducted the city round of the Heritage Quiz at Maharana Mewar Public School.

Bikaner, 30th July: 110 Students/10 Schools

The Bikaner Chapter conducted the Quiz at Seth Tolaram Bafna Academy; supported by the local Rotary Club.

Kota, 24th August: 26 Teams/10 Schools

The Quiz was conducted by the Kota Chapter, with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at Mittal International School.

Jaipur, 29th August: 71 Teams/24 Schools

The Quiz was conducted by the Jaipur Chapter, with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment at Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls’ Public School

Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur, 22nd August: 162/16 Schools

The Bilaspur Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Deokinandan Girls Higher Secondary School.

Madhya Pradesh

Dhar, 16th July: 134 Students/DifferentSchools

The Dhar Chapter conducted the Quiz at School of Excellence.
**Khandwa, 22nd July: 50 Students/5 Schools**

The Khandwa Chapter conducted the Quiz at Angels Planet School.

---

**Jabalpur, 24th July: 92 students / 10 Schools**

The Jabalpur Chapter conducted the Quiz at the Rani Durgavati Sangrahalya.

---

**Mandla, 26th July: 26 Teams/6 Schools**

The Mandla Chapter conducted the Quiz at Saraswati Higher Secondary School.

---

**Burhanpur, 27th July: 118 Students/Different Schools**

The Burhanpur Chapter conducted the Quiz at Gujjar Bhawan. Alongside the Quiz the Chapter also organised a “tree planting initiative” and honoured 8 people who work for the promotion of arts and crafts of Burhanpur.

---

**Gwalior, 29th July: 40 Students/Various Schools**

The Gwalior Chapter conducted the Quiz at Little Angels High School.

---

**Orchha, 1st August: 98 Students**

The Orchha Chapter conducted the Quiz at Sunrise Public High School.

---

**Shivpuri, 12th August: 50 Students**

Shivpuri Chapter organized the City Round of the Heritage Quiz in Happy Days School for students of Happy Days School and Ganesha Blessed School. Happy Day’s School won the city round of the Quiz.

---

**Karnataka**

**Coorg, 5th July: 29 Teams/8 Schools**

Xpressminds conducted the Quiz with the support of the Coorg Chapter at General Thimmaiah Public School. Shanthinikethan High School won the Coorg city round.

---

**Mangalore, 6th July: 38 teams/9 schools**

SDM College, Ujire hosted the Mangalore round of the Heritage Quiz conducted by Xpressminds. HM Meghavi was the Quizmaster for the event. SDM English Medium School, Ujire stood first.

---

**Udupi, 7th July: 5 Schools**

Xpressminds on behalf of INTACH conducted the Heritage Quiz at MIT, Manipal. Dr. NSAM Senior Secondary School, Nitte won the Quiz.
Chikmagalur, 10th July: 24 Teams/6 Schools

Xpressminds on behalf of HECS conducted the Heritage Quiz at Sai Angels School. The quiz was won by the team from Kuvempu Vidyaniketan.

Mysore, 11th July: 29 Teams/7 Schools

Maharajas High School hosted the Heritage Quiz at Mysore, Karnataka, conducted by Xpressminds on behalf of INTACH. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan won the Quiz.

Belagavi, 20th July: The Belagavi round of the Heritage Quiz was held at Bhaurao Kakatkar College on 20th July.

Dharwad, 21st July: 134 students/24 schools

The Heritage Quiz was organized at RLSPU College. Former Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Dharwad Dr. JH Kulkarni inaugurated the event. HN Praful and K Sharad from KLE School won the Quiz.

Tumkur, 22nd July: The Heritage Quiz was held at Gubbi, near Tumkur Town, a District of Karnataka. It was held at the ILP Office in Gubbi and coordinated by Tamil Nadu State Convenor Dr. Suresh. The first four winning teams of the Written Quiz were invited to participate in the city-level Final Quiz held in the afternoon, with Dr. Suresh as the Quiz Master.

Bijapur (Vijaypur), 22nd July: 19 Teams/5 Schools

The Heritage Quiz was held at BDE Society Girls High School, Vijaypur. The team from St John High School came first.

Bengaluru, 25th July: 109 Teams/28 Schools

Innisfree House School hosted the city round of INTACH Heritage Quiz, with Kunal Savarkar as the quiz master. Presidency School, R. T. Nagar won the city round, followed by the State Final Round thereafter.

Maharashtra

Solapur, 11th July: 16 Schools/32 Teams/62 Students

India Heritage Quiz was conducted at Mule Hall, H. D. Highschool, Solapur. Journalist and nature enthusiast Parshuram Kokane talked to the students about the importance of nature conservation.

Nashik, 18th July: 88 Students/9 Schools

INTACH Nashik Chapter conducted the Quiz at Horizon Academy School, Nashik.
Chandrapur, 24th July: 56 Students/Various Schools
Manasi Ramankumar Vishwakarma and Nandini Ankush Narnaware from City Kanya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur stood first in the INTACH Heritage Quiz.

Pune, 25th July: 100 Students/10 Schools
Dr. Shamarao Kalmadi Primary School hosted the INTACH Quiz. Shreyas Datar and Shriram Jorvekar from Symbiosis School won the Quiz. Ms. Supriya of Pune Chapter was the quiz master.

Aurangabad, 1st August: 13 Schools
The INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at Bhanudas Chavan Hall, the Institution of Engineers, Osmanpura, Aurangabad. Maharashtra State Convenor Mukund Bhogale was the Chief Guest. Siddharth Jaiswal and Shakti Tupe from Nath Valley English School, Aurangabad were the winners.

Mumbai, 16th August: 68 Teams/24 Schools
Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum was the chosen venue for the City and State Rounds of INTACH Heritage Quiz. Kunal Savarkar from Xpressminds with support from Mumbai Chapter conducted the quiz. Arya Vidya Mandir, Juhu won the Final Round.

Gujarat
Rajkot, 11th July: 5 Schools/25 Teams
The Heritage Quiz was conducted by Xpressminds on behalf of INTACH at Rajkot at Podar International School, with Shrey Shylesh as the quiz master. It was won by the Shri P V Modi School.

Rajpipla, 13th July: 102 Students/14 Schools
Rajpipla Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at Darbar Hall Vijay Raj Palace. First rank winning team of Laxmi Rathore and Manish Vanjara were from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Narmada.

Mehsana, 15th July - 4th August: 5 Schools
Mehsana Chapter conducted the INTACH Heritage Quiz in 5 different schools from 15th July-4th August. The participating schools were: Vidya Mandir, Navin Sarva Vidyalaya, Sahajanand School, Sanskar Jyoti Vidyalaya and S.V. Shah Vidya Mandir.

Jamnagar, 23rd July: 88 Participants/8 Schools
Cadmus School (Sodha School), Khodiyar Colony, Jamnagar held the Heritage Quiz in both English and Gujarati medium. INTACH Member Nishita Anjaria and Jagrutiba Rana conducted the Quiz in English and Gujarati respectively.
Vadodara 24th July: 37 Teams/11 Schools

New Era Senior Secondary School hosted the Vadodra round of Heritage Quiz conducted by Xpressminds on behalf of INTACH with Bhushan Patel as the Quiz Master. It was won by Bright Day School, CBSE Unit, Vasna.

Ahmedabad, 8th August: 56 Teams/15 Schools

The Ahmedabad city round was held at Shreyas Foundation, conducted by Xpressminds, and supported by the Ahmedabad Chapter. It was won by St. Kabir School, Naranpura, followed by the Gujarat State Final.

Haryana

Yamunanagar, 22nd July: Swami Vivekanand Public School hosted the Quiz conducted by Yamunanagar Chapter. Dyal Singh Public School won this round conducted by Ms. Shivani.

Panipat, 29th July: 90 Students/ Different Schools

The Quiz on Indian Heritage was organised by the Panipat Chapter at Dr M K K Arya Model School. It was won by the host school.

Ambala, 9th August: 108 Students/16 Schools

Ambala Chapter conducted a National Heritage Quiz for the school children at Army Public School, Ambala Cantt. co-ordinated by Convenor Colonel R D Singh. INTACH Member Lt Gen Ranjit Singh (retd) was the Chief Guest. A senior and experienced teacher Madhu Singh was the Quiz Master. The Quiz was won by the host school.

Kurukshetra, 11th August: 78 Teams/13 Schools

INTACH Quiz was organized at Panorama and Science Centre. Gurukul Kurukshetra won the first prize with Delhi Public School finishing second.

Faridabad, 16th August: 45 Teams/15 Schools

Heritage Quiz was conducted by Xpressminds with support from Faridabad Chapter at K L Mehta Dayanand College for Women. Modern Vidya Niketan Sr. Sec. School was declared the winner.

Gurgaon, 18th August: 22 Schools

Gurgaon Chapter conducted the Heritage Quiz at GD Goenka Public School, Sector 48, Gurgaon. The Quiz was a huge success. The first position was bagged by Blue Bells Model School, with DAV School as the runners up.

Sonepat, 18th August: 5 teams/ 25 schools

INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted at Bright Scholar Senior Secondary School. The winner was DAV Multipurpose Public School.
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

**Gorakhpur, 16th July:** 110 students/11 schools
St. Joseph College for Women hosted the INTACH Heritage Quiz at Gorakhpur. The team from Saraswati Shishu Mandir Sr. Sec. School won the city round.

**Orai, 22nd July:** 102 students from 4 schools participated in the INTACH Heritage Quiz at Orai. The team from SVM Inter College won the quiz. The event was widely covered by the local media.

**Allahabad, 29th July:** Allahabad Chapter conducted the heritage quiz at Anglo Bengali Inter College. Prof. O P Srivastava from Allahabad University spoke to the students about coin heritage. The team from Mount Litera Zee School stood first.

**Lalitpur, 29th July:** 11 Schools
The INTACH Heritage Quiz at Lalitpur was organized at Shri Ram Ratan Vidya Mandir and received extensive local media coverage.

**Brajbhoomi, 26th August:** Gyan Mahavidyalaya hosted the INTACH Heritage Quiz 2017 conducted by Brajbhoomi Chapter. Brilliant Public School won be city round.

**Varanasi, 4th August:** 100 Students
Little Flower House hosted the Varanasi city round of the Heritage Quiz. Aryan International School won the quiz and qualified for the State Final to be held at Lucknow.

**Rohilkhand, 5th August:** 38 Teams/7 Schools
The Heritage Quiz was held at Symbiosis Public School, Rampur. Quiz Master was Ajay Kumar Sagar. Kanya Inter College won the Quiz. The event was well covered by the local media.

**Meerut, 5th August:** 56 Students/ Various Schools
Meerut Chapter conducted this year’s Heritage Quiz at St. Xaviers Intermediate School, Mawana Road. R G Girls Inter College won the quiz.

**Dehradun, 2nd August:** Xpressminds with support from Dehradun Chapter conducted the city round of INTACH Heritage Quiz at Jaswant Modern Sr. Sec. School. Rashtriya Indian Military College won the round.
Ghaziabad, 8th August: 15 Teams/6 Schools
Indirapuram Public School, Pratap Vihar hosted the Heritage Quiz in their premises. Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad won the round conducted by Xpressminds.

Greater Noida, 9th August: 19 Teams/7 Schools
Shiv Nadar School was the host for the INTACH Heritage Quiz at Greater Noida. Greater Valley School won the round.

Noida, 11th August: 65 Teams/21 Schools
Millennium School, Noida hosted the Noida round, supported by Greater Noida Chapter. Cambridge School, Noida won the quiz conducted by Xpressminds.

Lucknow, 28th August: 27 Teams/12 Schools
The Lucknow city round was held at CMS Gomti Nagar Old Campus I, conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds and supported by Lucknow Chapter. Army Public School; Nehru Road, Lucknow won the quiz. It was to be followed by the Uttar Pradesh State Final.

Kanpur, 28th August: 10 Teams/4 Schools
The Kanpur Heritage quiz was also held at Lucknow at the same location of CMS, Gomti Nagar Campus. 10 teams from 4 Schools won the round and qualified to participate in the State Finals held subsequently.

West Bengal
Malda, 26th July: 34 Teams/10 Schools
Heritage Quiz was organized at Malda Town Hall. North Point English Academy was awarded as the winner.

Siliguri, 27th July: 13 Schools/42 Teams
The Heritage Quiz was held at Inspiria Knowledge Campus. The winning team was adjusted with the team from St. Michaels School.

Durgapur, 5th August: 14 Schools
INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted at Guru Teg Bahadur Public School, Durgapur. Carmel Convent High School, MAMC was declared the winner of the competition.
Kolkata, 19th August: 14 Schools/47 Teams

INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at Shri Shikshayatan School. Ramkrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur was declared the winner.

Santiniketan, August: Santiniketan Chapter organised the Heritage Quiz Programme in three parts in three schools. First at Tanayendra High School, Goalpara, Bolour; second at Patha Bhavana, Visva Bharati; and the third one at Bolpur High School. Seventy students from class VII to class X participated.

Northeast

Shillong 22nd July: 5 Schools/8 Teams

INTACH Heritage Quiz 2017 was conducted at Laban Assamese Girls HS School. Loreto Convent was declared the winner.

Dibrugarh, 19th August: 52 Teams/11 Schools

INTACH Heritage Quiz was held at Little Flower School, Dibrugarh. The team from local Delhi Public School, Duliajan won the quiz competition.

Dimapur, 19 August: 13 Teams/3 Schools

The Heritage Quiz was held at The Maple Tree School. The local Delhi Public School was declared the winner.

Gangtok, 4th August: 26 Schools/99 Teams

INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted at Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School. Tadong Sr. Sec. School was declared the winner.

Himachal Pradesh

Shimla, 4th August: 32 Teams/7 Schools

The Heritage Quiz was held at Auckland House School (Girls), Shimla. Drona Vatsyayan was the quiz master. It was won by ECI Chalet Day School.

Mandi, 27th August: 52 Teams/11 Schools

Saraswati Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec. School was the venue for INTACH Heritage Quiz 2017 at Mandi. The host school won the city round.
Punjab

**Amritsar, 11th August:** Amritsar Chapter organized Heritage Quiz for school children at Bhawan’s S.L. Public School Amritsar, as part of INTACH’s initiative to promote awareness about the cultural heritage of all regions, communities, groups, religions and languages of India. Sri Guru Harkrishan Public School G.T. Road Amritsar was the winner.

**Maler Kotla, 13th August:** 25 Teams / Various Schools

INTACH Heritage Quiz 2017 was held at Oasis Public Sr. Sec. School. The Govt. High School, Jamalpura won the local round. The quiz received wide media coverage.

**Jalandhar, 18th August:** 52 Teams / various Schools

Jalandhar Chapter conducted a Quiz on Quit India Movement and the Heritage of India at Cantonment Board Secondary School, Jalandhar Cantt. Police DAV School bagged the winner as well as runners up positions. The event was covered by Doordarshan for 45 mins, as well as by All India Radio.

**Faridkot, 26th August:** 50 Teams/ 4 Schools

INTACH Heritage Quiz was conducted at two places in the city. The event received wide media coverage.

STATE FINAL ROUNDS

**Kerala**

**Trivandrum, 25th July:** The State Final of the Quiz was organised at the Trivandrum Tennis Club by the Trivandrum Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment. The team from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Vidya Mandir, Poochetty were declared the winners of the State Round.

**Telangana**

**Hyderabad, 26th July:** The State Final of the Quiz was organised at the Salar Jung Museum by the Hyderabad Chapter, with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment. The team from Teja Vidyalaya, Kodad were declared the winners.

**Bihar and Jharkhand**

**Ranchi, 17th August:** The State Final of the Quiz was organised at the Bridgeford School by the Ranchi Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment. The team from Delhi Public School, Bokaro was declared the winner of the state round.
Madhya Pradesh

**Gwalior, 24th August:** The Madhya Pradesh State Chapter conducted the State Final of the quiz at Greenwood Public School. City winner teams from Shivpuri, Orchha, Gwalior, Burhanpur, Dhar, Mandla, Khandwa and Jabalpur participated in the finals. The team from Little Angels High School, Gwalior won the round.

Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, 31st August:** The Odisha State Chapter with the support of Xpressminds Edutainment conducted the State Final of the Quiz at DAV Public School, CS Pur. The team from DAV Public School, CS Pur was declared the winners of the State round.

Karnataka

**Bengaluru, 25th July:** House School hosted the Karnataka State Finals of INTACH Heritage Quiz 2017. The quiz was conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds supported by Bangalore Chapter. Ullas CL and Navik Shamoanor from Kuvempu Vidyaketen won the final.

Gujarat

**Ahmedabad, 8th August:** The Gujarat State Final of INTACH Quiz was held at Shreyas Foundation, conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds and supported by Ahmedabad Chapter. Rohan Puntambekar and Manav Jani of Bright Day School, CBSE Unit, Vasna won the final.

Maharashtra and Goa

**Mumbai, 16th August:** The State Final of Maharashtra and Goa was held at the historic Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai, conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds and supported by Mumbai Chapter. Siddhartha Jaiswal and Shakti Tape from Nath Valley School, Aurangabad won the final.

West Bengal

**Kolkata, 19th August:** Shri Shikshayatan School was the venue for the Finals of the West Bengal State of the Heritage Quiz. The team of Sunetra Maiti and Jonish Lourembam from Ramkrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur won this round. The quiz was conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds supported by Kolkata Chapter.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

**Lucknow, 28th August:** The venue for the finals of Heritage Quiz was CMS Gomti Nagar Old Campus I. The team of Harshit Upadhyay and Sudhanshu Rai of Aryan International School, Varanasi won the finals. The quiz was conducted by Kunal Savarkar of Xpressminds supported by Lucknow Chapter.

**Delhi, 4th September:** The Heritage Quiz NCR and Delhi finals was held at New Delhi, with 106 teams from 67 schools participating in the Delhi round, and 5 NCR teams representing Delhi - National Capital Region. Delhi Public School, RK Puram and Modern Vidya Niketan, Faridabad won their respective rounds and
qualified for the National Finals to be held in November. The quiz was conducted by Kunal Savarkar and Seema Chari from Xpressminds in collaboration with Heritage Education and Communication Service.

HECS FILMIT WORKSHOPS

Heritage Education and Communication Services (HECS), New Delhi in collaboration with the Helen Hamlyn Trust, United Kingdom has been encouraging over 10,000 students to make films on heritage through the FilmIt India project (2008-2017) for almost a decade. The FilmIt 2017-18 kick-started with film-making workshop at Delhi.

Delhi Technical Workshop, 4th August

The FilmIt Technical Workshop for Delhi was conducted on 4th August. It marks the 10th running year of the project. The Workshop was attended by 33 teachers and 96 students from 33 schools. The technical session was conducted by Ankit Pogula and Shreya Kakria who are documentary filmmakers from Tuning Fork Films Ltd.

Delhi Content Workshop, 28th July

The FILMIT Content Workshop for Delhi was held on 28 July, attended by 31 schools from all over Delhi and NCR with the participation of over 130 students with their teachers. The resource person Feisal Alkazi helped the students to develop ideas for films based on the themes set for this year.

Kolkata Workshop, 3rd August

The FilmIt workshop was held at Sri Sri Academy in Kolkata for 15 schools. A presentation and the discussion of the current year’s themes was made by Abhishek Das from HECS. Technical resource persons Pulkita Parsai and Sumit Sisodia were from Tuning Fork Films.

Ahmedabad Workshop, 9th August

The FilmIt Workshop in Ahmedabad was held on 9th August at Shreyas Foundation. Seven schools with 16 teachers and 51 students attended the workshop. The students were also taught the technicality of how films are to be made and the areas where one should focus while making a film.

Mumbai Workshop, 10th August

The Mumbai workshop was held at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum. Around 80 students along with their teachers from 10 schools attended the workshop. A brainstorming
session required students to discuss film ideas. Many interesting ideas were exchanged for making films.

**Jaipur Workshop, 10th August**

Nineteen teachers and 73 students from 10 schools participated in the FilmIt Jaipur workshop at MGD Girls School. The content session was followed by the technical session conducted by Ms Shreya Kakria and Ms Pulkita Parsai of Tuning Forks Films.

**Goa Workshop, 11th August**

It was attended by 127 students accompanied by 28 teachers from 16 schools. A brainstorming session around the FilmIt themes was held, with the technical section conducted by Vinod Shridhar. Students were asked to make a freeze frame of a film shot.

**Varanasi Workshop, 17th August**

The city is the latest entrant to the project. The content session was conducted by PD HECS Purnima Datt. She showed a Power Point Presentation on the themes chosen for the current year. The technical session was conducted by Ankit Pogula and Sumit Sisodia of Tuning Forks.

**Chandigarh Workshop, 21st August**

The Workshop was inaugurated by Home Secretary Chandigarh. It was attended by 11 schools at St. Kabir School Chandigarh, totalling 98 students and 15 teachers from 11 schools. The children were briefed about the themes as well as technical inputs were shared by the team from Tuning Fork Films.

**Hyderabad Workshop, 22nd August**

Ms Anuradha Reddy, Hyderabad Convenor welcomed all the participants from 11 schools attending the Workshop. Technical resource persons Vinod Sreedhar and Sumit Sisodia from Tuning Fork Films conducted the technical session.

**Chennai Workshop, 23rd August**

The FilmIt content and technical workshop was held on 23rd August at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, with11 schools attending. Current year’s themes were discussed by Abhishek Das, HECS.
**CHAPTERS**

*Note:* Ordinary Members are once again reminded to renew their Membership Subscriptions for the year 2017–18 – in case they have not been able to do so to date. The subscription should preferably be deposited with your local Chapter, or in case there are any constraints or inconveniences encountered the subscription may be sent directly to Chapters Division, Central Office. Please expedite action! And Thank you.

*Note:* Convenors have been requested several times to ensure Chapter News is received in the Division latest by 20th of the closing month, i.e. March, June, September, December. This is the last reminder as material coming in after that delays the publication of Virasat unduly, and it would be difficult to include pass-by date material in the next quarterly issue and may be kindly excused. Thank you in anticipation of action on your part.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

*Srikakulam*

The Chapter announced the schedule of initiatives proposed to be taken up for marking ‘Separation Day’ of Andhra State from Telengana. The Collector was invited to the meeting, to be followed by a Camp on World Blood Donors’ Day, during the last quarter.

The Chapter headed by Convenor Radhaprasad in coordination with NSS and NCC conducted a cleaning campaign 30 kms from the city at Patram Beach at Calinga Port on 28th August. It was inaugurated by former Minister G Suryanarayana, and attended by Tehsil officer PS Simhachalam, three members of the...
Sarpanch, Tourism Officer S Narayan Rao and several Mandal officials. Scholars, college students and some from the public also participated. It was part of Swachh Bharat national campaign, supported and encouraged by Assistant Collector K Dhanarvijaya Reddy and the District officials. The Chapter is heartily congratulated for this mega effort that caught the public eye.

**Visakhapatnam**

Convenor PV Prasad sent greetings to Central Office for Ganesh Chaturthi. Some of the collection of Ganesh pictures he sent from different schools of painting by major artistes is shared below with all INTACH Members.

**ASSAM**

**Guwahati**

Assam State Convenor Sheila Bora was one of the chief speakers at the North East Tourism Conclave organized by NEC and CII on 16th September at Guwahati. Her talk on Urban Heritage in Assam and Infrastructure Development had particular relevance not only for Assam but also other North East States that have much to offer by way of a rich heritage and tourism opportunities.

Convenor Sheila Bora participated in the national programme of Swachhata hi Seva in coordination with Assam Tourism held at Guwahati. They cleaned the Bhubaneswar Temple as it is named, situated at the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati. Regional Director Tourism Shoeb Samad, popular Assamse actor Kopli Bora, some of the invited guests and the Institute of Hotel Management joined hands and made it a great and successful drive.

The Convenor also chaired a session on Capacity Building and Tourism that are vital for the State and the ‘Seven Sister States’ of the Northeast to realise their full economic potential and development.
BIHAR

With due apologies: Photograph of Raj Bhawan, Patna was incorrectly shown in last issue

Corrigendum: Patna Raj Bhavan

CHHATTISGARH

Chairman LK Gupta undertook an extensive tour of Chhattisgarh Chapters (See detailed coverage given under Central News).

GEDI DAUD PRATIYOGITA

Co-Convenor Kawardha Mahendra Singh Khanuja sent a very interesting snippet of news. Gedi Daud Pratiyogita is an old tradition of Chhattisgarh on the occasion of Hareli that fell on 23rd July this year. On this festive day Goddess Kutki Dai, the ‘deity of crops’ is worshipped by farmers with hope and prayer for a good harvest. Farmers’ children play a game called Gedi, mounted on tall bamboo sticks as they move around the fields seeking Kuti Dai’s blessings for a plentiful crop yield - while they have much fun. And they are awarded and lauded for undertaking this arduous ‘game’ that would be daunting for elders to venture.

Bilaspur

5th August is a very special day for the Chapter Members as it is the Foundation Day of Bilaspur Chapter. Eleven years ago Chairman LK Gupta had inaugurated the Chapter, and was again present on this occasion. Convenor Manju Mitra welcomed him and the Mayor of Bilaspur Kishor Rai, while Member BB Joshy also greeted State Convenor Lalit Surjan.

Bilaspur has been selected as one of the Smart City projects. The Chapter thus has major responsibilities to contribute to civic efforts, especially in listing of heritage sites. Mayor said civic amenities and facilities are being improved as per norms of Smart City with garbage collection and disposal receiving all due attention, he assured. State Convenor Lalit Surjan expressed his appreciation of the Chapter’s contribution to the listing exercise in Chhattisgarh. Co-Convenor Dr. UK Shrivastava presented the Annual Report to Members and Institutional Members who were largely present.
Khairagarh

Dr. J Mohan welcomed Chairman, Members and invitees gathered at the inauguration of the Khairagarh Chapter. Guest of Honour Vice Chancellor, Indira Kala Sangit Vishwavidyalaya, Prof. Mandvi Singh acknowledged INTACH's significant contribution and specially mentioned the restoration of paintings of former Khairgarh rulers. State Convenor Lalit Surjan drew attention of new Members to the natural beauty of their environment and surrounding and rivers that should get all due attention of the Chapter. A brochure on the city and its environs was released in the presence of State Secretary, faculty members and students of the University.

DELHI

President’s Estate

The President’s Secretariat had commissioned the Chapter to prepare the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Rashtrapati Bhawan and its precinct. Designed by Edwin Lutyens during 1912-1931, it is based on the British concepts of ‘City Beautiful Movement’ and the ‘Garden City Movement’. The CCMP is also a prototype of the larger 80 years old town plan of New Delhi. The need for extension had led to many changes in buildings and surroundings thus losing the original character and design. It was a challenging task for the Chapter to conserve authenticity and integrity of original buildings and landscape character. Phased into two parts to cope with its immense scale and complexity, 68 heritage buildings were identified of which 15
buildings were selected as prototypes from both Schedule A and B of the precinct for conservation work. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for all the identified buildings was prepared, and conservation work was completed this August.

*Rashtrapati Bhavan* after the completed conservation works was inaugurated by then President Pranab Mukherjee.

The second phase of Comprehensive Conservation

![INTACH Delhi team with President Pranab Mukherjee at the inauguration](image)

![An Illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan](image)

![View from terrace of Rashtrapati Bhavan](image)
Management Plan (CCMP) involved issues within the main building. The past extensions had led to many changes and losses in the original design. A methodical approach was adapted for a holistic approach to restore authenticity, integrity and landscape character, including HVAC and fire fighting services. It was an enormous task divided into manageable levels, that would also make the report intelligible for future use as well. The Study has classification and grouping of four levels of spaces in the main building, with each floor divided into nine zones. Thus there are thirty-six zones with each zone having an average of 22 spaces, including rooms and circulation areas. A detailed study of the plan in comparison with archival drawings, a material study, and photo documentation of each space, were all important parts of the report.

The crucial recommendations of the Chapter are based on the documentation, taking into account the background of historical records as well as current functional needs. It entailed understanding the historical background, architectural styles, and the socio-political scenario of the country when it was built; including elements like the characteristics of Delhi and also going into details like material used in railings and jaalis. The supportive information was tabulated and will serve as a constructive guideline for future conservation work.

The rigorous pioneering inventory of the artworks and heritage furniture was taken up in the second phase, with recommendations for allaying degradation of these oeuvres from pre and post Imperial era. The voluminous CCMP

2 Report comprising seven volumes was completed in a record time of eight months earlier this year in May 2017.

**Awareness Campaign**

Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Central Office organized a Symposium on *Post-Independence Architecture of India: Context and Significance* on 6th July. A number of eminent historians, architects, conservationists, urban designers, structural engineers and other professionals from across the country participated in the Symposium. Principal Director IHA, Principal Director AHD Divay Gupta, Prof. AGK Menon, President of World Monuments Fund Joshua David, Chairperson of New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Meenakshi Srinivasan participated. Telengana Chapter Convenor Anuradha Reddy also shared her insights on the subject.

**Training Programme for Conducting Walks**

A four day training workshop was held in July by Delhi Chapter to build a team of professional volunteers for conducting Heritage Walks. A number of experts
representing different fields - Prof. AGK Menon, Dr. Neeru Misra, Prof. Pushpesh Pant, Ms. Rana Safvi, and others - delivered the lectures.

**Heritage Walks**

After the Iftar Walk and Roshanara Bagh Walk conducted last quarter, there is a niche market for heritage walks that attracts both foreigners and local Delhiites. The Walk at Safdurjung's Tomb organized on 2nd July attracted many heritage enthusiasts despite the rain as this tomb is an example of magnificent restoration undertaken by the Agha Khan Trust not too long ago.

**FOR LOVE OF GOD?**

Lack of a proactive regulation banning use of Plaster of Paris in idol making was apparent after Vijaydashmi in Delhi and in many other already polluted cities of India. Hundreds of Goddess Durga floated in the Yamuna, and large stretches of river at the six designated ghats turned into a colourful soup of paints and POP with idols lying in huge piles after Dussehra. The Gods must be displeased to see their ugly broken images floating and clogging drains. And long after this ‘festive debris’ is cleared, the heavy metals like cadmium, mercury and lead that undergo magnification will have serious impact on health. As someone asked: What kind of bhakti is this when you offer prayers to idols for 10 days and then abandon them to rot, break and melt away into a sewage laden river? One wondered what might be the state of the Hooghly River banks or that of many smaller river banks!

At least Diwali crackers and fireworks were banned in Delhi this year. Thanks to Lakshmi, Delhiites breathed slightly less polluted air this year! Not withstanding the sneaky few bursts of pollution here there.
GUJARAT

Shri Prabhat Kumar Ghosh is appointed the new State Convenor of Gujarat Chapter. INTACH welcomes him with many good wishes for the onerous responsibility he has taken up, and wishes him every success. INTACH looks forward to his long and productive association with us.

Mehsana

Convenor Javahar Mehta triggered a number of projects for cleaning monuments at Patan, Polo Forest, Palodar, Sunak, Vadnagar to mention some major locations. The Chapter proposes to fix boards, with information regarding the origin and date of each heritage site, with an appeal to the general public to keep the premises neat and clean. Boards have already been installed at the four gates of Vadnagar, at Bahmani Temple in Buta Paldi village and at Jageshwar Temple in Dawada village. Convenor Mehta went personally and met the Panchayat members of these villages. Earlier this year 20 lakh pedestrians passed through the villages during the full moon fortnight of Bhadrapad month to visit Ambaji in Banas-Kantha District on the border of Mehsana, with about 8 lakhs

HARYANA

Ambala

Convenor Colonel RD Singh organized a lecture for serving officers and fellow veterans at the Raina Audi. GOC of the Khangra Corps. Lt. Gen. Negi along with several officers
of the HQ attended the lecture delivered by Lt.Gen. Ranjit Singh PVSM, SM on Ambala’s well known historic Military Heritage, highlighted with photographs. Little wonder there were many veterans in attendance like Generals, Brigadiers and Colonels who actively participated in the interactive session with personal anecdotes. A few civilians were also present to learn about the unique facet of their city’s history.

Convenor RD Singh availed the opportunity to convey INTACH Chairman’s appreciation of the personalised interest taken by the HQ in promoting the *Kharga Heritage Park* and Ambala culture. Convenor RD Singh hopes to remain in regular touch with the military authorities.

**Yamunanagar**

Convenor Major RS Bhatti announces the inauguration of a museum by local MLA Sham Singh Rana at Topra Kalan on 27th August. The project was initiated jointly by the Chapter, the *Gram Panchayat Topra* and the local *Buddhist Forum*. It will attract visitors who come to see the *Asokan Pillar* at Yamunanagar. A park will be developed around the Pillar site. Meanwhile till the museum is fully established, 22 large sized flex display pictures have been put up on the four walls of the hall to display different facets of the proposed Park and its artifacts, excavated relics and antiques statues. These heritage treasures are under custody of a local NGO in Jhajjar for the present.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**Mandi**

Convenor Naresh Malhotra organized a programme to promote natural heritage conservation. The Chapter requested help from the State Forest Department in planting herbal trees. Forest Conservator Ms. Upasana Patial personally joined the plantation programme along with other officials. The area selected was adjoining the Government Vijai High School so the students also participated in planting trees and enthusiastically assured
they would take care of these plants in future.

The Management Committee of the 1684 Ganesh Temple invited Chapter Members for the Ganesh Utsav during this year’s Festival celebrations. The temple was built by artisans from Maharashtra who were specially brought to the city by the erstwhile ruler Siddh Sen. INTACH Members availed the opportunity to discuss measures for the preservation of this heritage temple, and to emphasise that devotees should be prevented from misusing spaces around the Temple and that artificial paints cause serious damage to heritage assets.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**Srinagar**

The Chapter received an overwhelming response for organising Kashmir Islamic Calligraphy, a week-long celebration of the historic art of writing Arabic. J&K Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Islamic Cultural Centre held it at the centrally located Jamia Masjid from 17th-24th July. It was inaugurated by master calligrapher Ustad Muhammad Amin Kundangar, with Director Tourism Kashmir as Chief Guest. Many eminent journalists and social activists were present.

**KARNATAKA**

**Anegundi-Hampi**

Convenor Shama Pawar projected the tangible and intangible heritage of Anegundi-Hampi region at ‘Namma Bengaluru’ (meaning our very own Bengaluru). The event Tribute to Hampi held 9th-10th September.
recreated majestic Hampi in a series of multi-faceted presentations by local artisans and artistes. The crafts in both traditional and contemporary creative expressions received a wonderful response engaging guests for long hours. People flocked for a taste of secret recipes of Vijayanagar served at the Shangrila by Varalaxmi. She regularly holds cooking classes in Anegundi for those interested in the cultural cuisine of the area. A number of performances both classical and folk against backdrops of Hampi were held along with displays of crafts and spices.

The map showing Ramayana Circuit tracing the Kakinada trail in Hampi was of particular interest to most visitors. The Chapter proposes to make this event a regular feature also at Anegundi, and add value to the tourist experience of Hampi with the support of the local authorities. A similar event at Hampi is planned for the winter months for promoting the site during the tourist season. A website showcasing the Chapter’s work to date establishing its credentials has been opened.

Belgavi

The Chapter marked the first anniversary of its Founders Day on 3rd September, bringing all its Members together for the celebration. The short span of one year has seen the new Chapter launching several meaningful programs to create heritage awareness and make its credentials known. Starting at grass root level, it organized a Teachers’ Training Programme, and six Heritage Clubs were set up in local schools. Programmes related to HECS like My City My Heritage were also held, with two of its participating students even qualifying for the national round. The Chapter organised several heritage walks and visits to heritage sites and museums for Members and the public. It is now set to launch the first book on the Architectural Splendor of Belgavi, written by noted historian and INTACH Member Dr. Sumita Surebankar to be published shortly with the help of INTACH Delhi.

This is a very impressive record of activities undertaken by the Belgavi Chapter in a period of 12 months since its inception. INTACH heartily congratulates the Chapter for its achievements at a nascent stage – with great expectations in the future.

Dharwad

Convenor NP Bhat informs that the INTACH Heritage Museum named after Padmashri Dr. Sudha Murthy is now drawing a large number of people daily. In view of its growing popularity, the local Municipal Corporation decided to construct an extension of the Museum keeping in mind museum requirements. It is being conceptualised by the noted architect Prof. Arun Huyligol as per the Chapter’s vision.

Internationally known linguist and scholar Padmashri Dr. Ganesh Devy was the Chief Guest on Music Day. She spoke about the significance of this special day, and the popularity of Dharwad Museum as a good example. Former Ambassador Madhu Baduri was the Chief Guest. Dharwad has always been known for its famous musicians many of whom migrated to other music centres and received national accolades. Recently the Chapter conducted a socio-economic survey of Dharwad musicians, as the city is known as the hub of Hindustani classical music. It assessed their socio-economic conditions, in order to help the economically vulnerable artistes. The Chapter has established a Musician Welfare Fund, the first initiative of its kind in INTACH. Congratulations are due to one of our most enthusiastic Convenors – NP Bhat and his team.

The Chapter exhibited the paintings of Prof. Bhahuradevi Badami from the Government College Painting College.
It is a unique collection as she specializes in the ‘hot gun’ technique, and her paintings were much appreciated by visitors.

**Manglaore**

Shri Subhash Chandra Basu is appointed the new Convenor of the Mangalore Chapter, He will be assisted by two Co-Convenors Dr. Shaila Bantanur and Shri Niren Jain. With this formidable team, the Chapter promises to fulfill INTACH conservative objectives with great expectations. We wish the new team every success and all our good wishes.

**Vijayapur**

Convenor Dr. Krishna Kulkarni invited former Director ASI Dr. SVP Halakatti for inaugurating the *Short Term Training Programme* (STTP) held 1st to 5th August. The Chief Guest emphasized the guiding principles of professional ethics and conservation principles. There were a number of technical sessions scheduled over the three-day Conference with talks by Resource Persons who interacted with the gathering.

Convenor Dr. Krishna Kulkarni spoke on the ‘Heritage of Bijapur’, an important historic town and a district headquarter during the British era. Convenor Kulkarni is an authority on the city’s forts, mosques, palaces and civil works undertaken.

Ms. Shruti Mutalik Desai and Safiya MD elaborated on their surveys of various historic and traditional settlements in the city, with power point presentations on UNESCO listed monuments and importance of documentation of settlements. Dr. JP Chahchan from Mysore made a presentation on sustained development of Heritage Cities. Gurupalli Suryanarayan Murthy from Hyderabad described works carried out by him on various aspects related to conservation that inspired the participants. Krupa Rajahgam presented her ideas on Skype to promote understanding heritage buildings and valuing intangible heritage by communities.

Former Bengaluru Convenor Sathya Prakash Varanashi and Mahesh Ninganna conducted the open house discussions on conservation on the final day. Dr. Shaila Bantanur from Manglore gave a brief on methods and modes of conservation works and demonstrated some of her students’ prize winning works. She also chaired the Valedictory session that featured the feedback of participants and reflected their gained knowledge and the success of STTP workshops.

**KERALA**

**Kasargod**

The Chapter conducted *Kilukkampett* summer camp at the Edayilakkad riverside for a hundred students. Convenor Dr. V Jayarajan joined hands with Folk Land, International...
Centre for Folklore and Culture and the Edayilallad Navodaya Library for hosting this event, and delivered the presidential address. Eminent theatre personality Prof. Chandradas and Director of the Kochi theatre Lokadharmy inaugurated this annual camp.

This year’s camp commemorated the renowned dramatist, theatre director and poet Kavalam Narayana Panicker. It commenced with Natakakalar theatre workshop conducted by Gireesh Sopanam of the National Sangeeta Nataka Akademy. Eminent visitors like Dr. Anila Sunil Payyanur, a College Lecturer on Mohiniyattam visited the camp. Dr. Anila Sunil spoke about household gardens Natuvydhyar, and lyricist MP Raghavan arrived by ferry along with tourists who then sang by the riverside. The camp concluded with a dramatized presentation of Vachumattam first staged 50 years ago by dramatist Kavalam Narayana Pannikar. President of Valiyaparambu Gramapanchayath MT Abdul Jabbar gave the valedictory address to a bunch of happy young faces.

MADHYA PRADESH

Dhar

The local administration and Nagar Palika demolished the Hawa Bangla. This ship shaped architectural monument was a prominent landmark that once greeted all visitors to the city. It was built in the reign of Udai Rao Pawar during 1898–1910 as a City Palace, but later became a residential school. AH Division and the Dhar Chapter prepared a Detailed Project Report at the request of the previous administration. Convenor Deependra Sharma even pursued the restoration proposals for the last one
year. Then suddenly in the darkness of one night it was surreptitiously demolished by the Nagar Palika and local administration to develop a Haat Bazaar! With no public announcement or intimation to INTACH – the question hangs in the air!

All ancient landmarks of a city, big or small, enhance its ambience. Convenor Dr. Deependra Sharma has brought this to the attention of INTACH Chairman, but protesting to the authorities after the bridge has been flattened will serve no purpose. More constructive would be to launch a public campaign and sustained dialogue with local authorities and the public to sensitize them on ways and means of restoring and redeploying the city’s assets, keeping their heritage value. They enhance the city’s ambience and its citizens’ environment. Otherwise bulldozers will continue to reign supreme in Dhar!

MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai

The Flora Fountain restoration by architect Vikas Dilwari is almost complete, and now finer details are clearly discernable and much appreciated by passersby. The Chapter has next appointed restoration experts to work on the southern and eastern façade of the heritage Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Railway Station. The Prime Minister had nominated CST as one of the 10 Swachh Bharat monuments in the country for special attention.

Chapter Members were among the first to visit the recently opened Maritime Museum, conducted by its Chief Curator Dilip Vishwanath. They learned about an interesting naval history through a specialist, and about different kinds of locomotives used during colonial times that are housed in this Museum. It also has some rare pictures of different dockyards and of politicians like Pandit Nehru who visited it.

A Book Crawl was another first of its kind program focused on visits to the plethora of bookshops that are part of Mumbai’s heritage. Some bookshops are even in house cafes like the recently opened Wayward and Wise with English interiors, where people can discuss books over coffee and cookies. A lovely way to spend a lazy morning!

Pune

The Pune Chapter along with conservationists from Aundh Vikas Mandal, Rotary Club, Bhoslenagar Moballa Committee and some independent heritage conservationists joined hands to protest the demolition of the 150 years old Chowky of the Savitribai Pune University (SPU). It came to light only the day after Pune Mirror reported the erroneous manner in which it was executed by the Road Department of Pune Municipal Corporation, terming it a “disrespectful and damaging” act. Activist Makarande Shende said “It is really sad to see that the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) itself does not respect the city’s heritage. The rules and norms are frequently bent according to the convenience of the departments. The procedures of shifting as well as demolition were highly violated, and it is important that strict action should be taken against those found guilty”.

Debris of Chowky
It is a familiar lament in many cities, at least Pune has activists who effectively opposed it. Municipal Corporations are the most crucial office of a city, and the reasons for such demolitions is because they never induct conservationists as a component of HRD staff or policy. In Pune however there is a Heritage Cell in the PMC, but they were kept completely in the dark on the proposed demolition! Nor was any Public Notice issued before hand. It was only the post-mishap report in the *Daily Mirror* that brought to light the razing of an important heritage landmark much to the dismay of heritage organizations. Furthermore there is no mention as to where the *Chowky* will be set up by the Road Department, though it was claimed due precautions were taken to keep the *Chowky* intact and rebuild it in the SPU campus on a larger ground – which of course remains to be seen.

Judging from the debris, only time will tell whether mere good intentions pave the way to rescuing precious heritage!

### ADOPT A RIVER

A welcoming banner greets visitors when driving from the Airport into Pune town proclaiming nearly 200 awards presumably for some ‘smart’ initiatives taken to connect the city with its inhabitants. No other city makes such proud announcements to its visitors. The city also proclaims initiatives taken by individuals and non-government organizations to boost and boast about conservation initiatives taken.

To cite one example, the Jeevitnadi – Living River Foundation launched a unique drive to encourage citizens to participate in river restoration. Puneites have seen the plight of their rivers deteriorating over the years. Jeevitnadi is encouraging them to “Adopt a River Stretch” as it believes their restoration is only possible through people’s participation. The first project started at Vitthalwadi on the Mutha River, and many such groups have been working on Sundays. It is bound to have a positive impact on the status of the river and create a sense of belonging. Its founder Aditi Deodhar’s idea is to create groups who will work consistently to check sources of pollution, clean river banks at small stretches, observe and document biodiversity, assess measures for prevention and record their observations. Many groups are now working on various stretches, and the word has spread. Even school children in Hinjewadi have volunteered to look after one stretch of the well know Mula River of Pune. Students of another school in Ghorpadi with parents in tow are pitching into the effort. MIT School of Design at Loni Khalbor also started work in August.

Wildlife researchers, biodiversity experts, bird watchers and others to come to this and other river banks. It is indeed an idea that could be propagated by our Chapters in other cities?

In North India the Ganga and Yamuna are also calling out for such help!
ODISHA

Bhubaneswar

Convenor SKB Narayan held Pitba making and Jhoti competitions in the slum areas of Bhubanwar to mark Odisha Heritage Day, the first of its kind deserving special mention though belatedly reported due to his indisposition.

Odisha Heritage Day Celebration

It was held both at the Jaganath basti and the Shantipalli basti. It was part of a competition held jointly with the New-Horizon Rotary Club that uniquely comprises only Lady Members! The Chief Guest art historian Dr. Krishna Ballav Mishran spoke on traditional Odia festivals that are unique and many of them are related to agrarian culture and social customs. EC Member Baiunthnath conducted an on-the-spot competition. A part of the program was the Pitba and Pana, part of Bishuva-Sannkranti organized by ‘INTACH wives’ like Usharani Tripathy and Rotary Club Member Tarulata Dwivedy with all traditional items of Pitba and Pana.

Rojo Sankranti was another occasion for festivity. Specially for youth when young boys and girls all over the State are on swings, singing traditional songs, and having pitha and paano (betel). The Chapter invited Dr. Sangeeta Gosain of the Guru Kelucharan Odisha Research Centre to speak on folk song tradition with special reference to Rojo-Gito. The Chapter newsletter Ayitiha was also released on the occasion.

Plantation Week was marked from 1st-7th July, with Members signing a pledge to plant 3 trees each and then take care of them.

Chapter Meet, RAJO fest 29th June

The Committee for documenting private heritage buildings comprising Convenor ‘Sukubina’ as he is called, Co-Convenors Ramhari Jena and PC Dhir with Coordinator Suryananda Das went on a reconnaissance of old Bhubaneswar and adjacent villages. They noted that most of them have been either remodeled or extensively repaired, and can no longer be listed as heritage. Information will be collected on just six properties that might pass muster as heritage.

On 28th July the Pujya-Puja was held. Coordinator Dr. Debasis Mohapatra listed the Bara-Putras of Odisha – in memory of persons who were born or had died in that month, with Members offering homage to them.
This year the District Culture Officer and other officials, as well as artists and literary personalities, were specially invited for the occasion. Food is never cooked on the four days of the festival as it is believed Mother Earth is menstruating, but people of all ages participate in dance, songs and games to celebrate this traditional heritage event.

Mayurbhanj

Plantation programme was conducted at the Manavikash Special School (for deaf & dumb) at Betana on 16th July. Chapter Members along with students and staff of the school planted fruit-bearing plants on the premises at pits dug earlier. An Awareness Programme was introduced by Co-Convenor Raseswar Sahu giving examples of monuments, natural heritage, etc. highlighting there conservation. Dr. Mohit Kumar Sarangi spoke on Global Warming and importance of huge plantation and public fields for temperature control. Members of the Chapter Dr. Snehlata Basa, Kaveri Mishra, Gokul Chandra Das and Kaibalya Mohapatra elaborated with short speeches to make students and teachers aware of the gravity of the

CONDOLENCES

Professor Dr. Khageswar Mahapatra
The Chapter lost one of its most eminent Members and a litterateur, Professor Khageswar Mahapatra who passed away in the closing week of June. A native of Jajpur District and a gold medalist from Ravenshaw University, he distinguished himself in many other pursuits. In the early 70s he took an active part in the socio-cultural life of Delhi, as a Life Member of Odia Samaj and Sree Neelachala Seva Sangha in the capital. He founded the Odia Department in Delhi University. He was the former head of Odia Department at Shantiniketan. As a linguist and scholar he was appointed Director of the State Institute of Tribal Studies at Bhubaneswar in the 1990s. He was honoured with many awards by his State, including the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award for his outstanding contributions to Odia literature. Truly a man of many parts and interests. The Chapter will greatly miss their senior Member who had been such a great asset in their activities.

Cuttack

CONDOLENCES

Dr. Jayant Das
The Chapter lost one of its valued Members with the passing away of Dr. Jayant Das on 21st July. He was 80 years old, a senior Member who regularly attended all proceedings and functions of the Chapter taking a lively interest. A sportsman in his younger days, he represented the State in both hockey and cricket matches. Little wonder that he retained that sporting spirit in contributing to Chapter activities. INTACH joins the Chapter Members in extending our deepest sympathies to his bereaved family for their grievous loss of a dear family member. We send our good wishes for their future well being.

Jaipur

Convenor Balaram Mohanty informs that an agriculture-based Raja Festival is celebrated annually in mid-June.
subject. Through sign language Mandakini Hembram conveyed the essence of the above talks to her schoolmates.

**Sambalpur**

**CONDOLENCES**

Life Member Biranchi Narayan Pati passed away at his residence on the outskirts of Sambalpur town on 15th September. He was a ‘young’ 73 years and always actively associated with several socio-cultural and philanthropic organizations of the town. Greatly respected for his substantial study and knowledge of Indian scriptures, he was particularly interested in astrology. Chapter Members deeply mourned the loss of their respected Member. INTACH joins them in extending our condolences and good wishes to his family. We hope they will bear their loss with fortitude and equanimity that he must have imparted to them, given his lifelong pursuit of higher knowledge.

**Sonepur**

The Chapter marked its Foundation Day on 11th September at the DRDA Conference Hall of Subarnapur District. Former State Election Commissioner cum State Chapter Advisor Debendra Mishra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. It was presided by Chapter Advisor Brajendra Mishra. Convenor Sarat Kumar Satpathy presented the Annual Report. Many active Members took the opportunity to offer their suggestions for upcoming plans and suggested proposals for consideration of Chapter’s future activities. The meeting was coordinated by Co-Convenor Pradyumna Sahu; and vote of thanks given by Life Member Banamali Panda.

**PUDUCHERRY**

The Chapter held a series of events to portray the singular character and spirit of this extraordinary town, as may be glimpsed in pictures now shared with other Chapters. In the French part of the town the old colonial architecture and cuisine lingers, and contrasting it is the Tamil traditional architecture standing cheek by jowl in the city. Originally the ‘Pondicherry Festival’ was conceptualised to protect the singular character of its outstanding architecture. The Festival however was expanded to embrace all facets of its intangible traditions, natural heritage and the lingering traces of ancient Indian heritage. Practically every cultural organization in this Union Territory including Alliance Francaise and the French Development Agency aver that “heritage is an asset and a basis to generate cash flow”. It ensured the overwhelming success of the Festival.

This ‘mantra” that heritage is a source of enriching a city and its citizens has not been fully comprehended in most cities of India – in the mad development rush that seems to have overtaken them.

**PUNJAB**

**Amritsar**

**Partition Museum, Amritsar**

The first ever Partition Museum was inaugurated at Amritsar on 17th August. On this significant date 70 years ago and 2 days after Independence, the Radcliffe Line was announced. Many people were in two minds whether they belong to India or Pakistan. Soon an unimaginable and mindless bloodbath followed. The family of 22 year old Preetam Kaur put her on a train and she travelled 250 kms from Gujranwala to Amritsar, clutching her favourite Phulkari coat. She lost three of her brothers in the bloody mayhem, and many other families thus perished or in
some cases ‘partitioned’. Engaged a few weeks earlier, she fortunately met her fiancé at the Amritsar Refugee Camp. He had the presence of mind to stuff some valuables in a suitcase while fleeing. They have been donated to the Museum including Preetam’s phulkari coat.

More than a million people crossed over through the Wagah Border – all affected by the Partition in some ways. The Museum is located 15 minutes from the Wagah Border. It was set up by Kishwar Desai and Dilip Khanna.

The only other museum of this kind perhaps is the Holocaust Museum, an exquisitely designed Museum in Washington with letters and actual voices of those who lived and died in those times. that wrench your heart with their tales.

**Patiala**

Col.Sarabjit Singh organized an interesting seminar on *Heritage: Preservation and Protection* on 5th August at the DAV Public School. It was attended by people from different walks of life, apart from students and teachers of the school. Officiating Director All India Radio Amarjit Singh Wariach as the Chief Guest proclaimed heritage as the source of all knowledge of history, literature and culture. Renowned Punjabi poet Balwinder Singh Sidhu, Principal SR Prabhakar, former Mining Industry official Laljit Singh Sidhu and President of the Punjab Eco Friendly Association Paramveer Singh were among the notable guests. Convenor Sarabjit Singh urged the students to become a part of the heritage movement. He told them about the heritage walks and talks, competitions and quiz programmes organised periodically by the Chapter. He encouraged them to participate and enhance their general knowledge.

After the Talk, *Heritage Quiz 2017* was conducted, and concluded with refreshments for all.

**RAJASTHAN**

**Bikaner**

Convenor Dr. Prithviraj Ratnu organized the Chapter Members Meeting on 20th August at *Hari Bhavan Palace*. Discussions focused on several heritage related issues that are plaguing Bikaner. It is a pity because the city has so much untapped tourism potential. The protection of the historical Courtgate referred to as ‘Bikaner ki shaan’ was one of the main subjects of discussion.
**CONDOLENCES**

Life Member Ashok Kumar Bapna passed away on 15th August after a brief illness. He is remembered as a strong supporter of heritage conservation issues. He seldom failed to raise his voice against negligence of old landmarks and historical property by the local administration. That voice will be greatly missed by fellow Members of the Chapter. A man of many interests, he often organized exhibitions of aspiring painters of Kota-Bundi School of Miniature Paintings.

Ashok Kumar Bapna belonged to a very distinguished family, his roots going back to Jaisalmer where the family owned the famous Patwa Haveli. He had been an all round sportsman in his younger days and excelled as a top class batsman of his college team. Not only INTACH Members but citizens of Kota and the Bapna clan will miss the absence of this popular personage from their midst.

INTACH has lost a great patron of art and conservationist at heart. We extend our deepest condolences to the Bapna family on their loss and ours. We send good wishes for their forbearance at this time of grief, and for the future.

**Jodhpur**

The Chapter and the Mehrangarh Trust jointly organized a national workshop on *Conservation of Community Conserved Areas (ICCAS)*, Orans/Charnots at Chokelao Mahal, Mehrangarh Fort on 15th-16th July. State Co-

Convenor Hari Singh Palkiya welcomed Chief Guest Gaj Singh of Marwar and the audience. Krapavis Founder gave an overview of the Workshop details. State Convenor Gaj Singh drew attention to the importance of Orans and the need to create new oran lands.

As many as 21 participants from different regions of the country presented their papers between technical sessions. Orans meaning sacred groves/forests/grasslands so called in native language of Rajasthan. They have been in existence since ages and ‘institutionalised’ by attachment to a local folk deity.

Asian Coordinator ICCA Consortium Dr. Neema Pathak gave an overview on ICCAs in India and explained their working process. Dr. Amirthalingam, CPRF,
Chennai spoke on Ownership & Management Practices in India, referring to the importance of sacred groves. He suggested a district-wise Conservation Award be given to popularize village level bio-diversity programmes. A series of scholastic papers were presented over the two days of the Workshop.

Dr. Archana Godbole from AREF Pune presented a paper on the Role of communities in managing bio-diversity of ICCAs in India.

Senior scientist AFRI Jodhur Dr. GP Singh talked about medicinal plants, animals, other seeds and maintenance of grazing lands in his talk on Orans of Rajasthan and Biological Diversity and People’s Livelihood.

IUCN Member Dr. Sunil Dubey presented a paper on Baseline of Potential Oran Sites through Geospatial Tools & Techniques. Amit Daiman spoke on the sanctity of natural sites in his presentation on Geospatial Approach for Mapping, Monitoring and Conservation of Sacred Groves, and about sensors provided to spatial ecologists that facilitate RS and GIS techniques in mapping and conserving sacred groves.

Dr. Pradeep Pagria’s presentation Oran Study from Barmer focused on incentives to be provided so that sacred groves can be preserved, and thus ensuring biodiversity security under climate change. It generates revenue to meet financial requirement for preserving ecosystems for betterment of future generations. Bhopal lawyer Zubia Sajid talked on the Legal Aspect of Orans. He said it is based on deep-rooted religious sentiments and beliefs of local communities, protected by local inhabitants. They believe that felling trees invites bad luck and worse to the violator. This is not an adequate deterrent, there is need for strict provisions for their protection through enactments, policies and mechanism to implement regulations.

Krapavis/Oran Forum represented by Amand Singh spoke on Policy Issues & Management of Orans, and that they be declared as Biological Heritage Sites under the National Biodiversity Act. Panchayats should be entrusted with preparing a Register on sacred groves.

Bikaner Convenor Pritviraj Ratnu presented a paper on Bikaner Oran ka parampara ithasidisha or dasha, touching on both public awareness as well as State attitude. Jaisalmer Convenor in his paper Experiences of Jaisalmer gave the historical aspect of orans, and their spiritual and ritualistic identity that was respected by the rulers and the ruled. Aainathji (Duraga), Pabuji, Ramdeoji, Gogaji, Bhomias are some of the deities in whose name Orans exist. He said INTACH needs to actively help communities for their protection.

The last session was chaired by Dr. JP Singh, CAZRI, Jodhpur. Udaipur Chapter Member Prof. PS Ranawat spoke on Protection of Community Controlled Vans in hilly region of Udaipur vis-à-vis orans of the trans-Aracalli desert region of Rajasthan. Co-Convenor Jaisalmer Virendra Singh Bhati shared some experiences of Thar Desert and knowledge about orans in ancient times. The Valedictory function was presided by State Convenor Gaj Singh, with the closing remarks by PD NHD Manu Bhatnagar representing Central Office. A Jodhpur Declaration with Recommendation cum Action Plan brought the Workshop to an end. It was a very thought provoking and successful Workshop.

TAMIL NADU

State Convenor Dr. Suresh organized the Workshop on Architectural Listing on 24th–25th July, followed by field visits on 26th July for preparing ‘sample listing proforma’. Joining him as Faculty were architects Sakthi Tanjirayar, Professor Buddhanandan, and Life Member of Tanjore Chapter Parisutha Rajan. They trained the third group of 24 Final Year students from the PRIME College to undertake listing. Earlier the college students had listed Velankanni town in 2015, and the twin towns of Nagapattinam-Nagore in 2016. The most critical aspect of such workshops is a field visit to actually document/ list select buildings/structures and submit the duly filled Proforma that is then centralized at Delhi INTACH Office. This kind of exercise has been undertaken by many other INTACH Chapters.
Chennai

The Chapter and the local Alliance Francaise jointly hosted a most interesting talk *Daily Life in Madras a 1000 Years Ago* on 23rd August. Temples in Tamil Nadu are primarily places of worship, but that was not always the case. Speaker Pradeep Chakravarthy, an award winning former student of the JNU and London School of Economics, has sourced information from temple inscriptions that indicates temples served as locations for cultural activities and for local administration once upon a time. While he once worked with Mckinsey on finance and customer care, he now prefers to write books and takes people on heritage tours!

The Chapter held a Talk on *The Anglo-Indians* by S.Muthiah on 1st September at Amethyst, followed by a screening on the “*Anglo-Indians of Madras*” by a senior journalist Muthiah who lived in Shri Lanka for nearly two decades. Subsequently his historical interests led to his becoming the “*Chronicler of Madras*” as he is known, having authored over 35 books with stories related to the city and the community. He now edits *Madras Musings* in Chennai since 1990, and is a columnnist for the Hindu. His learned talk was followed by the screening of a 45 minute documentary *The Anglo Indians of Madras*. The film was researched and directed by a creative team of people who interacted with the community members in their heritage homes. Much of the film was shot in *Veteran Lines Pallavaram*. Special mention must be made of Harry MacLure who edits a popular Anglo-Indian community magazine, and of local Superintendent of Customs Richard O’Connor in the making of this film.

Coimbatore

**CONDOLENCES**

Captain Vidya Sagar (retd.), one of the Founding Members of the Coimbatore Chapter and a steadfast Member since 1985, passed away on 25th July. He had been a great source of encouragement to his wife our former Convenor Shashi Ghulati in taking initiatives in all INTACH projects, especially related to environmental concerns. Knowing his special interests, the Forest Department made him an Honorary Warden. He lived up to that honour by taking responsibility for tree plantation in the city. His zeal and determination inspired many others to follow suit. Today Coimbatore boasts many roads lined with trees thanks entirely to his initiatives.

INTACH extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to Smt. Shashi Ghulati and their family at this time of grief. Our good wishes for their future are always with them.

**MINT PALACE OF MADRAS**

The Mint Palace was earlier the Exchange Building of Madras (now Fort Museum). A wick lamp placed on the rooftop of its Officers’ Mess served as a beacon for ships coming into port during the 17th-18th century, and later replaced by flashing lights ordered from Chance Brothers, Birmingham. This was to be placed on the lighthouse tower being constructed in the present High Court campus. Interestingly even before all this, the East India Company looked for a tall building to embed the traditional wick lighthouse that guided their cargo-bearing ships. There was once a suggestion to place it on the tall building owned by one Rai Bahadur Bansi Lal but that was rejected. It was referred to as the Mint Palace only because the street led to the Government Mint. A second mint came up and along with the old one it was shifted into Fort St.George in 1792, and finally closed down in 1869. Even though the positioning of the wick lamp failed, Bansi Lal was honoured with the title of Rai Bahadur for his good relationship with East India Company (the title was one below Dewan Bahadur which British bestowed for exceptional civil service). Rai Bahadur’s beautiful building was razed to the ground in 2010 due to compulsions of real estate business, and in its place stands a multi-storey complex today. CMD INDeco Leisure Hotel acquired all pieces of this beautiful building and many others from Chettinad, perhaps to build a luxury hotel at a suitable location? It is interesting to know this bit of ‘Madrasapptinam’ history.
A glittering function was arranged in Hotel Pioneer Grand Palace, Nagercoil on 20th August to present the Anirudh Bhargava Environmental Award, 1916 to Dr. RS Lal Mohan by Maj.Gen. LK Gupta. The award comprises a memento and cash award. Former Supt.Engineer Chenthee Natarjan, a famous epigraphist delivered the felicitation address.

Nagercoil Co-Convenor Dr. Sumithra Raghuvaran welcomed the Members. Chairman LK Gupta as Chief Guest in his presidential address commended the excellent work carried out by Dr. RS Lal Mohan and his team for the protection and the preservation of the natural, cultural and the built heritage of Kanyakumari District on a sustained basis. He commended the legal efforts of Convenor Lal Mohan by filing more than 20 public interest litigations (PILs) whenever there was a perceived threat to the natural heritage of the District.

He also pointed out that his work is an example to other Chapters to follow. He felt the entire Kanyakumari District qualifies for being declared a World Heritage Site due to its abundant heritage assets. If this objective is achieved it will help in protecting its natural heritage in particular. A museum will create awareness among the local people and tourists who visit the District.

Former bureaucrat MG Devasahayam reiterated that no other place in India has such biodiversity of flora and fauna as this District. There are many hidden archaeological sites that require study. Unfortunately its natural heritage like water bodies, trees and mountains are all under threat due to mega development plants that have been conceived for this small district that seriously impacts sustainable development. He urged INTACH Members to promote holistic development without destroying heritage assets of the District.

Dr. RS Lal Mohan explained the important contributions of the Chapter like protection of CPR Park, creation of two roadside parks one in Kanyakumari and in Chemmankulam in Nagercoil. He said 6 books were published by the Chapter, cataloguing the number of Roadside Inns, Temple Tanks, Sacred Groves, Irrigation Tanks and Heritage Trees of Kanyakumari District. He pointed out that the Chapter has created many young INTACH Clubs in schools and held Seminars on different facets of heritage of the district – all of which have created a great deal of heritage awareness among general public. Prof. James R. Danial delivered a special lecture on the contribution of the Nagercoil Chapter extolling its efforts to protect the environment.

Nagercoil Co-Convenor Dr. Sumithra Raghuvaran welcomed the Members. Chairman LK Gupta as Chief Guest in his presidential address commended the excellent work carried out by Dr. RS Lal Mohan and his team for the protection and the preservation of the natural, cultural and the built heritage of Kanyakumari District on a sustained basis. He commended the legal efforts of Convenor Lal Mohan by filing more than 20 public interest litigations (PILs) whenever there was a perceived threat to the natural heritage of the District. He also pointed out that his work is an example to other Chapters to follow. He felt the entire Kanyakumari District qualifies for being declared a World Heritage Site due to its abundant heritage assets. If this objective is achieved it will help in protecting its natural heritage in particular. A museum will create awareness among the local people and tourists who visit the District. Former bureaucrat MG Devasahayam reiterated that no other place in India has such biodiversity of flora and fauna as this District. There are many hidden archaeological sites that require study. Unfortunately its natural heritage like water bodies, trees and mountains are all under threat due to mega development plants that have been conceived for this small district that seriously impacts sustainable development. He urged INTACH Members to promote holistic development without destroying heritage assets of the District.

Dr. RS Lal Mohan explained the important contributions of the Chapter like protection of CPR Park, creation of two roadside parks one in Kanyakumari and in Chemmankulam in Nagercoil. He said 6 books were published by the Chapter, cataloguing the number of Roadside Inns, Temple Tanks, Sacred Groves, Irrigation Tanks and Heritage Trees of Kanyakumari District. He pointed out that the Chapter has created many young INTACH Clubs in schools and held Seminars on different facets of heritage of the district – all of which have created a great deal of heritage awareness among general public. Prof. James R. Danial delivered a special lecture on the contribution of the Nagercoil Chapter extolling its efforts to protect the environment.

Human Resource Director NASDAQ Dossalin Sweaty was honoured for Rs.2.5 lakhs contribution from their CSR Fund to the Chapter for creating the NASDAQ-INTACH road side park near Chemmankulam. Dr. Anand Peters presented a set of INTACH publications of the Chapter to Chairman Maj. Gen. LK Gupta. Trivandrum Convenor Shaji Krishnan was honoured by Smt. C Sobha of Bhairavi Foundation with a shawl; and Chairman was also honoured with one by SR Sree Ra, Kanyakumari Consumer Protection Centre.

A book on heritage with 14 heritage trees written by Dr. RS Lal Mohan was released by Chairman, with the first copy presented to Secretary Sarojini Devi, Kasthurba Matharnala Sangam, and a second copy to R Nagaraj, an organic vegetable farmer.
Trustee CREATE R Ponnambalam who is a senior INTACH Member offered the vote of thanks. A lunch for all 42 Members was hosted at the Pioneer Grand Palace Hotel. On his way Chairman LK Gupta and Trivandrum Convenor Shaji Krishnan planted trees in the NASDAQ-INTACH wayside park. They also visited the Chathram Building recently renovated by the Nagercoil Chapter.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**Banda**

The Chapter invited Commissioner Ajay Kumar and DM Mahendra Bahadur Singh to witness the cleaning of the *Nawab Tank*. It was a voluntary effort by Chapter Members. Specially to be mentioned are people who were at the forefront of this effort - Dr. Mohd. Rafique, Sheikh Saadi Zaman, Rashmi Gupta, Abdul Rasheed Siddique, and Narendra of *Amar Ujala*. Their efforts were backed by students of HMPS Public School, its Principal Yaasmin Khan and teacher Rafique. Co-Convenor Dr. Shabana Rafique is lauded for organizing this mega cleaning operation. It proves much can be achieved when an appeal arouses the social spirit and conscience of people.

The new generation needs to know more about the horrors inflicted on human life by nuclear bombing of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945. Co-Convenor Dr. Shabana Rafique organized the *Hiroshima Day* on 8th August at the Hazrat Maulana Siddique Memorial School. Teacher Sayyad Khursheed recounted the dastardly effects on human life and land, and the years of suffering thereafter bravely borne by Japan. 1,40,000 people were killed on that one day and 74,000 died later due to the effects of nuclear bomb.

**Gorakhpur**

The Gorakhpur Chapter informed some time ago that some idols were found at Chhau village. Chairman advised the Chapter to send them to ICI Lucknow for conservation. Convenor Mahavir Prasad Kandoi now reports that the idols have been installed on 28th July -

the auspicious day of *Nag Panchmi* - in a temple built by villagers with the help of their *Gram Pradhan*. The Chapter has set a noteworthy example. This is how heritage in small corners of the city can be protected by local citizens without always depending on State authorities. The Chapter is congratulated by INTACH. This will be an inspiration for many more such initiatives to be taken by other Chapters in future?
Kanpur

Convenor S Tariq Ibrahim organized a two day seminar in August on *160 Years of Great Struggle of India* referring to the Great War of Independence otherwise known as the 1857 Indian Mutiny. The Convenor outlined the event, how it awakened people of different faiths, but belonging to a common heritage to rise in revolt, as it was the call of “the moment of destiny to realize their soul”. British rule was re-imposed after many bloody skirmishes. But the seeds were thrown from which sprang up the beginnings of a national leadership, subsequently the formation of the Indian National Congress, and eventually our Independence and Constitution.

The Convenor highlights the fact that it was the first DG ASI Cunningham who made the pertinent observation that India was one country amongst the people. He says, and many may not agree that “we the people of India should feel deeply indebted to our great ancestors….(who) created a vast nation from Himalayas to Kanyakumari in a sub-continent which in any other place would have been many separate nations”. Though later we had to settle for a two nation theory that divided India into two countries. One would agree with the Convenor that it was “a super human task that required almost a divine vision and divine inspiration” much of which failed us in the aftermath of the Partition.

Mahoba

Mahoba Chapter participated in the annual historic *Kajli Festival* at Mahoba. Chapter has organized *Tarunayee*: a poetry competition for young children, and *Gazals* and *Rai* dance during the Festival. Certificates and shields were given to all participating artists.

Varanasi

Convenor Ashok Kapoor informs that an interactive meeting was held by the Vice Chairman Varanasi Development Authority that was attended by three Life Members of the Chapter.

65 photographers participated in the Photography Workshop at Little Flower House

A Photography Workshop was held with Administrator M Khare as the Chief Guest, followed by a Heritage Walk in which many regular participants joined. Three Chapter Members also attended the cultural programme at Ganga Ghat that attracted many more participants from schools.

The month of July was crowded with a number of scheduled events like the talk by Padmabhushan Pandit Sajan Mishra on 2nd July; a Heritage Walk on 4th July;
a photography exhibition on 16th July; another Heritage Walk on 23rd July. August too was equally hectic starting with the Heritage Quiz on 4th August; a Heritage Walk on 5th August, and a ‘Photowalk’ by participants of the Photography Workshop on 6th August in quick succession. Padmabhushan Pandit Rajan Mishra gave a talk on 13th August. Another interesting talk on 15th August was on Indigenous Methods of Preserving Jewelry and Clothing. A fifth Heritage Walk, was held on 20th August. A very impressive record of happenings!

**WEST BENGAL**

**Kolkata**

The Chapter participated in a massive tree planting programme launched at the Calcutta Maidan in association with the Indian Army, the Rotary Club of Kolkata and Inner Circle. Neem, Mahogany and several other varieties of shade trees procured from the West Bengal Forest Department were planted at short notice dodging the incessant rains.

The Chapter convened a meeting to welcome two new Members. One of them Siddharth Sirkar drew attention to the deplorable state of the Sri Chaitanya Library in Beadon Street, and agreed to verify the current state of their books, periodicals and catalogue. He also volunteered to do a listing of North Kolkata on ward-wise basis. Plan of action will be worked out with State Convenor GM Kapur. The other new Member Kamal Banerjee committed himself to taking the children of the Maya Foundation, nick-named the Rainbow Children, on Independence Day trip as has been the Chapter’s practice for many years.

Members suggested a trip to the exquisite Joypur Terracota Temples near Bishnupur in association with the local
administration. It is proposed to take up the proper maintenance of these exquisite temples with the local ASI Office. The Chapter is also concerned about the poor maintenance of the Michael Madhusudan Dutt’s Memorial located outside the Lower Circular Road Cemetery and will be taking up the matter with the Christian Burial Board.

On 16th July a Heritage Walk at Fort William was organized.

A heritage enthusiast Lt. Col. Nitin Shrestha gave a Talk on the history of the Indo British Scholars Association in partnership with Maulana Azad Museum. Interesting but a little known nugget of information was the setting up of a landing strip adjoining Fort William during World War II that surprised many who did not know this, including Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha who was present at the event.

Convenor GM Kapur chaired the International Seminar on Heritage Tourism of West Bengal on 28th July at the Hindustan International Hotel. It was a high profile event co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Tourism Department, the Government of West Bengal and the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies. It was an opportune moment to highlight the tourism potential of the State as the Consular Corps was present in full attendance.

On 18th August, the invited speaker Siddharth Raja gave an interesting Talk on Sir Albion Rajkumar Banerjee who belonged to the Indian Civil Service during British times. He also served as Dewan of Mysore and Cochin, and as Advisor to the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. His varied services made him a subject of great interest to the audience.
AFRICANS IN INDIA

A most interesting Audio-Visual Presentation was made by Dr. Aishana Gupta from the State University of New York, Stony Brook on Africans in India. Enough has been written and films screened about African slaves who came from West and Central Africa and worked on plantations in the Atlantic world. It is not widely known that many Africans primarily from East Africa were also sent to South Asia and to the South East as captives, prisoners and slaves. An estimated 4 million Africans crossed the waters of the Indian Ocean from the first century onwards to the Eastern Hemisphere. First as slaves but later as political recruits, sailors and merchants well into the 20th century. They were known variously as Siddi, Kaffir and Zanji and most generally as Habshi (the name comes from the Arabic ‘al-Habash’ meaning Abyssinia or Ethiopia). In the process of training, grooming and educating they were Islamized and a few even became popular military recruits in the Deccan Sultanates as well as the Mughal Empire.

Dr. Aishani Gupta mentioned in particular the interesting story of Ikhlas Khan who in the 16th century was a Finance Minister and later the Vizier of Bijapur Sultanate of Ibrahim Adil Shah II and of his successor. Another, Malik Ambar who finds mention in Mughal chronicles even became a king maker. Born as Chapu in Yemen he was sent to Arab lands and bought by Changan Khan, a Deccani noble of Abyssinian origin. Many such slaves were freed after the death of their masters and they seized opportunities to acquire positions of power and prestige. In fact Malik Ambar’s son Fateh Khan continued to be the de facto ruler of Ahmednagar until the Mughal invasion in 1636!

It was post colonization that Siddis were relegated to the background as colonial surveys categorized them as tribes. Today 25,000 Siddis live in parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa and Andhra Pradesh mostly in villages due to animosities they face in urban regions. This is indeed very sad because they are now as much Indian as the Parsis of Mumbai or the Jews of Kochi.

Dr. Gupta concluded his interesting talk at Kolkata by saying “historical amnesia and racial segregation have made us forget their rich legacies and their contributions towards the making of medieval and early modern India”.

Santiniketan

This year the annually celebrated Palash was organized at the house of Subir Dasgupta at Boner Pukur Danga. A very rare variety of yellow Palash was planted by Members, followed by a song and dance performance by two Baul artistes and a group of children.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

TEMPLES ON THE SAME LONGITUDE

There are seven ancient Shiva Temples located in a straight line of one longitude built according to yogic sciences and placed in a certain geographic alignment with each other. Is it coincidence or one of those eternal mysteries of ancient times when there were no satellite technology or geographic ways of measuring longitude and latitude. Starting with Kedarnath Temple in the Himalayas and going south are the Kaleshwara Temple in Kaleshwaram; Srikalabasti
Alternative to cash. Diamonds have now become the most concentrated form of wealth. Earlier this was not the case because each stone was different that made its value subjective and trading difficult – till Singapore’s new standardized form solved the problem. Diamond Bullion produced by the Singapore Diamond Mint is a collection of investment grade diamonds that can be easily calculated and range from Rs.65 lakhs to Rs.1.3 crore. With higher and lower values possible in due course. The diamonds are stored in a credit card-sized device containing a chip that allows immediate valuation based on exchange trading and instant authentication. It was developed by the International Institute of Diamond Grading & Research (IIDGR), which is part of Anglo-American’S De Beers Group, and is thus provided further guarantee. Earlier Diamonds were a “woman’s best friend” especially on her ring finger. One can only hope it does not now befriend hoarders and blackmarketeers!

Temple in Srikalahati; Ekambareshwarar at Kanchipuram; Annamalaiyar Temple at Tiruvannamalai; Nataraja Temple at Chidrambaram; and Ramanathaswamy Temple at Rameshwaram.

How did people separated by thousands of miles manage to construct these temples on the same longitude remains a mystery to date. Only the religious symbolism attached to each of these temples vary. The flickering lamps of Srikalahasti represent the respiration of Vayu Linga; the water spring in the inner sanctum of Tiruvanaikka Temple establishes its relationship with the element water; the Kartikai Deepam lighted on top of Annamalai hill manifests fire; and other such significances are there to explore depending on the belief of worshippers.

ADDED SPARKLE TO DIAMONDS

The Singapore Diamond Investment Exchange (SDIX) has launched a new standardised form of the precious diamond stone stones to rival gold ingots as a safe
visitors at this Tavern located in Utsunomiya in Tochigi prefecture, in Japan. They will see Macaque monkeys serving at tables. 17-year-old Fukuchan first delivered a napkin to a table unprompted, mimicking Yat-chan the original waiter monkeying around the tavern. The inspired owner soon ‘recruited’ him. He now has a pair of ‘bearers’ in uniform waiting on tables. Their simian predecessors had been working at this bar for a long time, so they followed suit. Now people come from all corners of the world for a drink - and more, just because of them. In fact simians have been working this bar for the last 29 years!

*Ack : Mail Today, 9th Oct 2017*

**PEPPER X**

The world’s hottest chilly called Pepper X dethrones the prior official record holder called the Carolina Reaper with a record of 1.4-2.2 million Scovilles. Pepper X averages a whopping 3.18 million Scoville heat units, and was developed over 10 years. In comparison Jalapenos for example are a mild 10-20,000 Scoville units. Pepper X was declared safe for consumption in a hot sauce developed as The Last Dab by Puckkerbutt Pepper Company founder of Smokin’ Ed Currie. Some 1000 bottles of his hot sauce got sold out in 2 minutes. He says other chillies like one called Dragon Breath is hotter than Reaper, but less so than Pepper X. India is known for its very hot chillies in many parts of the country, but it was not in the running for this competition. According to Live Science eating hot peppers can send your immune system into overdrive and trick your body into thinking it is experiencing heat.

**ZAFAR’S 1858 TRIAL RECORDS**

The 1858 trial of poet-king Bahadur Shah Zafar’s trial that lasted 41 days now spans over 500 pages of a Record. One copy lies with the India Office Library, London and the only other copy is neatly boxed at the Department of Archives in New Delhi. The Delhi Government is only now going to digitalise this nearly two century old slice of history. The Government claims this is the first of its kind exercise undertaken in Asia and it will take 30 months to complete. It includes firmans issued by Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II in early 19th century, Urdu documents about Delhi of 1803, and private manuscripts in Awadhi and Brij scripts, jail records from 1912-1929 as well as records of the Governor General’s House being built (that is now the Rashtrapati Bhavan). Some of these records are also in Persian, Awadhi and Brij that would need translations. Vice President Concept and Design Department is training a young team of scanners for these brittle documents that will eventually be uploaded in due course of time.
Ministry of Corporate Affairs notification effective April 2014 states Companies of Rs. 500 crore net worth or Rs. 10,000 crore or more turnover, or Rs. 5 crore net worth profit during any financial year, must constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee to recommend to their Board the amount to be spent on social causes. At least 2% of the average net profits of the Company during the three immediately preceding years should be spent on activities like eradication of hunger or malnutrition; or enhancing vocational skills, education, safe drinking water etc. important to society.

CSR 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.

In this issue of INTACH newsletter Virasat, we bring to your notice two heritage properties at risk. They are in urgent need of financial support of Corporations who would like to preserve the country’s heritage assets. It is what we need to bequeath to our children and to the generations to come so that they may take pride in our civilisational heritage and enrich their lives.