

# Virasat

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST  
FOR ART & CULTURAL  
HERITAGE

Dedicated to Conservation

JANUARY - MARCH 2024



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)

INTACH's mission to conserve heritage is based on the belief that living in harmony with heritage enhances the quality of life, and it is duty of every citizen of India as laid down in the Constitution of India.

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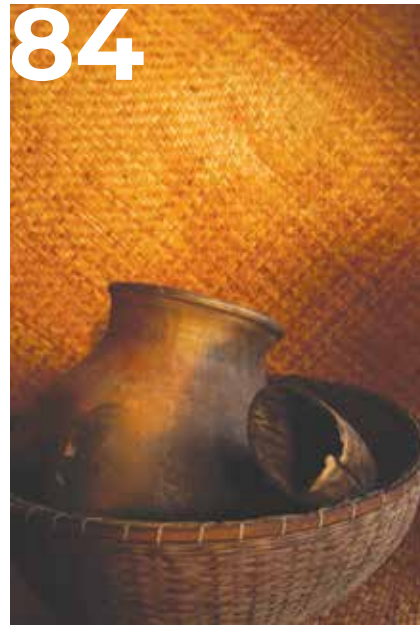
Registration no. English: DEL Eng/2004/14304, Hindi: DEL Hin/2004/14144



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# Chairman Speaks



Dear Conveners, Co-Conveners and Members,

As you would know, the ancient Indian socio-cultural scape traditions and practices are replete with examples of reverence for Nature and the Environment. In the philosophy of our ancients the interconnectedness and proximity with nature is underpinned by the emphasis to maintain the delicate balance between the Humans and Environment. Some of our cultural practices are environmentally protective because they declare elements/features of nature as sacred.

Practices such as dips in the rivers, sacred groves and forests, extensive use of mud/earth items, promoting a vegetarian diet, sacred rituals around sowing and harvest etc. are all examples of a culture that lived closely with nature. In this light, the idea of environmental activism originated in the Indic philosophy by establishing the supremacy of nature and thereby man's subservient relationship to it.

Unfortunately, the modern man is divorced from this ethos which has ushered in pandemics, fires, famines, floods, climate change, global warming and other disasters.

In INTACH we believe that culture flourishes if nature does. We have an entire division dedicated to protection of India's Natural Heritage by its pioneer projects and contributions at the policy level. The Division has revived lakes and wetlands, contributed to water policy, river basin management, river island policy, brought water heritage on the agenda of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, demonstrated unconventional methods of waste water treatment and so on. The IHA has a 9-day capsule on understanding and safeguarding natural heritage woven into its curriculum; HECS has had several national programmes on topics of natural heritage. The Cultural Affairs Division has in the past invited several luminaries from the environment sector to speak on various environmental related issues. The ICH, recently organised the Congress of International Association of Agricultural Museums for the first time in India and Asia to highlight the knowledge systems of Indians and their deep rooted connections with the land and nature.

INTACH has brought out a seminal trilogy on the Ganga. I urge the Chapters to draw from the wealth of expertise and accomplished body of works to spearhead the cause of protection of local heritage in their respective areas.

Best wishes,

**Maj. Gen. ( Retd.) L.K. Gupta, AVSM**

**Chairman**

# Thoughts from Member Secretary



Dear Members,

Let me begin by wishing all of you a safe and happy 2024!!

In March, I visited Myrkhan village in Meghalaya at East Khasi Hills

District, which had a site which was at a preliminary stage of excavation by Archaeologists from Bangalore. The village headman Mr. Alban and his team were keen to preserve the primitive artifacts found during the excavation and to develop a museum and create a 'Scholar's Village'.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Monolith Heritage Festival at Mawphlang and visited the Sacred Grove. Unfortunately, I felt that the very colourful Monolith Festival, covering all aspects of Meghalaya's heritage was not properly marketed or advertised in other parts of India, which would have provided a great opportunity for others to understand the intangible cultural heritage, the crafts, traditions and the structures of governance in the villages of Meghalaya.

The cover page of this issue will give you a glimpse of the surreal beauty and aura of the area that transcends into the incorporeal. The issue also carries an article on the endangered art of the traditional pottery from the Garo Hills, Meghalaya. I hope that this will prompt your interest for exploring more of this beautiful land and its culture.

I am happy to share with you that we are introducing a new column from this issue; 'The Chapter in Focus'. While all our Chapters valiantly drive the heritage agenda, some feats deserve a standalone ovation. This column will acknowledge and salute all such feats.

I would like to sign off with a hilarious anecdote that happened in the Member Secretary's office!! I call it "The Mystery of the Vanishing Tissue Box". The object in question was two humble boxes of tissues which disappeared mysteriously from my desk. An earnest investigation revealed two culprits who are since then absconding!

It appears that on 22nd January, two primates (Hanumanji's (?)) managed to sneak into my office and carried away the 'treasure'! They then proceeded to try and use the tissues as their more evolved brethren in the balcony attached to the office!! Of course they were caught red handed by the ubiquitous CC cameras!

Best wishes,

**Dr. Chuden Tshering Misra**

Member Secretary

*The Monolith Heritage Festival  
at Mawphlang, Meghalaya*





## Featured Article

### ‘Reviving the Magnificence: Restoring MF Hussain’s Murals at WHO-SEARO Building’

*We are proud to share with our readers that the conservation of the mentioned murals each painted mural being 59.05 feet long and 9 feet tall by their removal which was executed on large cement blocks by the INTACH Conservation Institutes is the first project of its kind ever reported in the world!!*

#### Introduction

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is a United Nations Agency that focuses on global health issues like smallpox, family planning, and AIDS eradication for the last 60 years. One of the main responsibilities of WHO is leading and coordinating health authorities. It has regional offices worldwide, including the South-East Asia Regional Office which is in New Delhi, India.

In 1963 M.F. Husain, one of India's finest artists, painted two massive murals on the walls of the Conference Hall of the former WHO SEARO building, depicting the history of medicine, from the traditional Ayurveda to modern allopathy. It also shows Lord Hanuman bringing the Sanjeevini Booty from the Himalayas.

*Murals by M.F. Husain*





WHO approached INTACH to save these paintings as the office building was to be demolished. INTACH Conservation Institute, Delhi, safely dismantled and transported the artwork until a new structure was built, allowing installation. The Team at INTACH began transferring paintings to the World Health Organization's Delhi headquarters on December 20, 2018. They recorded manual, photographic, and videography processes on Husain murals, documenting each panel to identify micro-level flaws.

The removal of murals necessitated a comprehensive scientific investigation including, digital microscopy, visual inspection, and invasive examinations such as cross-sectional samples, to assess material analysis of manufacturing and installation processes.

The original wall supports were re-plastered and strengthened for safe dismantling, and additional structures, walls, and installations were demolished. To ensure safe passage of the dismantled wall sections, electrical fittings, false ceilings, and additional walls were removed. To reduce risk during transporta-

The WHO building's surrounding structures were scheduled for demolition, and the most effective and least harmful way to remove artworks was to move them en bloc while attached and this procedure is only permitted under the supervision of structural engineers and conservators. So, INTACH collaborated with diamond saw cutting experts to protect murals from damage. Prior to any dismantling work, five protective layers and a dummy wall were prepared to test the saw's efficacy, ensuring conservators were prepared for any eventualities.



*The team working on providing emergency conservation and facing on the paintings*



*The saw used in diamond cutting; was used for the cutting the dummy and the original mural walls*



- 1 • *Paintings stored in the warehouse*
- 2 • *Work on cleaning and structural stabilisation progressing in the storage area*
- 3 • *The team of conservators at work filling and reintegrating the areas of loss*
- 4 • *Post conservation treatment of panel*

tion to the warehouse facility, shock absorption pads were used. Data loggers were also used to monitor environmental conditions and the same continued in the storage facility as well. A dedicated team was appointed to assess wall painting condition. Additionally, 24-hour security and CCTV cameras were installed to monitor and protect the artwork. The First phase of the project, which began in December 20, 2018 and ended in 19, June 2019, successfully removed and relocated murals within a six-month timeframe and with great efficiency.

In the next phase, the murals were transported to the site for re-installation.





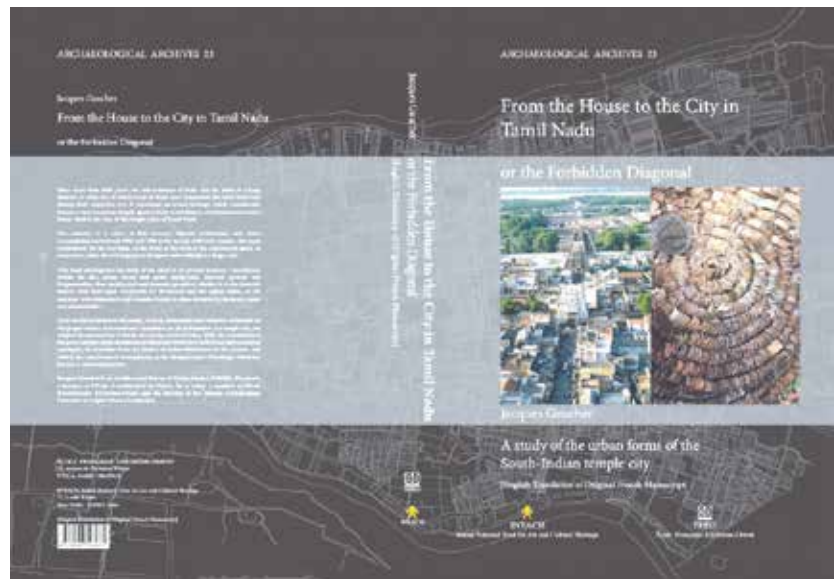
**Dr. S. Suresh**  
*Consultant Archaeologist  
 and Tamil Nadu State  
 Convener, INTACH*

## From the Temple to the Town in Tamil Nadu: Tantalizing Tale of a Translated Tome

It was a bright sunny day in the year 2018. And the place Cambodia’s picturesque riverside town of Siem Reap, close to Angkor Wat and other historic monuments of the region. INTACH’s Chairman Major General L.K. Gupta was here as INTACH was collaborating with the Government of Cambodia to help conserve that country’s natural and cultural heritage. During this visit, he chanced to see a voluminous French book on the Temples and Temple Towns of Tamil Nadu authored by Jacques Gaucher, a French scholar settled in Cambodia. The rest, as they say, is history.

Guptaji instantaneously realized the need for the above book to be known and read by the people of India, more particularly, the people of Tamil Nadu. He suggested to Gaucher that INTACH could translate and publish the book in English. And Gaucher wholeheartedly accepted the suggestion.

Back home, the work of translating and publishing the book was entrusted to INTACH’s Architectural Heritage (AH) Division. Efforts to find someone, preferably based in Delhi, to undertake this challenging translation work, were not successful. Finally, INTACH decided to do this translation in-house, with guidance and inputs from scholars within INTACH’s far-flung family. Thus, a basic translation of the work, with help from online sources, was done by the Division.





*Ayyankulam--A temple tank in Tanjavur, recently renovated*

By now, two years had gone by and it was 2020. Divay Gupta, the then Principal Director of the AH Division, during one of my visits to Delhi in the beginning of that year, invited me to his office and requested me to edit, peer-review and proofread the translated version, and also write an Epilogue summarizing the researches on and the physical changes in the temples and the towns after Gaucher's field investigations and surveys conducted in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The work naturally necessitated field visits to the major temples and towns covered in the book. Naturally, I wanted to read the French book and the English translation manuscript before making any commitment. Hence, Divay immediately arranged to send me soft and hard copies of both these works.

Back in Chennai, in the next few weeks, I read the French book and the translation several times. I realized that large sections of the translation manuscript needed to be rewritten. Further, certain factual errors in the French book needed to be corrected in the translation. I explained all this to Divay on the phone. He readily accepted all my suggestions and requested me to go ahead with the work.

The pandemic and the resultant travel restrictions curtailed all my usual research, conference visits and tour-guiding assignments, as it did for many others throughout the world. But these restrictions turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the present translation work. Cocooned within the cool confines of my study room, I spent several months editing the translated manuscript and rewriting large portions of it, after repeatedly consulting the original French publication and getting guidance, through email and WhatsApp, from my French-speaking friends in Pondicherry and Paris. This was followed by my field visits to the towns and temples in the first half of 2021. The next few months saw the writing of the Epilogue, largely based on this field visit and my earlier visits to those sites. Finally a Supplemental Bibliography, mainly listing the published works that appeared after the publication of the original French book, was prepared. Finally, I submitted the edited and revised translation, complete with new high-resolution photographs, to the AH Division in December, 2021. Shortly later, the entire translation was sent to Gaucher for his approval. He appreciated the work but suggested a few minor changes that were diligently carried out by the AH Division. Finally, the translation was printed in September, 2023 and released by Guptaji at the INTACH Head Office on 8th December, 2023.

The translated work is a sumptuous hardbound tome, running to 530 pages. It contains over 250 photographs and over 160 maps and architectural drawings. Divided into five broad chapters, besides the Concluding Chapter and the newly-written Epilogue, the volume basically traces the subtle yet complex relationship, both physical and symbolic, between the temple and the residential areas around it. The book primarily covers the major temple-cities of Tamil Nadu, mainly Central Tamil Nadu. Of these, three places—Bhavani, Srirangam and Mayiladuturai—have been studied in greater depth. The choice of these cities has been governed by two main objectives: (i) to include different geographical zones and (ii) to provide a fairly representative coverage of the typical temple-cities of the region.



While there have been a series of earlier studies on some of the temples of Tamil Nadu, studies on the neighbouring houses and their relationship to the temples have never been attempted before or even after the initial publication of this book in French in 2007. The timeliness of the study can be easily gauged when one observes that several houses documented and analyzed during Gaucher's field investigations have since been substantially altered without following the traditional guidelines while many other houses have been totally demolished. And many more of these houses are presently in the process of being renovated or destroyed. Thus, as repeatedly indicated in the book, certain traditional architectural typologies and settlement patterns face the threat of extinction even before the scientific principles governing their very creation and layout are properly understood and documented.

The concluding part of the Epilogue provides certain recommendations and suggestions concerning the future of the various cities, localities, temples and residences discussed in the book. In particular, Srirangam deserves systematic archaeological investigations to fully comprehend its unique composite site-plan and its variegated religious and domestic architectural typologies some of which exhibit a rare phenomenon—religious buildings converted into residences, centuries ago! NTACH, with its network of Chapters, could play a pivotal role in conserving these sites and structures.

*One of the Gopurams or entrance towers,  
Panchanadisvara Temple, Tiruvaiyaru*



This present English translation of the work will undoubtedly make the book more accessible and useful to a much larger circle of scholars, researchers, students, town planners, policy makers and others, both in India and elsewhere. A result of the dedicated work of the staff of the AH Division, the attractively-produced voluminous tome is itself a work of art, to be cherished forever.

*Potramarai Kulam—A temple tank in Kumbakonam*



# Unearthing Heritage

The results of these excavations establish the antiquities of the site going back to Early Iron Age and continuance of settlement till the Medieval Period.

INTACH in the expanded domain, of its expertise and grassroots network, uncovered new and significant nuggets of heritage, unknown in the present-day. This section is dedicated to reporting these new nuggets, one discovery at a time in every issue.

## Excavations in Chandakheda - Maharashtra

The eastern part of Maharashtra is known as Vidarbha, which has a distinct cultural complex, due to a different geography from the rest of the State. It appears that the humans, first arrived here during the Palaeolithic period (**Kellellu 1994, Sharma and Joshi 2015, Joglekar et. at. 2017:192-200, Joshi 2017:1-7**). Recent excavations suggest that the first farming started in Vidarbha during the Vidarbha Chalcolithic Culture (**Nath 2016**). However, the archaeological identity of Vidarbha is mainly established by its Megalithic culture (**Deo 1970, Deo 1973, Deo & Jamkhedkar 1982, Deglurkar and Lad 1992, Nath 2002:81-88, Mohanty 2003:41-48, Ismail 2006, Sontakke 2015:43-55, Nath 2016**).

Megalithians were the first settlers in most of Vidarbha. They started spreading iron technology in the region (**Nath 2002:81-88**). A large number of Megalithic/Early Iron age sites have been discovered here (**Sontakke 2014, Vaidya 2015**). It is significant, here, to note that most of these sites were concentrated in the eastern part of Vidarbha. Geographically, Eastern Vidarbha represents the area between Wainganga-Wardha River systems.

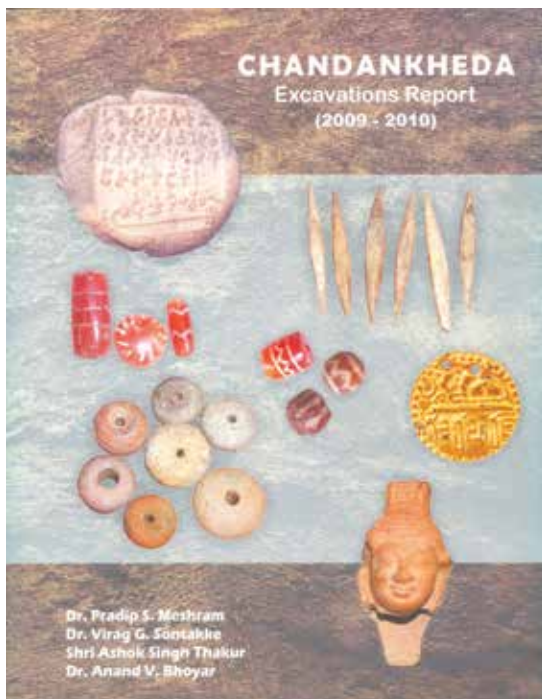
Administratively, it constitutes of five districts i.e. Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur.

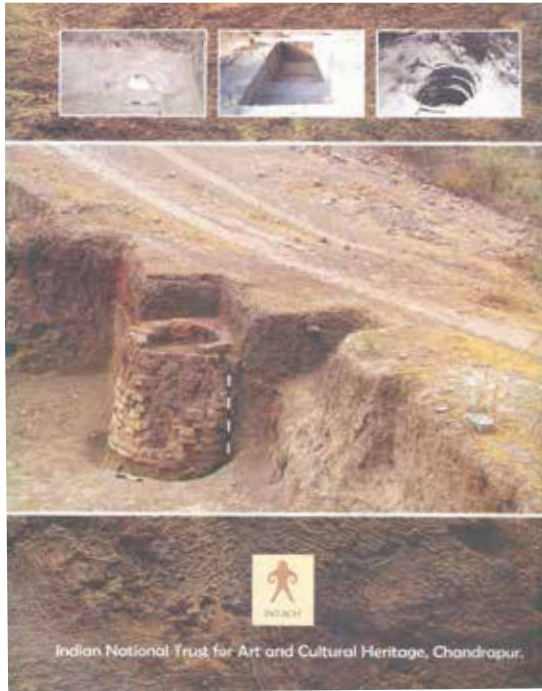
The State of Maharashtra has a rich repertoire of archaeological vestiges. The Vidarbha region (**constituting eleven districts of Nagpur and Amravati Divisions**) is particularly important since this area records the evidence relating to few of the earliest settlers in Maharashtra. It appears that the diversified ecological, geological and environmental setting of Vidarbha attracted ancient settlers to this region. Hence traces of cultural continuity are well reflected in the archaeological record here. Locally evolved cultural traits like Megalithic culture of Vidarbha reflect its importance in a pan-Asian Context. Being located centrally the Vidarbha served as a transit zone of ideas and cultural traits from east to west and from north to south in the Indian Subcontinent.

Chandankheda is situated in Bhadravati Taluka of Chandrapur district which is well known not only for its mineral and forest wealth but also for its archaeological finds commencing from the Stone Age.

The archaeology excavations carried out at Chandankheda, in the Chandrapur District of Maharashtra is one of the great achievements and contributions of INTACH in unearthing a part of Indian heritage.

The site was discovered by the then Convener of INTACH Chandrapur Chapter and Governing Council Member, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur and Co-Convener Shri. Surendra Gautam.





*Chandankheda Excavations Report (2009- 2010)*

This excavation was conducted jointly under the aegis of Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Nagpur Division and Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, RTM Nagpur University in association with INTACH, Chandrapur Chapter.

Under the directorship of Dr. P.S. Meshram, Dr. Anand Bhojar and Shri. Ashok Singh Thakur and the supervision of Dr. Virag G. Sontakke.

Systematic excavations were carried out at the site during 2009-10. The results of these excavations establish the antiquities of the site going back to Early Iron Age and continuance of settlement till the Medieval Period.

Despite the small scale of excavations, a large number of antiquities belonging to varied periods and materials were recovered during the course of excavation. Of these, mention may be made of pottery, coins, beads, bangles, metal equipments and ritualistic objects. Besides the antiquities from the excavated context, numerous antiquarian remains were also collected from unstratified mud heap deposits dumped as wastage during the course of brick making. In fact, the antiquities collected from the surface and mud waste deposits outnumber those from the stratified contexts. These surface antiquities are also documented and described in the report 'Chandankheda Excavation Report (2009 - 2010)' since it was understood that their inclusion will help in presenting a fuller picture of site's nature and history.

The excavations at Chandankheda were basically a salvage operation intending to trace the history of human settlement at the site. One of the significant aims of these excavations was to safeguard the historic identity of the site before it was lost due to various destructive activities at the site.

Though the excavations were small in scale and were limited by the availability of deposits for excavation as the whole village at Chandankheda basically rests on the ancient cultural formations, nevertheless, the results were gratifying.

The data recovered indicates a rich and varied cultural history of Chandankheda site. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the report will undoubtedly be one of the most remarkable chapters in the history and archaeology of Vidarbha.

**The above write-up is an excerpt from the report 'Chandankheda Excavation Report (2009 - 2010)' submitted by Dr. Pradip S. Meshram, Dr. Virag G. Sontakke, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur and Dr. Anand V. Bhojar.**

Besides the antiquities from the excavated context, numerous antiquarian remains were also collected from unstratified mud heap deposits dumped as wastage during the course of brick making. In fact, the antiquities collected from the surface and mud waste deposits outnumber those from the stratified contexts.

# Conservation:

## Built, Material & Natural Heritage

This section reports the conservation/restoration/revival work undertaken by INTACH in the spectrum covering Built Heritage, Art and Material Heritage and Natural Heritage including listing, documentation and publication.





## Architectural Heritage Division

### NEPAL

## Design and Project Management Consultancy for Conservation of Earthquake Affected Cultural Heritage Sites

Jestha Varna Mahavihara situated 300 meters away from the Patan Darbar Square heritage site, was originally two storeys of which the top floor completely collapsed during the 2015 earthquake making it structurally unstable. Its reconstruction and retrofitting work is complete and ready to be inaugurated.

Nepal Bhasha Parishad is associated with Chittadhar Tuladhar (Hridaya) a revolutionary personality known for his immense contribution to the preservation of the Newari language and culture. A museum dedicated to Chittadhar is being established at the Nepal Bhasha Parishad.

While the retrofitting and conservation work is ongoing at the Seto Machindranath temple, a two-tier temple located in dense area of Jana Bahal, the reconstruction work is ongoing at the Gopi Chandra Mahavihara, Gushthali Mahavihara and Agam and at the Kumari Niwas and Kumari Chen located within the Ratnakar Mahavihara revered for its association with the living goddess Kumari of Lalitpur/Patan.

The reconstruction and restoration of Jangam Matha, a Veerashiya Lingayat monastery situated in the buffer area of Bhaktapur World Heritage Site is ongoing while there has been no progress in the restoration and retrofitting of Hiranya Varana Mahavihara. Lastly, the 10th project, Adalat Bhawan, is tendered and the work is expected to be awarded for execution by the end of March 2024.

## Documentation and Conservation of Postal Heritage Buildings

India has the largest postal network in the world with a rich heritage of postal buildings across the country. INTACH has been assisting the Department of Posts with documentation, restoration and drafting policies for management of these iconic postal heritage buildings. The restoration work at GPO Mumbai, which started in 2021, is currently in its second phase of the work and is due for completion by September 2024 following which the third phase will start. A heritage walk through of the ongoing restoration works was conducted for the students of the Ancient Indian Culture and Archeology Department, St Xavier's College, Mumbai, which was a new experience and learning for the students. The Postal department has set up Heritage Cells at each circle level with one member represented by INTACH Chapter Convenors.



1 • Consolidation and conservation of wall painting at Kumari Ghar Project  
2 • The heritage walk through at the ongoing restoration site  
3a, 3b • Jestha Varna Mahavihara (before & after)







- 1 • On going restoration at Gol Dak Khana, New Delhi
- 2 • Philatelic Bureau, Chennai
- 3 • Echoes of freedom; the 1857 uprising
- 4 • Complete facade after restoration

A manual for the annual inspection and maintenance of iconic postal heritage buildings has also been prepared by INTACH for further circulation.

Detailed Project Reports for the restoration of Chennai GPO and Philatelic Bureau are also under preparation.

**JABALPUR, M.P.**

**Conservation and Museum Development of Raja Shankar Shah Museum**

INTACH supported by the Tribal Affairs Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken the conservation and development of the Raja Shankar Shah Kunwar Raghunath Shah Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum. Housed within

the old District Forest Office (DFO) building, Jabalpur. It was the erstwhile residence of a British officer in Jabalpur. The building was altered with many new additions, partitions, false ceilings and was severely damaged with long vertical cracks on the brick wall. The brick masonry was pulverized and damaged due to cement plaster and cement repairs in the past, which was contrary to the original material of lime.

The building conservation work commenced in April 2022 and was completed in December 2023. The museum was also developed at the same time using state-of-the-art technologies in five galleries and the memorial dedicated to Raja Shankar Shah, complete with infrastructure and services installed. It is a poignant tribute to the indomitable legacies of Raja and Kunwar, chronicling their lives, family lineage, and unwavering commitment to India's struggle for independence in 1857.

The site surrounding the building has also been developed around the existing trees and open grass paving.

**PRAYAGRAJ, UTTAR PRADESH**

**Conservation of Government Public Library**

The conservation work at the Government Public Library, Prayagraj under the consultancy and supervision of INTACH is nearing completion. The work commenced in February 2022 and was





carried out in phases as the building is in use. The work done includes masonry repairs, consolidation of stonework, floors and parapet wall, structural repair of the roof with wooden truss, waterproofing, surface cleaning of the external facade and the corridors with preservative coats, structural restoration of the intermediate floors of the tower, restoration of stained glass and services etc.

**KAPURTHALA**

**Structural and Safety Audit Report, Jagatjit Palace (Sainik School)**

INTACH was requested to prepare a Structural and Safety Audit Report of the Jagatjit Palace housing Sainik School at Kapurthala Punjab. The work included an assessment of the structural health of the building indicating areas of distress. Some non-destructive and invasive tests were done to assess the structural condition of the building. The report also has remedial proposals for the areas of distress. The site audit has been completed by Cortex Solutions Pvt.Ltd. and the report is under compilation presently.

**LUCKNOW**

**Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya**

Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, located in Qaisar Bagh, Lucknow, was originally com-



1



2

missioned by the last Nawab of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah, in the mid-19th century at that time known as Parikhana. In 1926, Pt. Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande established a music school within the building with the help of Rai Umanath Bali, Rai Rajeshwar Bali, and other music patrons and connoisseurs of Lucknow. Since then, the building has undergone major transformations and presently houses the administration wing of the Bhatkhande University.

In December 2023, INTACH signed an MoU with the university to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) and take up the conservation work. The INTACH team carried out the measured drawing and a detailed assessment of the structure in January 2024, based on which a DPR has been prepared and submitted to the university.



3

**NAGALAND**

**Heritage properties at Impur and Piphema**

4 INTACH Head Office was approached by Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM) through Nagaland Chapter (INTACH) to inspect the heritage buildings of Impur and Piphema which are under its jurisdiction. A team from the Division along with Co-Convener, Mefutiba Ao, INTACH, Nagaland Chapter visited Impur and Pipheman from 21st to 24th Feb 2024 to inspect the heritage buildings. A meeting was also held with the local MLA, Mr. T. N. Mannen, who showed keen interest in taking up the projects.

In Impur the team visited three sites, namely, the Impur Baptist Church, the Upper Bungalow and the Lower Bungalow. All these structures are in-

1 • Jagatjit Palace 2 • Invasive Test for Masonry strength assessment 3 • Grand vaulted ceiling of Parikhana Hall 4 • Impur Baptist Church



1

side the Impur Mission Centre which covers 91 acres of land. These buildings are typical wooden structures of the hills with single floors, raised plinth on stone stilts with sloping roofs and high attic. Some of the internal walls are made of mud reinforced with reeds and plastered in mud. The roofs have shingles made of tin and are molded in the shape of roof tiles.

In Piphema, there is an Inspection Bungalow next to the highway on a raised plateau. Presently it is functioning as a Police Outpost. However, due to the broadening of the highway, the plateau has been cut and the steep edge has reached the plinth of the structure. Preliminary project report along with estimates for restoration of those four buildings are under preparation.



2

### Understanding Archaeological Sites of India

This is the second booklet in the INTACH Knowledge Series, and it focuses on familiarizing the reader with the plethora of archaeological sites in India belonging to different time periods, their various attributes as well as diverse examples spread across the country. The booklet has been written by archaeologist Dr S B Darsana and is further enhanced with diverse images and illustrations. The first booklet in the series is Understanding Forts of India, which was well received

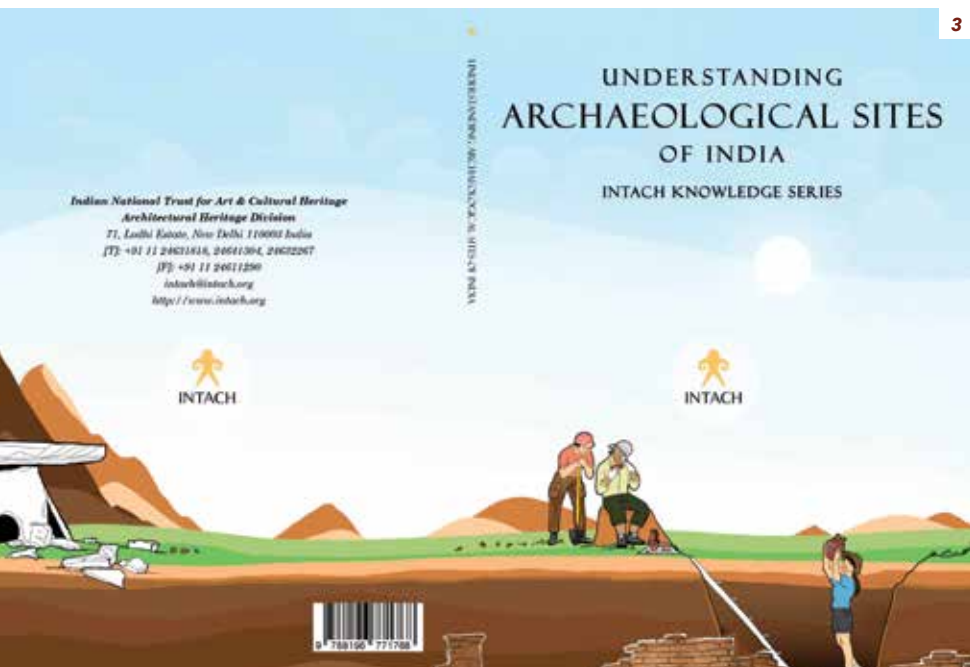
1 • Inspection Bungalow, Piphema  
2 • Upper Bugalow, Imphur 3 • Understanding Archaeological Sites of India 4 • Tomb of Nadir Shah and Dome of Adil Shah, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh

### DATIA Restoration work at Awadh Vihari Temple

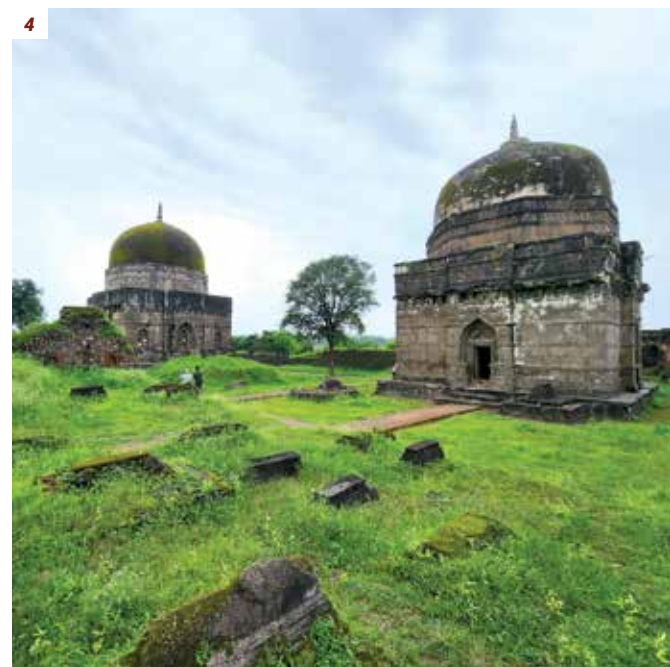
The work started with the repair and waterproofing of the terrace. The damage to the terrace was one of the main sources of further damage and deterioration of the plaster, masonry and structure. The Awadh Vihari temple dedicated to Lord Shri Ram was built by Datia ruler Shri Vijay Bahadur in 1843-44. It is a double storeyed haveli temple entered through a grand entrance gateway and rooms arranged around a central courtyard with the shrine on one side. The entrance gate with beautiful paintings depicting Lord Ram's life has been restored as part of the work. Our work is supported by the INTACH Datia chapter as well as other local stakeholders.

### Preparation of Draft Heritage Bye-laws for Centrally Protected Monuments

Being an expert Heritage body for providing heritage consultation to National Monuments Authority (NMA), the division has been engaged in preparing Draft Heritage Bye-laws for Centrally Protected Monuments across the country. Till date, draft heritage bye-laws for six monuments



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4



in the Central and Northern region have been prepared. These include Tomb of Nadir Shah and Dome of Adil Shah, and Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan in Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh, Chor Minar No. 289 and Idagh in Hauz Khas, Delhi, Dandeshwar Temple in Kotuli, Almora, Uttarakhand and three temples in Tailihat, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. Bye-laws for Tomb of Nadir Shah and Dome of Adil Shah have been passed in Rajya Sabha and ready to be placed in Lok Sabha. Bye-laws for Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan are being finalized while those for Chor Minar No. 289 and Idagh are under review.

jaya, HOD, AH made a presentation on “International Models of Conservation and Mitigation of Tangible Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)” which focused on INTACH’s work at Kathmandu to restore and retrofit the earthquake affected cultural heritage sites.

### NIDM Workshop

INTACH was invited to the Workshop on “Disaster Resilience and Cultural Heritage” conducted by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with the IIT Jodhpur, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (Ministry of Culture) and Mehrangarh Museum Trust on 17th- 18th January 2024 at the Chokelao Mahal Courtyard, Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur. Ms A.Vi-

### CORRIGENDUM

Virasat (October - December 2023): **Beyond Borders** INTACH’s Conservation Venture in Nepal on page 12: Photo Caption: ‘Documenting the traditional knowledge at Napichandra Mahavihara’ is corrected as ‘Former Ambassador H.E Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra (present Foreign Secretary, MEA, Govt. of India) conducting the Chemma Puja at Seto Machindranath, Kathmandu’.



- 1 • Awadh Vihari Temple - restoration of stucco work
- 2 • Awadh Vihari temple - newspaper clipping
- 3 • Former Ambassador H.E Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra (present Foreign Secretary, MEA, Govt. of India) conducting the Chemma Puja at Seto Machindranath, Kathmandu
- 4 • Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Tailihat, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand
- 5 • A.Vijaya, Head Architectural heritage Division at the workshop





## 1 INTACH Listing Cell

INTACH has a two layered approach to architectural heritage - restoration and listing. Listing is the primary identification of heritage buildings with the above in mind the listing activity for the quarter includes:

### Ongoing Listings

#### JALANDHAR, PUNJAB

Jalandhar was an important medieval town during the rule of Sher Shah Suri and the Mughals. In the 18th century, the region was an integral part of the Sikh confederacy and played an important role in the revolt of 1857. The long history of the region is integrated with its numerous historic buildings, including some important religious sites such as Devi Talab Mandir, mausoleum of Imam Nasir, Golaknath Church, and Gurudwara Sri Tham Ji Sahib. The district also has numerous educational institutions which were founded after mid-19th century. Further, the region is dotted with a wide range of historic houses that follow courtyard planning and are built in nanakshahi/colonial bricks laid in lime mortar.

Listing of Jalandhar District was undertaken by the Jalandhar Chapter in 2016-17 with the help of the students of Lovely Professional University

- 1 • DAV College, Jalandhar city, Punjab
- 2 • Gateway of Nurmahal Sarai, Jalandhar district, Punjab
- 3 • Maitra Bari, Santipur, West Bengal

during which about 100 heritage buildings were listed. In anticipation of more heritage properties in the regions, a fresh primary survey was undertaken by the Listing Cell from 13 to 20 February, 2024 with the support from Punjab State Chapter, during which about 320 heritage buildings were identified and documented

#### KALNA AND SANTIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

Listing of Kalna and Santipur, located on the southern and northern banks of the river Hooghly in the Bardhaman and Nadia districts of West Bengal respectively, is currently ongoing. Kalna, or Ambika Kalna is an ancient riverine port which finds mention in the written records since the 6th and 7th century CE. However, the prosperity of Kalna grew as a temple town with the patronage of the Burdwan Raj in the 18th and 19th centuries. Spread over 6.7 sq. kms today and dotted with terracotta temples, Kalna holds immense architectural, artistic, and religious significance. About 33 heritage buildings have been listed in Kalna out of which 24 are religious structures, mostly temples.

The history of Santipur, a much larger and populous town, can be traced back to the 12 century CE. Santipur became an important site of Gaudiya Vaishnavism in the 15 century and gained importance as a cloth market in the 17 century. During British rule, Santipur became a commercial residency and had government cloth factories. During the primary survey, about 64 heritage buildings have been listed out of which 33 are residential structures and 22 are religious structures. The remaining sites are institutional, administrative, and commercial buildings.



2



3



1

1 • Jagannath Mandir Complex, Kalna, West Bengal  
2a, 2b, 2c • The publications for the completed listing projects

OTHER ONGOING LISTINGS

Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)

Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh)

Kandi Subdivision (West Bengal)

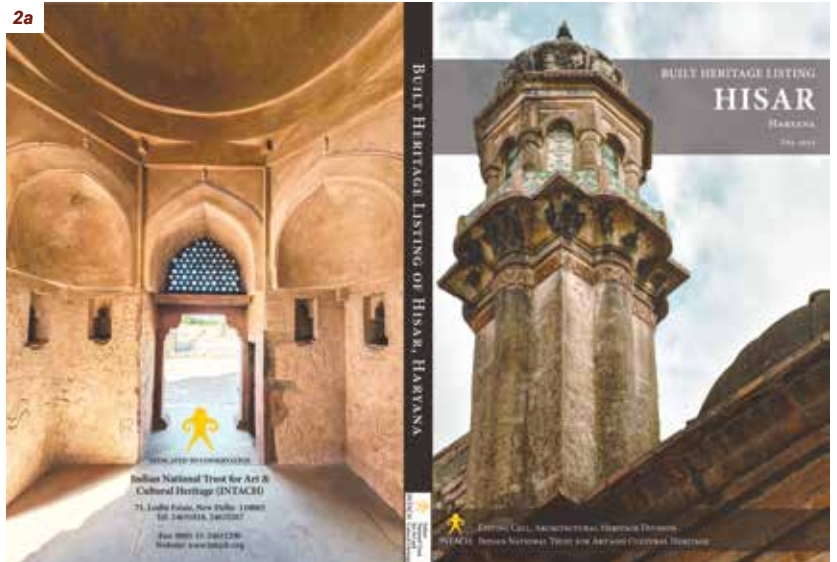
Nagpur, Nashik and Godavari River Documentation (Maharashtra)

Rajkot (Gujarat)

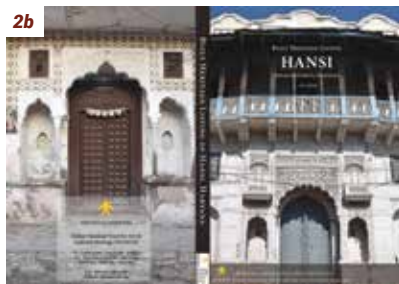
Thrissur (Kerala)

Lower Ladakh region.

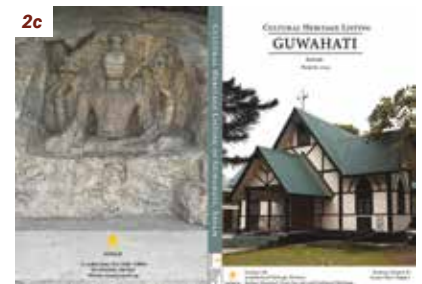
Listing of Hansi and Hisar (Haryana), Listing of Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Listing of Guwahati (Assam) have recently been completed.



2a



2b



2c

## Art & Material Heritage

### INTACH Conservation Institute:

#### Technical papers in international conferences

The team at of ICI presented 3 papers at international level and 3 papers at the National level

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#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

### INCCA – International Network for Conservation of Contemporary Arts

Challenges in Conservation of Contemporary Art Works in India. Presented by Mr. Subrata Sen, Sr. Coordinator and Ms. Merrin Anil, Coordinator, ICI Delhi.

INCAA has around 2600 members representing over 800 organisations in about 80 countries.

### ICOM CC – International Council of Museums

Natural fugicides: a solution for fungus prevention in the preservation of leather based cultural

artefacts presented by Dr Nitin Kumar, Dy. Director, ICI, Bangalore.

The paper was presented in September 2023 at ICOMM CC Triennial conference held in Valencia, Spain.

### EPoCH 2024 (Emerging Perspectives on Conservation and Heritage)

2 abstracts on textile conservation have been selected for presentation of poster communication at the EPoCH 2024.

**Abstract1:** Documentation Techniques in Art Conservation: a focus on non-invasive methods.

**Abstract 2:** Threads of Reverence: Reviving a 100 year old Jacket. Presented by Ms. Rupal Jain, Research Officer and Ms. Vezotolu Vadeo, Asstt. Conservator, Textile Conservation and Research Unit, ICI Delhi.

Posters will be presented at the School of Arts, Católica University, Portugal from 18 to 20 April 2024. EPoCH is an annual scientific conference organised by the Heritage & Conservation and Restoration Focus Area of the Ceptee for Science and Technology of the Arts (CITAR).

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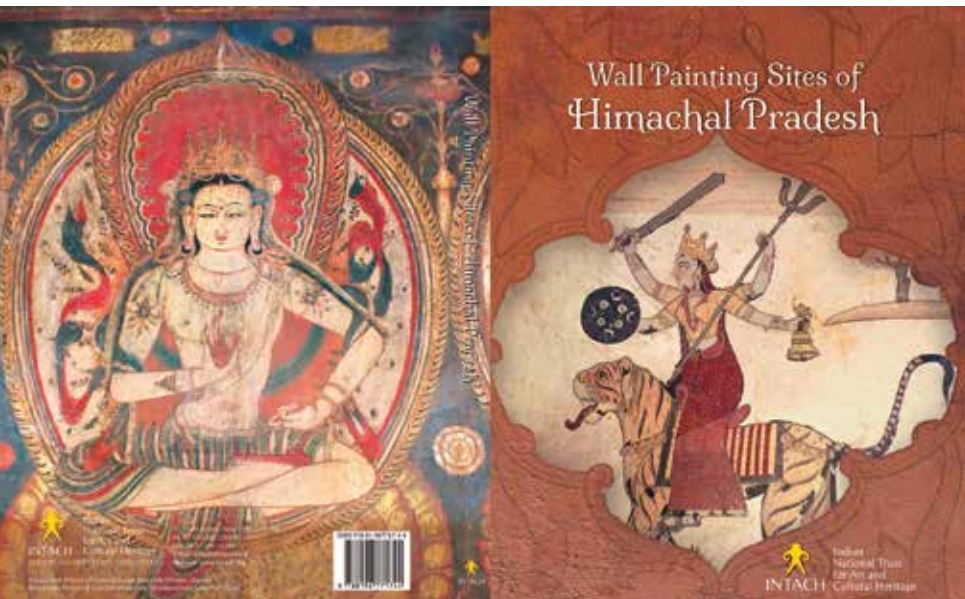
#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### 50th Indian Association for the Studies in Conservation (IASC) Annual Conference

**A Case Study of Collection Management, Conservation and Museum Display:** Lepcha Bong Gumba, Kalimpong. Presented by Mohd. Galib Sheikh, Sr. Conservator and Dimpy Mukhija, Conservator ICI, Delhi

**Risk Management through Reorganisation:** A case study on Lok Sanskriti Sangrahalaya, Bhimtal. Presented by Kalyani Pradhan Asstt. Conservator and Rattan Kaur Rainu, Asstt. Conservator, ICI Delhi.

Cover-page - Directory of Wall Paintings-HP Publication





**Rethinking HVAC Implementation:** A Risk-Reduction Approach in Collection Management. Presented by Merrin Anil, Centre Coordinator and Ayushi Sharma, Asstt. Conservator, ICI Delhi

ICI DELHI

## Directory of Wall Paintings (WPD) Project: Wall Painting Sites of Himachal Pradesh

The book is a comprehensive study of different wall painting sites, existing in various locations of Himachal Pradesh. It is a compilation of all the documented data and includes detailed information about the heritage structures i.e. their history, architecture, the art of paintings, their present condition, and preventive measures to be undertaken for their conservation. As a state, Himachal Pradesh preserves a fascinating history of cultural heritage and includes a diverse range of themes belonging to different schools of Pahari art as well as paintings belonging to the monasteries and their theme derived from Buddhism. Illustrated with marvellous pictures, the book attempts to raise awareness among locals and stakeholders and inspire art enthusiasts to work towards its preservation.

ICI LUCKNOW

## Lime Research & Testing Centre (LRTC)

### Mortar Analysis of Shree Bhauji Saheb Shivalaya, Balrampur and Shiv Temple, Raebareli

#### Introduction

ICI Lucknow is working in the field of heritage building conservation and restoration. The Research Officer from LRTC visited two temples, one at Shree Bhauji Saheb Shivalaya, Balrampur and other one, Shiv Temple, Raebareli. Both the sites are being undertaken as restoration projects. Their analysis is essential to understand the quality of ancient mortars and to develop compatible mortars for their conservation. Physical analysis including composition test, water

soluble salt, carbonation test, microscopic analysis and grain size of the ancient mortar were calculated and it was found that the composition of mortar in both the temples consisted of river sand, lime, brick dust and fines. Plaster samples as well as stucco mortar samples from different damaged areas of the temple were collected for investigation.

Both the temples are architecturally quite similar to those seen generally in Awadh region, especially in Ayodhya. There are beautiful paintings in the interior as well as external walls but due to long periods of poor maintenance, both the temples are in urgent need of restoration work. Both temples are Nagara style temples built on a high platform, with the sanctum (sanctum sanctorum) – where the idol of the deity rests – being the most sacred part of the temple. Above the sanctum sanctorum, there is the Shikhar. Amlaka and Kalasha are also present in both temples at the top of the Shikhara. In both the temples, there is an open path around the sanctum sanctorum which is called the Pradakshina Path.

#### Tests and Results

Analysis of the mortar of both temples revealed that the mortar of both the temples is made up of river sand, brick dust, fines and lime. The lime mortar used in Shiv Mandir, Raebareli is made up of 54% river sand, 20% fines and 26% binder, while the lime mortar used in Bhauji Saheb Shivalaya, Balrampur is made up of using 65% sand, 13% fines and 22% binder. Through Granulometry test it is found that mostly the sand particles of 2 to 0.425 mm diameter i.e. medium sand are used for preparing both mortar samples.

ICI DELHI

## Conservation of Textile

The garment, once a symbol of spiritual authority and devotion, have become worn remnants that silently preserve the legacy of the past. The coat belonged to an Indian Swami and was revived using minimally invasive conservation methods.



1 • Sample collection from Shiv Temple, Raebareli

2 • Microscopic analysis of Lime Mortar





1a, 1b • *Before and after Conservation*

2 • *After Conservation of Oil painting*

3a, 3b • *Before & After Conservation*

4 • *Illustrated manuscript after conservation*

5 • *Rare Book After Conservation*

This century old preserved woolen grey coat was in very poor condition, riddled with holes, excessively creased and wrinkled and covered with dirt and dust and brown stains.

This case demonstrates the successful application of core conservation principles, accomplished through traditional and modern examination methods. Techniques included visual examination, optical microscopy, dry soft brush cleaning, detailed pattern making, and interdisciplinary analysis of fiber composition, yarn specification, and fabric construction.

Examining the garment's construction, seams, stitches, and fabric deterioration under digital microscopy enabled formulating an appropriate treatment protocol. This provided insight into materials and condition issues, leading to a treatment design beginning with dry mechanical cleaning for surface dirt, followed by aqueous immersion for ingrained dirt. Due to the object's fragile condition, aqueous immersion was done with the jacket being encased in a soft, pliable net, allowing unobstructed and safe handling of both the jacket and solvent. Immersion also

served as a preliminary step for flattening. Conservation stitches, fabric inserts, and support lining stabilized splits, holes, and losses.

## Conservation of Oil Painting

This painting was received for conservation and restoration. It is an oil on canvas on a stretcher. It has been framed and depicts a still-life scene. The object has been previously intervened. It was revealed after further assessment that the canvas of the painting was brittle and damaged, and had a hole in the centre of it. It was seen that the object had a layer of darkened varnish. The paint layer of the object was actively flaking, and there were stains on the back of the object. There was a uniform craquelure on the painting. The conservation treatment included consolidation of the flaking paint layer, cleaning of the darkened varnish and the previous interventions, full lining of the canvas, reintegration of the colour losses and restoration of the frame.

1a



2



1b





## Conservation of a Glass Object

The object is a glass perfume holder which was broken into many pieces. The object has floral patterns painted all over it.

The assessment of the perfume holder revealed some accretion present on the box, broken glass pieces with remnants of previous adhesive, and an accumulation of dust and dirt on the object. The conservation procedure for the object included cleaning, realignment of the broken parts with suitable adhesive, filling of the losses with conservation-grade material, and reintegration of colour.

ICI LUCKNOW

## Conservation of rare historic collection of Amiruddaula Public Library, Lucknow

The library has a large collection of books on different subjects, including some rare collections of printed and original publications in languages ranging from Hindi, English, Urdu, Persian, Bengali, Sanskrit and Arabic.

The methodology of treatment was first of all graphic and photographic documentation, scientific examination, fumigation, cleaning, opening the stitching and separating the folios, testing pH of the folios, removal of past treatment, deacidification, flattening, mending, consolidation, repair of holes, lining, trimming, sequencing and section stitching, stitching and finally binding of the books.

## Conservation of rare proceedings of Vidhan Pustakalaya, Vidhan Bhavan, Lucknow

Rare proceedings received for conservation were properly documented in photographic form. The problems noticed were deposition of ingrained dust and dirt, insect attack, various type of stains, presence of acidity, fungus, torn pages, loss of areas of the paper, unscientific old repairs by cello tape/non archival paper, paper

3a



has become brown and weak producing stains, loose stitching and binding covers were also torn, abraded and damaged.

The methodology of treatment was first of all graphic and photographic documentation, scientific examination, fumigation, disinfection, cleaning with a soft dry brush, neutralization, re-sizing, removal of stains, mending of torn areas and small losses, full lining using tissue paper, preparing new sections, re-stitching and finally new archival binding of the proceedings.

## Conservation of valuable collection of Gopal Narayan Public Library and Museum, Bharatpura, Patna

Gopal Narayan Public Library and Museum has a valuable collection of Manuscripts (Illustrated, Non-illustrated, Palm leaf), Miniature paintings, Ivory and Paper objects, Paintings, Vaislish (calligraphy), Maps and Rare Books belonging to the Mughal Period. Some of the important collections of the library are Shahnama, **Sikandarnama and Tulsei Krit Ramayan (Samvat 1648)**. After the establishment of a temporary laboratory at the site, the work was started by the team from 5th January 2024. Till now 10 manuscripts having 1640 folios, 33 Vaishlish, 3 Iliyas, 2 Paper paintings have been conserved.

3b



4



5



ICI BANGALORE

The Centre began the conservation treatment of artworks from the Chitrakala Parishath Museum by the artist Srikanta Shastry Kukke. His works are inspired by traditional literature and arts, executed in watercolour by the Wash method. Upon his death in 1991, twenty-five of his artworks were dedicated to CKP and housed in a gallery in his name.

The artwork titled “Kumara Sambhava”, based on the famous literary work by poet Kalidasa, was sent to us for conservation treatment. The artwork was pasted to a window mount with synthetic glue, and acidic content present in the mount had transferred to the artwork. Further, several layers of paper and board had been pasted to the back of the artwork.

After the artwork was dry cleaned, bits of paper pasted to the front of the artwork were mechanically removed, thereafter the pasted layers at the back were removed one layer at a time.

Upon removing the final layer, we were pleasantly surprised to find a hidden sketch made by the artist himself on the back of the original painting. The artwork was remounted with acid free materials, and kept for display in the Kukke Gallery after conservation framing.



- 1 • Artwork after conservation mounting, framing, and display in the CKP Museum
- 2 • Mechanical removal of Paper
- 3 • Original drawing by the artist found on verso
- 4 • Legal record of Orissa high court after conservation
- 5a, 5b • Visit to record conservation lab by legal dignitaries of the country including present chief justice of Orissa.

ICI BHUBANESWAR

**Conservation of Brittle Records of Record Room of Orissa High Court, Cuttack.**



ICI KOLKATA

### Conservation of Vintage Map

Vintage map of size-258 cm x 88 cms. by Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, 1871 was received for restoration. Map was extremely fragile, folded, torn in several pieces with some parts missing. It was heavily repaired with cello-tape.

The map was first fumigated, dry-brushed and stabilised with tissue strips followed by removal of old repair work of cello-tape (approximately 272 pieces). After that the map was deacidified and full lining with tissue paper and muslin cloth was given.



### Decorative Bamboo Craft: (Size: 204.5 cm x 140 cm)

This typical craft item from Tripura made of bamboo was gifted by the Maharaja of Tripura to Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose and occupies pride of place in the drawing room of the Acharya Bhavan. There were some damaged cane items which were carefully repaired by restorers who were experts in this area along with our centre staff. It was extremely painstaking work as can be seen from the tiny pieces which had to be put together after corrective action. It has been very satisfactorily completed.



### Restoration of Oil Paintings

The Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata has a large collection of oil paintings.

The paintings were in extremely fragile condition with flaking, cracks, loss of support, loss of paint layer, warping, stains, dust and dirt etc.

The flaked paint layer was consolidated by applying a suitable consolidant. Then surface cleaning was done. Mending of lost portions and lining was given for strengthening the painting. The painting was re-stretched on a cleaned stretcher and reintegration was done whenever required. Finally, a protective coat was applied.

1a, 1b, 1c • The map before conservation showing dark stains caused by cello tapes, during & after conservation  
2 • After Restoration of Bamboo Craft  
3a, 3b • Before & After Restoration



- 1 • Unique Hibiscus at the Garden
- 2 • Polluted lakes at Indian Botanical Gardens
- 3 • Giant Water Lily

## Natural Heritage

**INTACH works proactively for the protection of India's vast natural heritage; mountains, lakes, hills, wetlands etc. at the advisory and policy levels taking into account the development activities across the country. The last quarter saw NHD accomplishing major tasks in both sponsored assignments as well as our public service initiatives. In the quarter being reported several public initiatives and sponsored assignments were successfully completed.**

## Rejuvenation of AJC Bose Indian Botanical Gardens

Established in 1787 by Colonel Robert Kyd, the Indian Botanical Gardens, also known as the Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden [IBG], are one of the oldest and largest botanical gardens in India. Named after the renowned botanist and scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, IBG spans over 270 acres, this sprawling garden is not only a popular tourist attraction but also a center for botanical research and conservation.

Over the years, it has played a pivotal role in introducing and acclimatizing exotic plant species from around the world to the Indian subcontinent. The garden was later curated and expanded by eminent botanists like William Roxburgh and Nathaniel Wallich, who added to its diverse collection of flora.

Beyond its scientific endeavors, the Garden played a pivotal role in the economic development of India, spearheading the introduction and dissemination of key agricultural crops such as tea, jute, and cinchona. Its lush landscapes, adorned with a diverse array of trees, shrubs, and flowers, served as a living testament to the beauty and bounty of nature.

Around 15,000 trees and shrubs, comprising 2,300 species, thrive within its boundaries, accompanied by a herbarium housing about 2.5 million specimens. One of the highlights of the Indian Botanical Gardens is the iconic Great Banyan Tree, a botanical marvel that holds the distinction of being one of the largest trees in the world. This colossal tree, estimated to be over 250 years old, covers a vast area with its labyrinthine network of aerial roots and branches, creating a magical canopy that is a sight to behold.

The Garden's importance transcends mere scientific pursuits; it has become a sanctuary for the conservation of rare and endemic plants from around the world. Notable conservatories within its grounds include the Orchadium, Charak Udhyan for medicinal plants, a Rosarium, Hibiscus section, Ginger section, Kitchen garden, bougainvillea section, Greenhouse showcasing various species of cacti, two palm houses, and a bambusetum. These facilities underscore the Garden's commitment to preserving biodiversity and fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world.





Over time the IBG has deteriorated partly because of financial constraints but also because of the impact of cyclones. In view of this, the Botanical Survey of India and Natural Heritage Division of INTACH have signed an MoU to rejuvenate the Gardens over a period of 3 years. The entire effort is supported under FCRA/CSR grants of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation [HSBC]

The Garden's library stands as a treasure trove of botanical literature, housing historical manuscripts, periodicals, journals, and books penned by eminent botanists. This repository of knowledge serves as a source of inspiration for present-day scientists and scholars, enriching the field of botany with its wealth of information. The garden houses the Central National Herbarium. Internationally known by the acronym CAL, it has holdings of about 2 million plant specimens collected from different phytogeographical regions of India and abroad. The herbarium houses important classical collections that include 12,300 exclusive Wallich specimens. It has 6000 botanical paintings, including original set of Roxburgh's Flora Indica Drawings and colour paintings of Orchids of Sikkim Himalaya by King & Pantling.

In the recent past the garden has lost its prior glory. Several factors account for this, most significant being urban sprawl around it causing sewage and garbage pollution and the cyclone Amphan. *Swietenia humilis*, a mahogany species, had been felled during Amphan. The storm caused damage to 1018 trees belonging to 195 species, of which 350 trees had been uprooted. Many of these have been restored but some extremely trees like ten 200-year-old mahogany trees are now lost forever.

The IBG has a unique watering system whereby the tidal backflow in the adjacent Hugli River is taken in through a canal system which then feeds the lakes which are interconnected amongst themselves.

Continuous pollution of its 24 water bodies by sewage from nearby areas had adversely affected the water quality and the aquatic plant species. The garden once famous for its water lilies has now lost most of the species of water lilies and is struggling to maintain the giant water lily commonly known as *Victoria*.

To bring back the lost glory of the gardens, the Natural Heritage Division has taken up work to clean the lakes, improve its water quality and make the lakes habitable again for water lilies, birds and other fauna. This includes creating a decentralized water treatment system, bioremediation, removal of weeds and if required, aeration of the water bodies. Treatment system will go a long way in the conservation of these lake systems. Efforts are on for restoration of inter-connectedness of the 24 water bodies as well. Over the years, due to lack of maintenance, this system has fallen into disrepair. The lake inter connections are being manually opened, a new connection being made and water being treated in-situ as well.

The project also includes planning of interpretation programme to improve visitor experience. Once implemented, the interpretation programme will vastly improve visitor experience. It will provide precise information on the entire garden, have guide trails, provide information on various elements like iconic trees, the lakes and lilies, the great banyan, the sections on Hibiscus, Ginger, Bouganvillas etc. It will also enable the visitor to learn, get educated and inspired through guided thematic tours and participate in educational workshops as well.



# Community Knowledge

A cogent system of inherited learning passed down from generation to generation, forming an integral part of the identity construct of a group of people and which is reflected in their everyday lives is defined as community knowledge. Oral traditions, performing arts, awareness related to religious and social practices or the skill sets inherited to produce traditional crafts are all constituents of community knowledge. Recognizing the value of the above in conserving the heritage of India the Trust has divisions dedicated exclusively to intangible heritage conservation.





## Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

The Division is involved in research, documentation and revitalization of intangible cultural heritage of the country. Currently, the ongoing project include –

### The Ramayana Project– Phase II

The Ramayana, a cornerstone of ancient Indian literature, transcends boundaries to influence diverse regional cultures and artistic expressions. The Ramayana Project, **Vignettes of Ramayana**, initiated by the ICH Division, delves into the transmission of this epic tale within practitioner communities. Over 30 short films under this project explore how the Ramayana evolves across India, embracing oral, kinetic, and pictorial dimensions. These films examine the dynamic nature of the narrative, adapting to local flavours while retaining the central message. From Yakshagana films in coastal Karnataka and Uppinakudru puppetry's historical depth to showcasing the diverse interpretations by eminent scholars, from dynamic expressions through Ravana Chhaya and Lankapodi Yatra in Odisha to the beautiful and unique interpretations of the epic by the Ramnami Samaj, the project captures the essence of Ramayana's continuity amidst changing times, emphasizing its cultural significance. It is a captivating exploration of the distinct iterations of the Ramayana story, each focusing on a unique aspect of the storytelling tradition and performance. Some of these are showcased below.

#### BHAPANG

These films showcase the Mewati folk tradition in the historical region of Mewat, spanning Haryana and Rajasthan. This region is home to Mus-



3



1



2

lim Mewati Jogis who use the Bhapang, a one-string instrument, to narrate various stories from the Ramayana. The Bhapang's unique rhythm adds depth to their storytelling.

#### LANKAPODI JATRA

The Odisha films explore the ancient roots of the Ramayana tradition, in particular the Lankapodi Jatra, a dramatic representation of the burning of Lanka, with a distinct use of masks for all characters except Ram, Laxman, and Sita.

#### RAVANA CHHAYA

Next, the focus turns to the Ravana Chhaya, the shadow puppetry tradition of Odisha. The puppets, made from a single piece of leather, create a mesmerizing silhouette effect when projected. The traditional text for this form was written by Biswanath Khuntia and is accompanied by mu-

1 • A performance by the Mewati Jogis of Haryana

2 • Bhapang, the traditional instrument of the Mewati Jogis, Haryana

3 • Ravana Mask at a Lankapodi Jatra Performance, Odisha

4 • A performer getting ready for the Lankapodi Jatra Performance, Odisha



4





1 • *Ramnami Samaj Leaders, Chattisgarh*  
2 • *An artist displaying the Ravana Chhaya puppets, Odisha*  
3 • *Sattriya dance performance, Assam*



sical instruments like the tambourine and the harmonium.

#### RAMNAMI SAMAJ

These films look at the Ramnami Samaj in Chattisgarh, which is a testament to peaceful resistance against discrimination. Members of this community tattoo the name of Ram on their bodies and promote a simple lifestyle while rejecting orthodox customs and rituals.

#### SATTRIYA

These films delve into the Sattriya dance form, created in Assam in the 15th century by Srimanta Sankaradeva. This dance style is performed exclusively by male dancers in the Sattras (mon-

asteries) of Assam and has maintained its original form and style over the centuries.

#### CHITTAPROSAD

The films here highlight the work of Chittaprosad, an artist from West Bengal known for his insightful drawings on the Bengal famine. Chittaprosad also created Linocut versions of the Ramayana story for children.

Present - day Ayodhya is identified as the location of Saketa, an important city of the Kosala Mahajanapada in the first millennium BCE, which later served as its capital. The 9th-century Jain work, **Adi Purana**, states that Ayodhya "does not exist by name alone but by the merit of being unconquerable by enemies—**A-yudhya**." The story of Rama, whether from the first epic poem by Valmiki in Sanskrit or the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi dialect by Goswami Tulsidas, is enshrined in the minds and hearts of the people residing at Ayodhya. **Ram Katha** is an internalized concept in Ayodhya. There are discourses held at various fora but the known scholars hold the belief of **Rama Ekakaar**, being one with Rama. The values associated with Rama are disseminated, propagated and received as a 'Prasad of Ram'.

In summary, the Ramayana project aims to document and celebrate the rich and diverse cultural expressions of the Ramayana narrative across India, spanning different regions, art forms, and traditions.





## INTACH Film: Commemorating INTACH's 40 Years!

INTACH embarked on a remarkable journey in 1984, dedicating itself to the preservation of India's rich cultural, living and architectural heritage. Over four decades, INTACH has left an indelible mark on the landscape of conservation and cultural restoration in India. Its pioneering efforts have played a pivotal role in safeguarding the nation's cultural legacy. This year INTACH celebrated its 40th Foundation Day on January 27. To commemorate and showcase this long tireless journey, a documentary film of 13 minutes was commissioned. It was screened during INTACH's Foundation Day celebrations—for INTACH officials, members and representatives from INTACH Chapters across India at the Multipurpose Hall of INTACH Central Office.

The captivating short film that chronicles the organization's transformative path from 1984 to 2024 was proudly coordinated and facilitated by the ICH Division. The cinematic exploration delves into the key initiatives undertaken by INTACH's various chapters and divisions. Through the lens of this film, the dedication and passion of INTACH's team of professionals and volunteers, as they work tirelessly to conserve and protect India's diverse cultural heritage, shines forth clearly.

The film has been well received and appreciated by all. The film has been uploaded on YouTube for wider dissemination and can be accessed by following the link - [https://youtu.be/xjG70qwlB-Gc?si=bhDEEFj\\_C07JPmVLm](https://youtu.be/xjG70qwlB-Gc?si=bhDEEFj_C07JPmVLm)

## Foods of India, Sacred and the Ordinary

The Division is actively engaged in the 'Foods of India; Sacred and the Ordinary' project, which seeks to comprehensively explore and document the cultural, ritualistic, and folkloric significance of 12 meticulously selected food ingredients across diverse regions of India.

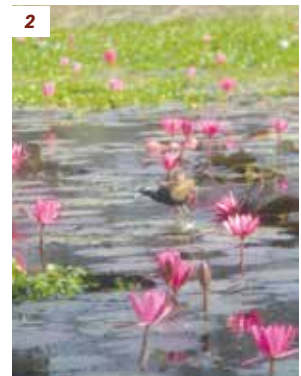
This initiative involves extensive field research spanning eight states so far: West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Kerala,

Karnataka, Gujarat, and most recently, Madhya Pradesh. The research methodology entails collaboration with a diverse array of informants, including temple priests, chefs, anthropologists, historians, and homemakers. Through these engagements, the aim is to glean insights into the interconnectedness of food, culture, and tradition.

In January, the ICH Team conducted fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh, focusing on a range of cultural regions such as Malwa, Bhopal, Narmada Valley, Bundelkhand, and the Chambal Valley. The team meticulously documented various elements, including heirloom recipes from royal households, the vibrant street food culture in urban centres like Indore and Bhopal, the traditional cuisine of indigenous tribes such as the Gond tribe in Mandla, and the influence of local beliefs and festivals on culinary practices.

Documentation efforts extended to unique recipes, indigenous ingredients, cooking techniques, as well as traditional idioms and poems associated with food. Notably, special attention was dedicated to the preparation of regional delicacies such as Bijora, Gajak, Dal Paniya and Fish underscoring their cultural significance, particularly during the winter season.

- 1 • Chittaprosad in his study, West Bengal
- 2 • Gulawat, Indore boasts Asia's largest lotus valley, cultivated by the Kevat community. These lotus plants supply flowers for religious ceremonies and festivals
- 3 • A woman prepares 'kadhi' using the traditional vessel known as Charua, Bundelkhand
- 4 • A local fisherwoman vending indigenous dried fish sourced from the Narmada River in Mandla.





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the history of his forefathers' establishment of a mining unit in Sarmathura, a Tehsil of Dhaulpur, and the creation of a narrow gauge for the famous Dhaulpur stone's transportation. The documentation covered various landmarks in the city's landscape such as the Jubilee Hall, Nihal Tower, and Mughal Garden. The Sharad Mahotsav which attracts thousands of people every year was also covered. Additionally, temples like the Ram Mandir and Hanuman Mandir in Chavvni, along with water bodies like Baolis, were documented. Events like Mahadeepdaan at Machkund and special prayers were also recorded, adding depth to the cultural narrative of the region.



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Presently, the team is processing the data collected from Madhya Pradesh while also preparing for the next field visit to the state of Uttar Pradesh.

In conclusion, the 'Foods of India; Sacred and the Ordinary' project continues to make significant strides, with the recent fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh yielding valuable insights into India's rich culinary heritage. Through meticulous research and documentation, the project endeavours to shed light on the profound cultural significance of food across different regions of India, furthering our understanding and appreciation of this integral aspect of Indian heritage.

### Cultural Documentation of Dhaulpur

During the field visit for the Dhaulpur Cultural Documentation, Shri Daljeet Singh recounted



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The documentation extended to the efforts of the Krishna Circuit campaign team advocating for the inclusion of this picturesque site Ranchordh Nagari in the Krishna Circuit. Given Dhaulpur's historical connection to Braj, the documentation also focused on the linguistic influences reflecting Braj culture in the region.

The Chhatris that signify the architectural grandeur, along with sacred beliefs, were also covered. The team also visited the City Jubilee Hall for secondary research work. Visits were also made to meet resource persons like Shri. Sanjay Sharma, CEO of Manjari Foundation, Dr Arvind Sharma, Ex-Block District Education Officer, Shri. Nitin Aggarwal, Chairman, Shri Ranchordh Dham Vikas Samiti and others.

The Division is overseeing the development of the upcoming CAG Museum in Shimla. Leveraging its expertise in project management, design and execution, and research, the Division is actively involved in enabling an immersive experience that showcases the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's rich history and significant contributions spanning over two centuries.

Through meticulous archival research at the National Archives of India, Pradhan Mantri Sanghralaya, National Gandhi Museum, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru & newspaper archives, the team has unearthed a treasure trove of historical information. Moving towards the final stages of museum development, the Division is maintaining close collaboration with the CAG Museum



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It covers various aspects such as language, religion, clanship system, customary laws, birth and death rituals, tattoo traditions, food practices, ritualistic barter system, crafts, community fishing, basketry, traditional dresses, weaving, songs, dances, and festivals. The extensive research aims to fill the gap in recorded histories of the Khamniungan community, offering a foundation for further discussions and exploration.

Committee through regular meetings. Collaborative efforts are currently directed towards refining the scripts (both in English and Hindi) for the planned galleries. Additionally, significant historical artefacts are being procured from regional CAG centres – including antique furniture, typewriters, manuals, and historical ledgers – to enhance the museum’s narrative.

An assessment for the conservation of artefacts has also been arranged with the INTACH Conservation Lab.

**NAGALAND CHAPTER**

**The Khamniungan - Naga**

The Nagaland Chapter initiated the documentation of the Khamniungan Naga and their culture. The now completed report includes the origin stories derived from oral traditions, folklore, and myths, providing insights into the meaning of "Khamniungan" as the source of great waters ('Kham' for water, 'niu' for big, and 'gan' for source).

**The Pochury Naga**

The completion of the Pochury Naga cultural mapping is a significant milestone in preserving and understanding the rich cultural heritage of the Pochury community. The report provides a comprehensive overview of various aspects of Pochury Naga culture, including Origin and Migration, tracing the roots and migration patterns of the Pochury Naga people, which helps in understanding their historical journey and cultural evolution, multi-ethnic Groups, Village Governance- the roles and responsibilities of village headmen, clanship and Female Dormitory System, Religion and Sacred observations such as the Yemche festival, pasture rites, and other cultural ceremonies that hold significance within the community, Megalithic Culture, Craftsmanship highlighting traditional crafts like cane and bamboo weaving, as well as crossbow making, which is integral to the cultural identity and livelihood of the community. In addition to this the Funerary Practices, agricultural traditions and practices along with the Trade and Barter system were documented.

1 • *Flavours of Bundelkhand in the traditional Thali featuring Badi, Kadhi, Bati, Bajra Roti, Baigan Bharta, Churma and Papad*

2 • *A sesame-based Bijora (winter delicacy) and Urad Dal Papad from a traditional household, Mandla*

3 • *Shri Daljeet Singh, Former-MLA Sarmathura spoke on Stone Minery*

4 • *CAG -Museum of Comptroller Auditor General, Chadwick House, Shimla*

5 • *View of Meluri in the winter mist*

6 • *Standing sixth from left: Noklak Village Council Chairman. Extreme right: Head Gaon Burra and senior Gaon Burras with INTACH Nagaland Chapter members*

7 • *Basketry Craft of Pochury Naga*



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## Heritage, Craft and Community Division

INTACH has been consistently working with a diverse range of craft communities across India with the objective of reviving craft traditions to generate livelihood opportunities while retaining the cultural values. 'Design and Skill Development Workshops' are regularly conducted towards this objective'.

### INTACH Martand Singh Memorial Award

In 2021 Tariq Ahmed, a specially-abled artisan from Srinagar, Kashmir, won the INTACH Martand Singh Memorial Award for his outstanding mastery of the Sozni craft and Handloom weaving. However, owing to his circumstances he could manage to travel to Delhi and collect his trophy and certificate only in 2024. The cash component of the award (1 Lakh) had been transferred to his account in 2021 itself.

### Training & Design Workshop for Craft Revival

#### KALADUMAR

### Lock Making Tradition

Located in the Panagar Tehsil in Jabalpur District of Madhya Pradesh is famous for the craft of lock-making and 'Kansa' which is an alloy of bronze, copper and tin. The village manufactures Kansa utensils using indigenous tools and traditional processes.



1 • Tariq Ahmed, receiving the certificate and trophy from Member Secretary INTACH, Dr. C.T Misra and Vandana Manchanda, Head HCCD on February 29 at the INTACH Head Office. 2,3 • New designs developed at the workshop 4 • The team involved with the workshop 5 • Items made in the training workshop



A 10-day workshop was held in Kaladumar from 17 to 28 February in collaboration with the Jabalpur Chapter

#### PURULIA, WEST BENGAL

### Design and skill upgradation workshop of 'Shellac Dolls'

A 10-day workshop was held in Purulia from January 6 in collaboration with the Kolkata Chapter. The outcome of the workshop includes a new range of designs and products.

#### KARNATAKA

### Design and skill upgradation workshop of 'Bidriware'

The purpose of the workshop was to add value to the existing products and create new ones, within the boundaries of the age-old craft. The workshop helped the artisans to enhance their skills in the traditional 14th-century metal handicraft in a 10-day workshop organized in Bidar in February by the Division.

### Sacred Waste Training Programme

This is a pan India programme in collaboration with INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter. Under





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this and in collaboration with the INTACH Vizag Chapter a training program was organized from 13-15 December . This aimed at teaching the community to use the flower offerings in temples as raw material for incense sticks.

### INTACH Exhibition for 40 years - '40 Varsh Ki INTACH Yatra'

Designed and curated by the Division it comprehensively showcased INTACH's role in preserving and protecting India's heritage. The exhibition featured iconic initiatives and accomplishments of INTACH through all its Divisions.

#### NEW DELHI

### Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Rashtrapati Bhavan

'Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav', was a vibrant cultural celebration held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan from 8 to 11 February. The Division participated and showcased INTACH's extensive body of work in heritage conservation, documentation and publication in art and cultural projects of the Northeast.

### Participation in Talks

Head HCCD, Vandana Manchandana delivered the following talks during the quarter under consideration:

\* **CII-IWN, Delhi** : 'Textiles - How to revive and style them'

\* **Children's Museum at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)**: 'Revival of Kagzipura Paper'.



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\* **Amar Mahal Museum and Library in Jammu (Tawi Festival)**: 'Craft Revival and its Impact on Communities and Creative Economy'

\* **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**: Talk on the Impact of Creative Economy on Indian River Crafts of India at Nadi Utsav (IGNCA)



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1 • Left to Right - Rekha Khosla, Dir Publications, Dr Parul Munjal, Dir IHA, Convenor Delhi Chapter , Anita Singh, Purnima Dutt, PD, HECs, Dr C.T. Misra, Member Secretary INTACH, Convenor Himachal State Chapter Maalvika Pathania, Vandana Manchanda, Head HCCD, Nerupama Y. Modwel, Manisha Singh, Dir Cultural Affairs & Editor Virasat

2 • Women participants at the workshop and the finished product - incense sticks

3 • The INTACH Stall at the 'Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

4 • The HCCD Team - Praveen Tiwari

5 • Vice chairperson INTACH Dr Saryu Doshi ( fifth from left) at the CSMVS event

6 • At the Amar Mahal and Library Museum with Dr Karan Singh

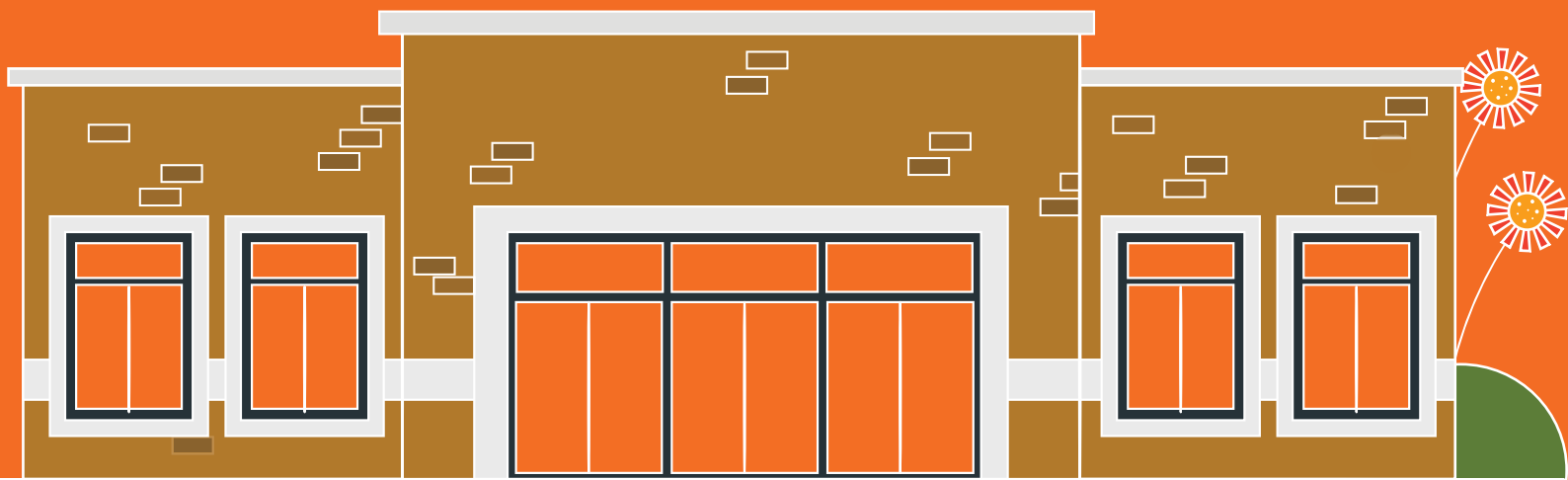
7 • Glimpses of the Exhibition



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# Education, Training & Outreach

This section will summarily look at the vast and varied body of work accomplished with the students across the country as part of its mandate to spread awareness and heritage sensitization, which is at the forefront of all conservation efforts. It will cover activities under heritage tourism, publication, INTACH Knowledge Centre, cultural affairs, seminal and consistent work in heritage education, research and training.





## Heritage Education and Communication Service

The dedicated members of Heritage Education and Communication team, with the unwavering support of various chapters reach out to the remotest areas of the country to build heritage awareness and sensitization using innovative activities, tools and initiatives which are age appropriate, interesting and resonate with the students.

### TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

#### MURSHIDABAD

9 -10 January 2024, 37 teachers, 19 schools

The objective of the workshop was conveyed to the participants. The speaker Dr. Mausumi Bannerjee, Curator, Murshidabad District Museum spoke on the heritage and history of Murshidabad, citing archaeological evidence preserved in the Murshidabad District Museum.

The session on the 'Types of Heritage: An Overview'; importance of heritage education and various HECS resources were shared by the HECS team. A heritage walk to the world famous Hazarduari Palace was organized and guided by Balaknath Bhattacharyya. The teachers presented interesting group activities highlighting the heritage of Murshidabad.

### COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

#### DELHI

24 January, 94 students and teachers, 12 colleges

The workshop focussed on the diverse aspects of heritage—natural, built, material, and living. Domain experts were invited to take the objective forward. Dr. Swapna Liddle, an eminent historian talked about 'History of Modern Archaeological Study and Preservation in Colonial Delhi'; Prof. A.G. K. Menon, Architect and principal author of 'INTACH Charter of Conservation', led a session

on 'Built Heritage of Delhi and the Role of Citizens in its Protection (Focus on the INTACH Charter)'; Dr. Abira Bhattacharya, Assistant Curator at the National Museum, explored 'Objects of the Ancient Period of the National Museum (with a focus on Buddhist-Hindu artifacts)'; Dr. Narayani Gupta, historian presented on the 'Romance of Ruins and the Boredom of Textbooks.' A tour of the Conservation Labs was also carried out. The HECS team also shared about volunteering opportunities and institutional programmes for the interested students. It concluded with a felicitation programme for the participants.

#### HAMIRPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH

29 February- 4 March 2024, 35 students and 3 teachers, NIT Hamirpur

#### MANDI

In collaboration with the State Chapter and NIT Hamirpur a 5-day workshop titled 'Understanding Heritage Assessment Tool and Techniques' was organized for the architecture students of the university.

The various sessions focussed on local heritage and INTACH's work conducted by Maalvika Pathania, Convenor State Chapter ; a basic understanding of Heritage of India; Architecture of India, and Volunteerism.

Mr. TS Randhawa (Consultant, INTACH Knowledge Centre) presented on the Vernacular Heritage of the Himalayas. The students visited historical sites in Jhaniara to work on a case study on vernacular architecture.

Mr. Raaja Bhasin, Co-Convenor Himachal Pradesh State Chapter on the Colonial Architecture of Himachal Pradesh.

The students worked on and consolidated their case studies based on their site visit and showcased their completed projects.

1 • Teacher Training Workshop - Murshidabad

2 • The participants at the Delhi College Heritage Workshop

3 • The participants at the Harmipur College Heritage Workshop

4 • Site visit for Vernacular Architecture







## ENDANGERED ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS: These workshops were with the support of the respective Chapters.

Chapter	Highlights
<b>Varanasi</b> 20 November 2023 Gurudham Temple Complex	67 students 'Clay Pottery and Toys Making' crafts of the region were conducted by Sanju Prajapati and his son who were the resource persons of the workshop. While the electric potter wheel was used by them for pottery making, handmade clay toy making was also taught by them.
<b>Barmer</b> 8 December 2023	130 students A workshop on 'Rope Making, Applique, Clay Jewellery and Mukka Work' was conducted at a regional school. The students were taught different crafts - making ropes and belts using sheep wool and camel hair, clay jewellery, appliqué and mukka work.
<b>Solapur</b> 12 December 2023 Mule Hall, Haribhai Deokaran Prashala	55 students / 11 teachers A workshop on Traditional Games and Songs was conducted, where; Mrs. Gargi Kale, Mrs. SumedhaBhuskute and their associates- TruptiPande, SumanPande and Archana Satalgavkar trained the students in traditional games.
<b>Porbandar</b> 4 - 27 December 2023	50 Students The workshop was on 'Moti Bharat' .In the second round of the workshop. 50 girl students from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV, Khapat) participated. The girls belonged to the economically weaker section or were orphans who avail the boarding facility of the school. The workshop had 16 sessions spread over a month.

1 • Students engaged in making clay toys in Varanasi 2 • Hands on experience in making Moti Bharat in Porbandar 3 • Students learning traditional dance form in Solapur





Chapter	Highlights
<p><b>Udaipur</b> 13 January 2024 St. Anthony Higher Secondary School, Govardhan Vilas campus, Udaipur</p>	<p>55 students</p> <p>A workshop on 'Bhil Tribal Art of the Southeast Rajasthan' was organized wherein Dr. Yashpal Baranda, a subject expert, was invited. He focused on different aspects of the Art and emphasized its salient features the various designs of tribal art.</p>
<p><b>Gaya</b> 15 February 2024 DAV School, Gaya Cantt Area</p>	<p>100 Students</p> <p>The workshop on soft wood sculpture was conducted by Sculptor Subodh Ravidas. The main focus was on the idols of Buddha. The students learned to handle tools for sculpting and design.</p>
<p><b>Rajkot</b> 26 February 2024 Jay International School</p>	<p>120 students</p> <p>A workshop on Hand Block Printing Technique was organized wherein Vandita Bhatt, PhD Scholar and an expert in textile printing was the resource person. She spoke about the printing techniques and history of hand block printing.</p>

1 • Students learning the Bhil Art designs in Udaipur 2 • A child learning soft wood sculpting in Gaya 3 • Students learning Hand block printing in Rajkot



## NATIONAL POSTER MAKING 'My Monument Search' 2023 CITY ROUND

'One of the primary objectives of the Division as stated in INTACH's Memorandum is 'To create and stimulate awareness among the public for the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of India and respect for the knowledge of past'

The National programmes are designed carefully to sensitize the young students about heritage; to create curiosity about local and national heritage; to create interest in heritage preservation activities; to feel responsible inheritors of their common cultural heritage and at the same time expose them to the issues and threats facing the heritage world.

It is with the above mentioned objectives that the National Poster Making activity was designed. It served to connect the chapters with the young

at the grassroots as the activities were accomplished with their support.

The programme 'My Monument Search' focussed on highlighting the lesser known heritage of the area, which would be at the centre-stage of the student activity.

It required the students to identify and select a suitable local built heritage; draw it ; caption it with a suitable slogan and finally present it with a brief writeup on the history, architectural description, the current condition and potential steps for its protection.

The magnitude of the programme is revealed by the scale of participation: 100 chapters supported the programme ; 5,628 students participated and 670 schools were a part of this colossal endeavor within the quarter being reported!

- 1 • **Srinagar**, 64 students, 04 schools, 21 November '23
- 2 • **Anantapur**, 103 students, 24 November '23
- 3 • **Nashik**, 60 students, 08 schools, 25 November '23
- 4 • **Mahoba**, 189 students, 06 schools, 25 November '23



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- 1 • Kangra, 75 students, 10 schools, 04 January
- 2 • Kolkata, 25 students, 05 schools, 20 December 2023
- 3 • Sarangarh, 195 students, 17 schools, 12 January
- 4 • Jamnagar, 89 students, 05 schools, 28 December 2023
- 5 • Solapur, 132 students, 15 schools, 02 January
- 6 • Varanasi, 112 students, 14 schools
- 7 • Murshidabad, 51 students, 16 schools, 11 January
- 8 • Vadodara, 35 students, 03 schools, 12 January



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- 1 • Hisar, 49 students, 09 schools, 19 January
- 2 • Dhadwad, 84 students, 10 schools, 20 January
- 3 • Wai Panchgani, 56 students, 07 schools, 20 January
- 4 • Dhar, 40 students, 06 schools, 21 January
- 5 • Jhalawar, 68 students, 07 schools, 20 January
- 6 • Balangir, 39 students, 06 schools, 21 January
- 7 • Ayodhya, 95 students, 11 schools, 28 January



- 1 • Jodhpur, 53 students, 07 schools, 30 January
- 2 • Balasore, 62 students, 10 schools, 28 January
- 3 • Burhanpur, 89 students, 10 schools, 28 January
- 4 • Aizawl, 33 students, 05 schools, 29 January
- 5 • Thanjavur, 200 students, 06 schools, 01 February
- 6 • Malerkotla, 80 students, 07 schools, 02 February
- 7 • Nagaur, 93 students, 07 schools, 30 January



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- 1 • **Bhilwara**, 101 students, 10 schools, 02 February
- 2 • **Morena**, 72 students, 06 schools, 03 February
- 3 • **Sawai Madhopur**, 100 students, 10 schools, 07 February
- 4 • **Alwar**, 100 students, 10 schools, 08 February
- 5 • **Udaipur**, 95 students, 17 schools, 07 February
- 6 • **Gurgaon**, 88 students, 15 schools, 06 February
- 7 • **Kadapa**, 105 students, 11 schools, 09 February



- 1 • **Beawar**, 200 students, 22 schools, 10 February
- 2 • **Durg Bhilai**, 36 students, 05 schools, 09 February
- 3 • **Chandrapur**, 62 students, 10 February
- 4 • **Thrissur**, 26 students, 08 schools, 10 February
- 5 • **Visakhapatnam**, 120 students, 15 schools, 10 February
- 6 • **Madurai**, 137 students, 13 schools, 12 February
- 7 • **Amritsar**, 04 schools, 13 February





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- 1 • Patiala, 34 students, 05 schools
- 2 • Jalandhar, 59 students, 08 schools, 13 February
- 3 • Karauli, 12 schools, 15 – 17 February
- 4 • Navsari, 61 students, 05 schools, 15 February
- 5 • Datia, 100 students, 12 schools, 18 February
- 6 • Mangalore, 29 students, 07 schools, 24 February
- 7 • Coimbatore, 86 students, 13 schools, 24 February



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- 1 • **Jammu**, 62 students, 06 schools
- 2 • **Kodaikanal**, 104 students, 09 schools
- 3 • **Santiniketan**, 16 students, 06 schools
- 4 • **Ajmer**, 85 students, 15 schools, 25 February

### Following chapters also conducted the 'National Poster Making' successfully

- 1 • Katni, 74 students, 08 schools, 16 November 2023
- 2 • Mandi, 114 students, 13 schools, 17 December 2023
- 3 • East Godavari, 102 students, 11 schools, 17 December 2023
- 4 • Jamshedpur, 20 students, 05 schools, 19 December 2023
- 5 • Yamunanagar, 102 students, 10 schools, 27 December 2023
- 6 • Bilaspur, 89 students, 13 schools, 04 January
- 7 • Darbhanga, 100 students, 10 schools, 12 January
- 8 • Raipur, 103 students, 14 schools, 18 January
- 9 • Bijapur, 65 students, 09 schools, 21 January
- 10 • Mahasamund, 43 students, 06 schools, 27 January
- 11 • Guntur, 87 students, 09 schools, 03 February
- 12 • Mahbubnagar, 378 students, 70 schools, 08 February
- 13 • Salem, 63 students, 09 schools, 13 February
- 14 • Trivandrum, 50 students, 10 schools, 17 February
- 15 • Kasargod, 59 students, 03 schools, 18 February & 24 January
- 16 • Bhagalpur, 80 students, 06 schools, 22 February
- 17 • Kozhikode, 50 student, 09 schools, 27 February

## Filmit India

This is a multi-cultural project that aims at nurturing cultural understanding, care and concern among school children through the exciting experience of making and sharing films on heritage and its ancillary subjects.

Filmit India marked its 16th year in 2023-2024. As part of the project, and the culmination of the programme ; FILMIT India Festivals were held across the country where the films were showcased in film festivals held in each city by INTACH as well as showcasing them in national and international children's film festivals.

### Glimpses of the Filmit Festival across the country



1 • Chandigarh & Ambala, 52 students & teachers, 10 schools, 29 January

2a, 2b • Varanasi and Ayodhya, 120 students & teachers, 20 schools, 29 January

3 • Kolkata, 50 students & teachers, 14 schools, 31 January

4 • Jaipur, 95 students & teachers, 15 schools, 06 February



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- 1 • **Ahmedabad**, 47 students & teachers, 07 schools, 06 February
- 2 • **Vadodara**, 100 students & teachers, 09 schools, 07 February
- 3 • **Goa**, 65 students & teachers, 11 schools, 08 February
- 4 • **Kochi**, 62 students & teachers, 11 schools, 14 February
- 5 • **Mumbai**, 47 students & teachers, 08 schools, 09 February
- 6 • **Hyderabad**, 88 students & teachers, 15 schools, 13 February

Following chapter also conducted the 'Filmit India Festival' successfully  
Delhi, 155 students & teachers, 30 schools, 01 February





## The Hornbill Warrior- Know Nagaland – Story cum Colouring Book

The Pochury and Tenyidielanguages Translations of this book were released on the occasion on the 40th Foundation Day celebrations on the 29th of January 2024.

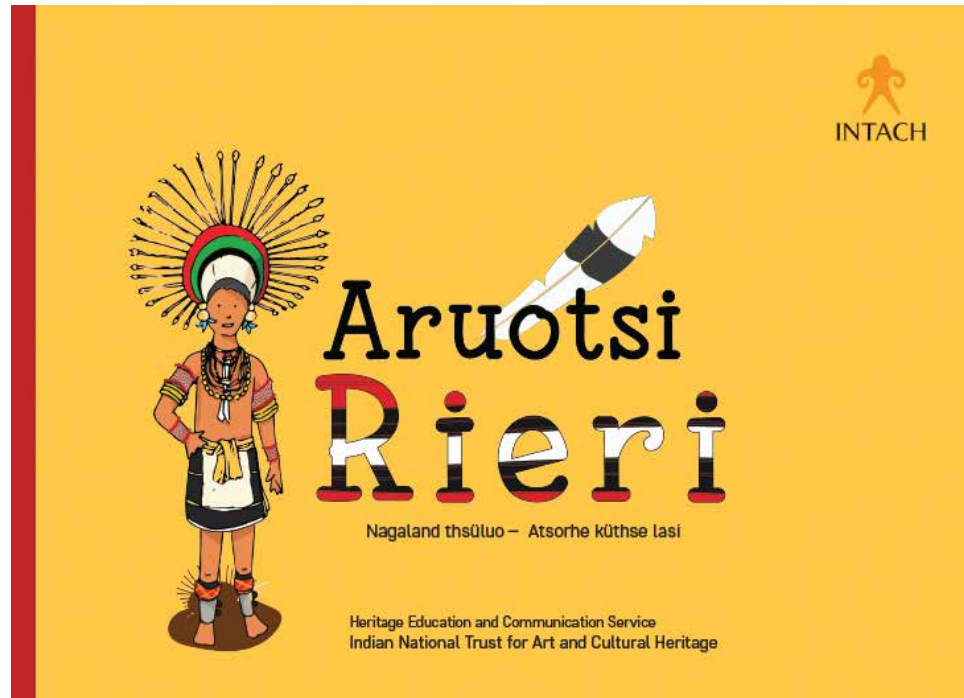
### Ongoing

- \* Chimi in the Magical Land of Kanchendzong – Know Sikkim – Story cum Colouring Book – Translation into Lepcha
- \* Moloya Braids a River Journey – Know Assam – Story cum Colouring Book

### Young INTACH Website

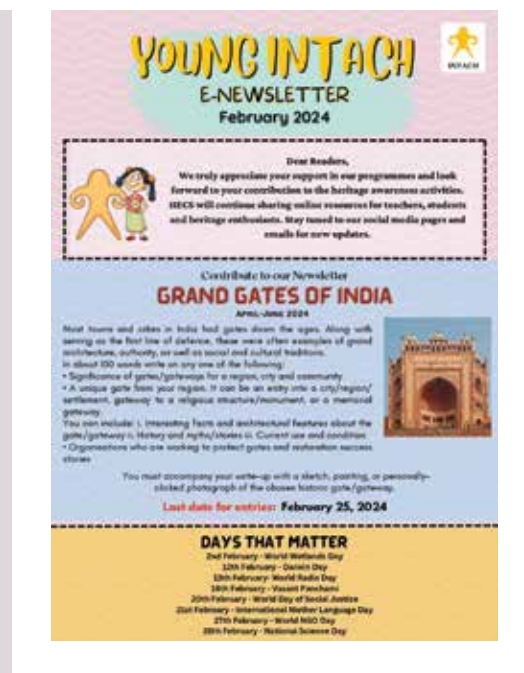
The young INTACH webpage (www.youngintach.org) is updated with more educational resource material. These included worksheets on Heritage based Newspaper, GIT Tag- Fruits, Grains, Rice, Coffee, Tea, Monthly E-Newsletter and weekly

heritage news alerts are published regularly. All newsletters English and Hindi put up in an interesting readable format on the website.



### E-Newsletter

The monthly Young INTACH E-Newsletter features the latest updates of the website and social media, highlights of monthly events and list of publications available for readers. The newsletter also features the important days of the month details of upcoming events and physical newsletters.



Social Media

Challenges taken up in the month of January, February



**World Radio Day CHALLENGE**

Celebrating World Radio Day on 13th February, send us pictures of an old radio, gramophone or a record player you can find at your home. Send us a photo of the radio or gramophone and a photo of the proud owner with it along with a short 50 word write-up on it by 19th February 2023 to [socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com).

Make sure to mention your name, class, school and city along with the entry Good Luck!

Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH



**Makar Sankranti Favourite Dish Challenge**

Held yearly in January, Makar Sankranti is one of the most significant festivals in India. Several names and customs are followed to celebrate this occasion around the nation. On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, various states celebrate with a variety of sweet and savory dishes such as Til Laddoo, Purni Puri, Khichdi, Pongal, Uradhaya, Gur Halwa, Til Patti, Makar Chaula, Pula, and Piyasam.

Send us -

1. The recipe of the dish in 100 words
2. Two pictures - The dish made and a picture of you along with your parents or grandparents preparing this dish by January 26, 2024 (Monday) to [socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com)

Mention your name, class, school, and city along with the entry.

Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH



**CELEBRATE YOUR Mother Tongue CHALLENGE**

Honoring International Mother Language Day on 21st February, let's celebrate our mother tongue in a unique way. Share your favourite poem in your mother tongue in a short 1 minute video. Send us the poem and its translation in English along with the video by 26th February 2023 to [socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com).

Make sure to mention your name, class, school and city along with the entry Good Luck!

Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH



**Republic Day Challenge**

Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the adoption of the republic state on January 26, 1950. Every year, the celebrations marking the day also features a spectacular cultural parade.

Make a 1-minute video of yourself and one or two family members together singing a patriotic song in your regional language, and send us the translated lyrics in English by January 30, 2024, to [socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com). Do not forget to send your name, class, school, and city along with the entry.

Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH



Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH presents

**WORLD WILDLIFE DAY CHALLENGE**

World Wildlife Day is on 3rd March every year and celebrates the diversity of lifeforms on this planet, from the enormous blue whale to the delicate monarch butterfly.

Draw and colour an illustration of an endangered species in your region (it can be a mammal, a bird, a reptile, an insect, or even a fish) and write a 50-word essay on your species. Send us three images: 1) The illustration 2) the 50-word essay; and 3) the student making the illustration by 6th March 2024, to [socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.youngintach@gmail.com). Do not forget to mention your name, class, school, and city.



## INTACH Heritage Academy

Recognizing the importance of Heritage Education, INTACH has well-designed courses/programmes and activities for the interested audiences, across a vast cross section of professions and age groups. The courses are aimed at capacity building, sensitization, research and training. The above objective is met through INTACH Heritage Academy.

### Virasat Report (January to March 2024)

## About INTACH Heritage Academy

INTACH Heritage Academy is the first-of-its-kind in the country, running programmes for training, research and capacity building in all aspects of heritage understanding, documentation, conservation and management. The academy aims to further research to develop a critical understanding of complexities and issues related to heritage.

## A. Training and Outreach

### 1. PG Diploma in Heritage Studies 2023-24

The course 'Heritage Project' was conducted from December 2023 to December 2024, for the students of PG Diploma in Heritage Studies 2023-24. As part of the course an 8-day field trip to Aurangabad and Paithan was organised for the students in December. During the field trip, the students immersed themselves in the study of the traditional Paithani craft, explored historical landmarks such as Bibi ka Makbara and Ajanta and Ellora caves, and engaged with local communities, artisans and experts. Engaging directly with Paithani weavers enriched their perspectives, fostering a more holistic appreciation for the craft.

During their visit to Aurangabad the students interacted with the renowned historian and scholar, Dr. RS Morwanchikar, to understand the history and evolution of Paithan. They visited Kagzipura to understand the traditional process of paper making and the handcrafted paper restoration initiative of INTACH. Through site visits, stake-

holder interactions and expert interviews, they explored the issues and challenges surrounding Paithan, and identified various themes such as craft revival, tourism development, adaptive reuse and heritage interpretation. Based on the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom and insights from the field visit, the students developed project proposals. A final jury for the project was held on 12th January where the students presented their proposals to Ms. Nitika Khanna.

The following courses were opened for external participants:

**Research Methodology in Context of Heritage, December 2023 to April 2024:** The course is being conducted with the aim of equipping the participants with essential skills and the knowledge needed to conduct systematic research. It is scheduled to run from December 2023 to April 2024. The course is being attended by 14 participants, including 11 students of PG Diploma in Heritage Studies 2023-24 and three external participants.

**Research Methods and Techniques: Data Collection, Interpretation and Analysis, 15-17 February 2024:** This three-day course was offered as a short-term Certificate Course for external participants. Besides an overall introduction to research methods, included sessions primarily on techniques used in quantitative research. Towards the end of the day the participants were also introduced to mixed method approaches, specifically action research and case-study research. On day two, the focus shifted to methods of qualitative research, beginning with historical



- 1 • Site visit to Kagzipura, an initiative to restore and revive the heritage craft of handmade paper by INTACH
- 2 • Final review of the heritage project with Ms. Nitika Khanna
- 3 • Dr. Neeti Trivedi, conducting a session on 'Action Research through Case Studies'







accessibility. There are a total of 13 participants for the course, which include 11 PG Diploma students, and two external participants.

**Cultural and Heritage Entrepreneurship, January to March 2024:** A nine-day course, 'Cultural and Heritage Entrepreneurship' was conducted in partnership with NICE (Network of Indian Cultural Enterprises).org, from the 17th of January till the 14th of March 2024. In this course the participants were trained in the tools to help them design comprehensive entrepreneurial plans with culture and heritage at its core.

The students also had sessions with cultural and heritage entrepreneurs to understand their journeys in the sector. They were briefed on the significant components of pitch presentation like narrative flow and deck preparation. The course culminated with the students presenting a business plan for their potential ventures in the culture and heritage space to experts.

### Storytelling in Heritage Tourism, I January–March 2024

An online training programme, 'Storytelling in Heritage Tourism' was formulated with the organisation 'Make it Happen', an experiential travel company that specialises in designing community led local experiences. The course aims to impart knowledge and skills for appreciating and responsibly promoting cultural heritage sites, fostering sustainable tourism practices and community engagement through the art of Storytelling. The course began on 7th January 2024 and concluded on 3rd March 2024. The sessions were focused on the art of storytelling, sustainable and experiential tourism, and designing an interactive and immersive experience. On the final day, all the participants presented their curated heritage experiences through films and documentaries. A total of 15 participants had enrolled for the course.

### Visit of MIT School of Architecture I 12 January 2024

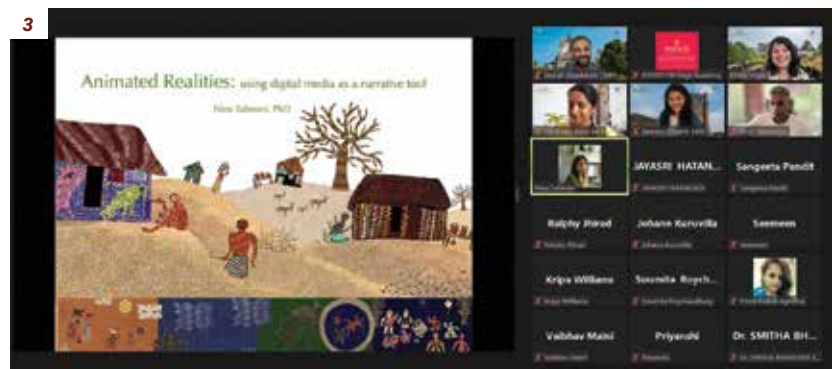
IHA coordinated the visit of 38 students of the MIT School of Architecture, MIT-ADT University, Pune and two of their faculty members on 12

January 2024 to the INTACH Headquarters. It started with a brief introduction to the structure of INTACH and activities being conducted at INTACH by Dr. Parul Munjal; a session on the idea of heritage as going beyond architecture and encompassing natural, art and material heritage and intangible heritage by Ms. Anshika Jain; and one on introduction to architectural conservation by Mr. Ruknuddin Mirza. The visit included a tour of the INTACH headquarters facilitated by the IHA team.

### Visit of Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT) I 31 January 2024

INTACH hosted Ms. Shreela Ghosh, Secretary, CWIT and the current Chair of CWIT, Mr. Charles Walker on 31 of January 2024. The meeting en-

- 1 • Ms. KV Kanchana, CEO, NICE.org introducing entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial idea to the students
- 2 • Ms. Manjari Bansal, Category and Product Head, Flourish.shop discussing the importance of understanding the market
- 3 • Participants attending a session on using digital media as a narrative tool, by eminent filmmaker and educator Nina Sabnani
- 4 • Students and Faculty of MIT School of Architecture, MIT-ADT University in a session orienting them to INTACH





tailed an interaction with Chairman INTACH and discussion with Principal Director, A&MH Division and Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, IHA along with the respective teams, providing an overall introduction to the structure and work of INTACH.

1 • Ms. Shreela Ghosh, Secretary, CWIT and Mr. Charles Walker, Chair, CWIT with Chairman, INTACH during their visit  
2 • Poster for the heritage documentation workshop

### Online workshop on ‘Heritage Documentation’ | 16-17 March 2024

The two-day workshop focused on addressing the key ideas of what to document and how to document. The sessions also introduced the different tools and methodologies for documenting heritage. Experts in the field of illustration, design, photography and filmmaking conducted the sessions on techniques of representation. The workshop was open to undergraduate students from various backgrounds. Over 200 registrations were received for the workshop.

### Research

#### INTACH Research Programme 2022

The INTACH Research Programme for the year 2022 was concluded with the final reports having been received from all the awardees. The awardees have now been asked to submit a research paper for the next issue of INTACH Journal of Heritage Studies. The nine research proposals that were brought to conclusion through this Research Scholarship cycle covered various types of heritage across the country through their study, with focus on the theme - ‘Culture, Cities and Communities’:

Name of Researcher/(s)	Research Topic
Amruta Uplekar	Sali community: The driving force for sustainable development in the town of Yeola
Binita Pandya and Miral Hadakia	An Enquiry of Layers in Surat (1837 AD–1980 AD): Evaluating developmental influences and impact of socio-cultural and economics on architecture



Name of Researcher/(s)	Research Topic
<b>Binumol Tom</b>	Historic Cities of Erstwhile Princely Kingdom of Travancore and Kandyan Kingdom of Ceylon: Cultural communities and city architecture
<b>Damayanti Datta</b>	In the Shadow of Taj: History, memory and identity in the forgotten lanes of Tajganj
<b>Nilkanta Das</b>	Clay Artisans of Agartala: An investigation towards their cultural heritage and sustainable development strategy
<b>Ramiya Gopalan and Rama Raghavan</b>	Revitalization and Sustainable Empowerment of Kodumbu Weavers Colony, Palakkad, Kerala
<b>Samiksha Purohit</b>	Redefining the Urban Landscape of Kashi through Revival of Kathak as a Form of Living Heritage
<b>Viswadharani</b>	PWD and Architectural Draftsmen: Architectural Agency of cultural production and producers in Madras
<b>Radhika KM &amp; Lakshmi K</b>	The Dynamics of Cultural Diversity: A Case study of the Historic core of Thrissur town

### INTACH Research Programme 2023-24

The INTACH Research Programme for the year 2023-24 was announced in September 2023. A total of 61 applications were received under the INTACH Research Scholarship Programme in the following categories:

**Research Fellowship: 08**

**Research Scholarship: 49**

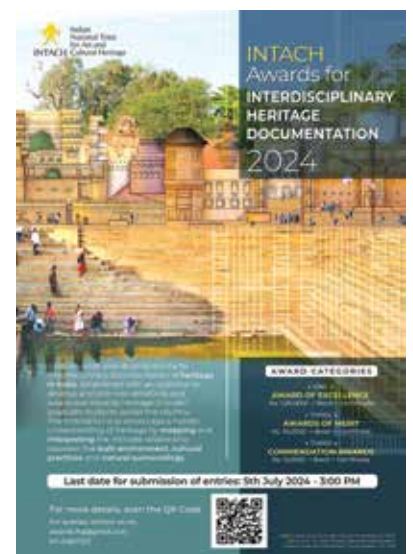
**Capacity Building Research Scholarship for INTACH Staff: 04**

The Scholarship Selection Committee meeting was held on 20th January, 2024 to deliberate on the applications and shortlist possible candidates. Support has been extended to seven pro-

posals in the Research Scholarship category and two in the Capacity Building Research Scholarship, through the programme, for the year 2024-25.

### INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2024

The scope and guidelines of the Awards programme have been redesigned to extend beyond architectural heritage and promote documentation of heritage in a holistic manner. The 2024 Awards programme was announced on 16 February 2024. Last date for submission of entries is 05 July 2024.



Poster of INTACH Awards for Interdisciplinary Heritage Documentation 2024



## Heritage Tourism

The focus under this is to synergise heritage sites with tourism initiatives aiming towards community development and social development of the tourist receiving destinations.

### Sustainable Tourism Development: Zoom Meeting on Project Lakshadweep

The Division participated in an online meeting on 27 January 2024 of the RTSOI (Responsible Tourism Society of India) to prepare a white paper on sustainable tourism development in Lakshadweep Islands for government.

- 1 • Local plants interested; the walk group - examining wild raspberries
- 2 • INTACH's participation in a zoom meeting of the RTSOI
- 3 • The walk conducted for the MLA Shimla, Mr Harish Janartha (2nd from left) and Income Tax Officers
- 4 • Buddhist Searches in Jharkhand

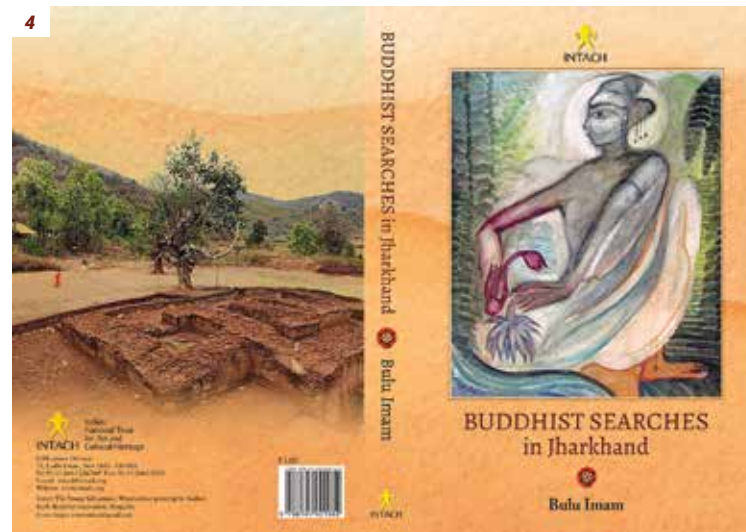
### Shimla Heritage Walks

Around 35 long and short walks (in the year 2023) were conducted in the Shimla area by the Convenor, Raaja Bhasin. The walks covered both the built and natural heritage of the town and its immediate suburbs. The 'Food and Spices' walk in the 'Ganj Bazaar' was also conducted.

Participants in these walks were students from Auckland House School and St. Bede's College. Other walks were organized for tourists, officials of the Income Tax (IT) Department of the

State Government of Himachal Pradesh and VIP guests of the army.

The book titled **Buddhist Searches in Jharkhand** by Author Bulu Imam (Convenor of the Hazaribagh Chapter) has been displayed at the International Kolkata Book Fair – January 2024 for sale. The book contains the newly discovered sites of Jharkhand associated with Lord Buddha. The details of the book have been uploaded for online sale on Amazon through IKC in order to encourage Buddhist Pilgrims to visit.





## Publications

### New Delhi World Book Fair 2024

The NBT New Delhi World Book Fair 2024 was held from 10th to 18th February 2024 at the Pragati Maidan. It was under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. It was the first time INTACH participated by taking a stall and displaying and putting on sale, at discounted prices, the many publications we have produced. It was an excellent learning experience and enabled us to present INTACH in a very positive light to the large numbers of visitors to our stall. It also gave us an opportunity to interact with the general public and create awareness of the work we do.

The publications were praised for the quality and exceptional research and available at affordable rates. 380 books were sold during interaction with the public by our young staff. Thousands of publishers, distributors, cultural and government organizations participated in the fair.

At the fair, we interacted with the National Public Library of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, and handed over a set of our books for their libraries in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi. To gain more knowledge of the publication rights, we found, there is a guild of **Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation** and it is important to follow their guidelines on copyright.

The Act of 1954 pertaining to publication of books by an organization is to be followed and

books are to be sent to the four public libraries (Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai) under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. Through the delivery of **Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act 1954**, the Library became entitled to receive one copy of all publications published in the country. By a subsequent amendment in 1956, periodicals and newspapers were brought under its scope. Each copy of all new publications must be sent to the four National Libraries within 30 days of printing.

**US Library of Congress office, New Delhi** – The Serials Librarian, Ms. Manjula Chawla, and her team visited the office on 7th March for procurement of the copies of INTACH Annual Reports of the previous years for the US Library. The consultant had a meeting with them and discussed our other publications and thereafter gave them some other books as well of various divisions.

#### *The World Book Fair 2024*



The Division has generated digital ISBN for INTACH publications from December 2023 to February 2024 for the following books:

Sl No	Title	ISBN Number	Author/Editor	Publication Month
1	Wall Painting Sites of Himachal Pradesh	978-81-967717-4-4	Nilabh Sinha	05/01/2024
2	INTACH Knowledge Series: Understanding Archaeological Sites of India	978-81-967717-6-8	Dr S B Darsana	22/12/2023
3	Select Bibliography of Ganga	978-81-967717-0-6	Dhruv Sah	12/12/2023



## Cultural Affairs

In order to expand the agenda of heritage awareness, an attempt is made to draw the attention of the public to the various heritage issues and sensitize impact public opinion through dissemination of information.

### Talk and Book Discussion: Science in Sanskrit Scriptures – 19 February 2024

An illustrated talk and book discussion, on the book titled **Science in Sanskrit Scriptures** authored by Prof. (Dr) Yash Gupta, was organized on 19 February 2024. The author was in discussion with Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar and Dr (Prof.) Alka Tyagi. This book presents the author's decade-long study and research of Sanskrit Scriptures which contain the scientific descriptions of Astronomy, Medicine and Surgery, Atoms, Mathematics, and Theoretical Physics that are described within their vast narratives.

Many concepts described in the scriptures became known to modern science, as recently as 100 years ago!

The discussion was streamed live on YouTube on: <https://youtube.com/live/OGQuSkfKdsg?feature=share>



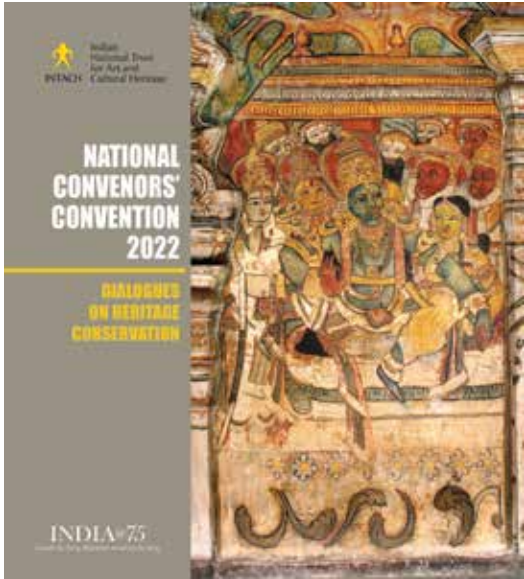
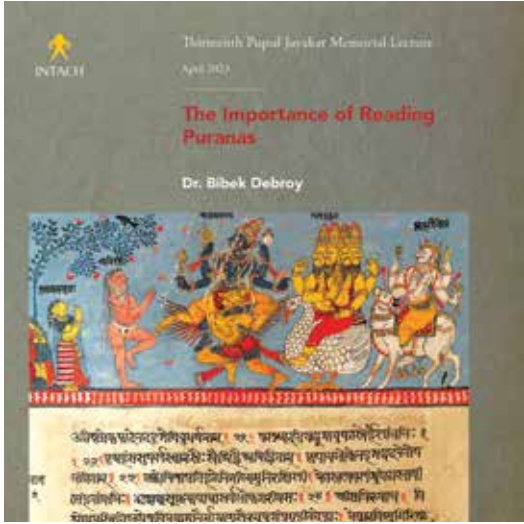
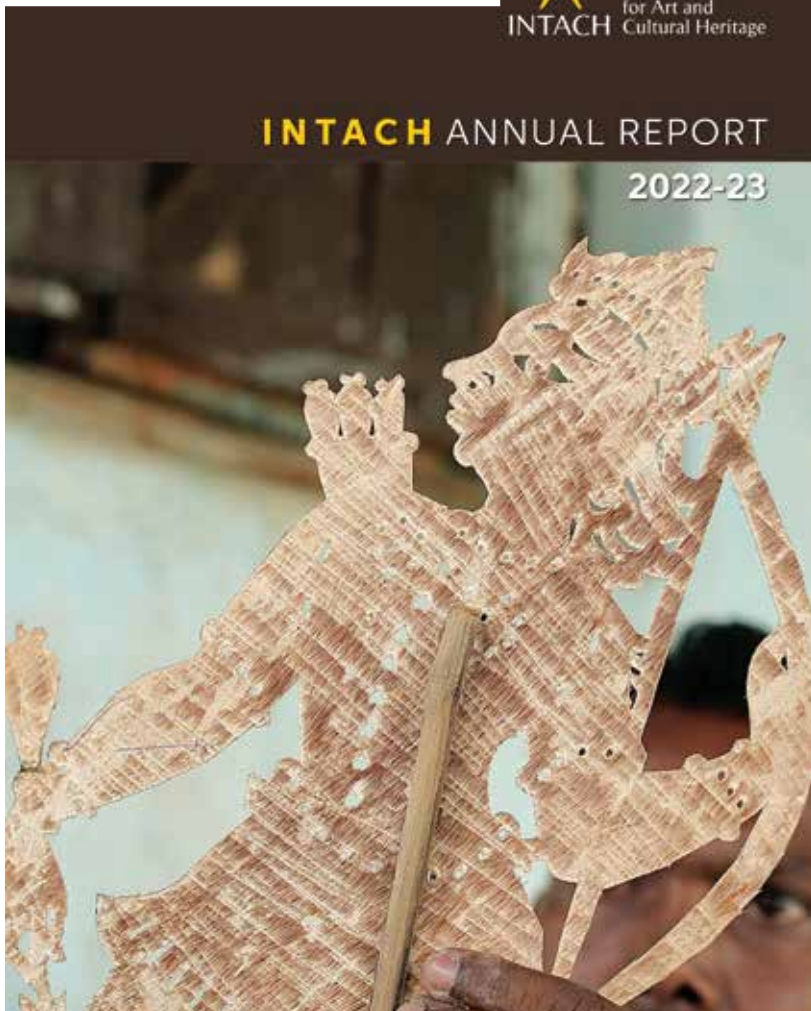
- 1 • Poster for the illustrated talk and book discussion
- 2 • Dr Shruti Poddar, Prof (Dr) Yash Gupta and Prof. (Dr) Alka Tyagi during the discussion
- 3 • A token of appreciation from the Member Secretary to the Author and the panelists
- 4 • Manisha Singh, Director, Cultural Affairs, INTACH, introducing the talk with opening remarks





The Division completed the following publications:

- \* INTACH Annual Report 2022 - 2023
- \* The Thirteenth Pupul Jayakar Memorial Lecture – 'The Importance of Reading Puranas'
- \* National Convenors' Convention – 2022: Dialogues on Heritage Conservation.





SPECIAL FROM THE

# Central Office

The Headquarters at New Delhi functions as the mother ship for ideating, visioning and incubating ideas. It also serves as the first port of call for international visitors and other dignitaries interested in learning about INTACH's conservation activities.





## Central Office

INTACH conducted the following meetings during the quarter being reported:

- \* Project Selection Committee meeting on 1st February, 2024
- \* Executive Committees meeting on 14th February, 2024
- \* Annual General Body meeting on 16th March, 2024

## INTACH Election Results - AGM held on 16.3.2024

### Founder Members Category

1. **Dr. Saryu V. Doshi:** Elected unopposed
2. **Smt. Asha Vasant Sheth:** Elected unopposed

### Life Members Category

1. **Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyay:** 615 votes
2. **Shri Ruzbeh Firoz Umrigar:** 509 votes
3. **Shri Anil Kumar Dhir:** 506 votes
4. **Shri Niraj Kumar Jain:** 477 votes

### Donor Members category

1. **Ms. Anita Singh:** 10 votes
2. **Shri Mukund Neelkanth Bhogale:** 9 votes
3. **Shri Atul Khanna:** 8 votes

### Institutional Members Category

**Shruti Poddar Foundation:** Elected unopposed

### Corporate Members Category

**Datri Foundation:** Elected unopposed

The details of the votes garnered by different candidates is as follows:-

Sl No	Name	Votes
1.	Shri Anil Kumar Dhir	506
2.	Maj.Gen. Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.)	460
3.	Shri Debasis Nayak	172
4.	Shri Karan Singh Chauhan	289
5.	Shri Madan Mohan Upadhyay	615
6.	Dr. Madeline Yvonne Tham	469
7.	Shri Niraj Kumar Jain	477
8.	Shri R. Rama Kumar	353
9.	Shri Rajendra Chandak	314
10.	Shri Rajendra Kumar Shah	221
11.	Er. Raj Kumar Aggarwal	160
12.	Shri Ruzbeh Firoz Umrigar	509
13.	Shri Santosh Kumar Sharma	405
14.	Prof. Dr. Virendra Kumar Dubey	232
<b>Donor Members category</b>		
1.	Ms. Anita Singh	10
2.	Shri Atul Khanna	8
3.	Shri Mukund Bhogale	9
4.	Shri Sanjay Narayen	3

*V.K. Aggarwal,  
Returning Officer, INTACH, 16.3.2024*

# AT THE Grassroots

INTACH has evolved as a people's movement over the years, with civil society's involvement in preserving Indian Heritage. The vast Chapters network was set up as a resource for the regional and local arms of INTACH. Based on volunteerism, the network has spread far and wide in the country and is led by the Convenors and Co-convenors under the guidance of the Central Office.



# Chapter In Focus

## THE NANDYAL CHAPTER

### Andhra Pradesh

The Paruveta Utsavam is a unique temple festival in the Sri Narasimha Swamy temple in the town of Ahobilam in Andhra Pradesh. The festival which underlines the egalitarian principles in communal, social and economic hierarchies entails a procession of all the principal deities of the temple through 32 villages around Ahobilam Village in the Nandyal district.

INTACH is proud to share that the Chapter, ably mentored by Convenor M.V.Siva Kumar Reddy and Additional Co Convenor K.B.Sethu Raman, prepared and submitted a detailed research report on 'Ahobilam Paruveta Utsavam' to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Based on the report, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared Ahobilam Paruveta Utsavam as the State Festival of Andhra Pradesh.

Further adding to the success, the Chapter along with Ahobilam Devasthanam' succeeded in getting Telangana Government to offer Patuvastrams in Rudravaram Village, as a part of Paruveta Utsavam to mark the historical connection between the village and the rulers of the Kakatiya Dynasty.

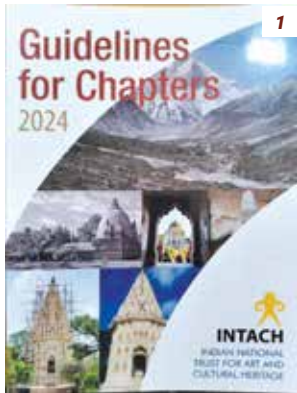
The Chapter sincerely worked for the selection of Ahobilam as a spiritual destination under Swadeshi Darshan 2.0 scheme of Tourism Destination Development as a part of which Rs 25 Crores will be utilized for the development of this ancient spiritual centre leading to a number of spinoff benefits in the region.

**Based on the report, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared Ahobilam Paruveta Utsavam as the State Festival of Andhra Pradesh.**



*Top: (In the center) Sri Rajat Bhargava, IAS, Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue & YAT&C (Tourism, Culture, Museum & Archaeology), Government of Andhra Pradesh Convenor M.V. Sivakumar Reddy and Addl Co-convenor K B Sethuraman receiving the award*

*Bottom: Receiving the Best Rural Tourism Village award for Ahobilam from Smt Roja, the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Culture and Youth Empowerment, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.*



## Chapters

### State Convenors Workshop 2024

The State Convenors Workshop was conducted in physical mode after a gap of three years for two days from 29–30 January at INTACH headquarters in New Delhi. Twenty-two State Convenors participated in the event. The workshop reviewed State Chapters progress during the year and addressed Convenors' areas of concern and their solutions. Necessary structural changes were initiated to overcome procedural hindrances along with a brainstorming session for the restructuring of the Governing Council.

### Inauguration of New Chapters

#### — NAWADA, BIHAR

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta (AVSM), Chairman, INTACH and Director Chapters Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Arvind Shukla inaugurated the Nawada Chapter in Bihar on 4 January in the presence of State Convenor Prem Sharan, Chapter Convenor Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey and other dignitaries

#### — FIROZPUR, PUNJAB

A new chapter was also inaugurated in Ferozpur to protect and promote historical sites in an effort to boost tourism. Educationist and historian, Dr. Anirudh Gupta was nominated as the Chapter Convenor. Lauding this latest effort by INTACH, chief guest Deputy Commissioner

Rajesh Dhiman committed the district administration's support to tourism promotion. Punjab Convenor Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Balwinder Singh and Gp. Capt. Shukla were also present.

### Chapter Guidelines

The Division published Chapter Guidelines 2024 after five years, including guidelines about Geo-Heritage, Numismatic Heritage and Fortification, and Military Heritage to cover the entire spectrum of heritage. The guidelines serve as a reference for understanding and implementing best practices, standards, and procedures in the restoration, conservation, and protection of the heritage. They provide standardization to establish uniformity and consistency through a common set of principles and procedures that can be followed across INTACH. New financial regulations have also been introduced for undertaking projects under corporate social responsibility.

### Andhra Pradesh

#### — ANANTAPUR

As part of the INTACH school programme, the Chapter awarded winners of drawing and recitation competitions in the Sarada Municipal Corporation Girls High School. Convenor Rama Kumar led the event, with Chapter members, headmistress Ramadevi, teachers and students participating. It also organized an event on 27 January at the Rotary Club in collaboration with the Heritage Club Rotary School. Dr. P. Ramesh



- 1 • Chapters Guidelines - Cover Page
- 2 • Anantapur Chapter - Chairman Maj Gen L.K. Gupta's visit to the Chapter
- 3 • State Convenors Meeting - Group photo
- 4 • Nawada Chapter - Inaugural image



Narayana, State Sahitya Academy awardee, was the chief guest.

Chairman INTACH Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta visited the Chapter on 8 February. The visit included a tour of the 16th Century Lepakshi temple, where he expressed interest in conserving its unique heritage of being built without a foundation. He stressed on using traditional Indian conservation methods and pledged his support in a public meeting.

**EAST GODAVARI**

The Chapter conducted the national poster competition on "My Monument Search" in which 97 students from 11 schools participated. Shri M.S. Sai Kumar, retired superintending engineer, spoke on INTACH and India's cultural heritage. Shri V. L. Gandhi of Shri Ramakrishna Seva Samithi also addressed the attendees.

On 27 January, INTACH Foundation Day festivities were integrated into the 76th Sankranthi Music and Dance Festival. Co-convenor V. Ramakrishna and Convenor V.V.L.N. Murthy spoke on INTACH's significance and the need for protecting India's valuable intangible heritage.

On 1 February, the Chapter engaged in discussions with Water Man Rajendra Singh of Tarun Bharat Sangh on INTACH's built and natural heritage conservation initiatives in Kakinada and Koringa Mangroves And its documentation and awareness programmes in a meeting conducted by People's World Commission on Drought and

Flood. PWCDF's expression of interest in collaborating with INTACH on conservation endeavors was widely covered in local newspapers.

**KADAPA**

The Kadapa Chapter conducted a meeting with all INTACH members on 10 February at INTACH office to discuss the preparation of the "Kadapa District Darsini" book.

**NANDYAL**

The Nandyal Chapter members held the "Mana Ooru Mana Gudi Mana Badhyatha" programme at Ahobilam Devasthanam. Around 550 volunteers from across the district actively participated in cleaning the Nava Narasimha shrines, lower Ahobilam Bhavana soni river and BhairavaKundam. Additionally, 100 students from RGM Engineering College cleaned the Pavana shrine and collected plastic waste along the Pavana route.

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

In collaboration with the Indian Navy, the Chapter partnered with the State Administration to organize visits for foreign ship crews to tourist sites. Members Edward Paul and Venkat Ram Reddy, along with Vishveswar Rao from the state archaeological department, guided the visitors through Thotalkonda's ancient Buddhist Monastery, Visakha Museum and Kailasagiri From 21-23 February. Each day saw 150-200 foreign navy personnel exploring the historical sites.

- 1 • Nandyal Chapter - The cleaning drive
- 2 • East Godavari - A cultural evening organised by the Chapter
- 3 • Kadapa Chapter - A chapter meeting underway



5



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## Bihar

### BETTIAH

The Chapter organized a vibrant evening of poetry and shayari on 18 February. The event, held in Bettiah, West Champaran Featured participation from 12 eminent writers and poets, including Dr. Gorakh Prasad 'Mastana', Dr. Nikhilesher Prasad Verma, and Mrs. Khushbu Mishra. Attendees enjoyed an enriching cultural experience, celebrating literary excellence and artistic expression. Additionally, an interactive session was conducted on 24 February at Sunflower Children's Academy in Pathkhauli, Bagaha, to raise awareness among students about the conservation and management of heritage. Chapter Convenor Arun Kumar Shrivastva spearheaded the discussion, fostering a sense of responsibility among the younger generation to preserve our shared heritage.

### NAWADA

The inauguration of the Nawada Chapter by Maj. Gen. L.K. Gupta, Chairman, marked a significant step in preserving the region's unique heritage. He underscored the importance of safeguarding its cultural legacy, particularly Kohbarwa mountain ancient rock paintings, through community collaboration in heritage conservation. The event saw a gathering of INTACH members and enthusiasts, who pledged their commitment to heritage conservation. Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey, the newly appointed Convenor, outlined plans for preserving Nawada's heritage, including the continuation of the Save Heritage Campaign initiated in 2023. Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra stressed the need for preserving ancient artifacts and

conducting awareness campaigns, highlighting the collective effort across Bihar in heritage conservation. The event concluded with a photo exhibition showcasing Nawada's rich cultural and natural heritage.

### PATNA

The Patna Chapter collaborated with the Heritage Crafts & Community Division (HCCD) and Craft Revival Centre to organize a Natural Colour Workshop on 2 March. The workshop aimed to impart knowledge on traditional natural colour-making processes to artisans, particularly those in the Mithila painting tradition. Colonel Rahul Sharma, NIFT Patna director, commended the initiative, stressing the importance of adopting sustainable practices in art creation. The workshop featured sessions led by experts from NIFT Patna, demonstrating techniques of natural colour preparation and application on textiles, including by senior artist Smt. BimlaDutt. Attendees actively engaged in hands-on activities and discussions aimed at preserving traditional artistic practices. A documentary on the works of Dutt was also showed. The workshop concluded successfully, achieving its objective of promoting heritage crafts and sustainable art practices in Patna.



2

- 1 • Bettiah Chapter - A poetry and shayari recital evening
- 2 • Patna Chapter - A workshop on Natural Colour
- 3 • World Wetland Day- Saraipali Chapter

## Chhattisgarh

### SARAIPALI

The Chapter organized a one-day heritage conservation awareness tour on 14 January, engaging 108 school children and 8 teachers to highlight the importance of heritage conservation from an early age and to explore the diversity of heritage. Convenor Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary said that the tour included the exposition of archaeological heritage preserved at the Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum in Raipur, natural heritage of medicinal plants at Botanical Garden in Naya Raipur, and a visit to the Jungle Safari Zoo to foster awareness and sensitivity towards animals, their habitats, diet, and the necessity of conservation. Besides, the students explored the unique heritage of Chhattisgarh at PurkhautiMuktangan and the 10th Century DharaChandrakhuriKaushalya Mata temple. The excursion offered a comprehensive and enriching experience.



3

## Gujarat

### RAJKOT

The Rajkot District Administration (Collectorate) signs MoU with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

In the journey of preserving and revitalizing its heritage, a pivotal phase emerges for the heritage enthusiasts of INTACH Rajkot Chapter: fostering the collaboration with the local governing organizations and their heritage related activities. Rajkot District Administration (Collectorate) signs MoU with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for documentation, Conservation, Revitalization and Adaptive Reuse of the heritage buildings and sites of Rajkot.

In the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Shri Mulubhai Bera, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Rambhai Mokariya, Mayor (Rajkot) Smt. Naynaben Pedhadiya, MLA (Gujarat) Dr. Darshitaben Shah, the Rajkot District Administration (Collectorate) signed this MoU with INTACH. According to Rajkot District Collector and DM, Shri Prabhav Joshi IAS, **the MoU focuses on initiating a collaborative effort on preservation, conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of historic sites and buildings from Rajkot District.** The efforts put by the Rajkot Chapter focuses at safeguarding the heritage of Rajkot for maintaining cultural integrity, promoting economic prosperity, and nurturing a sense of cultural identity and pride within the community.

It is important to note here that Rajkot is uniquely characterized by its unique heritage. As the former capital of the princely state of Saurashtra, Rajkot's history is steeped in the royal legacy of the Jadeja Rajputs, evident in its majestic residential, educational, recreational as well as military architecture. This juxtaposition of regal heritage and Gandhian ethos creates a unique cultural tapestry, further enriched by the district's diverse communities, architectural gems, traditional crafts, and breathtaking natural landscapes. As identified by the team of heritage enthusiasts from the Rajkot Chapter of INTACH, there are around 100+ heritage buildings and sites in Rajkot District. The rich and diverse heritage distinguishes Rajkot as a geographically and culturally important destination that seamlessly weaves together history, culture, and natural beauty.

Under this MoU, the Rajkot District Administration will provide necessary administrative support and facilitate access to historical sites and help in acquiring approvals and clearances. On the other hand, INTACH will provide technical expertise in heritage conservation, help mobilize resources, including funds and skilled professionals and collaborate with experts and relevant stakeholders. The INTACH Team will take steps to initiate best conservation practices for the protection of historic monuments and revive its glory. As per INTACH Rajkot Chapter Convener, Ar. Riddhi Shah, **'heritage is a living entity and has evolved and adapted with time.** It is important for all of us to take necessary actions for its preservation. INTACH Team works with the motto 'Our Heritage, Our Pride, Our Responsibility'.

1 • L to R

Collector and DM (Rajkot) Shri. Prabhav Joshi IAS, H.H.Mandhattasinhji Jadeja from the erstwhile Royal Family of Rajkot, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Rambhai Mokariya, Mayor (Rajkot) Smt. Naynaben Pedhadiya, MLA (Gujarat) Dr. Darshitaben Shah, and Convener, INTACH Rajkot Ar. Riddhi Shah

2 • Hon'ble Minister of Tourism (GoG), Shri Mulubhai Bera graces the occasion; Opening of the State Protected Monument - Jam Tower premise after Phase 1 restoration and congratulates INTACH Members for their work on preserving heritage







1

This gesture of signing MoU is etched in time and a moment of pride for the individual as well as institutional members. The MoU was signed at the Inauguration of the recently restored State Protected Monument 'Jam Tower'. The restoration work was done by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, GOG and Rajkot District Collector appreciated INTACH Student Members; Maitry, Niyati, Palak, Bhavi, Akshesh, Rishi, and Kishan, for conducting a systematic architectural documentation of the tower as an important step that led to its restoration. All the members wish to take this collaboration ahead and conduct meaningful initiatives.

## Himachal Pradesh

### DHARAMSHALA

Members of the Dharamshala chapter met with new Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Berwa and discussed the ongoing and upcoming (proposed) projects. He promised to extend a helping hand and to allow space for the chapter office. A District Cultural Council, consisting of six govt. officers and about eight non-official members mainly from INTACH with the District Language Officer as the member secretary, has been constituted under the chairmanship of the DC. The council has been entrusted with the job of publishing a quarterly magazine, "Dhauladhar Suman", with articles on the state's art and cultural heritage and organizing a quarterly Dhauladhar art festival to patronize folk artists and traditional art and culture.

1 • Heritage site visit to Bani Mandir Taloor- Samba – J&K Chapter

2 • Signing of The MOU With Sardar Patel University - Himachal Pradesh



2

## Jammu & Kashmir

### JAMMU

To mark INTACH's 40th Foundation Day on 27 January, the Jammu Chapter organized a gathering of members including the Convenor, Coordinators and special invitees. Convenor S.M. Sahni highlighted the day's significance, while UT Convenor Saleem Beg detailed INTACH's mission, history, expansion and mission. The discussions led to two resolutions: organizing mass awareness programmes on J&K's cultural heritage and advocating for its inclusion in the academic curriculum.

### UDHAMPUR (SUB-CHAPTERJAMMU)

The Sub-Chapter hosted a workshop on the renowned Basohli School of painting at SIKS Boys Model Higher Secondary School with Smt. Renu Kotwal, officiating Principal, as Chief Guest. History teacher Anu Kumari elucidated on the history and features of Basohli Painting while renowned artist Shri Surinder Singh Blowria served as the resource person. Approximately 30 class 9 students participated, learning basic Basohli Techniques and colour usage with natural pigments. Co-Convenor Anil Paba highlighted the workshop's goal to preserve this part of our cultural heritage.

## Jharkhand

### HAZARIBAGH

## Obituary

JUSTIN IMAM - Life Member, INTACH  
(04.04.1974 - 13.01.2024)





The Chapter mourns the passing of Life Member Justin Imam, eldest son of Convenor Bulu Imam. Justin played a pivotal role in promoting Jharkhand's Sohrai and Khovar village art, initially brought to light by his father in 1993. He curated and exhibited this art nationwide, securing the GI Tag in 2019 through his Virasat Trust. Justin's efforts extended globally with over a dozen international exhibitions in Japan, Paris, and India. His initiatives included promoting Sohrai mural painting in various forums, notably at the United Nations in Geneva. Justin's untimely demise at 49 leaves a significant void in the art community, with his contributions deeply cherished and missed.

## Karnataka

### BELAGAVI

The Chapter hosted the "Music for a Goddess" programme on 24 January, featuring a screening of a DVD by Prof. Amy Catlin Jairazbhoy from the University of California, an expert in Indian and Western Classical music for over 30 years. The event showcased virtuoso performances by practitioners, including Jogtis and Jogapas, alongside discussions on the mythological tales of Goddess Yallamma of Saundatti and the Chaundke instrument. Vinod Doddanavar, co-convenor, pledged to preserve the rich heritage of songs and music played on the Chaundke. Attendees engaged in lively discussions with Prof. Jairazbhoy, a dedicated music scholar and performer, who shared insights into her extensive research across India. The event, coordinated by Member Swatee Jog, attracted a diverse audience, including history and music students, music enthusiasts, and culture aficionados.

### BIJAPUR

The Chapter released the 2024 calendar showcasing 12 lesser-known monuments of Bijapur's rich historical tapestry on 9 January. The calendar was released by Dr. V.G. Sangam and Dr. Aravind Patil. Dr. Sangam urged efforts to elevate lesser-known monuments. Dr. Krishna Kolharkulkarni introduced INTACH programmes. The event was attended by VIPs and engineering college students. Subsequently, a "Lesser Known Monuments" competition drew participation from 65 students from 9 schools on 21 January

fostering awareness and participation in heritage preservation efforts. A copy of "Young INTACH" Kannada's special issue was given to all students. Such competitions will definitely prove useful to popularise lesser known monuments also.

### DHARWAD

The Dharwad Chapter held a GB Meeting on 3 February where Co-Convenor Timmapur updated the participants on the Malkambh workshop progress. A team of five will visit Gram Panchayat offices to raise awareness on the preservation of "Hero Stones". Members were briefed on a Zoom meeting attended by key officials and discussed expenditure for the "Lesser Known Monuments" poster competition.

### MANGALORE

The Mangalore Chapter hosted the national poster competition on My Monument Search on 24 February. The event, held at Canara High School in Urwa, saw participation from 29 students representing seven schools. Despite the lower-than-expected turnout, due to class 8 and 9 students being occupied with preparatory exams, the competition proceeded smoothly. Drawings with accompanying write-ups were dispatched to Delhi after the event concluded with refreshments.

*Members of INTACH Belagavi Chapter*



- 1 • Khelo Madhya Pradesh Programme at Happy Days School - Shivpuri Chapter  
2 • Dhar Chapter - A Talk on local music

## Madhya Pradesh

### BHOPAL

The Bhopal Chapter hosted a heritage walk for members at Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, focusing on conserving the Gond period Ginnorgarh Fortification complex. 60 kms from Bhopal, the 15th Century fort lies in a dense forest. INTACH documented the complex extensively and installed signage. The chapter also undertakes regular cleaning of water bodies in the area, now a tiger sanctuary. Members enjoyed the pleasant Sunday weather, learning about the region's rich heritage.

In another activity, during a clean-up of an old state-era building, the Chapter uncovered baked bricks engraved with Persian inscriptions reading "TameeratImaarat", indicating building construction. Numerous such bricks were found, typical of government buildings in Bhopal state's period. The discovery, including bricks of varied dimensions and markings, sheds light on the construction of public buildings over 200 years ago. INTACH Bhopal is researching similar bricks across the division for common features and dimensions.

### DATIA

The Chapter organized a painting competition for students from 11-12 schools, aiming to educate the new generation about historical



landmarks in Datia, including the revered Maa Pitambara temple and Maharaj Veer Singh Dev's ancient palace. Dr. Ranjana Bundela, Chairman of Lancer Public School, emphasised the importance of such initiatives while historian Ravi Thakur highlighted the need to preserve Datia's rich history and encouraged students to actively engage with their heritage. Numerous prominent figures and students participated.

### DHAR

The Dhar Chapter organized a "Vanishing Tattoo Arts Workshop" on 16 December 2023, celebrating the ancient artistry of primitive tattooing. Dr. Sadhna Chauhan and tribal artist Anoop Shrivastava highlighted tattooing's cultural significance to children from five schools. Earlier on 8 December, a talk on "Dhar's Heritage Today & Tomorrow" underscored the global importance of Dhar's archaeological richness. Historians Abhyudaya Kelkar, Dr. BL Chauhan, and others stressed the need for heritage preservation.

### MANDLA

During INTACH's 40th anniversary celebration, Member A.K. Shukla addressed students on the need to preserve Indian traditions, attire, and culinary heritage. He warned against media saturation eroding these customs and urged them to adopt elders' practices and learning from their life experiences. Convenor Arun Aggarwal detailed INTACH's mission, emphasizing on safeguarding century-old edifices like temples. Co-Convenor Vijay Aggarwal advised on preserving ancient treasures in government museums and environmental advocate RK Kshatriya discussed water conservation and pollution control, proposing tourism promotion for local employment. The event encouraged student engagement in district-level initiatives, lauding the school's environmental efforts.

## Maharashtra

### AMRAVATI

Convenor, Dr. Jayant Wadtkar and Amravati Climbing Association led members in tricolour flag hoisting and climbing initiative on four forts in the district as part of a state-wide initiative across 350 forts as part of the Chatrapati Shi-



vaji's 350th coronation anniversary by All-Maharashtra Mountaineering Federation. It covered Gawilgarh, Amner and Achalpur forts, concluding at Bhuikot Fort's Ambergate on 26 January.

Amravati Chapter commemorated World Wetlands Day with a Chatri Lake cleaning and bird-watching programme on 2 February, along with Wildlife and Environment Conservation Society and Maharashtra Pakshimitra. The lake, a vital habitat for migratory and local bird species, faced pollution due to construction and waste disposal, leading to declining bird populations. Around 200 college students participated. Experts Prof. Gajanan Wagh and Dr. Jayant Watkar shed light on wetlands' significance and Chhatri Lake's biodiversity challenges, guiding students in bird watching and clean-up efforts

**CHANDRAPUR**

On the occasion of the 67th National Athletics Tournament 2023-24 at Ballarpur, Chandrapur, the Chapter invited Hon. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Hon. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to release the Chandrapur Gazetteer volume 1 & 2 in the presence of Minister of Culture Affairs Sudhir Mungantiwar and Minister of Sports Sanjay Bansode.

**NAGPUR**

The Nagpur Chapter celebrated INTACH's 40th Foundation Day with an immersive visit to Chitnavis Wada by children from Essence International School. Guided by Dr. Madhura Rathod, the students explored the Wada, the tales of its architectural grandeur, art, lifestyle, and Nagpur's social history. Through interactive sessions, they

learned and documented the significance of collectively preserving historical sites and understanding the stories and traditions that have shaped our past as well as the importance of INTACH's mission.

**PUNE**

The Pune Chapter hosted its 20th annual heritage treasure hunt on 7 January, themed around astrology. 45 teams with 150 participants navigated 12 heritage sites through constellations while solving questionnaires, competing for prizes worth Rs.25,000. Later in the month, INTACH partnered with Pune River Revival group for the Rights of Rivers campaign launch on January 26-28. The event featured various activities including a Powada on Pune Rivers, remembering activists like Professor GD Agrawal, and Rajendra Singh's talk on river rights.

The Chapter revived its monthly heritage walks, including tours of BohriAali and St. Mary's Church, led by members Dr. ShubhadaKamalapurkar and Dr. Pushkar Sohoni, and customized walks for groups.

In other activities, a lecture on "Sacred Landscapes of Ayodhya" and a workshop on "Re-Exploration of Lime" on historic locations were organized by Dr. Kamalapurkar and Dr. Vaishali Latkar. A workshop showcasing the restoration work of St. Crispin's Church was also organized in collaboration with AESA Pune and Nasadeeya, featuring demonstrations and talks by experts. The Chapter showcased heritage books at the Pune Book Festival in an outreach to book enthusiasts.



1 • Amravati Chapter - Flag hoisting

2 • Release of Chandrapur Gazetteer volume 1 & 2

3 • Heritage wall at Bohri aali

4 • Nagpur Chapter - Heritage Site visit 2024





*Inauguration of  
Ferozepur Chapter*

#### SOLAPUR

The Solapur Chapter hosted the "My Monument Search Poster Competition " engaged over 132 students from 15 schools on 2 January, overseen by Co-Convenor Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar. A heritage walk, highlighting Solapur's urban development, was conducted for Sinhgad College of Architecture students on 4 January by Co-Convenor Ar. Shveta Kothavale. Convenor Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar presented a research paper at a state-level conference, and the Chapter celebrated "Jala Teertha Deepotsav " on 8 March. Earlier in December, a "Traditional Games and Songs Workshop " was organized by Mrs. Gargi Kale and Mrs. Sumedha Bhuskute and facilitated by Co-Convenor Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar with 55 students from 11 schools participating.

#### Orissa

##### BHADRAK

The Bhadrak Chapter hosted its 14th annual function on 25 February. Led by Convenor Digambar Mohanty, the event featured speakers, including retired IPS Amiya Bhusan Tripathy and retired Doordarshan Director Baikuntha Nath Panigrahi. Discussions encompassed modern youth culture and Bhadrak's literary heritage.

Earlier on 10 December 2023, 40 members of the Chapter embarked on a family trip to Hadgarh in

Keonjhar District. They explored heritage sites like Bhairabi Temple and Jagannath Temple at Bancho, Chakratirha, the natural beauty of Gadchandi and Sundarapal, and the significance of the Hadagarh dam in showcasing Odisha's rich heritage.

#### CUTTACK

On 1 March 2024, INTACH Cuttack Chapter celebrated AloodumDahibaraDivasa near Killa Fort, highlighting the city's signature dish. The event aimed to raise public awareness about the iconic street food. Convenor Gopal Krishna Behera, Co-Convenor Dr. Dipak Samantrai, and members honored local vendors for their contribution. Earlier, on 7 February 2024, a meeting convened by Convenor Behera discussed preserving heritage buildings in Cuttack, including Ravenshaw University and Shailabala Women's College. Plans were made to revitalize the Chapter's activities.

#### Punjab

##### AMRITSAR

On 13 February, Amritsar Chapter organized a painting competition at Bhai Veer Singh Ji Niwas showcasing lesser-known monuments. Army Public School, Springdale, B.A.S. Riarki Public School, and S.K.D. Khalsa Senior Secondary School partnered in the event. Students painted under the shade of a 150-year-old tree, depicting lesser-known built heritage. Retired Professor Parminder Kaur Hundal enlightened them about preserving Punjab's heritage and Gagandeep Singh Virk honored the participants with certificates and nature-inspired titles. The event inspired kids to cherish nature and preserve historical monuments.

##### FIROZPUR

In a bid to protect heritage and boost tourism, INTACH launched a new chapter in Ferozepur. Educationist and historian Dr. Anirudh Gupta, appointed as Convenor, unveiled the initiative under which efforts will be made to promote tourism and protect the historical and tourism places of Ferozepur. The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dhiman, who lauded INTACH's efforts, assuring administrative backing for tourism ventures, and Punjab Convenor Ma-



Major General (Retd.) Balwinder Singh, who highlighted the pivotal role of heritage preservation. Dr. Gupta emphasized Ferozpur's rich historical landscape, foreseeing a surge in tourism and economic growth. Co-Convenor Vikramaditya Sharma expressed gratitude, marking the chapter's inauguration as a significant stride in heritage conservation.

#### MALERKOTLA

The Malerkotla Chapter organized several activities, including a cleanliness drive around Mubarak Manzil Palace and motivational sessions in schools. Team members cleared debris, collected waste, and engaged with the Begum Sahiba to address palace deterioration. Their expertise led to the successful renovation of a neglected canopy (gumbaz) by the municipal committee, showcasing the effective use of Nanakshahi Bricks and lime.

## Rajasthan

#### ALWAR

The Alwar Chapter organized "One Step Towards Heritage", a district-level workshop on heritage conservation and promotion on 9 December 2023, at Rajasthan State Bharat Scouts & Guides Training Institute. Chief Guest Ghanshyam Gurjar inaugurated the event, joined by CO Scout Kalpana Sharma and Convenor Sunita Mittal. 91 scouts, guides and trainee girl students participated, focusing on Alwar's historical and natural heritage. Eminent Alwar scholar and historian Harishankar Goyal delivered essential insights into the historical heritage of Alwar, including Bhim Bhetka of Virat Nagar from the Mahabharata period, the Jain temple of Pandupol, Tijara, while Niranjana Singh Rajput shared insights on Sariska Sanctuary. Camp officials from INTACH also contributed. Ms. Sharma expressed gratitude, advocating for future training programmes to protect heritage.

#### BARAN

The Varah Nagari Chapter organized a three-day festival to raise public awareness about neglected ancient treasures, archaeological heritage, and historically significant sites within the district. The event included poster and es-

say competitions, adventure games, street plays and a heritage rally. Led by District Organization Commissioner Pradeep Chittaura, scouts participated in cleaning the Manihara Mahadev Temple park and disposing of single-use plastic waste. This was followed by ayatra to Nagdeshwar Mahadev, which was also cleaned up by the scouts. Convenor Jitendra Kumar Sharma and Dr. Manoj Kumar Singhoria shared insights on archaeology and nature.

The Chapter initiated a campaign to uncover a 2,000 to 2,500-year-old civilization from excavating the ancient mound of Kunjed. MLA Radheshyam Bairwa praised the effort while flagging off the Baran to Kunjed heritage trip. The team excavated archaeological sites and collected ancient earthen pots, to be carbon-dated for determining their age under the guidance of the Convenor.

#### BARMER

The Barmer Chapter organized a one-day art and craft workshop on 8 December 2023. Craft experts taught traditional skills to 70 participants from Multanmal Bhikchand Chhajed Government Hr. Secondary School and Government Girls Hr. Secondary School divided into four groups. Bhura Ram demonstrated rope and fiber crafts, while Kewal Ram taught applique cut work. Jamin Khan instructed them on jewellery-making with clay, and Zarina Banotaught cloth mukka work. The workshop finished with a display of the students' works and distribution of certificates. District Industries Centre GM Sahiram praised



1 • Malerkotla Chapter Activities

2 • Baran - A three-day festival organized by the Chapter



1 • *Heritage Walk at Nagaur  
Fort A Cultural Journey -  
Nagaur Chapter*

2 • *Camel festival and heritage  
walk - Bikaner Chapter*

INTACH's role in preserving traditional crafts, urging for more such workshops to keep endangered arts alive. Convenor Om Joshi highlighted INTACH's efforts in conservation and promotion of heritage. Principal Kailash Kanwar Bhati commended students' creativity, emphasizing the importance of skill-based workshops in fostering creativity. Handicraft expert Purushottam Khatri stressed the need to revive traditional arts and motivate parents to teach them to their children. Co-Convenor Sanjay Ramawat expressed gratitude, with former Convenor Yashovardhan Sharma and other art enthusiasts present.

BIKANER

The Bikaner Chapter celebrated INTACH Heritage Day on 27 January 2024 at Sabha Bhavan in Rotary Club Bikaner. Chapter members participated in the camel festival and heritage walk from Rampuriya Haveli to Raw Bikaji Takery.

MARWAR/JODHPUR

On 30 January 2024, the HECS Division and INTACH Jodhpur Chapter collaborated to host the "My Monument Search" Poster Competition at Sursagar Palace. Despite school engagements, 53 students from seven schools participated, painting and writing about various historical sites including Jalore and Amber Forts. Mr. Shailesh Mathur, Senior Manager of Mehrangarh Museum Trust, shared insights into Sursagar Palace's restoration, highlighting its preservation standards. Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, INTACH Convenor, emphasized the importance of

such events in nurturing children's creativity and connecting them with Marwar's heritage. Special guest Konark Vidyalaya Director Pukhraj Ramawat underscored the significance of heritage awareness among children. Refreshments were provided, and INTACH Jodhpur Chapter members and school representatives attended, expressing gratitude for the successful event.

NAGOUR

The Chapter organized a Heritage Walk at Nagaur Fort on 17 February, delving into its rich history and architectural marvels with knowledgeable narrators. The Heritage Walk coincided with the Nagaur Cattle Fair, celebrating the city's heritage amidst a vibrant livestock market.

On 30 January, the chapter convened a workshop to preserve and restore Khatu's key historical monuments of the Khatu Shyam Temple and Khatu Fort. Local authorities, historians and architects collaborated to assess the conditions and propose conservation strategies including architectural conservation, community engagement by raising awareness and generating funds through sustainable tourism.

Tamil Nadu

In 2018, during a collaboration between INTACH and the Cambodian government for heritage conservation, Chairman L.K. Gupta encountered a significant French tome by Jacques Gaucher on Tamil Nadu's temples. Recognizing its im-





portance, Gupta proposed translating "From the Temple to the Town in Tamil Nadu: Tantalizing Tale of a Translated Tome" into English, which Gaucher agreed to. Despite initial difficulties finding a translator, the AH Division took on the task internally. In 2020, Dr. S. Suresh was invited to edit, review, and proofread the translation, and he meticulously revised the manuscript, incorporating inputs from French-speaking colleagues. Field visits in 2021 informed the Epilogue, detailing changes since Gaucher's original surveys. The revised translation, along with new photographs, was submitted in December 2021, approved by Gaucher with minor changes, and released in December 2023. The 530-page hard-bound tome includes numerous photographs, maps, and architectural drawings, focusing on the relationship between temples and surrounding residences in Tamil Nadu. The work fills a gap in previous studies, documenting traditional architectural typologies threatened by modern development. The Epilogue offers recommendations, highlighting the need for archaeological investigations, particularly in Shirangam, and shows INTACH's role in conserving these sites. This translation will make the book more accessible and useful to a larger circle of scholars, researchers, students, town planners, policy makers and others. As a result of the dedicated work of the AH Division, the attractively produced tome is itself a work of art.

#### CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Convenors' Conference took place on 6 January to discuss various activities, including commemorating the 75th year of India's Independence and organizing heritage walks, a talk on the relevance of Gandhi, and a special edition of recordings of living memories of the day, a cycling tour, an exhibition of photos and a book discussion. In another event, architect J. Ramanan and Bharatnatyam dancer Vrinda, both passionate mountaineers, delivered a talk on the critical significance of the Western Ghats and urgent need of conserving their biodiversity.

#### KODAIKANAL

World-renowned rosarian and the senior-most Chapter Member M.S. 'Viru' Viraraghavan passed away on the 20 December 2023, leaving

a big void in Kodaikanal and the world of roses. Viru's passion for roses began in his teens and at the age of 40 he quit the IAS and moved to Kodaikanal to hybridize and create roses for warm climates. He was a major contributor to INTACH Kodaikanal's heritage book and also restored a 100-year-old sunken rose garden at St John's (Belgian) Convent. He was a wonderful friend and mentor with a keen sense of humour. Viru, you are missed!

#### SALEM

The Chapter conducted a competition of the traditional South Indian art form Kolam and a workshop on the now-disappearing flower braiding. The origin of the kolam beautiful art form can be traced back to the Sangam Literature from 300 BCE, where it was mentioned in various places.

#### Telagana

#### WARANGAL

On 8 February, Shri G Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development, inaugurated the newly renovated KalyanaMantapa of Thousand Pillar Temple. Prof. M Pandu Ranga Rao was felicitated for his contributions to the restoration. The project, initiated by ASI in 2005, employed sandbox technology and granular piles for the foundation, adhering to agama sastra principles and ensuring the monument's sustainability for the next millennium. This marks a milestone for the Warangal Chapter.

Additionally, a field trip to Ghanpur temples enlightened engineering students on Kakatiya con-



1 • Chennai Chapter - "SHADOW PUPPETRY" Talk & performance on January 10, 2024

2 • Prof M Pandu Ranga Rao explaining the restoration of Nandi at the Thousand Pillar Temple

3 • Felicitation to Prof Pandu Ranga Rao on the eve of Commemoration of Kalyana Mandapa, Thousand Pillar Temple







1 • Executive meeting - Meerut Chapter

2 • A delegation of INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter Members - Gorakhpur

3 • Foundation day celebrated in Ayodhya Chapter

struction techniques and another to Orugonda village stepped well created student awareness on the importance of conservation of our heritage for future generations on 27 January 2024. The students and teachers participated in cleaning of the stepped well which was fully covered with bushes and shrubs.

## Uttar Pradesh

### AYODHYA

Under the auspices of the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) Division, the Ayodhya Chapter organized the 'My Monument Search' essay and write-up competition for 11 schools on 28 January at JB Academy. This event was integrated into the Foundation Day celebration and was addressed by Mr. Dharmendra Mishra, Director of Technical, Art & Material Heritage Division, who gave valuable insights into lesser-known heritage sites in Ayodhya. He shared knowledge on identifying monuments, the materials used, architectural styles, folklore, and the use of documents and books to ascertain the period. Additionally, the Awadh Kala Utsav celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the region.

### GORAKHPUR

A delegation of the Gorakhpur chapter led by Convenor Mahabir Prasad Kandoi met vice-chancellor of Gorakhpur University, Prof. Madhu Tandon. The team thanked the VC for the support from faculty for various heritage-related activities and requested continued cooperation and permission for a heritage volunteer course. It also discussed the transfer of artifacts found



in various excavations done by the university to the Purvanchal Museum for greater academic accessibility.

### MEERUT

On 21 January, the Chapter organized a seminar titled "Continuing Relevance of Ramayana" across three venues: R.G. Girls P.G. College, Yodha Military Academy, and R.G. Girls Inter College. Co-Convenor A.K. Johari led the proceedings with Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, ret'd. Divisional Commissioner, delivering the keynote address. Eminent scholars and social figures shared insights. Earlier, on 10 January, World Hindi Day was commemorated with felicitated city poets with patkas and mementos.

### PRAYAGRAJ

Chapter members visited the fort of Raja Jaichand in Kada (Kaushambi) on the banks of the Ganga and an adjacent stupa to assess their deteriorating condition and defacement with graffiti. In a statement, Chapter Convenor Shambhu Chopra and Co-Convenor Anupam Parihar committed to write to the Central office for action to save this heritage. Members later also visited Sant Malukdas site and Shitala Dham temple.

On 4 February, the Chapter organized a very interesting talk by renowned cell biologist Dr. Ajay Kumar Sonker on "Spirituality & Religion: A Scientist's Perspective". The discourse culminated with the audience asking questions and presentation of the book "Prayagraj ki Dharmikarama adhyatmik Virasat" by Mr. Anupam Parihar to the speaker.





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**VARANASI**

The Varanasi Chapter held its annual meet alongside Vasant Utsav on 2 March, which was attended by 85 members, who were brought up to date with the year's events, the Heritage Walk programme and the Virasat Darshan lecture series. Mr. Pulkit Garg, vice-chairman of Varanasi Development Authority, invited collaboration with INTACH Varanasi in heritage projects. The event featured a Pakhawaj and Sarangi duet and Kissagoi, an ancient storytelling art.

On 21 February, the chapter organized a heritage walk for students of SJB School of Planning and Architecture, Bangalore, to sites like Gopal Mandir, Panchganga Ghat and Alamgir Mosque. Earlier, on 15 February, school students were taken on a field visit to Man Mahal Virtual Museum and Observatory to enrich their understanding of astronomy and historical architecture. On 28 January, there was a South Indian Heritage Walk exploring sites in the Hanuman Ghat area attended by 40 members. The walk included visits to

Kashi Kamakoti Panchayat Temple and Kanchi Shankar Muth, enriching participants' understanding of Varanasi's diverse heritage.

**Uttarakhand**

**MUSSOORIE**

The Mussoorie chapter organized the Mussoorie Heritage Walk Festival on 27 December with a birding walk with Jabarkhet Nature Reserve team on Camel's Back road led by Sejal Worah and Landour Bazaar heritage walk led by Surbhi Agarwal from Mussoorie Heritage Centre. This bazaar is the wealthiest in terms of architectural heritage, art, craft and cultural heritage; old Colonial and native style buildings; specialized shops, tailors, shoemakers, antique stores, jewellers, ironsmiths and so on. The walk culminated at Mussoorie Heritage Centre where the history of Mussoorie is displayed and VR art space.

- 1 • Spirituality & Religion A Scientist's Perspective – Prayagraj Chapter
- 2 • Ashok Kapoor Convener explaining about Virasat DARSHAN series and introducing the subject- Varanasi Chapter
- 3 • INTACH 40th foundation day was celebrated - Varanasi Chapter
- 4 • Mussoorie Heritage Walk Festival - Mussoorie Chapter



3



4

## Lesser Known Heritage

In the rich repository of India's cultural heritage, some elements of it are lesser known. This section is an attempt to acquaint the citizens to such heritage gems, which might otherwise go unnoticed.



**Dr Ramona M Sangma**  
Co-Convenor,  
INTACH Meghalaya Chapter

### The Saga of the Endangered Art of Traditional Pottery from Siju, Meghalaya

The art of traditional pottery from Siju, made from clay procured from the banks of the river Simsang is now an almost forgotten art, with only two women remaining at present who are skilled in the craft.

Mirella and her sister-in-law, residents of Siju, South Garo Hills, are Atongs, a subtribe of the Garos, who have their own dialect distinct from the more common Garo language in use at present.

The Atongs of Siju are akin to the fishermen tribes found in other parts of the world, as they have always depended on the Simsang river for their sustenance and survival. Thus, they have a rich cultural heritage comprising of an ancient lifestyle, traditional pottery, cuisine which mostly involves produce sourced from the river, and a traditional mode of transportation such as rafts and wooden dugouts which are also lived in during the days and nights they venture out in the vast river.



*Mirella and her sister-in-law talking to the Author*



Mirella admits that pottery made in the traditional way, taught and passed down by older generations is no longer lucrative, as more durable items are readily available in the market. Nevertheless, she uses her skills and knowledge as a means of continuing an age old tradition, although she worries that the knowledge will die with her as the younger generation do not show interest in learning the art. Moreover, the special clay traditionally collected from a particular site is becoming difficult to acquire due to silt and sedimentation, arising out of the many human activities that have caused change to the river and its banks.

About the craft, Mirella says, "I really don't remember at what age I started learning this art from my mother. I was a child when I began assisting her while she made the pots. I learnt by watching and helping her how to make pots for cooking, storing water, steaming rice, in a way our forefathers made and used them."

About the clay that her husband collects for her from the banks of Simsang, she says, "We only used the clay from one particular area. It's the only one that suits our methods. We tried using different types of clay, but they are brittle and break easily."

The tools that are used are handmade wooden items for breaking, kneading and mixing the clay. Moulding is done by hand, and the vessels made are often for cooking various everyday meals.



*Traditional Clay Pots of Siju, Meghalaya*

Mirella and her sister-in-law's efforts have not gone unnoticed. More than a decade ago, a small workshop was built for at her residence in Siju which was funded by the Govt. of Meghalaya, as an aid to her small industry. Recently, her efforts have been further acknowledged and her items are being displayed and sold at Meghalayan Age - The Store in Delhi.

Her clay pots are often displayed and sold at various industrial exhibitions in the State and her craft has gained significant popularity in the past few years. She hopes that the increased attention to this traditional pottery will motivate her daughter and grandchildren to learn from her.

Mirella often receives visitors in her home who come to see her workshop and buy her items, but she has not yet found anybody willing to dedicate time in earnest to learn this ancient art from her.



*Another pottery design from Siju*

# Objectives of INTACH

- To create and stimulate an awareness among the public for the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of India.
- To undertake measures for the preservation and conservation of natural resources and cultural properties.
- To undertake measures for the preservation of not only historic buildings but also of historic quarters and towns, domestic architecture displaying artistic and skilled craftsmanship.
- To undertake the documentation of cultural and natural heritage.
- To undertake pilot conservation projects.
- To promote the preservation of traditional arts and crafts.
- To create a suitable forum for the exchange of ideas and techniques to facilitate study, courses, workshops, conferences, etc.
- To undertake the publications of journals, books, newsletter posters in furtherance of the objectives of the Society.
- To set up and maintain libraries and information centers to facilitate the study of cultural and natural heritage.
- To constitute chapters in India to promote the objectives of the Society.