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This Is Dahanu

ISSUE 2021

“Diving Deep into our Beach Town”

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**Indian National Trust for Art
and Cultural Heritage**
DAHANU REGIONAL CHAPTER



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Acknowledgement

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude..."

~Cynthia Ozick


This issue is a form of gratitude to all those beautiful people of Dahanu who have contributed towards the cleanliness of our mesmerizing beach. Our beloved town has been blessed by Mother Nature. This fact is evident by the presence of many beaches. Even if you have cleaned the beach only once in your life or did something to protect it, we are thankful to you. As Ms. Phiroza Tafti says, "a person who has spent even half an hour towards the cleaning of the beach will think twice to pollute any beach anywhere in the world."

We as INTACH Dahanu Chapter hope you'll enjoy this issue and contribute towards the greater cause of the protection of beaches.

Thank You !

Written by

Ankita Salian



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Convenor's Note



Phiroza Tafti

WHY HERITAGE?

It is our legacy.
It is our history.
It is our culture.
It is our traditions.
It is our lifestyle.
It is our community.

Why heritage is important:

It is important to understand who we are.
It gives us an idea where we have come from; what legacy we have inherited.
Heritage makes us proud of what we are.
Heritage helps us to get in touch with our roots.

Is it only something you inherit from the earlier generation?

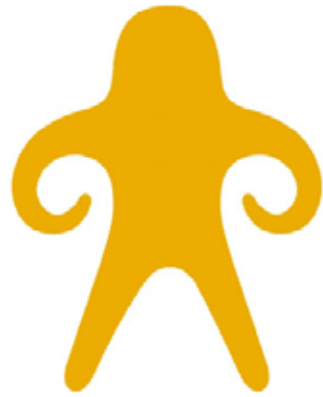
I think it is about who you are. It is your story. You should be proud of your heritage whether it is your family, your town or your surroundings.

We need to understand our heritage.

By understanding our heritage people will value it.
By valuing it we hope people will want to care for it.

This is what we do at INTACH.

Phiroza Tafti



INTACH

Indian National Trust for Art and
Cultural Heritage

Dahanu Chapter

દહાણું

-Dhanu Kriparam Mistry
Guest writer for Featured Article

પાલઘર ક્લિમાં દહાડા ગામ આવેલું છે. દહાણું એક તાલુકો છે. ૧૭ % સતકમાં મરાઠાઓ દ્વારા દહા પર આકરા અને કબજો કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો .

અને મરાઠા સામ્રાજ્ય ના પતન સુધી લોકો તેમના નિયંત્રણમાં રહ્યા હતાં. આઝાદીની લડત પછી આ શહેર સ્વતંત્ર ભારતમાં એક ભાગ બન્યું. સંયુક્ત મહારાષ્ટ્ર ચળવળ પછી તલાસરી તાલુકા અને મુંબઈ શહેર સાથે દહાણું તાલુકો ૧ મે ૧૯૬૦ ના રોજ મહારાષ્ટ્ર રાજ્યનો એક ભાગ બન્યો. દહાણું નું સંચાલન મ્યુન્સિપલ કાઉન્સિલ કરે છે. જે નગરના તમામ માળખાગત અને વહીવટ માટે જવાબદાર છે. શ્રી ભરતભાઈ રાજપૂત હાલના નગરપાલિકા પ્રમુખ છે.

દહાણું ગામમાં ઘણા પશુઓ ખાસ કરીને ગાયો લોકોની માલિકીનો હતો. આજે પણ ઘણા લોકો પશુપાલન કરે છે. દહાણું, પાલઘર જિલ્લાનું મુખ્ય વ્યાપારી અને ઔદ્યોગિક નગર બની ગયું છે. દહાણુંમાં ગુલાબના બગીચા, નાજીયેર અને ચીકુ ના ફળ માટે પ્રસિદ્ધ છે. દહાણું એ ફળોના બગીચાઓથી સજ્જ છે. ઈરાની વસાહતીઓએ અહીં રહેવા માટે આવ્યા હતાં. તેમણે ચીકુની ખેતી કરવાનું શરૂ કર્યું હતું. મહારાષ્ટ્રમાં ચીકુનું ઉત્પાદન ૩૫% છે. રબરના કુગ્ગાઓ, ચોખાની મિલો ચમચાની કમ્પનીઓ અને ઉત્પાદિત મોલ, દહાણુંમાં ઉત્પાન થતાં મુખ્ય ઉત્પાદનો છે. દહાણુંમાં પાવર પ્લાન્ટ પણ છે. જે મુંબઈને વીજળ પાર પાડે છે. દહાણુંમાં થર્મલ પાવર સ્ટેશન પણ આવેલું છે.

દહાણુંનો દરિયા કિનારો ખૂબ જ આકર્ષિત અને આનંદમય છે. દરિયા પર સૂર્યાસ્તનો નજારો જોવાલાયક હોય છે. દહાણુંમાં જાતજાતની દુકાનો આવેલો છે. માનવ રૂરિયાત પૂરતી બધી જ સુખસુવિધા દહાણુંમાં મળી રહે છે.

દહાણુંમાં શાકભાજી પણ તાજી - તાજી મળે છે. દહાણુંમાં ખાવા-પીવા માટે અનેક હોટલો આવેલી છે. જ્યાં લોકો રાતના આશ્રય લે છે. દહાણુંમાં મોટી મોટી ઈમારતો પછી છે. લોકોના ઘરો પણ આવેલા છે.

દહાણુંમાં અનેક ભગવાનો ના મંદિર આવેલા છે. જેમકે સંતોષી મા નું મંદિર, જ્યારામ બાપાનું મંદિર, મહાલક્ષ્મી માતાનું મંદિર, સત્યનારાયણ ભગવાનનું મંદિર જવા અનેક ભગવાનના મંદિર અહીં સ્થિત છે. દહાણુંમાં દરેક તહેવાર ખૂબ જ હર્ષોલ્લાસ થી અને ઉત્સાહથી મનાવવામાં આવે છે. દહાણુંમાં શાળા માટેની સગવડો પણ છે. ખાનગી અને સાર્વજનિક બંને શાળા દહાણુંમાં છે. દહાણુંમાં વિદ્યાર્થીઓ માટે ભણતરની સુવિધા સારી છે. દહાણું સ્વચ્છતા રાખવા માટે જગ્યા જગ્યાએ પોસ્ટરો, સુચનાકલક લખેલા જોવા મળે છે. દહાણુંમાં કચરાની વ્યવસ્થા પણ સારી રીતે કરવામાં આવી છે. દહાણુંમાં વારલી ચિત્રકલા મોટાભાગે જોવા મળે છે. દહાણુંના સ્ટેશન પર પણ જગ્યા જગ્યાએ દિવાલો પર દોરેલી છે.

દહાણુંના સાગરનાકા પર તારપા નૃત્ય કરતા આદિવાસી માતીના લોકોની મૂર્તિનું દ્રશ્ય છે. દહાણું એ એક સુંદર ગામ છે. દહાણુંમાં ફરવા લાયક સ્થળ પણ છે. દહાણું આ એક વિકસિત પામી રહેલું સમૃદ્ધ ગામ છે.

Dahanu (Translation)

-Dhanu Kriparam Mistry
Class 10, Model High School

DAHANU town is in Palghar district. It is a Taluka. History says that the Marathas attacked and conquered Dahanu in 1700. It then became a part of the Maratha Empire. As long as they were in power the locals were their subjects under their control. After Independence, Dahanu town became a part of free India. When Maharashtra state was formed on 1st May 1960 it then became a part of Talasari Taluka. It is governed by the Municipal Council. Bharatbhai Rajput is the Chief of the Nagarpalika. He is responsible for its administration. In the olden days Dahanu Gam had a lot of livestock, especially cows. Even today a lot of people are keeping cattle and other livestock. Dahanu has become an important trading and industrial town in Palghar District. Dahanu is famous for its orchards like roses and coconuts and chikoos of course. The Iranis had come and settled down in Dahanu. They introduced chikoo plantations in Dahanu. The production of chikoos in Maharashtra is 35%. There are other small scale industries in Dahanu like balloon factories, rice mills and stainless steel spoon manufacturing factories. There is also a Thermal Power Plant in Dahanu supplying electricity to Mumbai. The beach at Dahanu is very picturesque and a pleasant place to visit. The sunsets are especially beautiful. There are also many

varieties of shops in Dahanu. One can get everyday items and luxury items as well. Freshly grown vegetables are available in plenty. Many types of hotels and restaurants have opened up in Dahanu where residents can dine out. Now there are tall buildings and residential bungalows as well. There are many mandirs in Dahanu. Some prominent examples are Santoshi Mata mandir, Jalaram Bappa mandir, Mahalaxmi mandir, Satyanarayan temple and a lot of other religions have their places of worship too. All the different festivals are celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and fun. There are good facilities for different educational schools, colleges and institutions. There are private and government schools too. The students are given good facilities for education. The Dahanu municipality makes good efforts to keep Dahanu clean and puts up posters to create awareness about the same. The garbage disposal is managed efficiently as well. Dahanu is also very famous for Warli Art and the railway station has some beautiful paintings on the walls to greet visitors. At Sagar naka one can see a detailed metal sculpture displaying the world famous Tarpa dance of the Adivasis. Dahanu is a beautiful town. It has become a popular tourist attraction too. It is a prosperous and developing town. We are proud to be its citizens.

- Translated by Phiroza Tafti



Diving Deep into our Beach Town

-Vishwatej Gade

Photo/Video Intern, INTACH Dahanu Chapter

As soon as the last issue of our e-magazine got published, I was assigned a new task. I was informed that this time the theme of my photography project will be about 'patterns' and 'structures'. I had a duration of 3 months for this project. Initially, I was a bit confused because I had never worked on such themes before.

When I began working on this project, the initial fifteen days made me think about whether I will be able to do this task or should I tell Di to change the theme of the project...

However, there came a day when I thought let me accept this project as a challenge and work on it.

Then from the next month onwards, I started observing everything that was around me. I didn't click or shoot anything. Soon, I realized that everything around us has some kind of a pattern or a structure in it. After all, patience is the key to success and that I had found the key to my project.

I felt beauty in everything that I saw. Also, my perspective of looking at things changed and then with this realization, I started clicking pictures of beaches. Looking at the waves, I felt some strange connection with them. Although, this was not a one day process but a journey within myself. For days I would visit the beach and sit on the shore alone to capture its beauty.

The lesson I learnt from this project is that one should never give up. The knowledge that comes after such long patience is worth waiting for. The pictures you are witnessing on this issue only depicts my journey to become a better photographer.





Golden threads shimmering in the sunlight



चला घोडा गाडीत डहाणू बीच ची एक चक्कर मारून येऊया



Dragging fishing nets...waist high..

शाम हो रही थी, अंधेरा बढ़ रहा था
सुरज रोशनी खो रहा था, और मैं खुदको।





A splash in the ocean!!

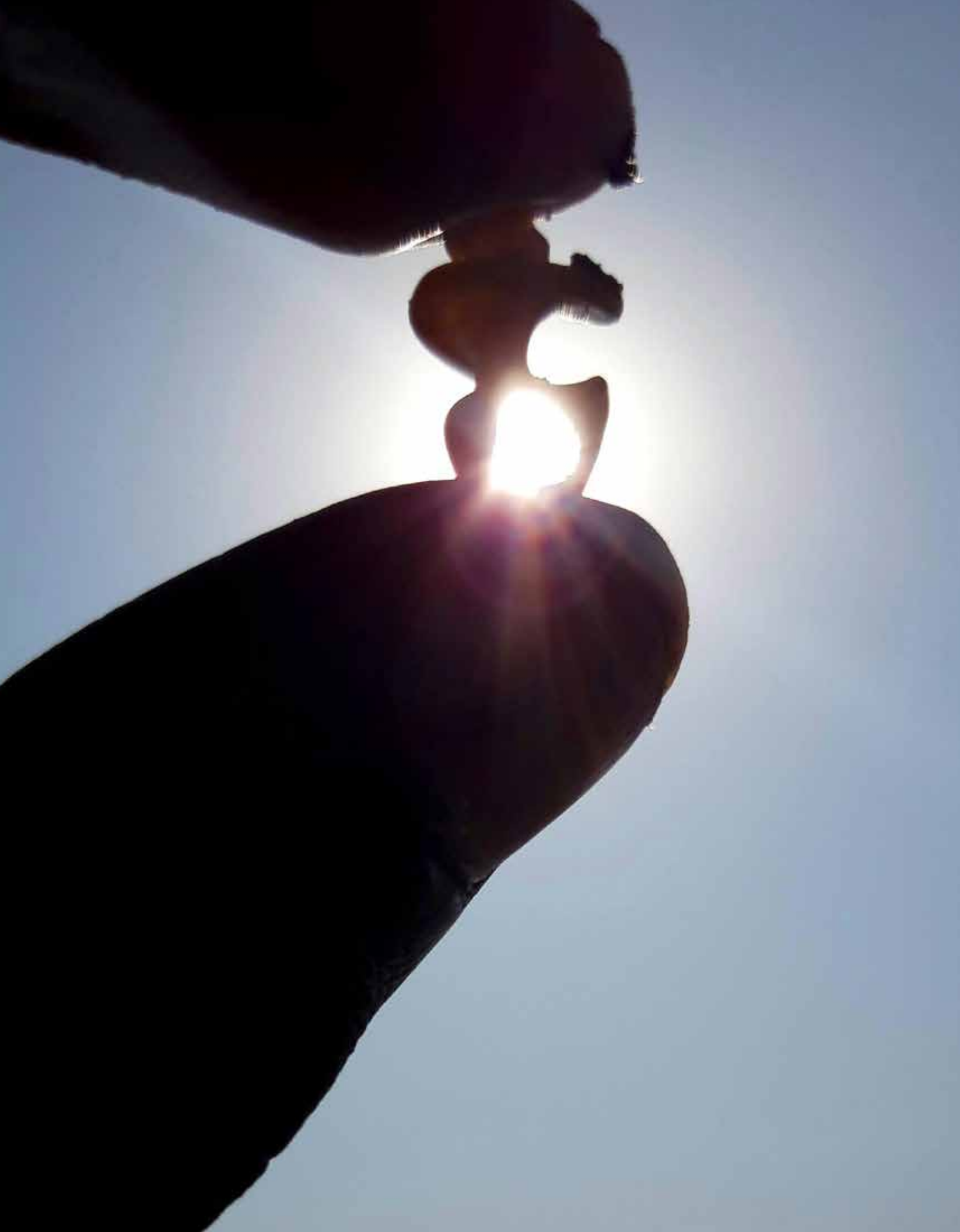


एका खेकड्याचे घर





Veins of oil mar our beaches





3:05 PM



QUEST





Waves lapping up the shoreline...leaving their watery mark!





सूर्य किरणांचे प्रतिबिंब





प्रवास





The Casuarina trees filter the sun's rays



वाळू, समुद्र आणि आकाश



To walk your own path...



...and sail through thick and thin!



This ball of fire will drown too...



Hike to Mt. Dhumas

*-Monish Kapadia
Creative Intern, INTACH Dahanu Chapter*

Dahanu is known for its scenic beaches but what often goes unnoticed are the numerous fun treks the town has to offer. Mt Dhumas alias Mt Phiroza (named after our Con-venor) is one of them. Situated a little east of Ashagadh, Mt Dhumas is a green trail which surely is home to a variety of creatures. This is the story of one of the times the INTACH Team went on a hike with Dahanu's trek-savvy people.



Mount Dhumas amidst the rainy clouds

It was the month of June and it was a rainy week. We expected light showers that day. We started about 8:00 in the morning and Phiroza miss showed us some pictures of insects we may come across on our way up. The sun was beaming down and there was no trace of rain anywhere. Unfortunately, this always happens. We kept climbing, chit-chatting with friends and having a great time. How cute they looked, little June and its family. We released them soon and they reunited with their parents.



A Beetle



The Velvet Bug (June)

Going ahead, the trail started turning into the woods and it was after some time that we realised we were lost. YES! Lost on a trek! What more of an adventure could you expect from treks? Well, people can have different perspectives but I personally love being lost and having an adventure. It makes sure that the day gets stamped in our minds and we have a lasting memory to take back with us. It was getting hot. Marcus, Zil and I moved ahead looking for a clearer path with the others following behind us. The woods got thicker and we started shouting so that the ones behind us could follow our voices. We somehow managed to find an opening in the forest and achieved our milestone.



A Spider

We had snacks up there and we discovered a spider family too! It was a lot of fun. On our way back we made traditional caps from leaves. Trust me they were so cool. Soon we were home and definitely we will remember this trek especially for the suspense of being lost, and finding June and our spider buddies.

Mt Dhumas is one of the hikes that Dahanu has to offer. Me being me, I like to go trekking every weekend and my favourite trek is the Bahrot Caves Trek and that is for another article. Until then, Happy Trekking !



A picture of the INTACH family (please notice our cool leaf-hats!)



NATURAL HERITAGE OF DAHANU: THE BEACH

*-Phiroza Tafti
Convenor, INTACH Dahanu Chapter*

The sea, the surf, the sandy beach, the saru trees and the spectacular sunsets make up the Dahanu beach front. It is a coastline to explore. The entire stretch of the beach from Dahanu to Bordi is roughly 17 kilometers and very picturesque.

Dahanu beach is our natural heritage and stands out as the most popular tourist spot.

Heritage can be of 3 broad types :

1. Natural heritage including the beach, the natural landscapes and trees.
2. Built up heritage like the Dahanu Fort, Dhakti Dahanu fishing village, temples, mosques, churches
3. Living heritage includes the Warlis, fisherfolk, basket weavers, potters and other tradesmen.

Let me take you on a photographic tour of our Ocean road starting from Parnaka past the Narpad fishing village observing the targola grove and the mangroves at Chikhla. We pass the landmark windmill, extensive sand banks, fishing boats, lakes lined with kevda shrubs and branched hoka trees.



Mangroves

Mangroves can be seen sporadically along the beach at Chikhla and Bordi and these are very important breeding grounds for prawns and marine life as can be seen in this picture.



Bombay Ducks

The bombay duck stakes are used to dry 'bombil' in the dry months and are even exported from Dahanu.



Windmills

The landmark Windmill stands testimony to a pilot experiment which proved that Dahanu coastline has the potential for electricity generation using wind power.



Ferries and Boats

The Jetty was the only way to get across to Dhakti Dahanu by a local ferry service till the new coastal bridge was built a few years ago. Dhakti Dahanu is a bustling fishing village as one can see from the numerous fishing boats anchored alongside both the jetties.



The Targola Grove

The Targola Grove of palmyra trees at Narpad must be many years old as they have grown so tall.



Bullock Carts

One can still see bullock carts plying along this coastal road carting coconuts or leaves or sand.

Activities and Awareness : "Save the Mangroves" and Poster Making



Awareness

Creating awareness that our careless trash can choke mangroves and affect the environment
30th April, 2012



Save the Mangroves

Organised a "Save the mangroves" event with students and teachers for an International Organization 350.org at Chikhla beach.
30th April, 2012



Protecting Nature

Nature trails is the best way to make students realise the wonders of the outdoors...and hope they will then do something to protect the environment for the future generations!
2013



Poster Competition

Organised a poster competition for 350.org for the students to express their views on how polluting coal is.
2011

Activities and Awareness : Ganesh Visarjan and Warli Painting



Ganesh Visarjan

Ganesh Visarjan was an impactful campaign wherein students convinced devotees to put their decorations into the Nirmal Kalash receptacles to avoid polluting Dahanu's water bodies
September 2012



Sweet Tooth

Distribution of sweets among the students after the conclusion of the Ganesh pooja.
September 2012



Warli Painting

2009- first Intach field trip conducted to include a hands on Warli painting experience!



Biodiversity

A survey of fisherfolk at the Narpad fishing village conducted to make the students realise how changing times is affecting fish catch and biodiversity.

The fabulous drive along the beach, with the sea as your constant companion on the left, with the sound of the incoming waves , and the Suru-Plantations that stretch on for miles along the coastline... and the coconut farms alongside the road, through the Eucalyptus plantation further on, and the inlets where the sea has made inroads into the mainland, just before Bordi town...



Sunset

A picturesque sunset that can attract tourists to take a nice, long walk along the beach.



Suru Plantation

Suru plantation along Beach front



Coconut Grove

One can see this coconut grove after Chikhla village enroute to Bordi.



Dhakti Dahanu

Fishing boats at Dhakti Dahanu the fishing village across the creek.



Fishing boat during the monsoon at Narpad



Citizen Profile : Shabina Jiwaji

The Ocean That Never Sleeps

by Dhanashree K.
Co-Convenor INTACH Dahanu Chapter

It was my aunt who connected me to Shabina Jiwaji. We planned two meetings before the final one that happened, since she was to go away on ship very soon. To my delight, Shabina called me one Sunday morning and said that she could meet me in an hour. I rushed to the office! It was a Sunday. A holiday. No staff. Perfect setting for something like this. I met Shabina outside the INTACH Dahanu office, and we exchanged warm greetings. I invited her in, and what was supposed to be a formal interview became the warmest of conversations. Turns out we were only one year apart and grew up in Dahanu around the same time; albeit in different schools. We had much to share, much to communicate and much to reminisce!

Shabina is a woman who is self-made and deeply driven. Someone who adds a dimension to any conversation she is part of. She is ambitious yet humble, motivated yet funny, professional yet childlike. These are only a few of her qualities that made her the perfect pick for this issue's Citizen Profile. What you are about to read is Shabina's story. Just like the rebellion and grit of Captain Ahab, Shabina too is a pathbreaker...a change-maker...! I'm no Melville, but here's a small effort of mine to let Dahanu know of the amazing people that truly make our community a special one.

14th March 2021, Sunday

Dhanashree: Good morning, Shabina. Thanks for meeting with me! You must be busy with all your packing.

Shabina: Yes, very very busy. I leave tomorrow night. Nice office! I think I had seen it on my way to somewhere. I live right around the corner.

Dhanashree: That's great. Today is a holiday so the office is empty. So, I want to start from the beginning. Tell me a little about your school...your childhood in Dahanu...and what you've done so far.



Shabina: The beginning, okay. I went to St. Mary's High School and after that I went to junior college which was in Bordi PGJC (Science), then I went to the Maharashtra Institute of Education and Training or MANET, Pune; MIT. I was there for four years. When I was there, there was a recession in 2007. I got into MANET and then there was a recession in this industry too. So, none of the companies were approaching MANET; and if they were, they hired very few. Hiring girls was a big challenge those days you know... I passed out in 2011 which included my internship. After that, in 2012 August I went on my first vessel... uhh so basically this company TORM; I was placed in a Danish company. They have only tankers...oil tankers. They don't have any other ships. They have around 150 to 200 of these oil tankers.

Dhanashree: This is some journey! Tell me about your challenges? What did you make of them?

Shabina: ...Uhhhh, where do I start... Yes, being a Muslim girl is a challenge as far as this industry is concerned (I know many others too). My family on the paternal side is heavily into this industry. Although they are only at lower ranks. I have an uncle (not directly related but he is more than just an uncle to me), who was a second engineer with TORM. He guided me through my job at TORM. That's how I applied and got the job.



Dhanashree: How did you overcome these challenges?

Shabina: I took an education loan since my father was not doing very well. He was sick and then you know a lot of family issues come. As far as the merchant navy is concerned, the fees are too much because it's a hostel-oriented, professional course. It was like the army, navy and air force -- 6 o'clock got to get up, go for the PT, do the parades, drills, swimming classes, everything thing is just like the armed forces.

Dhanashree: What did you learn about life at college?

Shabina: A lot of things! From men hooting at you, to them judging you! Only 4 women in 1000 men! And I was the first woman to enroll. Phew...I got a lot of – *beta*, see you have to cut your long hair, be strong, etc. You know, I was *dubli patli si, dari hui, sehmi si*. But my confidence was unparalleled. I never let it bring me down. I was also informed that *aise yahan peh routine hoti hai, yahan peh welding karna padega tumko, machine chalana padhega, sub kuchh karna padega tumko*, will you do it?

Dhanashree: Welding *kyun karna padega?*

Shabina: I do welding, I have some photographs of me...



Dhanashree: Really? That is so awesome!

Shabina: I do weld on the vessel. At home too, I fix everything. I don't call the carpenter. I have my drill machine at home!

Dhanashree: [Laughs]

Shabina: A marine engineer is basically an all-in-one engineer because on ship you don't get you know *ki bahar chale jao* and you know... bring someone to fix things. You can't.



Dhanashree: You can't get anybody.

Shabina: No, only 18 people run the vessel including the crew which helps, so there are only 5 officers on deck and 5 officers on the engine side. Out of these, the chief engineer does only paperwork. Master on the bridge does only paperwork and of the rest are on machines; *apne, apne main baantti rehti hai...* So yeah, my MANET journey was very rough. I'm telling you. Very rough because they never had seen girls. Besides, one must be extremely physically fit – that's hard work.

Dhanashree: So, from bearing with the catcalling, doing duck-walks for being late and being asked for your phone number by your seniors, did you manage to make any friends? What about friends from college?

Shabina: Yeah, I had a few friends. They are still in touch but now these guys who used to do all these things, watch my interviews. They see me successfully placed with TORM. And maybe they've realized their mistakes.

Shabina: So... But I'm thankful for all the experiences in my life. They made me strong and ship *ka* atmosphere is totally chilled I'm telling you...



PART ONE ENDS

Ms Shabina Jiwaji – India's first woman Marine Engineer to be placed with TORM, Denmark

Dhanashree: So, where do you think life is going from this work? Like what are your... future plans?

Shabina: Future plans uhhh... Right now, I just want to clear with my exam.

Dhanashree: Which exam are you taking?

Shabina: I'm taking the MEO class 2 exam. I already cleared my MEO class 4 which I got promoted from and until 3rd engineer, you're promoted on the basis of only that exam. And now if I want a promotion, I'm already due for one. I've cleared my 3 contracts and then I'll have to take an exam to go to the next rank. The next rank is a management level job, top 4 so...2nd engineer; at this rank, there are a lot of new responsibilities. *Yahan pe khud kaam toh karna hai par kaam karwana bhi hai.*

Dhanashree: Right, so you'll have people under you?

Shabina: I will be directly under the Chief Engineer, and he'll give me work to do. I'll have to get it done from those under me. So now, it's more of a challenge. I have a senior to look to, but at this rank I can't even call the chief engineer saying *arre ho nahi raha hai, manage nahi ho raha hai*. I will have to ensure that don't look at me as their cadet (I used to be once upon a time). I realized this when I was the 4th engineer and the same motormen and same crew sailed with me again. There are times when you have to show your power. But you have to be calm and collected even when you're down. Especially during your period.

Dhanashree: I can imagine. What do you do? How do you manage it?

Shabina: Nothing. I just work. And keep working. It's God's gift actually, I don't feel the need to "manage" it.

Dhanashree: Do you feel the pressure of marriage?

Shabina: Yes, sure I do. But I'd rather marry the right guy than marry at the right time. My family is very supportive. They want the best for me. I work with people of numerous nationalities and most of them are married. So, I know that it's possible to do both. One day....



Dhanashree: Our November issue of TID is all about the Dahanu beach. And you have this eternal connection with the sea. Any parting message for our readers?

Shabina: Dahanu as a town...I'm not getting that right word... warmth of community! Let's try and maintain the greenery of Dahanu, the waters of Dahanu. Let it maintain its cultural and natural heritage. Our oceans are truly under threat. I also want people to remember to keep our social heritage alive – to not judge based on religion. To not judge each other's choices, castes, creeds, favourite colours, backgrounds, genders! So, we can focus on what is truly important – giving back to nature and being nourished by it! That's all!

Dhanashree: Shabina, what a pleasure! Thank you so much for this. Wishing you all the very best on your next voyage.

Shabina: Thank you! Once I'm back, we'll meet for a more relaxed coffee.



PART TWO ENDS

Shabina is now on ship and sailing towards greater things in life!





**Shabina cleared her exams and
has now been promoted to
Second Engineer!**



ARLI INDOW



*-Vijay Prakash Patil
Guest Writer*



I've been a big aficionado of simplicity and live by the mantra of Less Is More. My belief can not only be seen in my advertising work, but also be traced in the work I've done in the past. Probably why in 2003 I unknowingly decided to focus his final year photography project on capturing the simplicity of life in the villages around Dahanu area.

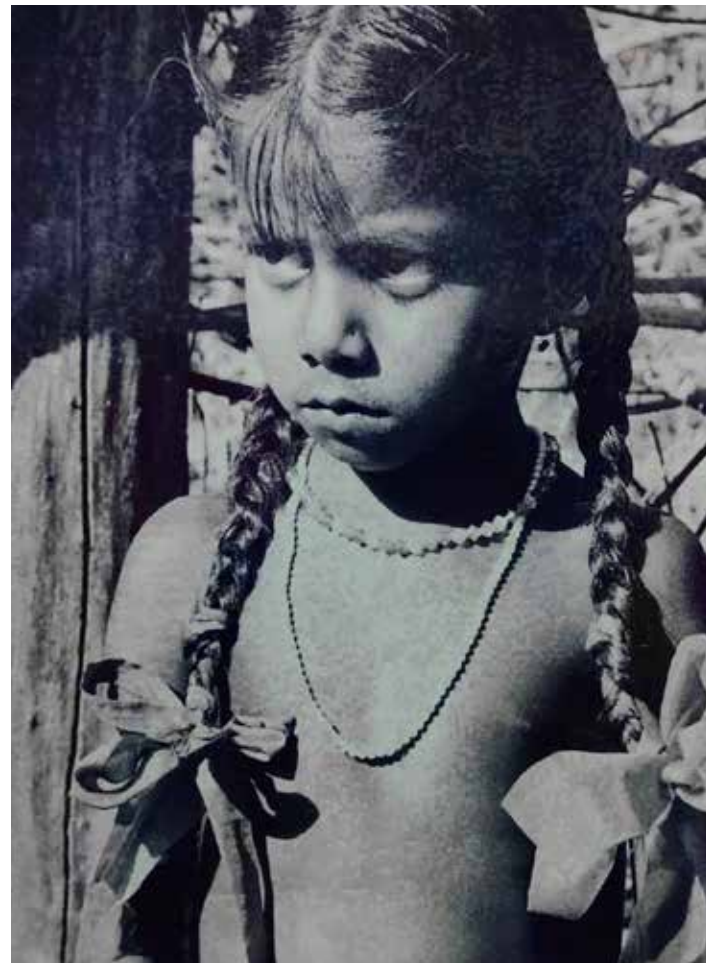


As a young boy growing up in a bustling city like Mumbai, I've enjoyed calm. While in high school, I had visited Dahanu quite a few times. My uncle, Mahesh Patil who works at Adani - Dahanu Thermal Power Station (called BSES back in the day) would take me to see the salt pans, fishing villages and often remote tribal villages.

In this project I tried to capture village life from different perspectives. I was able to capture the simplicity of daily life, architecture, children's toys, art and local crops.





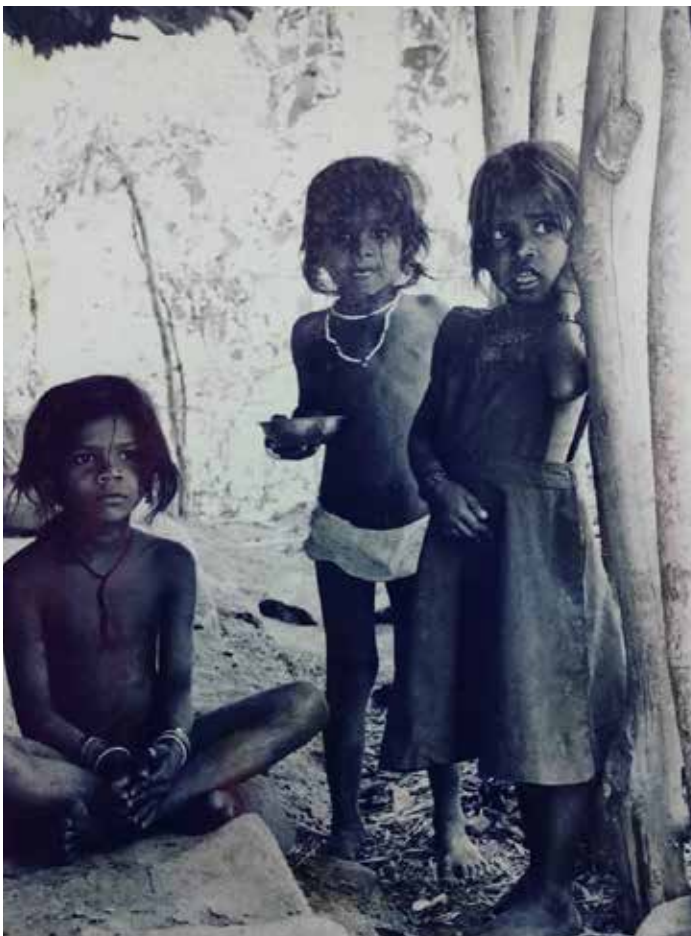


It's a no-brainer for someone who grew up in India and has visited small villages to see how sustainable old houses are—wood construction, cow dung paved floors, mud plastered walls and clay roof tiles. Most interesting part was the design. Simple and minimalist form of the house and front yard of some houses is what grabbed my attention.

I also noticed how at times the stereotypical roles were reversed in which men and women helped each other to get through the day. One photo which captures that part of life is the one in which the man is attending the baby and the woman is threshing wheat in the foreground.

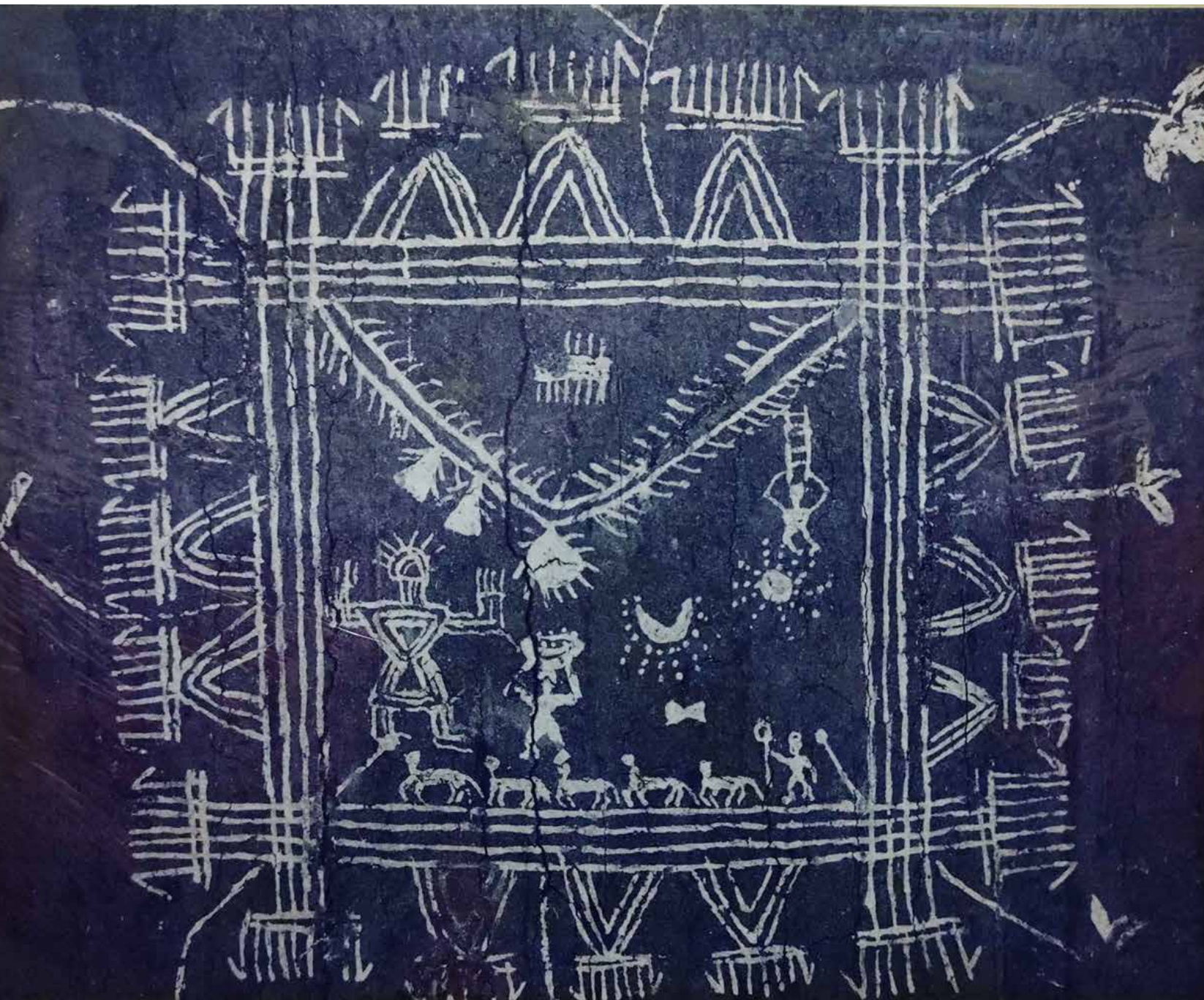






The only one photo I didn't capture was the photo of my lunch I had at my uncle's friend's relative. It was a simple melange of brinjals, suran, potatoes and black chickpeas served with rice. All of these ingredients were freshly sourced from the backyard and whipped together in 15 minutes. 18 years later I still haven't forgotten the picture of the steamy plate and the taste of it. Some things are just good to remember forever.

As a student, I didn't really understand the depth of the photos I was capturing during his trip. But, I fondly remember my photography professor blown away with the results. Looking back, simplicity and minimalism unconsciously delivered a rich experience. Less is more.



About the contributor

Vijay currently works as a Creative Director at a global ad agency McCann Detroit. After graduating from Sir J J Institute of Applied Art he worked at various global Ad agencies in India. After a five year stint he moved to the US to do Masters in Mass Communication, in one of the top Ad Schools of the country. After graduations he continued working at multinational agencies on some prestigious clients across a wide variety of clients. He has created work across all media and managed to win some international awards like Cannes Lions. His Busch Beer commercial also aired on Super Bowl in 2019. In his free time he enjoys hiking and exploring different cuisines. His favorite thing about the US is National Parks and has been to 11 of them so far.



To Preserve or NOT To Preserve?

-Ankita Salian
Writer and Researcher, INTACH Dahanu Chapter

We all have come across words like *DHAROHAR*, *VIRASAT*, *WAARSA*, *HERITAGE*, etc. many times. Some must have read about it in school textbooks; others might have heard about it on TV or the Internet.

But what is Heritage and how does it matter to us as individuals?

According to UNESCO, “Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration”. Thus, heritage is something that we inherit from our predecessors and transfer the same to our successors. When it comes to our town, we can proudly label Dahanu beach, Bahrot Caves, Dahanu fort, songs of the Warlis, Tarpa Dance, etc. as **Heritage**.



Dahanu Beach

Bahrot Caves



Tarpa Instrument



TYPES

Heritage is classified into the following:

1. Natural Heritage:

It refers to those elements which are not human-made but came into existence through natural processes. Natural heritage not only includes landscapes but also other features such as plants, animals, oceans and water bodies.

2. Cultural Heritage:

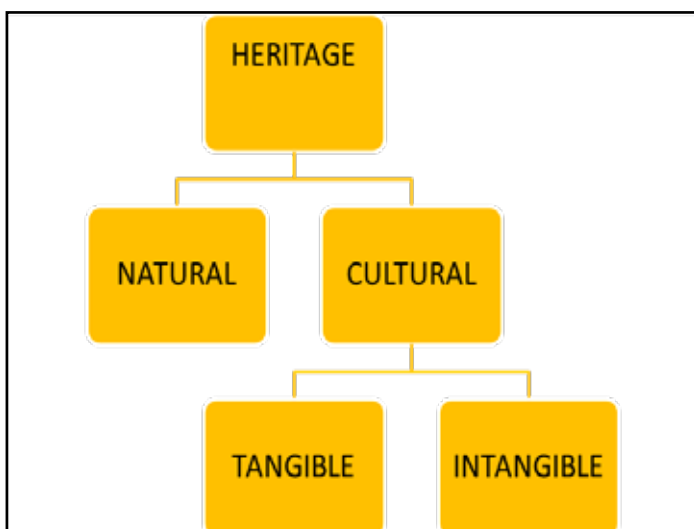
It refers to elements that are created by humans. One must understand that cultural heritage is not only limited to monuments and artifacts. It also includes traditions or living expressions like oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, and the knowledge or skills to produce traditional crafts. It is further sub-divided into:

a) Tangible

Elements that can be touched and has a physical form.

b) Intangible

Elements that cannot be touched; does not have a physical form.



IMPORTANCE

Imagine a scenario, in future you wish to hike to Mt. Dhumas and look into the variety of flora and fauna that it offers but you reach there only to find huge factories with thick black smoke all around or you wish to learn the different basket weaving techniques from the Mayavanshi community and make beautiful handicrafts but realize that no one in the present generation knows the technique. How would you react to that situation?



Mount Dhumas



Basket weaving

The reason why heritage matters is that it connects us to the past. It takes us back to our roots and reminds us where we belong. It tells us the importance of the past and what led us to our present.

For instance, it is due to the natural heritage of Dahanu that our town could become an important port during the early historic period. According to the Indian Archaeology Review (IAR) 2006-07, the ancient trade route to Nashik (an important city during the Satavahana period) could be traced as Dahanu- Chinchani to Kasa Khurd to Dengatichi which met at the base of the lower range of the Sahyadri mountains; then to Jawhar on the plateau of the lower range. Thus, Dahanu was a prosperous town right from the historical period.

All kinds of cultural heritage has an interesting story inside it. If these stories are not heard and recorded carefully at present they could be lost forever. These are the stories of our ancestors and their actions which have paved the way for what we are as well as the stories of our surroundings and the town where we live. For instance, the Maruti Temple near the fort has been visited by us many times irrespective of the faith we belong to. The temple is more than 300 years old and built by Ranoji Shinde after winning the fort from the Portuguese. We all know about the temple but have you minutely observed the structure of the temple? How many of you know about its unique architecture or the story behind such a unique structure? If observed deeply, the temple from the outside does not look like a regular Hindu temple generally found in India with *Nagara* style 'shikharas'.



Maruti Temple

Instead, this feature is replaced by the simple terracotta tiled roof. This architecture was introduced to prevent attacks on the temple from different invaders, a practice that was prevalent during that time. Hence, the temple looks like an ordinary house from the outside. The small shrine inside the temple that houses the statue of Hanuman is interesting too. The top of the shrine has a dome associated with Islamic architecture and a 'Kalasha'; above it is associated with Hindu architecture. It is an example of Indo- Islamic style, a feature of Peshwa period temples.



Dome of Maruti Temple

Now let's try to understand intangible heritage. We, the people of Dahanu are very well aware of the Tarpa instrument. Even though some of us might not have held it in our hands, we all have seen the actual Tarpa on Internet. If you haven't then please visit INTACH Dahanu's Instagram page. Most of the Warli households have Tarpas that are more than a hundred years old. Hence, a Tarpa is an artefact or a tangible heritage but the knowledge of making this instrument, the mythology behind it, the art of painting on its surface and the knowledge of playing it correctly is considered as intangible heritage. It means to understand the tangible heritage one must also be well versed with the intangible ones. Thus, the intangible heritage is as important as the tangible heritage.



Tarpa Instrument

NEED FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

We all take pride and love to talk about our ancestral house passed down to us by our ancestors. We also treasure the secret recipes of delicacies prepared by our grandparents and passed on to our parents. How would you feel if one day you visit your ancestral home and see its façade being vandalized by people scribbling or spitting paan everywhere on it? Or if the secret recipes by your grandparents are not passed down to your parents and recorded anywhere, won't that be lost forever?

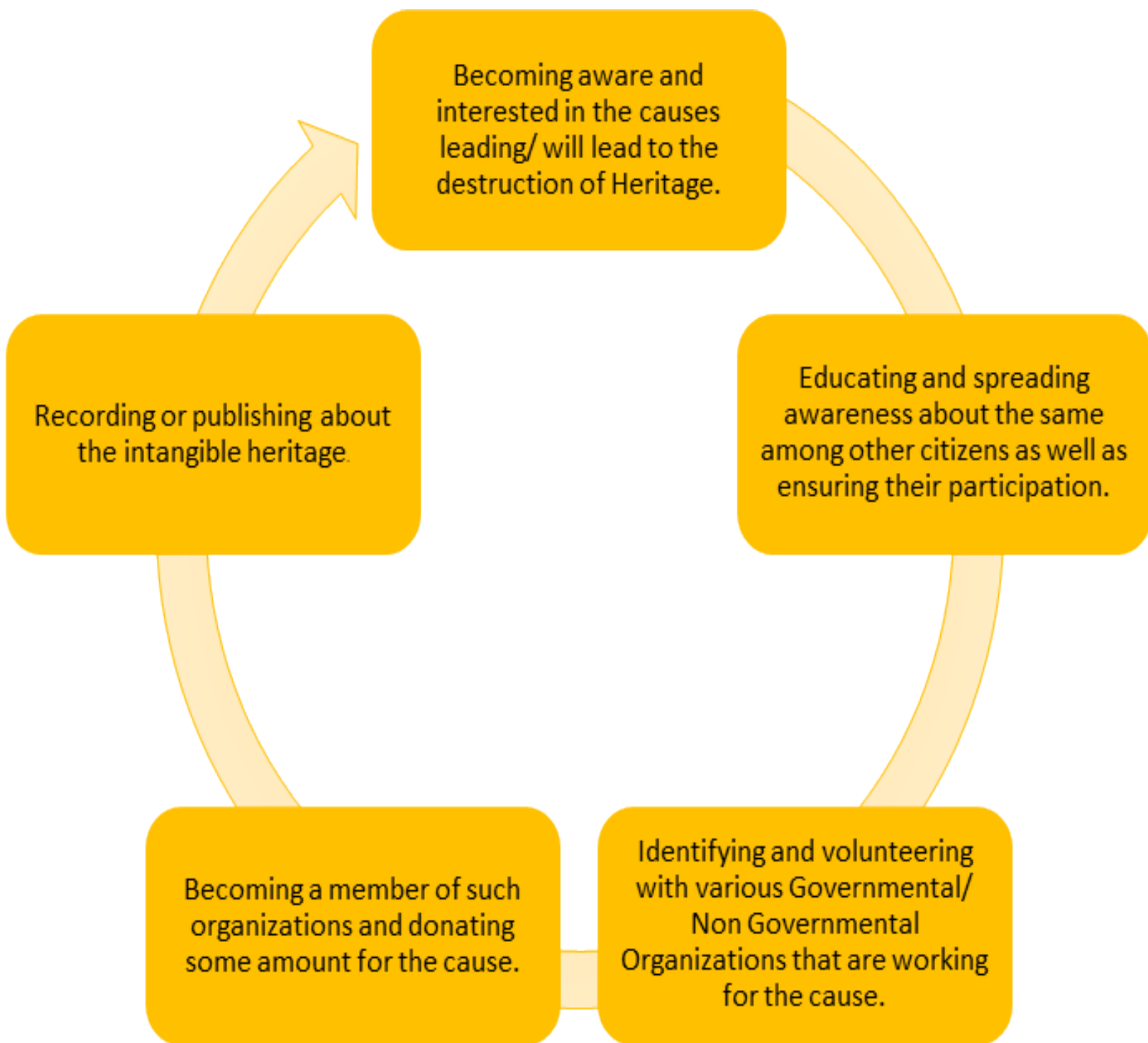
If the above-asked questions have impacted you, then you already know the answers. As mentioned earlier, heritage carries a part of history inside, if destroyed will lead to the destruction of our cultural roots. Our ancestors have worked very hard in the natural environment to carve out our present cultural world, so it is our responsibility to respect their efforts. Besides, we also must make sure that future generations enjoy this cultural world and work for its preservation and conservation.

WAYS TO PROTECT THEM:

Since heritage is so dear to us, it becomes necessary to protect it, especially in the present. In an era of industrialization as well as globalization, natural and cultural heritage helps to witness diversities. Its understanding develops mutual respect amongst different cultures. It reminds us how diverse the world is in terms of landscapes, flora,

fauna, etc. and how humans in parts of the world experience different cultures. Our heritage is facing serious problems in the name of development and moder-

-nization therefore, it is the responsibility of each one of us to come together and protect them from any kind of harm.



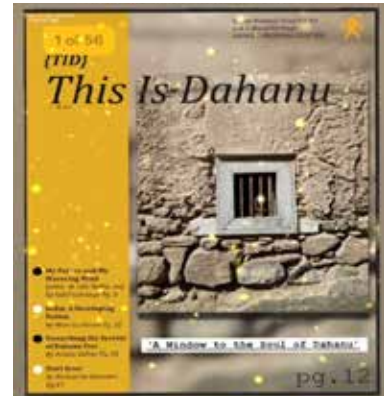


We, the INTACH Dahanu Chapter are committed to the cause of protecting and conserving our town's heritage. Let all of us pledge to be responsible and sensitive towards the same. The individual efforts made by you today will definitely reach the younger generations tomorrow and make your ancestors prouder!

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

5th June, 2021

Launched Dahanu's first student run e-newsletter -- {TID} This is Dahanu



13th June, 2021 Hike to Mt. Dhumas

Raised funds for printing the first issue of TID & increase student memberships.



1st July Monthly flyers

Started our monthly flyers for the members to update them about the various activities undertaken by INTACH Dahanu Chapter.

26th-27th June 2021 Warli painting workshop

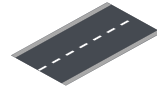
Warli painting workshop conducted by Hamao Kazunori, Director of Wall Art Project, Japan with local artist Rajesh Laxman Mor in collaboration with Intach Dahanu Chapter.





10 Things you will relate to if you are from Dahanu

-Arya Karandikar
BAMMC Student



10 Things you will relate to if you are from Dahanu



Yes No



Said you are going on a 'round'



Visiting someone's Wadi



Been asked for your parents' name before yours



Going out to eat on the highway



Have khata at a store

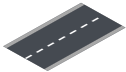




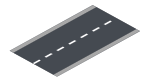
Rode bike from a young age



Played every game ever on the beach



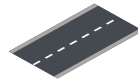
Attend a wedding at Dashashree Mali



'Up – Down' in Flying Rancee Express



Learnt to swim at Freedom Club



Go ahead, take the quiz!

INTACH Dahanu Chapter YouTube Channel -
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Kpx1-MHFUDeffi7maFHdw>
Ethnographic Film Project

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To

*The Three Musketeers --
Ankita, Vishwatej and Monish*

All the best!



Vision-Mission

"...To enhance the way we think about heritage in all its dimensional beauty..."

