INTACH PUNJAB

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QILA REHMATGARH, MALERKOTLA
MUBARAK MANZIL
MALERKOTLA

Malerkotla, a Muslim majority State was established in 1454 A.D. by Sheikh Sadar-Uddin from Afghanistan and was ruled by his Sherwani descendants. Mubarak Manzil Palace of Malerkotla is the main central monument of the Nawabi State once that was. It was built in the year 1902 under the Supervision of Nawab Ahmad Ali Khan. Before the erection of this structure a part of the Palace which was built near 1880 with the help of Nanakshahi bricks, was also amalgamated in this Palace. A suite of about 30 rooms is a fine specimen of European Architectural style.
As a testament to Malerkotla’s historical heritage, Mubarak Manzil Palace is crying for a helping hand. Because of its historical and cultural value, travellers occasionally pay a visit to this glorious monument. Beyond architecture, the palace holds immense cultural and emotional importance for Sikhs and Muslims, serving as a shared legacy. Shahi Maqbaras, Shish Mahal, ruins of Qila Rehmatgarh, Dera Baba Atma Ram, Dargah Sheikh Sadaruddin etc. are the main attractions of the town along with Moti Bazaar and many more. Under today’s development strategy, vast historical and culturally rich structures have been lost to time. Some hope of renovation and preservation is still there after the announcement of the Punjab Government and the sanction of funds for this project. The last heir from the Malerkotla Nawab family Begum Munavar-un-Nisa who passed away last year, resided in this palace. She died with a strong desire for the Palace’s upliftment in her living times. The City of Malerkotla holds a special place in the history of Punjab as well as in the history of the Sikhs for the reason that it was Nawab Sher Mohammad Khan of Malerkotla who protested against the execution of Guru Gobind Singh’s sons, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh in 1705. Guru Gobind Singh after this incident blessed the town to live in peace. The resident Sikhs displayed respect to the Royal Family of Malerkotla for their historical role. The restoration of the Palace is considered a fitting tribute to their legacy.
Eidgah is a small structure built in a vast park erected along with the western wall of the arena. Eidgah is the place where the annual Eid festival’s prayer is performed by all the locals of the Muslim faith. The entrance of the park as well as Eidgah is a fine specimen of building architecture. The place is memorable in the sense that the Eid prayer has been performed for many decades here. The canopies built in the middle of the place adorned the space.
PUNJAB STATE EVENTS
Maj Gen Jatinder Dip Singh Bedi, a direct descendant of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, gave a talk on the Guru's life and times. He gave a historical perspective on the Punjab situation at that time. The great Guru spread his message of peaceful coexistence in those turbulent times. He discussed that Guru Nanak was possessed of incredible vision from the very childhood. He was a missionary who attempted to eradicate the evils that had crept into society.
He espoused that there was One God, and there were no Hindus and Muslims. He briefly touched upon His UDASIS and his discussions with movies and Pandits to see the divine light. He also brought out the linkages between the Baani music and verse. Finally, he shared evidence about his lineage from Guru Nanak and beyond.
The Punjab convener visited Batala regarding the opening of a new chapter. R R Bawa DAV College for Girls organised a visit to the War Memorial, wherein he paid tributes to Soldiers.
Celebrated World Wetland Day at Harike, a haven for migratory birds. Joined by environmental organizations and locals. Emphasized wetland preservation and addressed pollution concerns at the Sutlej-Beas confluence. Expert saxophonist Mr Niccolo Vacchi brought unity with nature. Afternoon festivities included river boating and discussions on local pollution. The day concluded with a collective oath led by Maj Gen Balwinder Singh to save our wetlands. Four environment organisations - INTACH Punjab, Bhoomitra Project and Bhoomitra beda Yatra by Dr Sunny Sandhu as the organisers, Inner Wheel Club (Tarn Taran ) PAC Mattewara collaborated to mark the World Wetland Day celebration. The event featured nature walks, bird watching, music, poetry, dance and a boat ride. Speakers stressed the urgency of Wetland preservation, highlighting concerns about river pollution. Punjab Convener emphasised the need for proactive action, assuring INTACH would play a pivotal role in environmental stewardship. He stressed the importance of tangible efforts to secure a better future for Punjab’s upcoming generations.
The Ferozpur chapter was launched on 7th Feb 2024. All the eminent personalities of Ferozpur including DC Ferozpur were present. INTACH has started a new chapter in Ferozpur by taking a historic step to promote art, culture, and heritage in India, under which many efforts will be made to promote tourism and protect the historical places of Ferozpur. DC Rajesh Dhiman said that with efforts made by INTACH to promote the historical places, the district administration will extend full support. Dr. Anirudh Gupta said that Ferozpur is industrially backward, but the district's heritage is very rich in historical places.
A day skill development workshop was conducted by INTACH on "Turning Trash to Treasure" at Vidya Mandir school of Hoshiarpur on the 19th Feb 2024. This is organised under the aegis of Professor Manjeet Paintal. She is associated with the INTACH and an advisor to the Indian Council of Social Welfare, Punjab Branch. She was also a Chairperson of the Department of Community Education and disability studies at the Punjab University. 50 girls from around villages in the Hoshiarpur District participated.

Art and craft expert Preeti Sangvi, a World Record Holder in "Turning trash to Treasure" conducted the workshop. Maj Gen Gen Balwinder INTACH (Retd) Punjab State Convener told that they will keep organising such skill development programs to uplift society and make the participants self-reliant.
Khalsa College Sahit Utsav 2024

Punjab state Convener attended the Literature festival and an exclusive session on Punjab Virsa and the role of INTACH; as a Chief Guest at Khalsa College Amritsar. Kapurthala Convener Mr Sarbjit and Amritsar Convener, Mr Gagandeep also spoke during the event.
The Punjab chapter has embarked upon a significant endeavour to list and classify both protected and unprotected monuments and sites across Punjab commencing with the city of Jalandhar. Archana Sharma, a conservationist architect from Delhi, has been actively engaged in surveying and documenting heritage sites throughout Jalandhar district. He said the collaborative efforts between Archana Sharma and Harpreet Bal nodal officer for Punjab listing led to the documentation of over 300 heritage sites within the district. Beyond Jalandhar cities neighbouring towns like Kartarpur, Nurmahal and Phillaur are treasure troves of cultural and historical significance.}

**LISTING OF MONUMENTS**
Punjab convener met Mr Himanshu Aggarwal, DC Gurdaspur on 01 Mar 2024. He meant quite positively to help out INTACH, to start a new chapter in the district. Also visited the famous small town Sri Hargobindpur at odd 40 Kms from Gurdaspur. An ancient town with remarkable historical monuments is in a neglected state. Jassa Singh Ramgarhia who belonged to this place and an obedient disciple of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
INTACH Punjab chapter organised a special event celebrating the rich tapestry of poetic heritage on 21 Mar. Col Kuldip Dosanjh spearheaded the day by covering history and significance. He is a distinguished and passionate poet and writer of 11 books. He emphasised that creativity is the basic human need of all human beings and poetry has been catering for this need for ages. He spoke about the historical background of poetry, about Mirza Ghalib, Shiv Kumar Batalavi, Gulzar and others too.
The National Painting Competition was held by Dr Satya Paul Art Gallery at Virsa Vihar Jalandhar. Organised by Apeejay Fine Arts College, Mahavir Nagar Jalandhar. Major General Balwinder Singh Punjab State Convener attended and presided over the function. Dr Sucharita Director, Apeejay Education Society and Vice Chancellor of Apeejay University Gurgaon was an architect in organising the event.
KAPURTHALA CHAPTER

It is our proud privilege to share that the Kapurthala Chapter Convenor, Dr Sarabjit Mann has translated a book on Human Relationship, core values in the family, society and Human relationship with Nature/existence from English to Punjabi under the AICTE translation project for implementation throughout Punjab in colleges.
NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION ON “MY MONUMENT SEARCH” IN M.G.N SCHOOL KAPURTHALA.
A glimpse of INTACH “MY MONUMENT SEARCH” organised by Faridkot Chapter at Ashoka Model school and British International school, Kotakpura invited 11 reputed schools of the region. In total 96 students participated. All participating children and guests were served refreshments. All participating children will be awarded participation certificates.
A heritage tour was organised by the INTACH Faridkot chapter on March 15, 2024. Prof. Baltej Singh Brar Convener and Mr Ashok Chawla a member of IFC accompanied by 8 teachers and 92 students of 9th to 12th class. The historic Bathinda Fort was originally built in the 6th century. ASI Incharge addressed visitors giving detailed information about the historical background of the fort and its architectural significance. The convener also addressed the gathering about the importance and the need for good maintenance of the fort in view of the historic significance of the highest fort in India. Then the group proceeded to visit the natural heritage site on Bir-Talaab, a bird sanctuary and deer park. The visit was a significant and interesting experience on different levels as it was to give awareness to the next generation on built and natural heritage.
MALERKOTLA CHAPTER

The national poster competition was conducted wherein 80 students participated. Students from classes 7th to 9th participated in this event with great enthusiasm. All participants of the event gave away refreshments. INTACH Malerkotla Chapter convener and co-convener welcomed the participants. Dr. Salim Mohammad Convener of the chapter thanked all the schools for their participation with great keenness.
INTACH CHAPTER AMRITSAR organized a painting competition on lesser-known monuments places on 13/2/24 at the location of “BHAI VEER SINGH JI NIWAS, AMRITSAR.”

As the competition was based on lesser-known places, accordingly the venue was chosen. he was a great poet, nature lover, nature conserve, a man behind the architecture of Gurdwara, “SRI HEMKUNT SAHIB,” the establishment of “PUNJAB & SINDH BANK, and many more.
Army Public School (ASR), Springdale (ASR), B.A.S. Riarki Public School, and S.K.D. Khalsa Senior Secondary School were the partners in this event. Students painted in the natural environment under the shadow of a 150-year-old tree. Every student did a fabulous job through the painting of less-known built heritage, and they deeply felt the vibes of great thinkers, scholars, poets, and social workers.

Retired, a well-known professor and Deputy Director of the Bhai Veer Singh Niwas Asthan, Mrs Parminder Kaur Hundal, addressed students about many less-known places and showed them how they are preserving the great built heritage of Punjab. Then the students and teachers took a tour of Bhai Veer Singh Ji's house, thoroughly observing their museum and the books written by him.

Concluding the event, Mr Gagandeep Singh, the Amritsar chapter convener, honoured all the participant with specially designed certificates along with “best-suited titles (related to nature) dedicated to each student on the award-winning book of Bhai Veer Singh ji.
Convener Jalandhar Chapter carried out the poster-making competition at R.D. Khosla D.A.V. Model Sr. Sec. School Batala. It was very well received and children's enthusiasm made posters of lesser-known monuments. Eight schools participated.
The Students of DCM Sr Secondary School Ferozpur Cantt and DCM International School Ferozpur City took an early morning walk to the historic Mall Road and got to delve deep into the war memorials erected on the way. The students participated in an on-the-spot drawing activity and shared observations in a free candid fashion. In today's times when we are too occupied with accumulating materials and spending time indoors, immersed in gadgets, the idea of a Heritage Walk came as a whiff of fresh air to DCMites. The students enjoyed the activity organized under the INTACH: Know Your Monuments initiative.

Dr Anirudh Gupta Convener lauded the efforts of the teachers and students.
INAUGURATION OF SARAGARHI MUSEUM IN FEROZEPUR

An inspiring feat for the Punjab and Ferozpur District. At Saragarhi Fort, all the 21 soldiers achieved martyrdom. All were awarded equivalent to Param Veer Chakras. One of the greatest battles in the annal of military history.
Patiala Chapter organized a National Level Competition of Poster Making and Writing of the Lesser-Known Built Heritage of Patiala and its surroundings at Aurobindo International School, Patiala. The students of 7th to 9th classes, from different schools participated in these 3 hours’ colourful educational events under the title of the competition ‘My Monument Search’. The participants searched and painted the monuments namely Mai ji Ki Sarai, Old PWD Rest House, Rajindra Kothi, Sheesh Mahal, Qila Bahadurgarh, Shahi Samadhan, Heritage Street, Kaur ji ki Haveli and other buildings of historical and heritage importance. The participants also highlighted the need to protect and preserve such important monuments by suggesting certain steps to revive their glory. After the completion of the competition Sarbjit Singh Virk Advocate, Convenor INTACH Patiala chapter thanked the participants, teachers and the Heads of schools and Intach’s team members- Jatinder Singh Sarao, Laljit Singh Sidhu, Satvir Singh and Ms. Amoljit Kaur to make the program a success.
Bathinda chapter organised an essay/painting competition 90 students participated in the activity. All participating children and guests were served refreshments. All participating children will be awarded participation certificates and with prizes.
KNOW OUR CONVENORS
Dr Salim Mohammad joined INTACH in 2012 as a Convenor of the Malerkotla Chapter. Having a passion for Art, Culture, Archival Sources and writing on historical things and places, he widely travelled throughout India to watch and ward historical monuments. Because of his interest in history, he did a Ph.D. in history with distinction. Several numismatics and heritage exhibitions as well as seminars on heritage goes to his credit. Right back from 2012 Malerkotla Chapter under the guidelines of INTACH Headquarters and INTACH Punjab's guidance, organised Heritage Quizzes, Heritage Walks and Painting and Essay Writing Competitions regularly. At present Dr. Salim Mohammad is working as a Lecturer in a Government Senior Secondary School. He is a keen lover of old age heritage and culture and very much dedicated to INTACH.
Sabar Ali Zobairy joined INTACH in 2012. He keeps a great interest in heritage and cultural values. He is a Senior Member of the Malerkotla Chapter. His whole career is dedicated to education and heritage. After retiring from the Government Senior Secondary School as a Lecturer in History, he dedicated himself to the chapter activities.
Join INTACH

The INTACH Logo, based on the anthropomorphic copper figure from Shahabad, Uttar Pradesh, belonging to the enigmatic Copper Hoards of the Ganga Valley is the perceived brand image of INTACH. The classic simplicity and vitality of its lines makes it a striking example of primitive man’s creative genius. (circa 1800-1700 BC.) we welcome persons interested in conservation initiatives to join as INTACH members are requested to visit www.intach.org.

"Preserving our heritage and culture: safeguarding the past, enriching the future."