



INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The INTACH Gurgaon Chapter : e-Newsletter MESSAGE



Ms, Yasmin Contractor
Convenor, INTACH
Gurgaon Chapter

Dear Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with all you our very first issue of the e-newsletter of Gurgaon INTACH chapter. We hope to make this an ongoing tradition to keep us all connected. Given that our Annual General Body Meeting occurs once in six months, we hope this e newsletter will serve as a bridge to keep everyone informed of all the great progress and impact we continue to make, thanks to all of your efforts.

As we begin, I want to share and ground us all in a quote from Mahatma Gandhi - "A nation's culture resides in the heart of its people."

This quote, I firmly believe, is the essence of all we do and strive for as INTACH members. I hope this resonates and motivates you all, as it does for me.

Let's take a minute to remind ourselves of the some of the aims and objectives of INTACH:

1. To create and stimulate an awareness among the public for the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of India.
2. To understand measures for the preservation and conservation of natural resources and cultural properties.
3. To undertake measures for the preservation of not only historic buildings but also of historic quarters and towns along with domestic architecture displaying artistic and skilled craftsmanship.
4. To undertake the documentation of cultural and natural heritage.
5. To undertake pilot conservation projects.
6. To promote the preservation of traditional arts and crafts.
7. To create a suitable forum for the exchange of ideas and techniques along with the facilitation of relevant studies and learning through courses, workshops, conferences, etc.
8. To undertake the publications of journals, books, newsletter posters in the furtherance of the objectives of the society.
9. To setup and maintain libraries and information centres to facilitate the study of cultural and natural heritage.

Please note that the articles in this issue of the e-newsletter are largely the contributions of our new members. I am grateful to them for their initiative and support. We have also, previously, circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November, which I hope informed you of our on-going activities and proposals.

We look forward to your ideas, support for events and activities.

Best Wishes.

Ms, Yasmin Contractor
Convenor, INTACH,
Gurgaon Chapter

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

12th January, 2021

Heritage Club Teacher's Training

Conducted by Ms. Purnima Dutt

Attended by 63 Teachers From 17 Schools of Gurgaon

18th April, 2021

World Heritage Day: Illustrated Talk on the Battle Monuments of Panipat

Conducted by : Mr. Prasad Barve

10th May, 2021

Nature in Danger Projects : Total Projects Received 30

- Delhi Public School Sector 45, - 10 Projects*
- GD Goenka PUblic School, Sector- 48, - 11 Projects*
- Sherwood Convent School, DLF Phase-11 - 2 Projects*
- Delhi Public School, Sushant Lok - 1 Project*
- Delhi Public School, Pataudi - 6 Projects*

Regional Winner : Sanjana Shayamsundar, Delhi Public School Sector 45

8th October 2021

Online Inter School Heritage Quiz

Quiz Master - Kunal Malhotra

Participating Students - 44

Participating Schools - 21

Results of Online Heritage Quiz

First Prize (Rs. 5000) - Shlok Singh, Delhi Public School, Sector-45

Second Prize (Rs. 3000) - Kyra Vaghela, Amity International School, Sector -46

Third Prize (Rs. 1000) - Aditi Thakur, Amity International School, Sector -43



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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

18th October, 2021

Major Atul Dev (Retd.) handed over Convenorship of Gurgaon Chapter to Ms. Yasmin Contractor on 18 October after having served diligently for nearly 12 years.

28th November, 2021

Annual General Body Meeting was held online.

11th December, 2021

The new Executive Committee met on 11 December for planning the future endeavours of the Gurgaon Chapter.

15th December, 2021

Online Zonal heritage quiz was held.

EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Jharsa village

Contributed by: Ms. Indrani Ghoshal

An exploratory heritage walk was conducted on 17th November 2021 by the INTACH Convener, Ms Yasmin Contractor and her team into the remote villages of Gurugram which covered the Jharsa village, Mohiyal colony, Epiphany Church, Agricultural Hall, the War Memorial and parts of the Masani village.

It was quite heartening to see the clean upkeep of the narrow roads and the friendly and hospitable inhabitants of the Jharsa village in Sec 31, nestled away from the hub hub of city life.



EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Jharsa village



An elderly gentleman named Kishan Chand Jain, warmly greeted us and invited us into his ancient ancestral house. The gesture was so different from that of a city life where gatherings & invitations are still a restriction. The doors were strong with iron latches and the walls had hidden doors. There were hidden chests with tiny pots on the wall from where he stated that his forefathers had found some guineas and gold coins from those pots.

We stopped near an antiquated house with arches, pillars and broken walls revealing the slabs of stones behind the plaster. The house had a half timber façade which made us inquisitive of its interiors.

It was a pleasant winter morning with bright sunshine and a dip in the smog level. As we walked on the cobbled path, we found the children playing around while the elders basked in the winter sun, occasionally giving us quizzical glances.



The ceilings had different patterns and designs where they were once studded with mirrors. They were taken out later as they got spoiled by the termites. He showed a photograph of a family tree and narrated that the family settled here for more than 150 years.

EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Jharsa village

We visited another bleak house with crumbling bricks and dilapidated interiors where unwanted plants grew from the walls. Himanshu, who is the resident of the house showed us around the 300 years old house.

He works with the local school as a sports teacher. We were amazed at the sight of the courtyard surrounded by small rooms, a few were unused and few were housed by kittens & bats. The family stays upstairs.



The doors were strong and had metal designs engraved on it. The coffee-coloured wooden beams had beautiful floral patterns, exuding mysteries of a bygone time. Some of the walls had a corroded bluish tinge and a pale shadow of floral patterns.



EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Jharsa village



Life, in the village, seemed to be good with colourful flowers, chirping birds and happy children. The vegetable vendor, the internet connectivity and a low traffic neighbourhood make this village a happy one. There were few ramshackle mosques and temples and houses of chattis-biradari. The motifs on the silver coated doors of the ancient Jain temple were truly unique.

Bidding goodbyes and promising a comeback, we proceeded towards Mohyal colony, Sector 40 to visit Begum Samru's park.

It is a 200 years old memorial and a tangible remnant dedicated to Jean Etienne, a French soldier who served in Begum Samru's army. He served the Begum who ruled over Jharsa – Badshapur Pargana till her death in 1836.

The doors were strong and had metal designs engraved on it. The coffee-coloured wooden beams had beautiful floral patterns, exuding mysteries of a bygone time. Some of the walls had a corroded bluish tinge and a pale shadow of floral patterns.



EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Civil Lines to John Hall

Our next stop was at the Epiphany Church, civil lines – a structure more than 150 years old. A walk around the building unfolds the aspects of its colonial era aesthetics. The church is small with thin lancet windows and red sloping roof. There is a second church built some years ago within the same compound comparatively larger in size with modern walls and windows.



Our next stop was at the John Hall. When Gurgaon was converted into a district, an ICS British officer, FL Bryne was posted as DC and his second son, named John Goble Bryne died at an early age. This grand hall was built in his memory. It was later renamed as Agricultural Hall and is now used for holding functions and meetings.



There is also a war memorial set up at John Hall area and it has the names of 120 martyrs from 1962, 1965, 1971, and 1999 wars inscribed on it. Gurgaon and Haryana have a rich tradition of honouring those who have sacrificed their lives for the country. It is always worth the arduous walk once you are welcomed into a zone of beauty, history and are ensconced in the heritage of your own city.

HERITAGE OF GURGAON Contributed by: Ms. Sujata Khanna



Once upon a time this particular lane in Jacob Pura was known for housing various Jutti shops. Mostly handmade juttis were made. Now only two shops remain who are into this old business of making juttis. The shops are in the name of Chaudhary Kishan Lal which is around 60 years old and the other one is Mahadev juti centre which is about 45 years old. The jutties made here are mostly machine made. Hand made are made on order. It has juttis for men, women and children. They are available in various designs.

More on Juttis:

Soft leather sandals, juttis, slippers, bags, belts, change bags and wallets in natural and bright colours.

Ask for sandals made without stitching and held together with knots. Made by Haryana Vigyaan or Manch in Bahuakbarpur in Rohtak. Available at Surajkund Crafts Mela or sometimes at Dilli Heaart, New Delhi. Juttis in traditional plain black and brown made in Jhajjar. Juttis of Jahazgarh, Jhajjar District are reputed to be so soft that they take the shape of the feet. No blisters guaranteed. Available at shoe stores in Jhajjar. Juttis and western style shoes made in Muhamadpur Aheir in Gurgaon District. Buy them from artists Camel leather. In natural shades of brown are made into attractive juttis. The centre of the upper portion has interesting details with stitching. Slip on styles also being made with bead work in Hissar and Hansi. Rich tilla juttis combine sequins, gold, silver and coloured thread in motifs of flowers, birds, fish and geometric patterns called Jaal in ShantiNagar and Mangali in Hissar, Hansi, Karnal and Polegaon in Gurgaon District, where an entire locality practices shoe making.

contd..

EXPLORING HERITAGE OF GURGAON

Artisans in the villages of Ismailbad, Thor, Jhasa, Mathana in Kurukshetra District and Bolni, Rampura, Quatabpur and Bikaner in Rewari District. Farmanah in Sonipat District and Dhangar in Fathehbad also make these juttis. Juttis which have no difference between left and right foot are called lakki, while those with a distinct right and left foot are called jassa. The fancy curled toe jutti is known as khussa sold at Rajguru Market in Hissar, the village market in Ferozepur Jhirka from artisans and at exhibitions in cities. At the four-day village market in Ferozepur Jhirka, one can buy buffaloes on Monday and Tuesday, camels on Wednesday, goats and hens on Thursday along with local crafts. Apparel and accessories: Western style leather jackets, bags, pouches, belts, Good finish. Made in Mandkola villages of Faridabad District. Made to order. Footballs, Stitched entirely by women in Soondh, Gurgaon District.

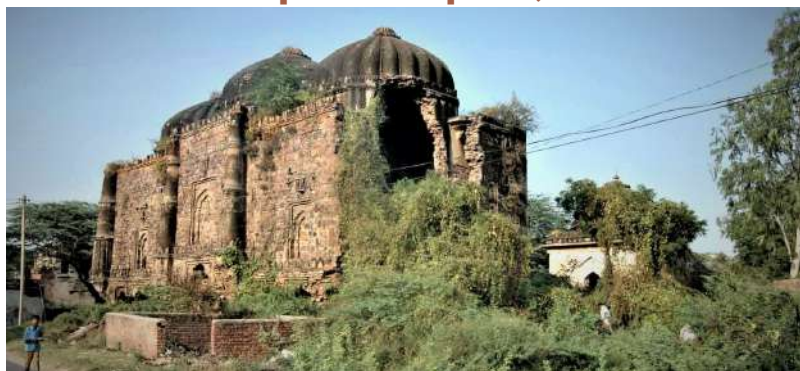
GURGAON - FACTS

Aliwardi Masjid (Mosque)



This masjid is just 2 kms. from North of Old Tehsil Office of Gurgaon and is a 200 years old Legacy of Nawab Aliwardi Khan, Founder of Aliwardi Village.

Bhondsi Mosque Complex, Bhondsi



A mosque and a tomb together form the Mosque Complex at Bhondsi, a small village midway from Gurgaon to Sohna. The mosque complex is located along the State Highway and it is in dilapidated condition due to neglect. The mosque is a rectangular structure with three bays. A tomb is located facing the mosque.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Contributed by: Ms. Amrita Dey

Baoli : Stepwell

Char Bagh : Gardens placed within rectangular walled enclosures and divided into four quarters by artificial channels are called Char Bagh

Cornice: An ornamental moulding round the wall of a room just below the ceiling

Esplanade: An open, level space separating a fortress from a town.

Haast Bihist : A central hall surrounded by eight rooms

Havelis : Mansions

Mehrab: A niche in the wall of a mosque or a room in the mosque that indicates the direction of Mecca

Pietra Dura: Inlay work

Quibla : Direction towards Mecca

Superstructure : The part of a building above the ground floor.

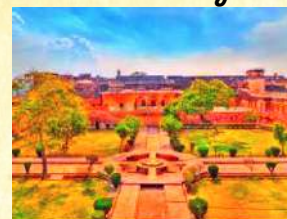
Baoli



Quibla



Char Bagh



Pietra Dura



Havelis





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Gurgaon-Chapter Deeply Misses You

Mr. Gurmeet Ahuja

Mr. Vishnu Sahai

Dr. Saran

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Acknowledgement

Newsletter designed and created by Ms. Sushma Sharma.

We are also grateful to Ms. Indrani Ghoshal, Ms. Sujata Khanna, Ms. Amrita Dey and Ms. Betsy Shaji for their contribution and support in the creation of this first Newsletter magazine.

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Here's wishing you all a

*Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year*

