



INTACH
DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION

CHAPTERS NEWSLETTER

Issue 02 - April to July 2025

Release of INTACH Documentary Film "Kan-Kan Mein Ram"

Dear Heritage Enthusiasts

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) organised a special screening for the release of its documentary film "Kan-Kan Mein Ram" on 23rd July 2025 at INTACH Multipurpose Hall, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India, along with senior officials, scholars, and invited guests. The Hon'ble Minister was warmly welcomed by Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, and Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), Member Secretary, INTACH and other officials. Sh. Thakur said INTACH's sphere of work covers a whole range of diverse initiatives in tangible, intangible and natural heritage, as well as work with schools, crafts and publications, to ensure the proper promotion and dissemination of our glorious heritage.

The documentary offers an in-depth look at the various representations of the Ramayana in India, spanning diverse forms such as ritualistic performances, dance-dramas, and puppetry. Notable traditions featured include the Yakshgana and Uppinikudru puppetry of Karnataka, Lanka Podi Yatra and Ravan Chaya in Odisha, Sattriya traditions in Assam, Mewati Bhang performance, and the Ramnami Samaj in Chhattisgarh. The film celebrates the cultural diversity and enduring legacy of the Ramayana as seen through the lens of India's performing arts. In his remarks the Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts of the INTACH team and the filmmakers in presenting the story of the Ramayana as a historical and cultural narrative, and a living tradition that binds the entire country with its universal message.

Honourable Minister remarked that India is undergoing a period of cultural renaissance in which organizations like INTACH play a pivotal role. He elaborated that given INTACH's four decades of experience in the cultural heritage field in India, it has consistently delivered authentic and quality work.

Warm regards,

*Gp. Capt. Arvind Shukla (Retd.)
Director (Chapters)*



The Hon'ble Minister lighting the Lamp of Knowledge



Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman INTACH, giving the welcome address



Shri Ravindra Singh, Member Secretary INTACH, giving the opening remarks

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Contents

| S. No. | Descriptions | Page No. |
|--------|---|---|
| 1. | Appointments | 03 - 03 |
| 2. | Chapter Activities (State Wise):- Andaman & Nicobar Andhra Pradesh Assam and Kamrup Bihar Chhattisgarh Gujarat Haryana Himachal Pradesh Jammu & Kashmir Karnataka Kerala Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Manipur Orissa Punjab Rajasthan Tamil Nadu Telangana Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand West Bengal | 04 - 04 04 - 09 10 - 10 11 - 15 15 - 20 20 - 21 21 - 26 26 - 33 33 - 35 36 - 41 42 - 46 46 - 59 59 - 75 75 - 81 81 - 82 82 - 94 94 - 114 114 - 125 125 - 127 127 - 148 148 - 149 149 - 151 |
| 3. | Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) Activities | 152 - 166 |
| 4. | Articles: - 1. Young Scouts of 1965 War. 2. Buddhist Fable Story: Padakusalmanavaka Jataka: Tangible and Intangible Studies of - Prof. Dr. Chandrashekhar Gupta. 3. INTACH Unveiling the Prehistoric Legacy of Dolbaha. 4. The Glorious Teppakulam of Madurai. 5. Long Hidden Heritage- Monolithic Stone Ganapathi, 9th Cent. C.E., Bikkavolu, Andhra Pradesh. | 167 - 176 |



Appointments

| INTACH New Appointments (April to June, 2025) | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| The INTACH warmly welcomes the newly appointed Conveners, Co-Conveners and Additional Co-Conveners of its Chapters. | | | | |
| State | Chapters | Convener | Co-Convener | Addl. Co-Convener |
| April, 2025 | | | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | Damoh | Dr Sudha Malaiya | Prof (Dr) Pawan Kumar Jain | Dr Prafull Sharma |
| May, 2025 | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh State | - | Ms Kari Lomb | - |
| Rajasthan | Shekhawati | - | Shri Tarun Thakral | - |
| Bihar | Bihar State | Shri Bhairab Lal Das | - | - |
| June 2025 | | | | |
| Odisha | Sambalpur | Shri Deepak Kumar Panda | Dr Bibhudatta Pramod Kumar Mishra | - |
| Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh State | - | - | Dr Sanjay Mehrotra (2 nd Addl. Co-Convener) |
| Bihar | Bihar State | - | Dr Shiva Kumar Mishra | - |
| Madhya Pradesh | Gwalior | Shri Vikas Singh | Shri Chandradeep Singh | - |
| Odisha | Odisha State | Shri Biswajit Mohanty | - | - |
| Chhattisgarh | Korea | - | - | Dr Vinod Pandey |
| Uttar Pradesh | Jhansi | Shri Rajendra Kumar Rai | Shri Sushil Shailesh Agarwal | - |

UPDATION OF MEMBERSHIP DATA

Dear Members,

Membership data available with head office needs updating and cannot be completed without the active support of INTACH members. Chapter Division has frequently shared the data of undelivered ballot papers, Virasat, Agenda points to the concerned chapters requesting for updation. We kindly urge you to prioritize the updating of your membership data i.e. Residential Address, Mobile No. and E-mail ID, as this remains critical for the effective functioning and coordination of INTACH's initiatives. Despite the frequent communication updated membership details have not been received. Timely updates ensure accurate communication, resource allocation, and cost saving to INTACH. Members are requested to submit the details required to update their membership to the Chapter Division (chaptersdivision@gmail.com) at the earliest to strengthen our network and mission.



Chapters Activities

Andaman & Nicobar

World Turtle Day - 23rd May 2025

INTACH Andaman and Nicobar Chapter in association with SANE and with huge support from ANET celebrated the World Turtle Day at the Wandoor Marine Interpretation Centre.

About 35 children from different villages of Wandoor attended the celebration. Shri. Mohammad Hussain from the Forest Department explained about the flagship species of the marine national park. Shri. Arun Singh, a special invitee who is an encyclopedia in birds, emphasised on the need to protect crocodiles as they are an 'Umbrella' species which are a key to the survival of the mangrove's ecosystem.

Ms. Garima, through a vast knowledge on plastics made the children aware of the menace of plastics and their disastrous impact on our fragile ecosystem.

Shri. Rajesh Anand, member INTACH provided delicious refreshments to the children.

Ms. Mariam from ANET coordinated the event while Ms. Samhita Veda Acharya, Convener INTACH and Secretary, SANE, organised the event.



Celebrated the World Turtle Day at the Wandoor Marine Interpretation Centre- Andaman & Nicobar Chapter

Andhra Pradesh

Anantapur

World Heritage Day celebrations for the year 2025 conducted in Rotary English medium School Anantapur in association with Heritage club Rotary English medium School Anantapur. Smt Dr.V. Rajita Assistant Director Archaeology and Museums Government of Andhra Pradesh is the Chief guest of the function.

Anantapur chapter organised monuments poster exhibition.

Smt. V L Sreevalli special officer Rotary English medium School organised coins exhibition. Students of Heritage club Rotary English medium School performed two skits one on love of mother and another on famous industrialist Ratan Tata.

All the participants of the program took Swachh Bharat pledge on the occasion lead by Chief Guest. On the occasion Chief guest was felicitated.

Program concluded with the national anthem.





World Heritage Day Celebrations – Anantapur Chapter

Guntur

1. Protect nature, it protects you: INTACH Convener SVS Lakshminarayana

GUNTUR: Students and visitors were left amused when they went through a photo-exhibition jointly organized by AP Creative and Cultural Commission, Kala Peetham and Indian National Trust for Arts Culture and Heritage (INTACH). The four-day long exhibition being held at Hindu college of engineering drew hundreds of students from different educational institutions and locals from across the district. The photos at exhibition themed about migratory birds of Kolleru lake were captured by the internationally famed film maker and artistic lensman Vajranabh Nataraj Maharshi.

INTACH Convener SVS Lakshminarayana lauded the works of Vajranabh Natraaj Maharshi particularly in creation of awareness about nature, heritage and culture with his artistic pictures. “He is an ardent torchbearer to art and culture. Maharshi’ creative skills in making visual content made many visitors left speechless,” said Lakshminarayana.

He explained that Maharshi, a self-taught photographer, has a unique cinematic vision with the camera as he tells stories with a different style. He wanted the students and youth who visited the exhibition to start inculcating protection of nature. “We need birds, plants, animals, creatures in nature for the survival of human beings. Youth should know that if any bird/or animal has no place on the earth for its survival, the days are not far for humans too will find it difficult to survive on the earth. So, we need to protect nature for our own survival,” said Lakshminarayana.

Kala Peetham secretary and renowned artist S Vijay Kumar explained distinct features of his upcoming series Mystic-Mountainscapes. Vijay Kumar is credited with organizing several international art exhibitions with his stunning paintings. His focus on mountains made him a nature lover.

Filmmaker and photographer, Maharshi explained his ordeals in capturing the rare emotions of the birds. He explained to the children that he became an ace photographer after surviving a fatal accident chiefly because of his love for birds. He said that his pictures on Kolleru birds took him to the global scale. “We need to be patient with every living being in nature. Nature will protect us only when we protect it,” said Maharshi. AP creativity and cultural commission chairperson P Tejaswani and CEO Mallikharjuna Rao lauded the efforts of Kala Peetham and INTACH in spreading awareness about the heritage, nature and environment.



The four-day long exhibition being held at Hindu college of engineering – Guntur Chapter

2. Report of INTACH's Guntur chapter, in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, successfully organized a chess tournament for students under 15 years of age on June 9, 2025. The event was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and saw participation from 150 students across different schools. While speaking on the occasion Convener Sri SVS Lakhminarayana the primary objective of organizing this chess tournament was to promote strategic thinking, problem-solving skills, and sportsmanship among young students. It also provided a platform for students to showcase their talent and compete in a healthy environment. The event was well-received, and participants demonstrated remarkable skills and enthusiasm. The tournament not only promoted chess but also encouraged teamwork and healthy competition among the young participants.

Key Participants in the event are **Bhavan's Secretary**: P. Ramachandra Raju actively supported the event. - **INTACH's Guntur Convener**: SVS Lakshminarayana played a pivotal role in organizing the tournament. - **Chapter Members**: INTACH Guntur chapter members actively participated and contributed to the event's success.

Event Highlights

- **Participation**: 150 students from various schools participated in the tournament, showcasing a keen interest in chess.
- **Age Group**: The competition was specifically designed for students under 15 years, promoting chess among young minds.
- **Venue**: The tournament was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, providing a conducive environment for the competition.

3. The two-day art exhibition was jointly organized by Kalapeetam and INTACH Guntur Chapter to commemorate the 128th birth anniversary of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Seeta Ramaraju. Here are the details:

- Event Dates: July 3-4, 2025
- Venue: Hindu College of Management
- Chief Guest: Sri Lavu Krishna Devarayalu, Member of Parliament, inaugurated the exhibition
- Exhibition Highlights: The exhibition featured 18 great artists' paintings related to the life events of Alluri Seeta Ramaraju

This event aimed to celebrate the legacy of Alluri Seeta Ramaraju through art and promote awareness about his contributions to India's freedom struggle.



Chapter members PRC Raju, Kalapeetam Secretary Vijaykumar Somanchi K. SitaRamesh College Principal S. V. Ramana hundreds of students participated in the event.



Chess Tournament Programme – Guntur Chapter

Nandyal

The general body meeting of INTACH, Nandyal chapter conducted on 25th May 2025 at Yoga Consciousness trust, Nandyal. Presented the PPT on works done since inception of the Chapter and future plans. Sri K. Chinnappa Reddy, Governing Council member of INTACH attended as a Chief guest and addressed the gathering of existing members of Nandyal chapter and others. Honoured the family members of Prudhvi Subbarao who are involving in in Pagalankarana in Srisailam since decades.

Finally the election of new panel proposed and the members unanimously requested Sri M.V.Sivakumar Reddy as a Convener and K. Sethuraman as a Additional Co-Convener to continue and in place of Leelavathi Co- Convener (who resigned) Sri Katakam Raghuvеer elected by the members.

And the same was announced by Sri K. Chinnapureddy, Governing Council member of INTACH.

The new panel is as follows:

Sri M.V.Sivakumar Reddy - Convener

Sri K. Raghuvеer- Co- Convener

and K. Sethuraman as a Additional Co-Convener.

Concluded the meeting with vote of thanks from Sri Annem.Srinivasa Reddy a life member of INTACH Nandyal chapter.

Visakhapatnam

1. On 5 June on the eve of World Heritage Day, an interactive Zoom meeting was organized on the topic Plastic Pollution with Dr. K. Kameswara Rao, former Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental Science and members of Intach Vizag.
2. Received two Best Chapter Awards for organizing 1) Intach Heritage Quiz 2024 and 2) Celebrating India national poster marking competition.
3. Prepared a report with Details of a historical tank in Bheemunipatnam under Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation of Andhra Pradesh by Mr. P. Venkatarama Reddy, Life Member, INTACH Vizag.



4. On the invitation of the district collector to INTACH, Dr Surendra Kumar, Co Convener of INTACH Vizag chapter along with senior members Sri Edward Paul Garu, Sri Monish Rao Garu and Smt Renuka Rani Garu attended the district tourism council meeting at collectorate on 15th July at 7:00 p.m. District Collector & Magistrate Sri M N Haridhira Prasad Garu Chaired the meeting. VMRDA metropolitan Commissioner Sri K S Viswanathan was also present.

During the meeting, INTACH team had put forward all the concerns and suggestions regarding the Heritage structures and promotion of tourism in Visakhapatnam in front of the honourable district collector and District Tourism council.

Mr Monish Rao discussed the need for the government's push for the establishment of UNESCO designated national geo park in Visakhapatnam and he requested the collector to discuss the matter with the secretary of the mines and escalate the matter to the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh as establishment of such a geo park needs the unwavering commitment and support of the state government. THE COLLECTOR HAS AGREED TO PUT THIS ISSUE IN A ESTABLISHED DOCUMENT WHERE THE URGENT MATTERS OF THE DISTRICT ARE PUT UP TO CHIEF MINISTER SO THAT IT IS TAKEN TO CM.

He also requested the collector to invite and express the district administration's interest to GSI to conduct the international conference regarding National Geo parks in Visakhapatnam. The district collector responded positively and assured to extend all support in this regard. L AND WRITE TO GSI ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The district collector has requested the INTACH to identify and send proposals to renovate the Heritage structures in Visakhapatnam especially in the old town region, which require immediate attention.

For this, Sri Edward Paul Garu raised the point regarding the long-time pending proposal of renovating the Vizag's oldest government building and once upon a time the Collector's office and armory during British Raj, Queen Mary Girl's High School.

He also stressed the urgent need to erect the memorial of the first ever Sepoy mutiny in British India which had taken place in Visakhapatnam in October 1780. It was also highlighted that on the directions of the previous additional commissioner of GVMC, a place opposite Queen Mary Girl's High School was identified and the designs were also drawn by the AP Urban Infrastructure and Asset Management for the development of that area of old city including the proposed memorial for the first sepoy mutiny.

Smt Renuka Rani Garu explained about the various programmes conducted by the INTACH for school children and highlighted how the government school children are unable to attend those programs due to various administrative restrictions and requested the collector to issue guidelines to allow the government school children to attend heritage quiz and poster competitions organised by intach in the future.



Collector responded positively and assured the INTACH members that guidelines will be issued to the schools.

Smt Renuka Rani Garu also raised the concern of INTACH with regards to the dilapidated status of the Silparamam and stressed the need to renovate it, so that arts and crafts of the entire state can be displayed and marketed, thus helping the artisans. It was agreed upon that periodic arts & crafts exhibitions should also be conducted there. THE SUGGESTION GIVEN WAS TO HAVE AP GOVERNMENT CONDUCT A DPR IN SHILPARAMAM AND SAME WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COLLECTOR. THIS WILL BE THE 1ST STEP IN REJUVENATION OF SHIPARAMAM.

When the district collector asked for suggestions regarding nature trails and treks to promote health and tourism in Vizag, Dr Surendra Kumar, co Convener of INTACH Vizag chapter suggested revamping the trail on the Eastern Ghats from Hanumanthawaka to Simhachalam which is not only beautiful but also offers adventure. He also highlighted that remains of a Heritage structure, the Bungalow of British Judge, E. C. G Thomas can still be seen on the trail. To this, the Collector said that it would be studied for feasibility.

OTHER MATTER WERE ALSO DISCUSSED BY INTACH SUCH AS HAVING THE VISAKHA UTSAV AT THE END OF DECEMBER AND SAME WAS AGREED THE LAST WEEKEND OF DECEMBER. A FIRE WORKS SHOW DURING THAT TIME OR EVEN BETTER ON 31ST NIGHT TO BRING FOCUS ON VIZAG WAS ALSO MOOTED AND SAME WAS AGREED TO BE LOOKED INTO BY COLLECTOR.

ON THE HOP ON HOP OFF BUS INTACH SUGGESTED TO KEEP THE RIDES SHORT SO THERE IS LESS WAITING FOR TOURISTS AND SAME WAS AGREED BY COLLECTOR.

INTACH ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHEN GIVING OUT ATV CONTRACT, RULES BE FRAMED SO THE CRZ NORMS WERE FOLLOWED.

OTHER POINTS LIKE ONGOING PROJECTS, UPCOMING PROJECTS, FACILITIES AT RISHIKONDA ETC WERE DISCUSSED.

The meeting was concluded on a positive note with fruitful discussions and positive assurances were received from the district administration.



Meeting on Geoheritage with Collector – Visakhapatnam Chapter



Assam and Kamrup

Report on INTACH Poster-making Competition 'Celebrating India' 2025 Organised By ASSAM CHAPTER AND KAMRUP CHAPTER

The Kamrup Chapter and Assam State Chapter organised a poster-making competition on the theme 'Celebrating India' on 8th April 2025 at the Royal Global University, Betkuchi, Guwahati as part of a nation-wide initiative of the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) division of INTACH. A total of 63 students from different schools such as Faculty Higher Secondary School, North Guwahati; Heritage Public School, Gotanagar; Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Borsajai; Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Silpukhuri; Royal Global School, Betkuchi; Suderashan Public School, Khanapara and Maria's Public School, Birkuchi of Guwahati. On the event, Assam State Convener Prof. Shiela Bora welcomed the students and teachers and Kamrup Chapter Convener Dr. Manjil Hazarika informed the students about the rules and regulations of the competition. Vice Chancellor of Royal Global University Prof. Y.S.R. Murthy graced the occasion and encouraged the participants.

The students prepared beautiful and thoughtful posters on the intangible cultural heritage of Assam and other parts of India such as festivals, rites and rituals, traditions, food practices, songs, music, dance forms, economic systems etc. accompanied by a slogan and a short write-up on the theme of the poster.



Poster-Making Competition 'Celebrating India' 2025 – Assam and Kamrup Chapter

Bihar

Nawada

A three-day training-cum-workshop on Kaithi Lipi was organized by the INTACH Nawada Chapter at Project Kanya Inter Vidyalaya, Nawada, from 22/03/25 to 24/03/25. Over one hundred participants received training during the workshop. The event was inaugurated by Nawada Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Akhilesh Kumar, Principal of the District Teacher Training College Dr. Vinay Prasad Singh Chaudhary, and INTACH Nawada Chapter Convener Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey.

Trainers Mr. Pritam Kumar from Varanasi, Mr. Waqar Ahmed from Chhapra, and scholar Ms. Kalpana Kumari from Patna provided the trainees with detailed insights into the Kaithi script and its historical background.

While giving the inaugural speech, Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer said that it is urgently needed in the ongoing land survey in Bihar.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, former President of the Nawada Museum, Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, emphasized that preserving the Kaithi script as a part of our heritage is an essential step. He expressed his gratitude to Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey, Convener, INTACH Nawada Chapter for organizing the training workshop. Dr. Mishra noted that understanding the Kaithi script is crucial for interpreting old land records and historical documents.

Project Director and Convener of the three-day training workshop, Prof. Bachchan Kumar Pandey, shared that participants ranged in age from 12-year-old Suryashu to 90-year-old Sundar Prasad. Other enthusiastic participants included Mukhiya, Kusum Kumari, Priyanka Kumari, Raj, Riya Kumari, Sudha Kumari, and Neetu Kumari, along with several youth and adults. All participants received state-issued certificates upon completing the training. Prof. Pandey also noted the presence of trainees from neighboring districts such as Nalanda, Sheikhpura, and Koderma (Jharkhand state), who expressed a strong desire to organize similar training sessions in their respective areas. During the workshop, active participation was seen from INTACH Nawada Chapter's Co-convener Shri Shyamsundar Pandey, Life Members Shri Surendra Kumar, Lalit Kishore Sharma, Arjun Yadav, Sundar Prasad, Veena Mishra, Madhuri Sharma, Bhupendra Rai, Rakesh Ranjan, and Ramakant Pandey, as well as social workers Shri Navendu Jha, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Pandey Abhimanyu Kumar, and Sachchidanand.

Patna

1. INTACH Patna Chapter organized a training-cum-workshop on Patna Kalam style painting at the College of Arts and Crafts, Patna, from May 12 to 19, 2025. INTACH Patna Chapter organized a week-long training camp on the Patna Kalam style of painting from May 12 to 19, 2025, at the College of Arts and Crafts campus in Patna. The event was inaugurated by Professor N.K. Agarwal, Director of Higher Education, who attended as the Chief Guest. He remarked that Patna Kalam is a proud part of our cultural heritage and assured that the government would take appropriate steps to popularize it among the younger generation of artists.

He also suggested that efforts should be made to include this traditional style in the formal art curriculum. Lalit Kumar Singh, Deputy Director of Bapu Tower, stated that while the reasons behind the decline of this painting style merit discussion, the focus must now shift to how it can be revived through collective efforts. Senior artist Archana Sinha noted that when superficiality overtakes genuine artistry in society, valuable traditions tend to fade. She added that it is encouraging to see renewed interest in Patna Kalam among contemporary artists. Veteran artist Sunita Prakash shared her experience of using Patna Kalam techniques in craftwork, while Anupama Kumari, a senior educator from Begusarai, announced plans to organize a similar training camp in her region with INTACH's support. Delhi University's Prof. Arun Kumar praised the initiative as a testament to the vitality of Patna's art community. Art historian Neha Singh gave an insightful presentation on the key features of the Company School style of painting. Welcoming the guests, Bhairav Lal Das, Convener, INTACH Patna Chapter emphasized the need for artists and cultural practitioners to take active steps in reviving the Patna Kalam tradition. Rachna Priyadarshini from 'Your Heritage,' a partner organization, felicitated the guests. The vote of thanks was delivered by INTACH Life Member and NIFT Professor Jayant Kumar. Among those present were workshop trainers Ankur Kumar and Rupesh Kumar, and several noted artists and cultural enthusiasts including Vibha Srivastava (Crochet Art), Alka Das (Madhubani painting), Ravi Shankar Upadhyay (Bihar Tourism), and Rajesh Raj (Nayi Dhara). Over 20 artists participated in the training. A special exhibition showcasing the works created during the workshop will be held on May 19, 2025, followed by the distribution of participation certificates by INTACH.



A training-cum-workshop on Patna Kalam style painting at the College of Arts and Crafts – Patna Chapter

2. Jagdishpur, Ara: It is often said that children are the future of a nation. To shape this future into a bright and promising one, it is essential to enrich young minds by introducing them to the life stories and thoughts of inspiring and great personalities. With this objective in mind, the Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Memorial Museum in Jagdishpur organized a quiz, drawing competition, and essay competition during International Museum Week. These activities focused on the life and legacy of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh, the legendary hero of India's First War of Independence. Every year, various programs for schoolchildren are held at the museum to mark Vijayotsav Diwas, commemorating Kunwar Singh's victory. However, this year, due to state mourning, the usual celebrations were postponed.

Instead, a simple remembrance of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh was observed, and the postponed activities were later organized during International Museum Week to help children learn more about their local hero's biography and contributions.

More than a hundred children from different schools participated in the event. The program was successfully executed with commendable support from the INTACH Patna Chapter and Your Heritage, Patna. Renowned historian Bhairav Lal Das enlightened the children about the significance of International Museum Day and highlighted the courageous life and remarkable deeds of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh. Speaking on the occasion, museum in-charge Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra said that the purpose of the awareness program was to connect children with their cultural and historical roots. Several children were recognized for their outstanding performances and were awarded mementoes, certificates, and books.

In the essay competition, Mohammad Farhan from Urdu Madhya Vidyalaya, Jagdishpur, secured the first prize. The second prize went to Iram Warsi, a student of Class 8 from Radix Public School, while the third prize was awarded to Mohammad Rehan from Deep Narayan Plus Two High School, Mussoorie.

In the drawing competition for younger children, Ankush Kumar from Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir won the first prize. Roshan Kumar, also from the same school, took second place, while Priyanka Kumari from Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya, Jagdishpur, was awarded the third prize. Among older children, Sania Parveen from National Academic Girls School secured the first prize. Mohammad Hussain Shah from Aryan Public School received the second prize, and Sumaira Khatoon from Urdu Madhya Vidyalaya was awarded third.

In the quiz competition, Sonakshi Kumari from Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir won the first prize in the junior category, followed by Neeta Kumari from Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya in second place, and Aditya Kumar from Residential School in third. In the senior category, Rajnandini from Radix Public School won the first prize, Neha Kumari from the same school secured second place, and Akriti Parihar from Deep Narayan Plus Two High School, Mussoorie, came third.

On this occasion, Kanchan Kamini, Principal, Deep Narayan Plus Two High School, Mussoorie addressed the children and spoke about the importance of preserving one's heritage. The jury for the competitions included Rachna Priyadarshini from Your Heritage, journalist Ravi Shankar Upadhyay, Fayaz Iqbal, and Dr. Nirmala Shukla. Participating students from all schools received mementoes. Several speakers also addressed the gathering, including National Kunwarvahini Convener Dheeraj Kumar Singh, Aniket Kumar, and Warisji of National School. The program was attended by numerous educators and community members, including Avinash Kumar, Bilal Paswan, Abhishesh Choubey, Kanhaiya Kumar, and Ram Kumar Thakur, along with teachers from various participating schools.

3. On the occasion of International Museum Day, a photo exhibition, short film launch, and seminar were organized at the Sitaram Upadhyay Museum in Buxar, in collaboration with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra, life member of INTACH.

Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, former Director of Museums, Bihar, and Co-Convenor, INTACH Patna Chapter inaugurated the photo exhibition and highlighted its significance. He also released a short film based on the museum's collection stating during his seminar address that photo exhibitions serve as a reflection of our heritage. Such initiatives are crucial for raising awareness among the general public, especially students and the youth. The exhibition featured photographs depicting key heritage sites from Buxar and across Bihar. The 14-minute short film provides a concise overview of the museum's foundation, significance, and ongoing activities. As the special guest, Dr. Jalaj Kumar Tiwari, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal commended the film's effective portrayal of the museum's key artifacts. Museum in-charge Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra honored dignitaries with a Mithila painting-inspired robe and a memento modeled on the seal of ancient Nalanda University.

4. On 8 June 2025, the Chausagarh Clay Sculpture Gallery was inaugurated at Sitaram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar, along with a seminar jointly organized in collaboration with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra. Former Rajya Sabha MP Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, while addressing the seminar, stated that the rare clay sculptures of Chausagarh would add a new chapter to the history of Indian art. He emphasized the need for research into the lifestyle and craftsmanship of the artisans who created these ancient masterpieces. The gallery, based on Ram Katha, was inaugurated by Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Chairperson, Buxar Municipal Council, Smt. Kamrun Nisha, and Dumraon Maharaj Shri Manvijay Singh. Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra explained that between 2011 and 2014, archaeological excavations were conducted under the guidance of Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi. The excavation revealed the ruins of a terracotta Vaishnav temple and artifacts spanning four cultural phases: Pre-NBP, NBP, Shunga-Kushan, and Gupta periods, suggesting a civilization dating back 4,000–5,000 years. Among the rare finds are: a the clay statue of Panigrahan Sanskar (wedding ritual) Shiva and Parvati from the 4th century; a depiction of Vishwamitra, Menaka, and Shakuntala, including her birth scene; a sculpture of Kumbhakarna, Sugriva, and Hanuman with a 4th-century Brahmi inscription; a scene of Sita's abduction by Ravana; a Multiple terracotta figurines showing scenes from the Ramayana including Rama, Sugriva, Hanuman, Trishira (Ravana's son), Yaksha, Gandharva couples, Kirtimukh, scene of monkeys' rampage in the jungle of Lanka, human figure etc. Additionally, in 1931, 18 bronze statues were unearthed at Chausa Garh, which were based on Jainism. These statues were collected in Patna Museum and now are collected in Bihar Museum.

Dr. Mishra shared that even before the Chausa excavations, a clay sculpture depicting a scene from the Ramayana – featuring Ram, Lakshman, Sugreeva, and Hanuman in search of Sita – had been discovered. This sculpture was originally housed in the Patna Museum and is now preserved in the Bihar Museum. The seminar was also addressed by Dumraon Maharaj Manvijay Singh, former archives officer Dr. Jawahar Lal Verma, Rajneesh Kumar Singh, noted writer Laxmi Kant Mukul, Dr. Vijay Shankar Mishra, Pritam Kumar (a research scholar from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi), Chandan Kumar, and Kamlesh Kumar. A number of distinguished guests were present on the occasion.

3. Vijayotsav Diwas was celebrated on 23 April 2025 at Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Smriti Sangrahalaya, Jagdishpur, Bhojpur, in collaboration with Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra. District officials and public representatives of Bhojpur actively participated in the event.

Students from government and private schools took part in various competitions and explored the museum exhibits and a special photo exhibition. Highlights included Land records of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh in Kaithi script; Citations in Sanskrit and Maithili by his Kul Guru Bikhiya Dutt Jha; Photographs of Arrah House, Arrah Church, ancient Kaithi inscriptions; Dev Barunark Sun Temple, Masadh, Jain temples, and Shashthi Devi Temple; Tibetan manuscripts written in gold and silver ink related to Lord Buddha; Participating schools were presented with souvenirs related to Babu Veer Kunwar Singh by the museum.

On 24 May 2025, as part of International Museum Week celebrations, various educational programs for children were held at Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Memorial Museum. India's first Independent Quiz, drawing competition, and essay competition on the life and contributions of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh, the great hero of the freedom movement, were organized on this occasion. More than a hundred students from various government and private schools enthusiastically participated in the event.

The event was supported by INTACH Patna Chapter and Your Heritage, Patna. INTACH Patna Convenor Bhairav Lal Das addressed the children and shed light on the legacy of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh. Museum in-charge Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra emphasized the goal of cultivating heritage awareness among young minds. Winners received books, certificates, and souvenirs. Teachers and students from multiple institutions actively participated in the day-long program.

In addition to students from various schools, many teachers also took part in the program.

Chhattisgarh

State Convenor Shri Arvind Mishra was interviewed at Doordarshan Kendra, Chhattisgarh, where he spoke in detail about the cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh. The discussion covered both tangible and intangible heritage assets of the state. He emphasized the importance of including sites such as Sirpur, Kanger Valley, Kutumsar Caves, the fossil park of Manendragarh, and the ancient Natyashala of Ramgarh in the list of World Heritage Sites. The conversation also highlighted the urgent need to focus on preserving and promoting valuable heritage located in rural areas.



State Convenor Shri Arvind Mishra was interviewed at Doordarshan Kendra -Chhattisgarh State Chapter

Durg-Bhilai

1. INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter meeting on martyr Sukhdev Raj: Steps to preserve his legacy

Bhilai: The INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter held a meeting on Sunday at Kanhaji, Maharaja Chowk, focusing on the life and legacy of martyr Sukhdev Raj, a close associate of Chandrashekhar Azad. Sukhdev Raj spent nearly 12–13 years of his life in Durg, where he ran a Leprosy Ashram in village Anda. Due to injuries sustained during the freedom struggle, he passed away in 1972. Memorials dedicated to him in Anda village and Durg city are currently under threat.

In the meeting, Sardar Gulbir Singh Bhatia, a senior citizen, distinguished litterateur, and special invitee, shared in-depth information about Sukhdev Raj. He clarified a common misconception – Sukhdev Raj Mahindra is often mistaken for Sukhdev Thapar, one of the three freedom fighters (Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev) who were hanged on 23 March 1931. Sardar Bhatia explained that Sukhdev Raj was with Chandrashekhar Azad during his final moments in Company Bagh. When Azad was surrounded, he ordered Sukhdev Raj to escape. While fleeing, Sukhdev was shot in the leg. Earlier, on 28 May 1930, a bomb exploded in the hands of Bhagatwati Charan Vohra, resulting in his death; Sukhdev Raj was close by at the time and a fragment from the bomb lodged in his stomach, causing a wound that never healed and ultimately led to his death in 1972.

Bhupendra Kumar Verma, President of the Pensioners Society expressed concern that Sukhdev Raj's memorials are in danger. The statue in Anda village is now the subject of controversy, while a multi-level parking structure is planned at the Indira Market site where another memorial exists. Despite efforts to save these sites over the last ten years, no significant progress has been made.

In response, Dr. Hansa Shukla, Convener, INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter, and Prof. D.N. Sharma, former Convener passed a resolution to actively pursue the preservation of Sukhdev Raj's heritage. They emphasized that this is an important chapter in the history of Durg district, and every possible effort will be made to safeguard it. A strategic action plan for moving forward was also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Arvind Mishra, INTACH Chhattisgarh State Convenor; Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Raipur Convenor; Ravi Shrivastava, Vinod Sao, Vidya Gupta, Dr. Sonali Chakraborty, Deepak Ranjan Das, Dr. Prachi, Ms. Nargis, PR Sahu, and several other members and supporters.

2. INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter hosts interesting discussion on the Conservation of Cultural Properties

The INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter recently organized a stimulating discussion on the conservation of cultural properties, featuring Dr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, a scientist from the National Research Laboratory for the Conservation of Cultural Property, as the keynote speaker. The program was graced by Ms. Sushma Lakra, President of the District Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalat, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Hansa Shukla, Convener, INTACH Durg-Bhilai Chapter delivered the welcome address, while Prof. D.N. Sharma, former Convener introduced the distinguished guests and participants.

Honey extractors often use smoke to drive away bees and apply ash on their bodies before quickly harvesting the hive once the bees disperse. However, this practice becomes particularly problematic when the beehive is located near an ancient heritage site. During research conducted in one such case, a traditional method used by the tribal communities of Jashpur came to light. This indigenous technique was found to be safe for bees, tourists, and the environment.

Sharing this information, keynote speaker Dr. Sanjay Gupta explained that in a previous incident, chemical spray was used to eliminate bees near a heritage monument. As a result, environmental and wildlife conservation groups filed an FIR, highlighting the ecological damage caused. This led to the realization of the urgent need for a solution that does not harm the bees, does not damage heritage structures, is not harmful to tourists' respiratory health, and is environmentally friendly.

Dr. Gupta emphasized that heritage preservation is not limited to monuments alone, but also includes traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and environmental sustainability. Even age-old customs like touching elders' feet reflect intangible heritage that deserves to be preserved.

In her address, Ms. Sushma Lakra, Chief Guest and President, District Lok Adalat explained the legal frameworks and protective laws in place for heritage conservation. She noted that unauthorized repairs or alterations, often done out of ignorance, can damage heritage structures and are subject to strict legal provisions. She elaborated on relevant laws and sections that offer remedies and penalties in such cases.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by senior litterateur Mr. Ravi Shrivastava. The discussion witnessed enthusiastic participation from several notable individuals, including Vinod Sao, Pardesi Ram Verma, Sharad Kokas, Mahesh Chaturvedi, Puneet Choubey, Dr. Sunita Verma, Dr. Anil Choubey, Ravindra Khandelwal, Kanti Bhai Solanki, Vijay Vartaman, Vibhas and Anita Upadhyay, Sharad Sharma, Ratna Naramdev, Preeti Ajay Behera, Rajendra Rao, Shalu Mohanan, Deepak Ranjan Das, Zakir Hussain, and Vishwas Tiwari, etc.



Durg-Bhilai Chapter hosts interesting discussion on the Conservation of Cultural Properties



Durg-Bhilai Chapter meeting on martyr Sukhdev Raj

Raipur

Submission of Report - Heritage Walk-1 organized by INTACH Raipur Chapter

As per the guidelines issued, the INTACH Raipur Chapter successfully organized Heritage Walk-1 on 28th June 2025 for students and local citizens to explore the heritage sites around Raipur city. The walk witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 20 individuals, who visited more than seven historical monuments/sites and received detailed insights into their historical and cultural significance.

The following heritage sites were covered during the walk:

1. Turi Hatri (200 years old)
2. Jagannath Swamy Temple (100 years old)

3. Jaitusaav Math (200 years old)
4. Shri Siddh Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple (Baoli) – (150 years old)
5. Shri Mahavir Vyayamshala (Akhada) – (140 years old)
6. Shri Raj Rajeshwari Mahamaya Devi Temple – (14th Century)
7. Shri Ramchandra Swami Trust (Nagridas) Temple – (Approx. 100 years old)

Each of these monuments holds significant historic and cultural value, contributing to Raipur’s rich heritage.

During the walk, participants were guided by Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convenor, INTACH Raipur Chapter, Mr. Arvind Mishra, State Convenor, INTACH Chhattisgarh, and Mrs. Shivi Joshi, Co-Convenor, INTACH Chhattisgarh. They provided in-depth information about each site. The 200-year-old Turi Hatri, located in the heart of the city, is regarded as the earliest symbol of women empowerment in Chhattisgarh, being a market historically run by women. The *Jaitusaav Math*, also over 200 years old, served as a resting place for many prominent freedom fighters, including Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, during their visits to the region. The 14th century Mahamaya Temple holds historical significance for practitioners of Tantra. The Shri Mahavir Vyayamshala (Akhada), around 140 years old, is famous for having hosted wrestling legends, including Darasingh. Several esteemed INTACH members, including Mr. S.N. Shukla, Mr. Sunil Baghel, Dr. Lokeshwar Prasad Sinha, and Mr. Kuleshwar Prasad Sahu, along with students from various schools and colleges, actively participated in the walk.



Heritage Walk organized by INTACH Raipur Chapter – Raipur Chapter

Saraipali(Sarangarh – Raigarh)

INTACH Saraipali Chapter organizes Awareness Rally, Lecture, Plantation Drive, and Quiz Competitions on World Environment Day

Everyone took a pledge for environmental protection, promotion and development

School students and teachers resolved to contribute in keeping their environment clean and green

INTACH Saraipali Chapter along with the Forest Department took out an environmental protection awareness rally in the city, while at the place - SEZES Saraipali, plantation, lecture program and quiz and painting competition were organized on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary, trained Eco Club Instructor and Convener, INTACH Saraipali Chapter, highlighted that this year's theme – "Beat Plastic Pollution" – encouraged students to refrain from using single-use plastic bags, adopt sustainable practices, conserve energy, and participate in rainwater harvesting to help replenish groundwater levels. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness among the public to create long-term environmental impact.

In partnership with the Forest Department, and with the support of Forest Range Officer Pratyush Tandey, a vibrant public awareness rally was taken out through the city, echoing powerful slogans such as "Save the Environment, Plant Trees." The rally concluded at Jai Stambh Chowk, successfully drawing attention to the urgent need for environmental action.

It was emphasized that planting trees with dedication and enthusiasm is essential to promote biodiversity, strengthen the ecosystem, and ensure their care and protection – symbolically represented by tying a protective thread around them.

SMDC President Amar Jha stated that joint efforts are necessary to develop clean, green, and eco-friendly surroundings.

Nodal Principal Jagdish Prasad Patel stressed the growing threat of plastic pollution and underlined the importance of tree plantation to sustain ecological balance.

SEZES Principal Manoj Patel commended INTACH for organizing such a meaningful initiative, calling it a vital step toward securing a greener future.

NCC First Officer and Lecturer Jogilal Patel spoke on the importance of willpower, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility for environmental conservation. He noted that only through collective efforts can educational institutions truly contribute to environmental sustainability.

The chapter's Convener, Co-Convener, life members, along with forest department officials, NCC cadets, Red Cross and Scout Guide members, school students, teachers, and local residents collectively pledged their commitment to keeping the environment clean and green, combating plastic pollution, and working towards environmental conservation, promotion, and sustainable development.

Students were informed about the emerging challenges of global warming and climate change. Emphasis was placed on the need for a balanced symbiotic relationship between humanity, the Earth, and nature.

It was also highlighted that social awareness plays a vital role in ensuring effective environmental protection.

Fruitful and shady plants were planted in the SEZ campus under the slogan "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and powerful slogans were raised, "Sukhi Dharti Kare Pukar, Vriksh Lagao Karo Shringar" (The parched earth pleads – plant trees, make her beautiful). Everyone was delighted to see the growth of the plants planted last time.

The theme “Go Green – Breathe Clean” was actively promoted to spread awareness among the broader community.

As the event drew to a close, a motivational talk on tree plantation and water conservation was followed by a prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the quiz and painting competitions. Guests were presented with mementoes in appreciation of their participation. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by INTACH Life Member Pushpanjali Chaudhary.



Organizes Awareness Rally, Lecture, Plantation Drive, and Quiz Competitions on World Environment Day – Saraipali Chapter

Gujarat Ahmedabad

Report on Teacher’s Training Workshop (Textiles)

Date : 03/07/2025

An enriching Teacher Training Workshop was hosted at Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum by Dr. Utpala Desai and the INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter committee, with over 40 participants from 17 schools. The insightful training sessions were led by Ms. Purnima Datt, Ms. Sujata Parsai and Ms. Vineeta Nahar. A wonderful gathering of educators dedicated to celebrating and preserving our rich heritage.

Day 1 was filled with knowledgeable insights around different types and history of textiles along with a practical workshop on tie-dye and Patola weaving techniques.

Day 2 embarked with an activity which made all the teachers to team up into 4 groups to discuss and develop an educational plan which can help make the learning process more enjoyable and insightful for the students.

The workshop came to an end with the felicitations ceremony and certificates distribution to appreciate the involvement and efforts of the teachers towards conservation of the national heritage.





Teacher Training Workshop – Ahmedabad Chapter

Haryana Ambala

1. INTACH Ambala celebrates the World Heritage Day with great Josh - a record Participation by 125 children and teachers from 24 Schools:

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Ambala, celebrated World Heritage Day on April 17, 2025, with great enthusiasm at Air Force School under the leadership of Ambala Convener Colonel R. D. Singh. 125 children and teachers from 24 schools participated with great fervor. A child from each school also came dressed in his traditional attire/as a patriot etc to showcase their civilization and culture.

Brigadier M. S. Tomar (retd) was the Chief Guest, and Dr. Desh Bandhu Ji and Group Captain Joginder Maini (from Air Force Station Ambala) were the Guests of Honour.

Distinguished dignitaries of Ambala graced the event, including Principal Ritu Ghai of the GMN School, Principal Dr Vikas Kohli of Police DAV School, Principal Sunita Sharma of the Air Force School, Principal of the Govt Polytechnic College, Mr. Rajiv Sapra, Mrs. Jyoti Sapra, Dr. Vijay Sharma (HOD Hindi, SD College), Dr. Sonika Sethi (Associate Professor English, SD College), and a number of INTACH members.

An engaging and informative quiz was conducted by Mrs. Madhu Singh, a senior teacher from DAV Riverside, in which all the children participated with great enthusiasm. The children spoke about the importance of Heritage Day and their traditional attire, recited poems, and also performed a dance on the state song of Haryana.

Colonel R. D. Singh informed that the Ambala Chapter has continuously received the Best Chapter Award for the sixth year, along with other accolades. DAV Riverside, Army Public School, Prime Steps International School, and GMN School won many prizes in the Young INTACH competitions. Four schools won awards in various categories for making short films in Filmit.

Brigadier M. S. Tomar and Dr. Desh Bandhu Ji mentioned the contribution of children to society. Group Captain Joginder Maini emphasized the importance of time and the significance of the word "start" in life for the children. Colonel R. D. Singh guided the children on thinking right, speaking right, and doing right deeds.

On this occasion, Principal of Polytechnic College, Rajiv Sapra, provided information about his college to the children.

Convener Colonel R. D. Singh highlighted all the INTACH activities undertaken in the year 2024 and appreciated the contribution of all the schools and children.

He heartily thanked Principal Sunita Sharma of Air Force School for being good hosts during this mega event in her school.

In the end, refreshments were provided to all the children and teachers, and they were taught to preserve their civilization and culture. The children departed after admiring St. Paul's Church - an iconic heritage site.



Celebrates the World Heritage Day – Ambala Chapter

2. Obituary Brig G S Lamba (April 13 1940 - April 17, 2025) :

Brig GS Lamba, ex Convener INTACH Ambala, was commissioned on 06 June 1960 into Bengal Sappers. A Sanawarian (1955), he commanded 236 Engr Regt and later 474 Engr Bde.

Brig Lamba was the Convener of INTACH Ambala Chapter for over ten years before he handed over the baton to Colonel R D Singh, the present Convener.

During his tenure he did major work in listing of various heritage sites in Ambala, and their identification, both architectural and natural. He also expedited the conservation process of the British Cemetery and St Paul Church with the help of Kumari Shailja, then Minister of Tourism.

Brig Lamba was also a good artist and met everyone warmly. He leaves behind two well settled daughters and his wife. God bless the noble soul.



Brig G S Lamba (April 13 1940 - April 17, 2025)

3. Cycle Rally:

As Convener INTACH Ambala, I was invited to a good cycle rally organised by the Braham Kumaris Centre, Ambala Cantt . A number of well wishers of INTACH were present. There were also school children. It was well attended by all age groups with a good patriotic spirit.

At 72, I was the eldest member to participate. Good Josh around! One enjoyed it! And the message of INTACH was spread.

All participants were felicitated with certificates and ' prasad' in a function organized in the college located adjoining the Paniokhara Sahib Gurudwara.

Sharing few snaps of a healthy and patriotic event please.



Cycle Rally organised by the Braham Kumaris Centre, Ambala Cantt- Ambala Chapter

6. Sharing very fruitful visits to schools outside Ambala, to encourage children.

Visit to schools in Naraingarh and Shahjadpur (Ambala distt) to present prizes / certificates won in the painting competition ' Celebrating India ', and Young INTACH contests:

As Convener INTACH Ambala, one paid a very fruitful and good visit to DAV School Naraingarh and Prime Steps School Shahjadpur today.

First to DAV Naraingarh on. It was a pleasure to meet their experienced Principal Dr RP Rathi and his staff. Dr Rathi is very mature and motivated Principal. His school is happy and shining, with heritage getting due respect. And what a matter of pride that their class 9 student Anmol, our Regional Winner' in the painting competition, has also written a book ' The Future of Humans'. She presented a copy of her book to me. Thank you Anmol - a great future ahead.

After Naraingarh, one visited Prime Steps International School Shahjadpur. Principal Sheetal conducted me around and showed their heritage wall. Very well done up. One guided their teacher Shivsi, and children, for the forthcoming heritage quiz, and contribution to Young INTACH activities. So good to see INTACH shields adorning the Principal's office. The school, under Principal Sheetal, is making rapid progress.

It's children have also visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan and met the President recently. Our best wishes to both the schools.



Visits to schools outside Ambala, to encourage children's – Ambala Chapter

Gurgaon

"Restore, Recognize, Respect": Adoption of French Major Jean Etienne Tomb By CCA SCHOOL

CCA School, Sector 4, Gurugram visited the recently adopted monument, French Major Jean Etienne Tomb in Mohyal Colony, Gurgaon. In collaboration with INTACH, the school took a team of 12 students and 2 teachers to know the significance of the tomb, its maintenance and measures to be taken for its upkeep. We gathered the information that this is dedicated to Major Jean Etienne, a French soldier from Bordeaux who served in Begum Samru's army for 35 years until his death. We observed that the tomb is wellpreserved, considering its age. The epitaph mentions the date of Etienne's death as Sunday, June 5, 1821. We also noticed that the tomb is situated in a park, providing a serene ambience for visitors. Our school team interacted with President RWA Mohyal Colony, volunteers Mr. Suresh and Ms. Bimla.

They requested for requirement of a hosepipe, which will be considered soon by CCA Director Principal Mrs. Nirmal Yadav. The school has streamlined few activities like debate, painting competition, documentary making, etc. Under the esteem guidance of the Chairman, Col. Pratap and the Director Principal Mrs. Nirmal Yadav.

The school has under taken this project to let this monument get its due recognition. It is a step towards "Khandhar batatee hai ki Immarat buland thi" It was an enriching experience, providing us with a glimpse into the region's fascinating history. The tomb is a significant historical landmark, and its preservation is essential for future generations. We hope that our report will help to raise awareness about this hidden gem and encourage more people to visit and appreciate its prudence.



Adoption of French Major Jean Etienne Tomb By CCA SCHOOL – Gurgaon Chapter

Sonipat

Please Find below the report on "World Heritage Day Celebrations" by INTACH Sonipat Chapter on 16 & 17 April 2025:

A painting competition was organised at "SAVERA", an evening school at D.C.R. University of Science & Tech. Murthal Sonipat ,which provides free education and take care of the overall development of under-privileged children. Around 150 students from class V to IX enthusiastically participated in the competition. Best wishes for bright future of Savera students & Mentors for Commendable contribution. Convener Prof. Shailja Sikarwar , In charge Savera Dr. Ravi Vaish , Volunteer Mentor Ishan briefed the students about INTACH & World Heritage Day Celebration. Very soon Heritage club would be inaugurated in Savera School .

A slogan writing competition was organised for students at D.C.R. University Murthal on the topic " Our Heritage Our Pride" & overwhelming response was received from the participants during event. Convener Prof. Shailja Sikarwar, Chairperson Arch Dr. Ravi Vaish, faculty / INTACH members Dr. Manoj Pawar & Dr. Nirmla were present during the event.

An exhibition was organised on World Heritage Day by Deptt of Architecture in association with INTACH Sonipat Chapter & Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell at D.C.R. University Murthal. The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Shree Prakash Singh along with Worthy Registrar Dr. Ajay Kumar Garg, Convener INTACH Sonipat Chapter Prof. Shailja Sikarwar, Chairperson Arch Dr. Ravi Vaish, Convener UBA Dr. Vijay Kumar, Faculty of Architecture & members of INTACH Sonipat Chapter. The exhibition showcased the academic work of students in documenting Vernacular built environment along with Contribution of UBA Cell in documenting & Restoration / Conservation proposals for rural Heritage of Sonipat District. The best entries of Slogan writing & painting Competitions were also displayed. The exhibition was appreciated by all the visitors. The event was an excellent collaborative effort of all the three organisations & made students as well as society members aware of our Heritage.



"World Heritage Day Celebrations" – Sonipat Chapter

Himachal Pradesh Dharamsala

On 5th of June, 2025, 'The World Environment Day' was celebrated at Gandhi Vatika, Kotwali Bazar, (Bus Stand Road) Dharamshala in which the students of nearly 12 local schools participated in different activities like poster/banner making, on-the-spot painting, declamation, slogan writing and poetical recitation etc., for junior and senior segments. The Mayor of Dharamshala Municipal Corporation Ms. Neenu Sharma was the Chief Guest while the Commissioner DMC and CEO of Dharamshala Smart City Mr. Zafar Iqbal IAS presided over the function. The Joint Commissioner MCD was the Guest of Honour. The Dharamshala Chapter of INTACH actively participated in the said programme. Please find attached herewith the photographs of the said event.



'The World Environment Day' was celebrated at Gandhi Vatika – Dharamshala Chapter

Kangra

1. Kangra Chapter organized an all-India Poster making Competition “CELEBRATING INDIA” in Govt. High School, Sidhbari, Dharamshala on first February 2025. In all 91 students (budding artists) participated from 10 different schools. Chapter Convener L. N. Aggarwal apprised the students of the activities of INTACH and that of Kangra Chapter and honoured the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest, owner of the Nandpur Fort of Guler State, addressed the participants about the heritage of Himachal Pradesh and threw light on the Kangra Paintings and about the traditions, customs, foods, fairs, festivals etc. of Himachal Pradesh. The headmaster of the host school Dr. Janmajay Singh Guleria was honoured by the Convener.



Participants of Poster making competition – Kangra Chapter



Group photo of students with their posters – Kangra Chapter



Students making posters – Kangra Honoring Chief Guest – Kangra Chapter

2. Kangra Chapter celebrated the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY in the Zonal Hospital Dharamshala. The event was presided over by the Chief Guest Mrs. Shalini Agnihotri IPS, The Superintendent of Police, District Kangra. The Mayor of Municipal Corporation Dharamshala, Mrs. Neenu Sharma graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The Senior Medical Superintendent of the Zonal Hospital Dr. Anuradha Sharma, the Special Guest, honoured the Chief Guest and the Mayor of the City. Dr. Sunil Bhutt the Medical Superintendent coordinated the programme. The Convener L. N. Aggarwal honoured the Guests at the dais and welcomed the august gathering. In all 35 women which included Drs. and head of various units of the hospital besides the working nurses were honoured during the function.

The Chief guest, the Mayor and the Sr. medical Superintendent all addressed the gathering and thanked Kangra Chapter, INTACH, for organizing the event in the Zonal Hospital. The Co-Convener Rishi Kumar thanked all present, as the function concluded.



Convener Honoring the Chief Guest – Kangra Chapter



Convener honoured Sr. Medical Superintendent – Kangra Chapter



Group photo – Kangra Chapter



The Mayor being honoured – Kangra Chapter



*All dignitaries at the end of the programme
Chapter*



Group photo of honoured women – Kangra

3. International Women’s Day Celebration – Honoring Women in Zonal hospital, Dharamshala:

Women staff, doctors, and nurses of the Zonal Hospital Dharamshala were honoured on International Women’s Day. Convener L. N. Aggarwal and Co-convener Rishi Kumar welcomed the Chief Guest, Shri R. S. Bali, Chairman (Cabinet Rank), Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, and Special Guest Padma Shri Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director of CORD, Chinmaya Organization Dharamshala. The audience was apprised of the activities of INTACH Kangra Chapter and the significance of International Women’s Day.



*Co-convener Kangra Chapter delivering
welcome address- Kangra Chapter*



*Photo: Shri R S Bali addressing the audience -
Kangra Chapter*



Photo: Group photo with Chief guest shri R S Bali - Kangra Chapter

4. National Recognition for Young Artists (June 18, 2024):

A grand felicitation ceremony was held, graced by ADM Kangra and attended by INTACH Kangra Convener and local dignitaries. Miss Simran, a Class X student from Government High School, Sidhbari, brought honour to Himachal Pradesh by winning a Regional award in the INTACH Painting Competition on the theme “Bharat Ka Utsav”, selected from over 9,000 entries nationwide.



Regional winner being felicitated by ADM Ms. Shilpa Beakta - Kangra Chapter



Convener Kangra Chapter Honored by ADM - Kangra Chapter

5. Kala Guru Samman Ceremony - Preserving Living Traditions (July 13, 2024):

INTACH Kangra chapter partnered in the Kala Guru Samman Ceremony organized by Sanskar Bharti and Sangeetanjali Kala Kendra at Radio Gunjan, Dharamsala. The event honoured stalwarts of Himachali folk and classical traditions for their lifelong contributions. Convener L. N. Aggarwal addressed the gathering, underlining the urgency of preserving oral traditions and folk heritage. Two cultural publications on Himachali music were also released during the event.



Recipients of Guru Samman with special guest sh. K.C. Sharma I.A.S, and organizing body - Kangra Chapter

The chapter remains committed to INTACH's mission and will continue to foster cultural pride, youth engagement, and preservation of Kangra's rich heritage.

Mandi

1. Mandi Chapter organized a declamation contest for students of class 10 to 12 on the occasion of World Heritage Day at DAV Senior Secondary School Ner Chawk in Mandi District. 11 students participated in the contest during which they expressed their views on 'Threat to Heritage from Disaster and Conflicts' which was the theme on the World Heritage Day this year. They highlighted the need for younger generations to get involved in this task to ensure that our valuable heritage was preserved for posterity. Students also felt that there was lack of awareness among people particularly young people about the dangers to our heritage and that a campaign should be launched for this purpose.

Welcoming the students, Mandi Chapter Naresh Malhotra advised students to become part of the movement to conserve our cultural and natural heritage

Interestingly, students of lower classes organized a small exhibition of household goods and clothes that were used 50 to 100 years back and were now part of our old heritage.



Celebrate World Heritage Day – Mandi Chapter

2. Members in Mandi Chapter of INTACH visited about 450 years old Budha Bingal Temple in Runjh area of Mandi area on 15th May, 2025 to see the historicity and heritage status of this temple and surrounding places. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and situated in very serene surroundings full of forests. The deity of this temple was accorded a special place during Shivratri fairs by the erst-while rulers of Mandi State and it continues even now. While there are no close habitations around the temple, local people relate this place to the era of Ramayana. The area is full of rich flora and fauna proving a great place for people who come here for meditation. Convener, Mandi Chapter Naresh Malhotra said the Mandi Chapter will organize heritage walk of students to this area.



Mandi Chapter members visiting 450 years old Budha Bingal Temple- Mandi Chapter

3. Mandi Chapter of INTACH organized a function on 5th June to celebrate 'World Environment Day-2025 on this year's theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. 86 trainees of the Nursing School of Government Zonal Hospital Mandi participated in the function and discussed the ill effects of plastic pollution and how it would endanger soil, water and climate in years to come. Chief Medical Officer, Mandi district Dr. Deepali Sharma presided over the function. A declamation contest was also organised for trainee nurses for highlighting the issues related to damages being caused by plastic pollution and how this problem could be minimised through public cooperation. Addressing the trainees, Dr. Deepali Sharma called upon the young generations to adopt practices and life style that caused least pollution in our day to day life. Earlier welcoming the Chief Guest, INTACH Mandi Convener Naresh Malhotra said that collective action all sections of society would help in reducing pollution to some extent.



Celebrate 'World Environment Day-2025 – Mandi Chapter

Shimla

The highlight of the year was when the Convener accompanied the Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India in May, 2024 for a 'heritage walk'.

The rest of the year saw the following activities:

1. Numerous walks conducted for officers of ARTRAC and visiting dignitaries to HP.
2. Attended the UNESCO conference as a representative of HP.
3. Lectures and walks conducted for RKMV under our MoU with them.
4. Inspection conducted of Post Offices at the behest of the postal authorities for possible restoration / conservation.
5. Initiating possible conservation work at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla.

Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu

1. The INTACH Jammu Chapter and the University of Jammu jointly with the PanchParivartan NGO conducted a plantation drive as a part of Vanmohatsav Celebrations in the precincts of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Boys Hostel, Old Campus, University of Jammu on 11.07.2025. Municipal Corporation Jammu and Urban Forestry Division, actively collaborated in organizing this event under Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign. Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Asstt. Prof. Buddhist Studies/ Warden, Boys Hostel, coordinated the event.

Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS Retd.) former DG Police J&K was the chief guest. Different varieties of tree saplings were planted which included sita ashok, tichoma, panjtara, Chinese rose, mango, chinar, silver oak and temple tree among others. The Chief guest planted a sapling of the ginkgo bilboa, also called the "living fossil" the oldest surviving tree in the world.

In his welcome address Prof Lalit Sen, Provost, Boys Hostel underlined the need for conservation of the environment and the role of flora in it. Dr. Vaid in his address underscored the importance of planting more trees to neutralize the negative environmental damage brought about by rapid development. He stressed that every citizen grows at least five trees this would result in crores of new trees which would immensely benefit the environment. Sh OP Sharama (IFS Retd) spoke about the importance of trees and their therapeutic values in our lives and also our culture. Prof Anil Raina elucidated on the state of environment due to degradation of forests. Mrs. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.) enjoined upon all to make the conservation of environment and plantation drives a mass movement. Sh SM Sahni (JKAS Retd) Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter spoke about the sweeping changes Jammu city has witnessed in the past few decades at the cost of the flora. Sh. CM Seth (IFS Retd.) in his vote of thanks emphasized on the pressing need for afforestation given the alarming changes being witnessed in the environment.

Others who attended the event were Sh. Ashwini Kumar, DFO Urban Forestry, Er. Ashok Kapoor, Sh Ajay Gandotra, Sr Advocate, Dr. Sudarshan Sharma, DG DRDO Retd., Sh Arvind Kotwal (JKAS Retd.), Prof. Rajeshwar Verma, Sh. HR Dogra Advocate, Dr. Divya Sharma, VAS JMC, I/C IEC JMC, Dr. Rabia Khan, AFO JMC.



A Plantation Drive of Vanmohatsav Celebrations – Jammu Chapter

2. Govt. GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar Featured in “INTACH VIRASAT” Magazine

Govt. GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar has earned a prestigious mention in the December – March 2025 edition of “INTACH Virasat”, the official magazine of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural heritage (INTACH), a premier organization dedicated to cultural conservation in India. The college was recognized for its pioneering work on Cultural Resource Mapping of the Hiranagar block, along with an Orientation and Heritage Walk organized to educate students about their historical and cultural legacy.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Departments of English and Hindi in close collaboration with the INTACH Jammu Chapter, under the visionary leadership of Principal Dr. Pragya Kahanna. The Project brought together 35 students and 10 faculty member who engaged in hand on cultural mapping, documentation of heritage sites, and experiential learning through guided heritage walks.

The project aimed to reconnect the younger generation with the region’s rich history traditions, and architecture, instilling a deeper appreciation for heritage preservation. As part of the exercise, participants identified and documented local historical landmarks, oral histories, traditional practices, and cultural expressions specific to Hiranagar.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of the College, expressed her pride in the recognition, stating “This feature in INTACH VIRASAT not only highlights the potential of academic institutions in grassroots heritage conservation but also reinforces the importance of experiential learning. Our students are now more aware involved and inspired to preserve their cultural environment.

3. As part of the Van Mahotsav celebrations, a joint plantation drive was successfully organized by the INTACH Jammu Chapter, the University of Jammu, and Panch Parivartan NGO at the premises of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel, Old Campus, University of Jammu. The event was held under the banner of the Clean Jammu Green Jammu campaign with active support from the Municipal Corporation Jammu and the Urban Forestry Division.

The drive was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies and Warden of the Boys Hostel.

The chief guest on the occasion was Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS Retd.), former Director General of Police, J&K. A wide variety of saplings were planted during the event, including species like Sita Ashok, Tecoma, Panjtara, Chinese Rose, Mango, Chinar, Silver Oak, and Temple Tree. Notably, Dr. Vaid planted a sapling of the Ginkgo biloba, also known as the “living fossil,” believed to be the world’s oldest surviving tree species.

In his welcome address, Prof. Lalit Sen, Provost of the Boys Hostel, highlighted the urgent need for environmental conservation and emphasized the integral role of flora in maintaining ecological balance. Dr. Vaid, in his keynote address, encouraged every citizen to plant at least five trees, stating that this collective effort could lead to the growth of crores of new trees, greatly benefiting the planet.

Other distinguished speakers included Sh. O.P. Sharma (IFS Retd.), who spoke on the therapeutic and cultural value of trees; Prof. Anil Raina, who addressed the growing environmental degradation due to deforestation; and Mrs. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.), who called for turning such initiatives into a people’s movement.

Sh. S.M. Sahni (JKAS Retd.), Convenor of INTACH Jammu Chapter, reflected on the environmental changes Jammu city has undergone in recent decades, often at the expense of green cover. In the vote of thanks, Sh. C.M. Seth (IFS Retd.) stressed the urgent need for afforestation in the face of alarming environmental changes.

The event was attended by several notable dignitaries including Sh. Ashwini Kumar, DFO Urban Forestry; Er. Ashok Kapoor; Sh. Ajay Gandotra, Senior Advocate; Dr. Sudarshan Sharma, DG DRDO (Retd.); Sh. Arvind Kotwal (JKAS Retd.); Prof. Rajeshwar Verma; Sh. H.R. Dogra, Advocate; Dr. Divya Sharma, VAS JMC & I/C IEC JMC; and Dr. Rabia Khan, AFO JMC.

The event concluded on a hopeful and inspiring note, with participants pledging to continue their efforts toward creating a greener and cleaner environment.



Van Mahotsav celebrations – Jammu Chapter

Karnataka

Bagalkot

Bagalkot chapter arranged Heritage Drawing competition for 8th and 9th standard school students yesterday at SVP Sanstha 's Basav mandap, Badami. About 65 students participated in the competition. Miss Mala of SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal received 1st prize, Manjunath of SVPHS Badami received 2nd prize and Ningamma of SVPHS Katapur-Pattadkal received 3rd prize. Noted artist of Badami, Shri Dajiba Jagdale sir was the judge. Convener Dr Arun T Miskin, Co-convener Advocate M S Hiremath, INTACH members Smt Sharada Patil, Dr Giryappa Kollannavar, Basavaraj Bhagavati, Gayatri Sunkad, Shivarayappa Jogin , family members and many school teachers were present. Superintendent Archeologist, Dharwad circle, Shri Ramesh Mulimani sir was guest of honour.



Heritage Drawing competition – Bagalkot Chapter

Bangalore

The chapter has recently started restoration work on the Nalkanad Palace, near Madikeri in Kodagu. The palace was constructed around 1792 AD and is one of the few painted palaces in South India. To begin with the restoration of the wooden roof will be taken up. This project is being funded by the Singhal Iyer Family Foundation, as part of the Government of Karnataka's Namma Smaraka adopt-a-monument scheme.

The Chapter has recently been asked to work on conservation of the Main Building of the Bangalore Club, one of the city's oldest and most prestigious clubs with more than 150 years of history. The first phase of restoration work is about to start.

We have also been asked to advise the Department of Horticulture to dismantle the approximately 170-year-old bandstand in the famous Lalbagh Gardens. The structure has been dismantled and the wooden pieces are being numbered carefully. The goal is salvage and reuse as much timber as possible. A group of structural experts are working in a collaborative manner to ensure that the structure is strong enough to weather the elements after restoration.

We are also pleased to share that the Department of Tourism has requested INTACH Bangalore Chapter to prepare a Nomination Dossier to have the megalithic site of Hirebenakal declared a World Heritage Site. The chapter has just begun work on this project. In June, an INTACH team visited the megalithic site in Hirebenakal and met Sri H K Patil, Minister for Tourism, Sri A Devaraju, Commissioner for the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, besides other officials from ASI and the district administration. We also interacted with village leaders and residents of nearby villages.



LB Bandstand before dismantling - Bangalore Chapter *LB Bandstand during dismantling - Bangalore Chapter*

Dharwad

1. Annual General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Dharwad Chapter was held on 9th June 2025 at Same Place Resort, with 21 members in attendance.

1. The meeting began with a welcome address by the Co-Convener.
2. A one-minute silence was observed in memory of Dr. Ramakant Joshi, Life Member of the Chapter, who passed away on 17th May 2025.
3. The activities undertaken during the year were read out to the house.
4. The audited accounts for 2024-2025 were presented and approved.
5. It was resolved to reappoint M/s Bhagwat & Co. as auditors for the year 2025-2026.
6. A brief overview of proposed activities for 2025-2026 was shared.
7. A request by a member to send meeting information by post was discussed. The house unanimously resolved to continue the current mode of communication via WhatsApp.
8. Members were informed that 24 members had not participated in any Chapter activity for over two years. As there is no provision for action against inactive members, the Chapter resolved to undertake a membership drive to bring in dedicated individuals passionate about heritage.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks, followed by lunch.

2. World Environment Day Celebration – 10 June 2025

The Dharwad Chapter celebrated World Environment Day on 10th June 2025 by planting 35 saplings at the Government Kannada Medium High School.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and Chapter members. The Co-Convener addressed the students, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation.

The Convener expressed gratitude to the Principal, teachers, and students for their active participation and support in the initiative.

3. Visit to Banashankari/Shiva Temple, Amargol – 10 July 2025

On 10th July 2025, members of the Chapter visited the Banashankari/Shiva Temple at Amargol, following a request from Shri S. Patil, a concerned citizen, to help decipher an inscription found on a stone slab within the temple premises.

The temple, which is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), was visited by the Convener, Dr. Gogi, and several members.

Dr. Gogi interpreted the inscription and also gave a brief talk on the historical significance of the temple, which dates back to the Chalukyan era.



Annual General Body Meeting – Dharwad Chapter

Mangalore

1. 'Natya Chari' – A Special Bharatanatyam Demonstration Presented under the Auspices of INTACH Mangalore Chapter

Mangaluru, April 5, 2025

Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form with thousands of years of history and tradition, is a complete art that harmoniously blends music, costume, dance, and expressive performance. It reflects the rich heritage and cultural ethos of India, said the noted textile merchant M. Muralidhar Shetty.

He was speaking after inaugurating Natya Chari, a special Bharatanatyam demonstration and presentation by renowned danseuse Vidushi Ayana Perla, held on Friday, April 4 at 5:30 PM at the Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture under the aegis of the Mangaluru Chapter of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage).

Participating as Chief Guest, former President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Dharmadarshi Harikrishna Punaroor, remarked that it is heartening to see Bharatanatyam gain prominence in the coastal districts, where it was relatively less popular around fifty years ago. He emphasized the importance of encouraging this rich and refined art form.

Another distinguished guest, Bharatanatyam guru Vidushi Sharadamani Shekhar, noted the growing number of students and enthusiasts of the art form today. She expressed pride in the artistic achievements of Vidushi Ayana Perla, describing her as a rising star in the field.

In her performance and demonstration, Vidushi Ayana Perla explained that 'Chari' refers to the meaningful body movements in Bharatanatyam that complement the lyrics and emotions conveyed through abhinaya (expression). Chari, she said, is a vital element that enriches and completes the aesthetic experience of Natya. She went on to illustrate various dimensions of 'Chari' through her expressive dance presentation.

Subhash Chandra Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, welcomed the gathering. Dr. Vasant Kumar Perla compered the event, and K. Shaila Kumari gave a vote of thanks.



'Natya Chari' – A Special Bharatanatyam Demonstration Presented under the Auspices of INTACH Mangalore Chapter – Mangalore Chapter

2. INTACH Mangaluru Observes World Book Day with Discussion on Madhav Gadgil's Memoir

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) observed World Book Day on April 23 with a reading and discussion session on Erughattada Nadige, the Kannada translation of noted environmentalist Prof. Madhav Gadgil's memoir A Walk Up the Hill. The programme was held at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture at 5:30 PM.

Moderated by INTACH Mangaluru Convener Subhas Basu, the session featured guests Kallur Nagesh, publisher of the Kannada edition; Prof. Krishnamurthy, retired principal of Govinda Dasa College, Surathkal; and artist-environmentalist Dinesh Holla.

Introducing the session, Subhas Basu recalled, "I was fortunate to have seen Madhav Gadgil work during his days in Bangalore and Sirsi. He was a people's person who valued community engagement." He emphasized that books continue to hold immense value even today and noted that INTACH actively publishes its work in book form.

Publisher Kallur Nagesh observed that language, literature and books are indicators of progress. "While many feel reading is in decline, the issue often lies in not knowing what to read. That's why we ensured the Kannada version of Gadgil's biography reached readers and it has been widely appreciated," he said.

Prof. Krishnamurthy highlighted Gadgil's early connection with books, sharing, "He was born in 1942, a year after Salim Ali published his first book, into a family with a 3,000-book library collected by his grandfather. He read most of it as a child, valued knowledge deeply, and developed a passion for ecology."

Artist Dinesh Holla reflected on Gadgil's contributions to protecting the Western Ghats, stating, "Thanks to him, many unregulated projects were halted. Books like his, especially in local languages, offer hope by raising awareness on ecological issues."

The event concluded with a brief discussion led by journalist Jayant Kodkani, former resident editor of Times of India, Bengaluru, who engaged the panel on Gadgil's development philosophy and his critique of unsustainable growth models.

3. INTACH Mangaluru Marks World Music Day with Soulful Hindustani Vocal Baithak by Vibha Srinivas Nayak

To mark the occasion of World Music Day, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter and Art Kanara Trust, in association with Chiranthana Charitable Trust, hosted a mesmerising Hindustani vocal concert titled "Celebrate Monsoon in Mangaluru on World Music Day" on the evening of Saturday, June 21, at Kodial Guthu Centre for Art & Culture, Ballal Bagh. The concert was the seventh edition in the Baithak@Kodialguthu series, a platform dedicated to celebrating Karnataka's rich musical heritage.

The Baithak featured a performance by acclaimed Hindustani vocalist Vibha Srinivas Nayak. She was accompanied by Rajesh Bhagavath on tabla, Kumari Medha Bhat on harmonium, and Anvesha Nayak on tanpura.

The evening began with a welcome address by Subhas Basu, Convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, who said, "With the onset of monsoon, we felt there could be no better way to celebrate the rains than with a Hindustani Baithak. We are pleased to present this concert by Vibha Nayak." Sharvani Bhat, a member of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, introduced the artists, who were later felicitated.

Vibha opened the recital with Raag Megh Malhar, evoking the spirit of the monsoons, followed by a blend of Raag Jaijaianti and Miyan Malhar, and concluded with a soulful Thumri in Raag Desh. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Bharavi Deraje, Managing Trustee of Chiranthana Charitable Trust. He expressed appreciation for Vibha and her accompanying artists for their captivating performance and thanked the INTACH and Art Kanara teams for continuing to promote regional talent through such initiatives.



World Music Day with Soulful Hindustani Vocal Baithak by Vibha Srinivas Nayak - Mangalore Chapter

4. 'Community-led approach can help protect ancient monuments'

Stating that a community-led approach is needed to protect ancient monuments, historian and archaeologist Pundikai Ganapayya Bhat said recently that there may not be a single formula for protecting the monuments.

Delivering a talk on 'Protection of monuments: Threats and Challenges with special reference to Tulunadu, organized by the Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) here, Mr. Bhat said the first step was education. "We must begin by raising awareness and systematically documenting our heritage sites," he said. With over three decades of experience in the study and preservation of Tulunadu's cultural legacy, Mr. Bhat served as a lecturer in Ancient History and Archaeology at Sri Dhavala College, Moodbidri. Mr. Bhat offered a critical overview of the tangible heritage of Tulunadu and the threats posed by neglect, unscientific renovations and a general lack of awareness. He said, "Through many ancient monuments still exist in Tulunadu, most no longer retain their original form, having undergone numerous unscientific renovations over time. These have resulted in the loss of valuable historical evidence".

Mr. Bhat noted, "The destruction of heritage is often not deliberate, but the result of ignorance. Without understanding the significance of these monuments, people damage them through unplanned renovation or development activity."

INTACH Mangaluru convener Subhas Chandra Basu, co-convener Nemiraj Shetty and others were present.

Kerala

Palakkad

1. In Our World, In Their World

19 APRIL 2025 05.00pm - 07.00pm, Palakkad District Library

To commemorate World Heritage Day, our Chapter hosted a captivating session by renowned elephant photographer and researcher in the region, Aneesh Sankarankutty. With over 20 years of experience, Aneesh shared stunning photographs and fascinating insights into the behaviour, quirks and complexities of elephants. His presentation highlighted the intricate relationship between humans and these beloved animals, offering critical perspectives and reflections. The event drew a diverse audience, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds in a meaningful conversation about our connection with nature and wildlife, promoting appreciation and awareness about the importance of conservation and heritage preservation.

ATTENDEES

100 people

12 Volunteers



In Our World, In Their World Event – Palakkad Chapter

2. INTACH Palakkad Chapter - Introduction to Calligraphy- Workshop- 22 March 2025 / 09:00 Am / at Palakkad Cosmo Club

As part of our Chapter's Learning Modules for members (and some non members), we hosted an introductory workshop in calligraphy. We brought in two experts in the art of lettering and typography, Prajwal Xavier and Athul Jayaraman who guided the group. The participants were given demonstrations followed by the opportunity to use the professional tools to create beautiful lettering. This being a very successful pilot event, we plan to bring in more such experts to conduct workshops based on various topics related to heritage, under this initiative.

ATTENDEES

28 Registrations

12 Member registrations



Introduction to Calligraphy- Workshop – Palakkad Chapter

3 CHETTINAD HERITAGE TOUR - 28 February, 01 & 02 March 2025 / 3 Days 2 Nights / Palakkad to Chettinad



Chettinad Heritage Tour – Palakkad Chapter

The Chapter's 3-day cultural immersion trip to Chettinad was a resounding success with 16 members participating. The trip offered a unique opportunity to explore the region's rich heritage, which included:

Distinctive Architecture, characterised by grand mansions, intricate carvings and ornate details, under the expert guidance of local story tellers and architects.

Local cuisine with flavourful dishes that Chettinad is famous for and learning about the region's culinary traditions and ingredients through local chefs and food experts.

Art and crafts including Athangudi tile making, basketry and Chettinad handloom weaving, all of which showcases the region's cultural richness with insights from artisans.

We gained valuable insights into Chettinad's history, the efforts being made to conserve its heritage, and plans for preserving its cultural legacy. The Chapter aims to continue organizing such tours for members to promote cultural appreciation and heritage conservation.

4. NAATTULSAVAM - VEETTULSAVAM - REPORT

09 February 2025 / 09:30 Am / at Sharada Krishna Iyer Library

The Chapter gave a local spin to HECS's national poster making and essay competition, 'Celebrating India', making it a unique and engaging experience for all participants including parents and members. The event was organised to celebrate and promote the region's intangible heritage through creative expression. Students showcased their understanding of the region's festivities and intangible heritage.

Parents and INTACH members also participated in making a large poster, fostering community collaboration and engagement. Before starting, the students were given a brief introduction about the region's intangible heritage, festivities, and its various aspects.

All participants received participation certificates, acknowledging their efforts and encouraging their creative pursuits. The event was a resounding success, bringing together students, parents and members. All entries were submitted to the INACH HECS division for evaluation.

ATTENDEES

74 Students

18 Schools

10 Volunteers

15 Parents



National Poster Making and Essay Competition, 'Celebrating India' – Palakkad Chapter

5. Palakkad Pallankuzhi Challenge - Report

24 November 2024 / 3 Pm / at District Heritage Museum Palakkad



Palakkad Pallankuzhi Challenge - Palakkad Chapter

We celebrated the centuries old south Indian game of 'Pallankuzhi' as part of this year's World Heritage Week Celebrations. The event titled 'Palakkad Pallankuzhi Challenge' was held at the District Heritage Museum. It included a competitive section and a demonstration section where newcomers were taught how to play the game.

About 55 participants registered and took part in the event. We had a team of 12 Chapter members at the event, with Latha Anantharaman framing the rules and coordinating the proceedings. We had a fantastic time celebrating a much-loved heritage. From little children eager to learn the wonderful old game, to seniors who played with child-like joy, the event included a range of participants.

Fittingly, the final round was played between two players who were separated by about half a century in years, but evenly matched in excitement. Top three winners were awarded with certificates and unique traditional board games from other parts of the country. All participants were awarded with certificates and a copy of the annual special issue of Young INTACH Newsletter.



Palakkad Pallankuzhi Challenge - Palakkad Chapter

**6 Vallathol, Kalamandalam & Katha Of Kathakali - Report
25 October 2024 / 7 Am / Palakkad to Cheruthuruthy**



Vallathol, Kalamandalam & Katha Of Kathakali - Palakkad Chapter

Kathakali, the world famous dance-drama form of Kerala originated in the medieval period in a feudal world.

Its survival and evolution in the modern world owes much to the Kerala Kalamandalam, the great institution of art-learning founded under the leadership of Mahakavi Vallathol. Many brilliant masters and visionaries played key roles in the story of Kathakali and the Kalamandalam.

We conducted an expert guided Coach Tour to Kerala Kalamandalam from Palakkad to discover this spectacular world. Our first stop was the Vallathol Museum, where we delved into the history and revival of Kathakali, as well as the founding of Kerala Kalamandalam. We explored the life and works of Mahakavi Vallathol, gaining a deeper understanding of his contributions with the guidance of our subject expert Sri. Vellinezhi Achuthankutty.

Next, we visited Kerala Kalamandalam, where we were warmly welcomed by Sri. Kesavan Namboothiri. He graciously guided us through the campus, introducing us to the various Kalaries where students learn classical art forms as part of their curriculum. Witnessing the transmission of these traditional arts to the next generation was truly enriching.

We had the privilege of witnessing a captivating Kathakali demonstration at the old Kalamandalam Campus. The experience was further enriched by a hands-on session, where we learned the intricacies of Kathakali makeup and attire.



Sri. Vellinezhi Achuthankutty, Expert Guided Coach Tour to Kerala Kalamandalam from Palakkad to discover this spectacular world – Palakkad Chapter

Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav participated in various events today to mark the occasion of International Museum Day.

The main program was held at the District Museum, where several dignitaries were present, including Principal Secretary Mr. Shivshekhar Shukla, Commissioner of Archaeology Ms. Urmila Shukla, local MLAs, and prominent historians.

On this occasion, several books were also released by the Chief Minister, including a number of publications brought out by INTACH Bhopal.

Damoh

INAUGURATION OF DAMOH CHAPTER

With the aim of promoting heritage awareness and conservation, the INTACH Damoh Chapter was formally launched at Eklavya University. The event took place in the



presence of Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Tourism, Religious Trusts and Endowments, along with former Finance Minister Damoh MLA, Shri Jayant Malaiya. Distinguished guests included INTACH Chairman Ashok Singh Thakur; INTACH Madhya Pradesh State Convener Deepak Khandekar (Retired IAS); Special Secretary, RERA Bhopal and State Co-Convener, INTACH, Rajesh Bahuguna (Retired IAS);

INTACH Jabalpur Convener Dr. Sanjay Malhotra; Damoh Collector, Shri Sudhir Kumar Kochar; and Chancellor of Eklavya University and INTACH Damoh Convener, Dr. Sudha Malaiya and Director Chapters Gp Capt Arvind Shukla (Retd). The program was inaugurated by lighting a lamp in front of the statue of Goddess Saraswati. On this occasion, the guests were honored by presenting shawl, coconut and memento.

Former Finance Minister and MLA Jayant Kumar Malaiya warmly welcomed all the guests and congratulated everyone on the successful organization of the program. Minister of State for Culture, Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, remarked that today's younger generation tends to overlook ancient cultural values, which is the reason that traces of our rich cultural heritage in schools and colleges are missing now.

He expressed his concern that we are forgetting our glorious traditions. Our ancestors taught us eternal values like 'Asato Ma Sadgamaya, Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya' - 'Lead Me from Ignorance to Truth' "Lead me from darkness to light". But today's generation often abandon these ideals as they progress in their education." He further stated that through INTACH, efforts will now begin to preserve the heritage of Damoh district – particularly those sites that have not been maintained by the government or the Archaeology Department. He emphasized that the launch of the INTACH Chapter in Damoh marks the beginning of a praiseworthy initiative. "Damoh is rich in archaeological and cultural heritage, and the establishment of an INTACH Chapter here is a significant milestone. He lauded the efforts of all involved and particularly Dr. Sudha Malaiya, for her efforts in making this possible.

INTACH Chairman Ashok Singh Thakur announced that 237th Chapter is starting from Damoh. He emphasized that when people work together with unity and purpose, success naturally follows. "India's history is both glorious and a source of great pride."

Mr. Thakur praised Damoh District Collector Shri Sudhir Kumar Kochar, for his commendable efforts in promoting heritage awareness, including the publication of the Damoh Darshan booklet. He encouraged everyone to not only learn about the nation's monuments but also to take pride in the heritage of their own district – its ancient ponds, trees, traditional foods, and folklore. He further ensured the support of Professional Divisions of INTACH will always be there for all the Chapters initiatives.

Chairman assured allocations of funds for projects in the region and requested the district administration to support these efforts through CSR funding.

In his closing remarks, he urged everyone to share the country's rich and glorious history with future generations.

State Convener of Madhya Pradesh Shri Deepak Khandekar said that our culture – including our folk songs, folk tales, and traditional foods – is an integral part of our heritage. Much of what we consider history has been written by others, and that is what we have grown up reading.

Shri Khandekar said, "As the State Convener, I consider it a great achievement that a new INTACH Chapter has been established here. From the very beginning, it has been my constant effort to expand the number of chapters – because the more chapters we have, the better we can preserve our invaluable heritage."

Special Secretary, RERA Bhopal, and State Co- Convener, Shri Rajesh Bahuguna said that "The way I see it, culture encompasses all aspects of life." He recalled how, during visits to villages in earlier times, it was rare to see girls wearing jeans – a sign of how cultural norms are evolving. Just as we once relied on letters sent by post in the absence of mobile phones, technology has now transformed the way we live and communicate.

Collector Damoh Shri Sudhir Kumar Kochar assured everyone to place their trust in administration, and emphasized the importance of collective effort in making meaningful contributions to heritage preservation. He highlighted the Rani Damyanti Museum, which has received a grant of ₹20 crore through the efforts of the Minister. This is an unprecedented initiative that will completely transform the museum. He further stated, "The way I see it, culture embodies the essence of life itself."

INTACH Jabalpur Convener Dr. Sanjay Malhotra praised the establishment of the INTACH Chapter, calling it a noble initiative and expressing his gratitude to Minister of State Dharmendra Singh for making it possible. He emphasized that tourism will grow only when heritage is preserved, describing this as a simple yet vital principle that requires close coordination between the tourism and culture departments.

Dr. Malhotra stressed that preservation efforts must go beyond conservation alone. Our foremost task is to raise awareness. Without understanding the importance of preserving our heritage, all efforts will be in vain. Therefore, educating and sensitizing people is absolutely essential, he said.

Dr. Sudha Malaiya, Chancellor of Eklavya University and Convener, INTACH Damoh addressed the gathering by highlighting the deep and far-reaching influence of Indian culture. She said that while everyone admires the valor and courage of our brave soldiers, it is the widespread presence and imprint of Indian culture across the world that truly defines us. She explained that Indian culture rests on four fundamental pillars, which together form the nation’s collective horizon—an identity shaped by the shared consciousness. Dr. Malaiya elaborated on the first pillar: truth. She spoke of the wisdom passed down by our Gurus, who taught that through meditation and inner reflection, one could experience profound insights. She shared her own experience of meditating and sensing the light of the sun with rays emanating from all directions, accompanied by an inner voice guiding her to follow a single path. This pursuit of truth is the true identity of India.

Dr. Malaiya explained that India is not monotheistic but pluralistic; it embraces the idea that multiple truths can coexist. She emphasized that a fundamental aspect of Indian culture is the belief in the soul, rebirth, and the philosophy of “live and let live.” She also highlighted the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the world is one family. Dr. Malaiya further noted that India cherishes the joint family system and upholds a strong tradition of respecting parents and teachers, the core values deeply embedded in Indian culture.

At the conclusion of the event, INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur gave appointment letters to the Convener Dr Sudha Maliya, Co-convener Dr Pawan Kumar Jain, and Addl Co-convener Shri Prafull Sharma, as well as to all members of the INTACH Damoh Chapter. Dr Pawan Kumar Jain expressed gratitude to all the distinguished guests. The program was hosted by Dr. Hriday Narayan Tiwari and concluded with a collective rendition of the national anthem, led by Dr. Swati Gaur.



Inauguration of Damoh Chapter – Damoh Chapter

Datia

a. INTACH Datia celebrated World Earth Day

Datia, 22 April 2025 – On the occasion of World Earth Day, INTACH Datia Chapter celebrated the day with a unique tribute to Mother Earth through traditional worship and decoration. The event took place in a rural setting at Jhirka Bhag, Datia, as part of the Bhoo Alankaran (Earth Adornment) program. Participants honored Mother Earth by offering prasada, flowers, and performing aarti in a heartfelt ceremony that reflected reverence for nature. The puja was conducted with full rituals by Mr. Vinod Mishra, Convener INTACH Datia Chapter. Notable participants included Radha Vallabh Mishra, a renowned folk singer of Akashvani, along with Narayan Singh Kushwaha, Raju Kushwaha, Kapil Kushwaha, Bhan Singh Kushwaha, Bhaggu Kushwaha, and Ramchandra Kushwaha. This meaningful tradition of worshipping the Earth on World Earth Day was initiated by INTACH Datia 5 years ago and continues to inspire local communities to stay connected to the environment through cultural practices.

b. Museum Day - Datia Museum adorned with priceless ancient artifacts

Today, I had the opportunity to visit the Datia Museum for the first time, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the INTACH Datia Chapter for this enriching experience," said former Bank Manager Shri Rajiv Shukla, expressing his admiration during the World Museum Day celebration organized by INTACH Datia Chapter. He added that the ancient sculptures, weapons, and paintings of the renowned Datia Kalam style preserved in the museum are truly remarkable. He emphasized the importance of promoting these invaluable artifacts so they can be widely appreciated by the public. Noted historian Shri Ravi Thakur, speaking at the event, stated that Datia has been a center of culture and tradition since the times of the Mahabharata. He highlighted that the statues recovered from surrounding villages – now preserved in the Datia Museum – serve as strong evidence of the region's ancient heritage.

The event brought together INTACH Datia Chapter members, historians, archaeology and culture enthusiasts, who explored the museum's collection and engaged in insightful discussions with scholars.

Museum guide Shri Hariram Sahu provided detailed explanations about the artifacts on display, enhancing the understanding of their historical and cultural significance. Shri Vinod Mishra, Convener of the INTACH Datia Chapter, spoke about the purpose and vision behind celebrating World Museum Day, stressing the role of museums in preserving collective memory and identity. Distinguished guests present on the occasion included Rishiraj Mishra, Shailendra Khare, Radhavallabh Mishra, Dr. Anita Bundela, Mrs. Ramshree Mishra, Ajay Pawaiya, Umacharan Sharma, Sanjay Rawat, Jitendra Singh, Guru Narendra Srivastava, Miss Arya Mishra, and Master Atharva Mishra, among others, who also shared their views. As a mark of appreciation, historian Ravi Thakur and Mrs. Ramshree Mishra were felicitated with a plaque and a copy of Virasat, the official magazine of INTACH.

c. Madhukar Lecture Series begins...

"The Essence of Indian Philosophy is the Knowledge of the Self" – Dr. Vidyasagar Upadhyay

Datia. In the inaugural session of the Madhukar Lecture Series, jointly organized by Madhukar Shodh Sansthan and INTACH Datia Chapter, renowned philosopher and author Dr. Vidyasagar Upadhyay from Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, delivered an enlightening discourse on Indian philosophy. Dr. Upadhyay began by stating that the literal meaning of "philosophy" is "vision." Every individual has a unique way of seeing the world, which is why there is no universally accepted definition of philosophy. However, he emphasized that the central theme of Indian philosophy is Atma-Tattva – the knowledge of the self. He reflected on the spiritual depth of Indian thought, saying, "While the rest of the world was engrossed in material curiosity, Indian sages declared: 'Athato Brahma Jigyasa' – Let us now inquire into Brahman. Who is this Brahman, the source of all creation? What is its nature? Is Brahman the same as the self, or are they two distinct entities?" Exploring the eternal question 'Who am I?', he said, "The hand is mine, but I am not the hand. The watch is mine, but I am not the watch. I become a son in front of my father, a father to my son, a teacher to my student, and a student to my teacher. But who am I truly?" He explained that such questions are addressed in the Prasthanatrayi – the foundational scriptures of Indian philosophy: the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Brahma Sutras. Despite his initial prejudices, even German philosopher Schopenhauer acknowledged the power of the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, famously stating that three lines from it could change the world: "From darkness, lead me to light. From death, lead me to immortality." Dr. Upadhyay concluded by affirming the truth of creation and the Creator, saying, "If there is creation, there must be a Creator. This is not mere belief—it is the eternal truth proclaimed in the divine voice of the Vedas." He quoted from the Bhagavad Gita, where Lord Krishna declares: "Nāsato vidyate bhāvo nābhāvo vidyate sataḥ" – ("There is no existence for the unreal, and the real never ceases to be."). This powerful session offered the audience profound insights into the metaphysical foundations of Indian philosophical thought.

Before the commencement of the program, the Madhukar Lecture Series was formally inaugurated by the President of the event, Kamalkant Sharma, along with special guests Dr. Rinki Pathak and Dr. Pratibha Upadhyay.

The inauguration began with the garlanding of the statue of Maa Saraswati and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. The event's outline was presented by Vinod Mishra, while Rishiraj Mishra skillfully conducted the proceedings. The guests were warmly welcomed by Rituraj Sain Rinku, Shailendra Khare, Jitendra Guru, Radhavallabh Mishra, and others. On this occasion, Dr. Rinki Pathak delivered an insightful address on the Mimamsa tradition in literature. Young writer from Datia, Jagta Sharma, also shared his views on the theme of the event. In recognition of their scholarly contributions, Vinod Mishra Surmani honored the three distinguished guest speakers with Ang Vastra (ceremonial shawl) and Samman Patra (certificate of honor). Ravi Bhushan Khare extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants. The event saw the enthusiastic presence of Datia's enlightened citizens. Noteworthy among the participants were Shailendra Budhauliya, Maniram Sharma, Puran Chandra Sharma, Kushraj, Satendra Pal, Dr. Raj Goswami, Bhanu Sharma, and others. The program was held in the culturally significant premises near Madhukar Bhawan, at Bade Bahadur Ju Ki Haveli, adding a touch of historical relevance to the occasion.



*The inaugural session of the Madhukar Museum Day – Datia Chapter
Lecture Series – Datia Chapter*

d. Vinod Mishra honored with Kala Sadhak Samman

During the two-day Dr. Madhu Srivastava birth anniversary program, titled *Vasundhara 2025*, Vinod Mishra – Convenor, INTACH Datia Chapter and a dedicated archaeologist and folk culture enthusiast – was awarded the *Kala Sadhak Samman* at the State Museum auditorium in Jhansi. He was recognized for his significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Bundelkhand's traditional folk instruments.

The event was jointly organized by the State Museum, Jhansi, and the Lalit Kala Sansthan of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. The program was presided over by Dr. Manoj Kumar Gautam, Deputy Director, State Museum, Jhansi. Distinguished guests included Dr. Abha, Executive Member, State Lalit Kala Academy, Lucknow, and Dr. Shweta Pandey, Coordinator, Lalit Kala Sansthan, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. The dignitaries present conferred the Kala Sadhak Samman on Vinod Mishra. The event also saw the presence of several eminent personalities, including Dr. Ajay Kumar Gupta, Rajesh Srivastava, Dr. Arvind Srivastava, Dinesh Chandra Srivastava, members of the Praveen Raja Art Club, Jhansi, and renowned artist Kishan Soni.

Prior to the felicitation, a remarkable performance of the traditional folk instrument *Kachhari* was presented under the direction of Vinod Mishra. The presentation featured around 30 traditional folk instruments from the Bundelkhand region and was performed by artists from *Sangeet Gurukul, Datia*.



Vinod Mishra honored with Kala Sadhak Samman – Datia Chapter

Jabalpur

Report on Community Tribal Painting Workshop at Raja Shankar Shah Museum

Date: 20 July 2025

Venue: Raja Shankar Shah Museum, Jabalpur

Organized by: INTACH Jabalpur Chapter Dr Sanjay Mehrotra & Ritik Tiwari & Ityadi Art Foundation JALAM Dr Vinay Amber & Dr Supriya Amber

Under the Guidance and Chairmanship of: Shri Deepak Khandaker, IAS, State Convener, INTACH

INTACH Jabalpur Chapter, in collaboration with Ityadi Art Foundation JALAM, successfully organized a Community Tribal Painting Workshop on 20 July 2025 at the Raja Shankar Shah Museum. The workshop was held under the esteemed guidance and chairmanship of Shri Deepak Khandaker Sir, IAS, State Convener of INTACH Madhya Pradesh.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 200 participants including families, children, and art enthusiasts visiting the museum. Attendees actively took part in the tribal painting activities, gaining insight into traditional art forms and indigenous expressions.

Visitors were also taken on a curated tour of the museum. They appreciated the short documentary film dedicated to the heroic legacy of Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah, valiant freedom fighters of the 1857 uprising against British colonial rule.

Dr. Sanjay Mehrotra, Convener of INTACH Jabalpur Chapter, gave a brief but informative introduction about the museum, emphasizing the significance of preserving the British-era heritage building, and INTACH's role in its conservation. He also provided a historical overview of Raja Shankar Shah's contributions to India's freedom movement.



A special highlight for many visitors was the opportunity to see the historic jail cell where Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah were imprisoned by the British for four days, which left many guests emotionally moved and historically engaged.

To ensure visitor comfort, packaged mineral water, snacks, and tea were arranged by Dr. Mehrotra. These were provided free for children and nominally charged for adults. The event was smoothly conducted with the support of INTACH HO-appointed staff, local volunteers, and dedicated members of the INTACH Jabalpur Chapter.

Interviews and video bites of visitors were recorded by volunteers to capture their experiences and impressions of the museum and the workshop.



Community Tribal Painting Workshop at Raja Shankar Shah Museum – Jabalpur Chapter

Mandla

1. INTACH Team Visits Historic and Archaeological Site of Taragarh

Mandla – INTACH Mandla Chapter visited the historic and archaeological site of Taragarh, including the Vishwa Jyotish Kendra, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote awareness and conservation of heritage sites. The day began at 9 a.m. with a symbolic worship of natural heritage at the revered Maa Reva. The INTACH team then proceeded to the Gond-period stepwell, Jhiria-Subharia, where Chapter Convener Mr. Arun Agarwal interacted with local representatives, villagers, and children. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and preserving the site's heritage. Prizes were distributed to children to encourage their participation in heritage conservation. Following this, the team visited the historically significant site of Taragarh, accompanied by Hon. Dev Singh Saiyaam, former State Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

At the site, INTACH Additional District Co-Convener Mr. Sanjay Singor, along with members Mr. Rajesh Kshatriya and Mr. Om Prakash Chokse engaged the local community in a discussion about the site's ancient history and archaeological relevance. Co-Convener Mr. Vijay Agarwal and senior member Mr. Narendra Yadav formally requested the former minister's support in efforts to conserve and promote awareness of the Taragarh archaeological site.

During the visit, Anil Tiwari, Pratima Bajpai, Sanjulata Singor, T.D. Asathi, Rashmi Pathak and other members participated.

2. At the conclusion of the Mango Festival program, Chairman Shri Praful Mishra addressed the public, highlighting that the mangoes of Mandla district – particularly the pickling varieties – are renowned not only across the state but throughout the country. He emphasized that Mandla is well-suited for mango cultivation and appealed to farmers to diversify into fruit production alongside traditional crops. By increasing their sources of income through horticulture, he said, farmers could transform agriculture into a more economically rewarding pursuit. On this occasion, MP representative Jaiprakash Jha expressed his delight at the diverse display of mango varieties and congratulated the organizers for their efforts.

He remarked that the exhibition would motivate farmers and suggested citizens plant fruit trees under the initiative *Ek Ped Maa* (One Tree for Mother), encouraging the use of fallow land near homes and fields to develop fruit orchards. He emphasized that such initiatives would benefit future generations by enhancing local fruit availability.

INTACH Convenor Shri Arun Agarwal shared the vision of the organization, stating that its core mission is to create awareness among the general public by preserving natural heritage.

He highlighted India's global reputation for mangoes and reiterated that Mandla is highly suitable for mango cultivation. He encouraged farmers to draw inspiration from the festival and connect with the Horticulture Department to begin planting mangoes and other fruit-bearing trees, contributing to both environmental conservation and economic upliftment. Vice-Convenor Vijay Agarwal, senior member Surendra Dubey, other citizens, public representatives, farmers, and students from schools and colleges also attended the event and benefitted from the exhibition.

Many farmers who showcased their mangoes and actively participated in the event included Bhanu Pratap Singh (Balaghat Baihar), Mukesh Verma (Chhindwara), Shailesh Chourasiya (Jabalpur), Dr. Moolchand Sahu (Karaudi, Shahpura, Dindori), Rajesh Patel (Salimanabad), Maqbool Khan (Bhedaghat, Jabalpur), Rajkumar Chakraborty and Moolaram (Narayanganj), Amar Singh (Uladi, Narayanganj), Prakash Saini (Harda), Harvin Kumar Kachwaha (Narayanganj), Arun Agarwal, Arvind Agarwal, Geeta Kalpiwar, Mahadev Barmaiya, Yogendra Chaudhary, Laxmi Thakur, Ajay Rajoria (Seoni), Satish Saini, Shikha Srivastava, Sonal Barmaiya (Goji), and Manish Sharma (Bargi, Jabalpur).

These farmers proudly displayed their homegrown produce to the public, showcasing the diversity and quality of local mango cultivation. The program concluded with the valuable contributions of environmentalist and program in-charge Rajesh Kshatriya, whose efforts were widely appreciated. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Somesh Mishra, Collector, Mandla district, and Shri Shreyansh Kumat, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat. On this occasion, all participating fruit-producing farmers were honored with certificates. The event also saw the presence of Pankaj Markam, Agriculture Development Officer; NK Yadav, Assistant Officer, Horticulture Department; Surendra Jain; Sunil Agarwal; and Sunil Mishra.



Mango Festival program – Mandla Chapter

Shivpuri

Herbal Garden Project : Students of happy days school from classes 6th, 7th and 8th standards did a project on Herbal garden. The goal of this projects was to educate students of happy days school about importance of herbs and their various uses (Medicinal and culinary etc.), to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices, to create a hands on learning experience in gardening and plant science, to beautify the school ground and create a green space.

Students of happy days school cultivated Lemongrass, Ginger, Tulsi, Mint, Turmeric, Aloe vera in school garden. Students of happy days school gained practical gardening skills and knowledge of specific herbs, improved their team work, communication and observation skills. They learned about these herbs and their properties that helps to cure different diseases like cough, cold, anxiety, digestion, skin irritation, burns and acne. This project provided a valuable learning experience for students of happy days school, fostering their understanding of these importance herbs and their practical gardening skills.

Young INTACH newsletter theme (Rivers at risk) : Rivers are lifeline of our civilization, intertwined with our culture, history and environment. However, they face unprecedented threats. Rivers play a significant role in the heritage of our country. Rivers provide irrigation facilities, drinking water, transportation, power as well as grant livelihood. Students of happy days school were informed about the topic (Rivers at risk). Drawing activity was conducted during Heritage Club Hobby. Students of happy days school also gave writeups based on this topic. Through this activity students of happy days school learnt the value of rivers and about the challenges to save and protect these vital resources for the future generation.

Jacket factory visit : Students of happy days school along with INTACH members visited the Jacket factory of Badarwas , Shivpuri (M.P.). The primary objective of this visit was to provide students of happy days school with a first hand understanding of jacket manufacturing process. The tour commenced with a brief introduction to the company's history, s, its product line and safety protocols. Students of happy days school were then guided through the various stages of jacket production. Students of happy days school gained valuable insight into the complexities of garment manufacturing, from design to production. Students of happy days school learned about different types of machinery and equipment used in jacket production.

The tour provided an opportunity for the students of happy days school to interact with factory personnel and ask questions about the industry. The visit to Badarwas Jacket factory proved to be an enriching experience for the students of happy days school. It provided a valuable opportunity to connect class room learning with real world practices. The students of happy days school gained deeper understanding of the jacket manufacturing process and the various skills and the technologies involved.

Drawing activity: New year's theme - A drawing activity was conducted during heritage club hobby based on different new year's celebrated throughout India, according to the hindu calender. Each with its own unique cultural significance and tradition, example- Ugadi, Gudi padwa , Baishakhi, Pohela baishakh, Puthandu , Bestuvaras etc. Through this activity students of happy days school learn about the rich cultural heritage of India and the diverse ways in which different communities celebrate the new year.

Heritage walk (Bhoomi Pujan at old panchayat bhavan, Thakurpura, Shivpuri)- Bhoomi puja, a traditional Hindu ritual invoking blessing for a successful undertaking was held on 23rd Jan.2025 at village Thakurpura , Shivpuri (M.P.) , at the site on Old Panchayat Bhavan. Old Panchayat bhavan's serving as vital centers for local governance and community interaction, often hold historical and architectural significance. Their conservation and restoration are crucial for preserving cultural heritage and insuring their continued functionality.

The Bhoomi Pujan ceremony was graced by respected Mr. Arvind Lal Diwan(Chairman happy Days school), Mrs. Gita Diwan (Director Happy Days School), Mr. Devendra Kumar Jain MLA Shivpuri, Mrs. Gayatri Sharma (Chair person, Municipal corporation of Shivpuri), Mrs. Krishna Naagar(concillor ward no 39), Mr. Amardeep Sharma (Concillor ward no 1), local community members, project stake holders including architects , engineers and contractors, Heritage hobby incharges and students of happy days school of heritage club seeked blessing for the project’s smooth excecution and long term stability. The primary objective is to conserve and restore old panchayat bhavan, preserving its architectural heritage and historical significance. The restoration work will be carried out by skilled crafts people and contractors, adhering to the conservation plan and best practices for heritage preservation. The successful completion of this project will not only restore a historical building but also contribute to a stronger sense of community identity and pride. Through this visit students of happy days school learned about the significance of preserving and conserving old panchayat bhavan of Thakurpura, Shivpuri.



Heritage walk – Shivpuri Chapter

Young INTACH news letter Theme(World heritage wonders)-The theme for this issue is “World heritage wonders under UNESCO” which highlights the importance of UNESCO’S heritage sites which are considered to be of such importance that it should be protected for the future generations. UNESCO helps to protect and preserve these heritage wonders. UNESCO world heritage sites are important part of our global cultural heritage. It is our responsibility to protect and preserve these sites. Students of happy days school were told about this theme. They were told to draw on any of the heritage site from local region and write about it. Through this activity students of happy days school will be able to define what UNESCO world heritage wonders is and its significance .They will develop critical thinking skills by analyzing the importance of preserving these sites for future.

Activity on Maha Kumbh-The Maha kumbh is a unique and transformative experience, offering a glimpse into the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of India, held every 12 years at the confluence of sacred Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati at Prayagraj, it attracts millions of devotees from across the globe. Students of happy days school from heritage club created a artwork depicting the various aspects of Maha kumbh. Through this activity students of happy days school gained knowledge about Maha kumbh and its significance, they developed their artistic and writing skills, enhanced their understanding of Indian culture and traditions, fostered a sense of respect for diverse faiths and beliefs. The Maha Kumbh offers a rich tapestry of experiences for students of happy days school to learn from and appreciate.it is an event that will leave a everlasting experience on their minds.

Musical concert by Pandit Salil Bhatt (SPIC MACAY PROGRAMME held on 3rd February 2025)-Students of happy days school along with INTACH members and few other teachers of Happy days school ,Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, witnessed Pandit Salil Bhatt's satvik veena concert which was held at Happy days school. Pandit Salil Bhatt ,a renowned exponent of satvik veena from Jaipur Rajasthan, creator of satvik veena, accompanied by Tabla player Kaushik Kunwar captivated the audience with a mesmerizing performance and left an everlasting impression on music enthusiasts. Concert was well attended by students of happy days school and teachers, was a memorable event that showcased the beauty and versatility of Indian classical music. Pandit Salil Bhatt started the concert by enlightening the audience with his speech on culture and civilization. After that he played a 1st musical note with prayer. He also made the students of happy days school to sing "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa". There was also a question and answer session held. Many students of happy days school as well as teachers were answered to their curiosities. His fusion of classical melodies with contemporary sounds continues to inspire musicians and music lovers across the world. The concert saved an excellent platform to promote cultural awareness and appreciation among the young generation. The concert ended with the speech and vote of thanks given by Mrs. Gita Diwan (Director ,Happy days school, Shivpuri, M.P)



Musical concert by Pandit Salil Bhatt – Shivpuri Chapter

Bird watching bonanza-

A day filled with curiosity and awareness, Students of happy days school along with INTACH members of Heritage club and Eco club were engaged in " Bird Watching" or



"Birding" guided by Arihant Jain ,the District coordinator of the Indian Biodiversity conservation society , shivpuri,M.P .Its a practice of observing and identifying birds often for recreation activity. It can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. Its a rewarding activity that offers numerous benefits ,from relaxation and enjoyment to scientific

contribution and environmental awareness. Through this activity, students of happy days school learned bird watching, patience, focusing, nature observing, etc. it was an unforgettable experience learning about the rich avian diversity around us.



“Bird Watching” or “Birding” guided by Arihant Jain – Shivpuri Chapter

Young INTACH Newsletter theme (India’s Multi - Hued Head gears)-India has a rich history of cultural diversity, which reflected in its wide variety of headgears. Head gears has been used for various purposes, including protection from elements, as a symbol of status or identity, and for religious or ceremonial reasons. Today, head gears continue to be an important part of the Indian culture and it is worn by people of all ages and backgrounds. Students of happy days school were introduced to the rich cultural heritage of India through the study of its diverse head gears , fostering appreciation for tradition and craftsmanship. They are asked to do a research on different types headgears, its significance and its history. They were asked to make a drawing on this activity and to write something about it. Through this activity students of happy days school learned about the diverse range of headgears in India and in local area and their cultural significance and promoting essence of pride in traditions.

Maharashtra

Amravati

INTACH Amravati Chapter - Annual Meeting Report

3rd Annual Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, 06th June 2025

Out of 35, total 20 life members were present for this meeting.

On Friday, 6th June 2025, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the INTACH Amravati Chapter was held at Dr. Aniruddha Deshmukh’s Visharad Dental Clinic Hall, Rekha Colony, Amravati. Dr. Aniruddha Deshmukh, Executive Member of the INTACH Chapter, welcomed all the life members present at the meeting. Dr. Jayant Wadtkar, Chapter Convener, then initiated the proceedings. During the past year, the following four members participated in two different Capacity Building Workshops held at the INTACH Delhi office: Mr. Manish Dhakulkar, Prof. Anant Wadtkar, Prof. Prashant Shingvekar, and Mr. Malhar Pundlik. They were felicitated for representing the Amravati Chapter and successfully completing the workshops.

A detailed discussion was held by the Amravati chapter regarding the work required in the future. In this discussion, it was decided that the first task to be undertaken would be the listing and documentation of the built heritage in the district—such as ancient temples, forts, and mansions (wadās). Following that, it was unanimously agreed that there is an urgent need to work on aspects of intangible heritage—such as tribal songs, traditional songs, types of devotional music (bhajans), local fairs (jātras), and Bhulabai songs.

It was decided that in the future, each of these aspects would be taken up one by one for detailed documentation. In addition, it was agreed that informational booklets would be published about the existing temples and forts in the Amravati district. A tentative plan for future programs was prepared, and various activities to be conducted throughout the year were discussed and finalized by the INTACH Amravati Chapter. The first major decision was to organize a National-level Quiz Competition in collaboration with the HECS Department, INTACH New Delhi, scheduled for the last week of August 2025. Additionally, it was unanimously agreed to establish Heritage Clubs in at least 10 schools across the Amravati district during the current academic session. In addition to these initiatives, the following programs were also unanimously approved to be conducted throughout the year:

Mandla art and Warli Paintings workshop

Essay writing competition for school students on topic Heritage of my place

Competition on “Lost Recipes” to record forgotten traditional food items

Heritage Walk at Historic Amravati Land Fort

Heritage walks at Achalpur City and Gavilgarh Fort

Heritage tour at Lasur Temple-Mahimapur-Achalpur

Heritage tour at Riddhapur

Heritage Walk at Salbardi area

These programs aim to promote and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the region.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the INTACH Amravati Chapter – Amravati Chapter

Greater Mumbai

We celebrate the GPO Mumbai on World Heritage Day - April 18.

GPO Mumbai, completed in 1913, is a masterpiece of colonial-era design. Architect John Begg combined Indo-Saracenic, Islamic, and Gothic styles. Its central dome, ~120 ft high, was inspired by Bijapur's Gol Gumbaz and is the 2nd largest dome in the country. Built with basalt, Kurla stone, and detailed white stone ornamentation. The dome is both an architectural crown and a structural centerpiece. Years of pollution and weathering had taken a visible toll.

INTACH was brought in to lead a multi-phase restoration, which were undertaken in an area-wise manner. Skilled artisans restored carvings, arches, woodwork, and metal fittings. Non-invasive, heritage-sensitive methods were used throughout. The work carefully balances modern use with historical integrity. GPO remains a functioning post office during restoration. Public interest has grown around the building's transformation.

The third and final phase is scheduled to begin soon. It will address remaining interior spaces and structural elements. INTACH's phased approach allows for deep, sustainable conservation. The restoration reflects Mumbai's growing heritage consciousness. Once complete, GPO will stand fully renewed – a civic and cultural icon, a symbol of resilience - echoing this Heritage Day's theme: protecting heritage from disaster and conflict!

Nagpur

1. INTACH Heritage Club Installed at Essence International School

Essence International School celebrated the Installation Ceremony of its INTACH Heritage Club with great enthusiasm. Students took the heritage pledge, committing to uphold and protect India's rich cultural legacy. The programme featured an original song specially dedicated to the Heritage Club and a vibrant traditional dance performance, reflecting the school's dedication to cultural education.

The ceremony was coordinated by Heritage Club Teacher Incharges, Ms. Anamika and Ms. Vandana, under the guidance of Quality Coordinator, Mrs. Shastri. Awards were presented to the school for Best Heritage Club, to two teachers for their dedicated efforts and initiative, and to two students for their inspiring participation in heritage activities that motivate their peers.

Dr. Madhura Rathod, Convener of INTACH Nagpur Chapter, graced the occasion as Guest of the Day, urging everyone to work together for water conservation and to safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage. She motivated students with the words: "Preserving heritage is not just protecting our past – it is building a stronger, wiser future for all of us."

She was accompanied by Mr. Manoj Jain (Co-Convener) and Ms. Yamini Pawar (Member) of INTACH Nagpur Chapter, who also encouraged students to actively engage in heritage conservation initiatives.



Essence International School celebrated the Installation Ceremony of its INTACH Heritage Club – Nagpur Chapter

2. Report on Doordarshan Interview on World Heritage Day

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, Doordarshan Nagpur conducted a special interview featuring Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, New Delhi, and Dr. Madhura Rathod, Governing Council Member, INTACH, New Delhi.

The interview was conducted by Mrs. Revati Joshi, who engaged both guests in a thoughtful discussion on the importance of preserving India's rich cultural and natural heritage. Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur highlighted INTACH's ongoing national initiatives and the need for public participation in heritage conservation. He also answered interesting questions on Numismatics.

Dr. Madhura Rathod emphasized community involvement, education, and the role of youth in safeguarding both tangible and intangible heritage for future generations. She also elaborated on the activities conducted by INTACH Nagpur Chapter. This program was coordinated by Mr. Manoj Jain who is Co-Convenor of INTACH Nagpur Chapter and is a Program coordinator at Nagpur Doordarshan.

The programme served to raise public awareness about the significance of heritage conservation and the mission of INTACH in protecting India's diverse cultural legacy.

YouTubeLink

: <https://www.youtube.com/live/o6L3pRSe21A?si=891IU2oHuTUNeMWN>



Doordarshan Interview on World Heritage Day – Nagpur Chapter

Pune Workshops & talks

HECS INTACH and INTACH Pune chapter with association of Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture (VPSOA), Baramati organized a 2-day **Teacher Training Workshop** on INTACH Heritage Clubs in Baramati. The venue partner was INTACH institutional member Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture. Ms Purnima Dutt, Principal Director, HECS INTACH and Ms Vaishnavi Singh, programme Coordinator, HECS INTACH, Co-Conveners Ms. Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar and Ms. Jui Tawade from INTACH Pune along with Principal Rajashree Patil, VPSOA and Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, Academic head and professor, VPSOA were present. 49 teachers from 20 schools in rural area of Pune attended the workshop. Day 1 had sessions on introduction to different aspects of heritage and role of heritage education, introduction to teacher's kit and formation of heritage clubs. Dr Seemantini Chaphalkar gave a presentation on 'Introducing Local Heritage and types of heritage' INTACH Pune Co Convener Jui Tawade presented an 'Overview of Pune Chapter's work and Overview of Regional Heritage'. Ms Purnima Dutt and Ms Vaishnavi conducted the sessions regarding heritage education and formation of heritage clubs. Day 2 included a field trip - a guided heritage tour conducted by Dr Seemantini Chaphalkar along with local experts to heritage sites in Baramati followed by group work and presentations by participating teachers. HECS Resource Kits and certificates were given to all the participant teachers.

INTACH Pune Chapter was invited to be a part of **HCL Tech Grant Symposium - Reviving Heritage, Rebuilding Livelihoods: CRS for Traditional Skill Development** held in Pune on 27th June 2025. Our Co Convener Jui Tawade represented INTACH Pune as a panelist at the symposium.

Chapter Co-Convener Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar was invited as expert resource person for a day long **field trip to study cultural landscapes** by for their fourth year students of Architecture on 7th July 2025. The field visit included visit to a sacred grove in the Western Ghats mountains and interacting with the local community for understanding the cultural landscape.

Heritage walks and awareness sessions

As part of the chapter's monthly walk series, a **sports heritage walk** delving into the world of cricket was organized at the Blades of Glory Museum in Pune on 28th June 2025. The walk was led by Mr. Milind Gunjal, Cricketer and ex Maharashtra Captain. With over 75,000 cricket memorabilia pieces dating back to the 1900s, including the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's jersey he adorned during the triumphant final match of the 2011 World Cup against Sri Lanka and Virat Kohli's 2016 bat, among many others.

Shaniwar Wada Heritage Walk was conducted on 26th April 2025 to commemorate World Heritage Day and the death anniversary of Peshwa Bajirao I in the same month, by EC members Dr. Chetan Saharabuddhe and Madhur Barve.

Customized heritage walks were also conducted on request by Co-Convener Jui Tawade for various visitor groups in the city including students from Pearl Academy, Department of Interior Design, Mumbai and the Mysore School of Architecture, Mysore, Karnataka.

A heritage tour was conducted by our EC member Madhur Barve for YouTuber Harish Bali has been featured on his channel Visa2Explore.

https://youtu.be/e0ESz1_45LU?si=kbBcWc037YQWzEES

Publications - INTACH Pune's EC member Dr Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar was invited by Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Government of Maharashtra to contribute as a key resource person for Compendium 'Sacred Groves of Maharashtra' which is a compilation of existing listing of sacred groves in Maharashtra. This publication will act as a baseline data for further research, documentation and conservation action of these ecologically sensitive and culturally important sites.



HCL Tech Grant Symposium - Reviving Heritage, Rebuilding Livelihoods – Pune Chapter



A Sports Heritage Walk – Pune Chapter

Solapur

HERITAGE WEEK 2024

INTACH Solapur Chapter conducted two heritage walks on 24th Nov at Solapur Fort. The first one was for a group of friends from Pune and was conducted by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar.



Heritage Walks – Solapur Chapter

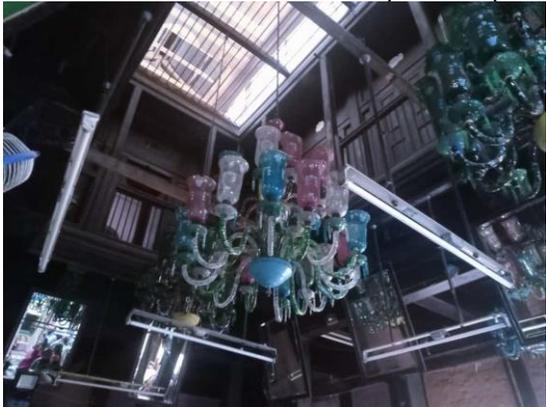


Bhadange Rukmini Vitthal Mandir – Solapur Chapter

The group then walked over to the Rukmini- Vitthal Mandir in front of Bhadange Wada. Since it was the first Sunday of the month of Margashirsha, the idol of Vitthal was beautifully decorated in the form of Khandoba by the priest of the temple, Shri. Keshavrao Bhadange.



Radha Krishna Mandir – Solapur Chapter



Belgian glass chandeliers – Solapur Chapter

Glass paintings – Solapur Chapter

After that, the descendants of Kekade gave information about the Radha Krishna Temple. The participants were overwhelmed by seeing the two-storey mandir- wada, Belgian glass chandeliers, and the beautiful marble Radha- Krishna idol.



A token of love from Abhijit Bhadange to INTACH Solapur Chapter – Solapur Chapter

The heritage tour was convened by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar. Shveta Kothawale and Nitin Anvekar made efforts for its success. A large number of heritage enthusiasts and INTACH members were present at the walk.

The walk was covered very well by the local news media and YouTube influencers; the links to which are given-

<https://youtu.be/sKCS-woHRyc?si=HsU26KxORDzyMg5h>

<https://youtu.be/1vMjrGGe2og>

CELEBRATING INDIA- Poster and Essay Competition

INTACH Solapur Chapter conducted Celebrating India Poster Competition at Annappa Kadadi Highschool, Solapur on Saturday 4th Jan, 2025.



Inaugural – Solapur Chapter

With the intimation to schools of the event in early December, 142 students from 15 schools participated in the event.

Registration started at 8.00 am with the competition conducted from 8.30 am to 11.30am with Co- Convener Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar at the helm. The students gathered at the Saptarishi Hall of the school. Convener Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar welcomed the expert, guests, students, teachers and parents gathered for the event.



Inauguration by watering a plant Mr. Jaamdar addressing the students – Solapur Chapter

Shri. H. B. Jaamdar, teacher at B. F. Damani Highschool was invited as subject expert. Mr. Jaamdar was felicitated with a potted plant. The event was inaugurated with the watering of a plant.

Shri. Jaamdar addressed the students about the history of Solapur. He explained to the students the relation of our festivals and rituals to the seasons of our country. He described the local, state and national festivals of each month of the Hindu calendar and their relation to the agricultural activities and produce of those seasons.

At 9.00 am drawing and writing sheets were distributed amongst the students. Students sat around in groups in the hall and outside in the shaded school grounds. They drew posters on the many celebrations and practices followed in Solapur district.



Students at the competition – Solapur Chapter



Students at the competition – Solapur Chapter

Students were given refreshments which were partaken as they painted and wrote their essays.



Headmaster Mr. Anil Patil was felicitated – Solapur Chapter

The entries were collected at 11.30am. The event was concluded with thanking Head Master Mr. Anil Patil for providing venue and other facilities. The school had made each and every arrangement well in advance and helped conduct the competition smoothly.

Life Member Prof. N.S. Katikar, Co- Conveners Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar and Ar. Shveta Kothavale helped organize and conduct the event.

INSTALLATION OF CONVENER PROF. DR. NARENDRA KATIKAR

Installation of Prof. Dr. Narendra Katikar as Convener was held on 5th January, 2025. The event was presided over by Mr. Mukund Bhogale, Convener, and Dr. Sharvey Ghongade, Co- Convener, INTACH Maharashtra. Ar. Tejaswini Aphale, Conservation Architect was invited to present on the conservation at Jejuri, Pandharpur and Chandwad.



Dr. Katikar addressing the audience – Solapur Chapter



Ar. Tejaswini Aphale presenting her work – Solapur Chapter

Founding Convener Dr. Seemantani Chaphalkar summarized on the efforts taken to create heritage awareness, listing, documentation and advocacy during her twelve year tenure. Mr. Mukund Bhogale appreciated the work till date by the Chapter with Dr. Chaphalkar at the helm and expressed confidence that the good work would continue. Dr. Sharvey Ghongade talked about how INTACH's work plays an important role in community building. Dr. Narendra Katikar said that he hoped to employ technology in furthering the cause of heritage conservation and would try to involve youngsters to a larger extent.

Ar. Tejashwini was introduced by Co- Convener Ar. Shveta Kothavale. Ar. Tejashwini presented on her works and brought to the fore the efforts taken to restore heritage precincts keeping in mind the present day challenges of crowd control, people's attachment to certain rituals and places and the satisfaction one derives when the work is appreciated by the devotees or the users.

Many prominent citizens and Life Members of the Chapter including Kishore Chandak, Rajkumar Survase, Principal Dr. R. Y. Patil, Dr. Ravindra Chincholkar, Arvind Joshi, Gururaj Yellatti, Shashikant Patil were present on the occasion. Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar, Nitin Anvekar, Vinay Burbure, Tushar Nayar, Vikas Kulkarni took efforts to make the event successful.

FORT WALK



Fort Walk – Solapur Chapter

On 1st February the Chapter conducted a Fort Walk to the 7th and 8th class students of Late. V. M. Mehta Highschool. Nitin Anvekar and Ar. Shveta Kothavale conducted the walk.



Fort Walk – Solapur Chapter

Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar conducted Fort Walk for members of Sai Sanstha on 16th February to commemorate Shivajayanti on 19th Feb. The attendees, many of them first time visitors to the fort took keen interest in the walk.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR SOLAPUR HEAD POST OFFICE

INTACH Solapur Chapter prepared a Condition Assessment Report of the Solapur Head Post Office on the request of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Solapur Division. The structure is being proposed for restoration along with four other Head Post Offices in India.

PUNYASHLOK APPASAHEB WARAD PUNYATITHI



Punyathithi of Shri Appasaheb Warad – Solapur Chapter

On June 17th, Punyathithi of Shri Appasaheb Warad, a visionary of Solapur, was observed. The first Vice Chacellor of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Solapur University along with the extended family and well- wishers were present on the occasion. Co-Convener Ar. Shveta Kothavale discussed putting up of a gallery in memory of Shri Warad at Indrabhavan and the restoration of the olb bunglow in the same premises.

FIRST LATE ANAND KUMBHAR LECTURE by DR. SURAJ PANDIT

On the occasion of World Architecture Day INTACH Solapur Chapter started Late Anand Kumbhar Lecture Series. Shri. Anand Kumbhar was a noted epigraphist who, through sheer determination and enthusiasm documented stone inscriptions of four talukas of Solapur district and brought to light many a historical references, the most important being the first Marathi inscription at Sangameshwar temple, Hattarsang Kudal.



Dr. Seemantini reminiscing on the various associations of Shri. Kumbhar with the Chapter – Solapur Chapter

The first lecture in the series was by Dr. Suraj Pandit, Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian Culture and Buddhist Studies, at Sathaye College of Parle Tilak Vidyalaya Association on “Civil Heritage and Archaeology” on 19th April, 2025. The event was organized in association with Shri Heerachand Nemchand Vachanalaya. The event started with the screening of a film on Late Anand Kumbhar. Founder Convener Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar talked about the long association of Late Anand Kumbhar with INTACH Solapur Chapter. INTACH Solapur Chapter Convener Dr. Narendra Katikar, Co- Convener Ar. Shveta S. Kothavale, Office bearer of H N Library, Dr. Shrikant Kamatkar, close friend and member H N Library Shri. Mohan Sohoni and Ravi Shankar Kumbhar were present on the dais. Shri Ravi Shankar Kumbhar, son of Shri. Anand Kumbhar was felicitated on the occasion.

Convener Dr. Narendra Katikar welcomed the gathering and explained the objective behind celebrating World Heritage Day, and also explained the duties of institutions and citizens in preserving and conserving heritage. He briefly highlighted the various initiatives by INTACH Solapur Chapter and expressed that the Late Anand Kumbhar Lecture Series will be conducted every year on World Heritage Day to highlight Late Anand Kumbhar’s contribution to



Convener Dr. Katikar welcoming the gathering – Solapur Chapter

epigraphy studies in Solapur district. He also introduced the Speaker Dr. Suraj Pandit and felicitated him.



Dr. Suraj Pandit presenting First Late Anand Kumbhar Lecture – Solapur Chapter

Dr. Suraj Pandit started his lecture explaining that as a city is formed from a settlement to a village to a town- city- megacity it enshrines historical markers within its fabric making every city unique and connected to its ancient past. Dr. Pandit further said that while studying the current form of the city, its overall heritage creation and journey can be very interesting. He presented in detail his research especially regarding the heritage of the city of Mumbai, over the past 25 years. He presented the archaeological research done in various parts of Mumbai in collaboration with various institutions like Mumbai University, Sathaye College, student-researchers, and professors through illustrations and examples.



Dr. Pandit presenting the lecture – Solapur Chapter

He elaborated on the research done in many parts like Marol, Mahim, Kanheri Caves and the history and heritage of Mumbai over thousands of years. He emphasized that a museum of every city is a living example that shows the journey of the heritage of that city and should be established in every city. He also appealed to the citizens to be proud of their local heritage and to preserve and create awareness regarding the same.



Audience at the lecture – Solapur Chapter

The event ended with Vote of Thanks by Co- Convener Ar. Shveta Kothavale. The lecture was attended by members of INTACH Solapur Chapter- Ar. Amol Chaphalkar, Nitin Anvekar, Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar, Shashikant Patil and others, Senior journalist Arvind Joshi, Prof. Prabhakar Kolekar, Dr. Shivaji Shinde, Jitendra Lad, Ravindra Nashikkar along with students and enthusiasts of history and archeology, professors, teachers and citizens in large numbers.

Dr. Dhanesh Ligade, Prof. Vinayak Sadaphule, Kripa Kulkarni, Vinay Burbure, Shruti Diddi, Ramesh Batagiri and others contributed to the event's success.

The lecture is available on INTACH Solapur Chapter YouTube channel- <https://youtu.be/cj2zXR4-xK0>

RADIO TALK BY CONVENER DR. NARENDRA KATIKAR- Convener Dr. Narendra Katikar presented a radio talk at Akashvani Solapur on the occasion of World Heritage Day on 21st April, 2025.

HERITAGE WALK- INDRA BHAVAN

On the occasion of 175th Birth Anniversary of Punyashlok Appasahed Warad, INTACH Solapur Chapter arranged a heritage walk to Indrabhavan- a palatial mansion built by late Shri. Warad which now houses the Solapur Commissionerate. The conservation and restoration of the structure was undertaken during 2021-22 by Solapur Smart City after diligent follow up by INTACH Solapur Chapter.



Participants of the walk – Solapur Chapter

The walk was conducted on 28th June, 2025; facilitated by Solapur Municipal Corporation. The walk started with garlanding the statue of Punyashlok Appasaheb Warad. More than 50 participants along with members of the Warad family were present. Books published on Shri. Warda's life and work were presented to the attendees.



Dr. Chaphalkar conducting the walk – Solapur Chapter

The walk was conducted by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar. She presented a life sketch of SDhri. Warad against the backdrop of British rule in Solapur. She brought forth the progressive and the business acumen of Shri. Warad recognized by Queen Victoria as one of the 12 noble- businessmen nationwide. He was instrumental in many socio- economic initiatives in the city. She then guided the participants in and around the palatial structure bringing out the unique decorative and planning features of the mansion.

Manipur

1. This is to inform you that Dr. Khasim Ruivah of INTACH Manipur Chapter, Membership No. L/18469, Nagaram Stadium Road, Imphal - 795001, expired on 2 April 2025. He was a former minister and two-time MLA from the Chingai Assembly Constituency, Manipur.



Dr. Khasim Ruivah – Manipur Chapter

2. International Mother Language Day Observance 2025 Theme: Intangible Cultural Heritage: Folklore and Oral Tradition of the Indigenous Rongmei Community of Manipur Date: 5 April 2025 Venue: JN Manipur Dance Academy

REPORT

On 5 April 2025, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Manipur Chapter, in collaboration with the Rongmei Literature Society, organised a special observance of International Mother Language Day 2025 under the theme "Intangible Cultural Heritage: Folklore and Oral Tradition of the Indigenous Rongmei Community of Manipur."

The event took place at the JN Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal.

The inaugural function was graced by several distinguished personalities. Former Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh, served as the Chief Guest; Sahitya Akademi Awardee Shri Saratchand Thiyam was the Guest of Honour; and Professor Naorem Joykumar, noted historian from the Department of History, Manipur University, participated as the Special Invitee. Shri Ragongning Gangmei, Manipur State Kala Academy Awardee and President of the Rongmei Literature Society, presided over the function.



Lighting the Ceremonial Lamp – Manipur Chapter

Although Shri N. Biren Singh could not attend the programme in person, his message was conveyed through an audio recording. In his address, he expressed strong support for the preservation of indigenous languages and lauded the initiative for its cultural significance. He highlighted the urgency of documenting and celebrating oral traditions and native expressions that are intrinsically linked to the land, history, and identity of Manipur's diverse communities.

Delivering the Welcome-cum-Keynote Address at the International Mother Language Day Observance 2025, Dr. Homen Thangjam, Coordinator of the programme and Convener of the INTACH Manipur Chapter, underscored Manipur's rich multilingual heritage. He noted that the state is home to 38 distinct ethno-linguistic communities, including Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Inpui, Kharam, Koirang, Kom, Lamgang, Liangmai, Mao, Maram, Maring, Mate, Meitei, Meitei Pangal, Mizo, Monsang, Moyon, Nepali, Paite, Poumai, Purum, Ralte, Rongmei (Kabui), Sukte, Sema, Simte, Tangkhul, Tarao, Thadou, Thangal, Vaiphei, Zeme, and Zou. Among these, the Meiteis and Meitei Pangals primarily speak Meiteilon (Manipuri), which is a scheduled language of India.



Dr Homen Thangjam - Welcome cum Keynote Address – Manipur Chapter

Focusing on the Rongmei (Kabui) community, Dr. Thangjam highlighted that the Government of Manipur has recognised Rongmei as one of the 18 officially acknowledged tribal languages, either as a subject or as a medium of instruction in schools. According to the 2011 Census, Rongmei is spoken by 1,03,908 individuals in the state. He emphasised that beyond formal education, the Rongmei language is embedded in a vibrant tradition of folklore and oral narratives that form an essential part of Manipur’s intangible cultural heritage.

Dr. Thangjam drew attention to the significance of International Mother Language Day, observed globally on 21 February, as a platform to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. This year’s observance, centred on the Rongmei community, aimed to underscore the importance of preserving indigenous languages and oral traditions. He stressed that folklore, encompassing myths, legends, proverbs, and songs, serves as the foundation of a community’s identity and collective memory. Among the Rongmei people, oral storytelling continues to play a vital role in transmitting knowledge, cultural values, and historical consciousness.

He elaborated on the nature of oral traditions as a form of intangible cultural heritage – dynamic, living expressions shaped by social interaction and historical context. Unlike tangible artefacts, oral traditions carry the essence of a community’s wisdom and worldview. Safeguarding such traditions, Dr. Thangjam argued, is critical for ensuring cultural continuity and resilience, especially in the face of globalisation and linguistic homogenisation. Moreover, he observed that promoting indigenous traditions can also foster greater understanding and peaceful coexistence among Manipur’s diverse communities.

The event, Dr. Thangjam noted, is expected to generate several key outcomes: the documentation and publication of Rongmei folktales, myths, and oral histories; increased recognition of Rongmei language and folklore among scholars, policymakers, and the general public; active community engagement through the participation of elders, storytellers, and youth; and the integration of indigenous oral traditions into formal education systems to strengthen linguistic diversity.

He concluded by affirming that the observance of International Mother Language Day 2025 would serve as an important platform for celebrating and safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of the Rongmei community. The programme, he said, would contribute meaningfully to the broader discourse on linguistic preservation, cultural identity, and indigenous knowledge systems in Manipur. Through collective and sustained efforts, Dr. Thangjam expressed hope that Manipur's rich multilingual traditions would continue to flourish for generations to come.

In his special lecture, Prof. Naorem Joykumar underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive language policy aimed at preserving indigenous dialects and traditional expressions, particularly those transmitted orally across generations. He noted that while processes of modernisation are increasingly shaping language use, it remains imperative to safeguard the unique linguistic heritage of each community. Prof. Joykumar further emphasised that local idioms, proverbs, and oral narratives handed down by elders encapsulate not only linguistic uniqueness but also the history, cultural values, and identity of a people. In this context, language transcends its communicative function to become a vessel of collective memory and intergenerational knowledge. He stressed that the active promotion and use of one's mother tongue is a fundamental step toward the preservation of cultural identity.

Reflecting on the historical origins of International Mother Language Day, Sahitya Akademi Awardee Shri Saratchand Thiyam recalled the events of February 21, 1952, in East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh), where students were martyred while protesting the imposition of Urdu over their mother tongue, Bengali. Their sacrifice, he noted, led UNESCO to officially proclaim February 21 as International Mother Language Day during its 30th General Conference held on November 17, 1999.

Shri Thiyam remarked that this globally observed day serves as a powerful reminder for communities across the world, including those in Manipur, to honour, value, and preserve their mother tongues. He called for the formulation of a well-defined language policy in Manipur to protect and nurture the state's rich linguistic diversity.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Shri Ragongning Gangmei, President of the Rongmei Literature Society. The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Thuanreilung Phaomei, Coordinator of the Rongmei Literature Society.



Inaugural Song by Rongmei Youth – Manipur Chapter

In the first Technical Session, titled “Rongmei Narratives on the Cosmos and Origin Myth & Inter- community Relationship,” three resource persons – R. Gangmei, G. Gaingam, and Rev. Ashapou Thaimai – presented insightful papers exploring the cosmological beliefs, origin myths, and inter- community relations within the Rongmei tradition. The session was moderated by Dr. K. Sobita Devi, former Director of Arts and Culture, Government of Manipur.



Dr. K. Sobita Devi moderating the technical session – Manipur Chapter

As a cultural highlight, a Rongmei couple performed a traditional folk song that poetically conveyed themes of creation, the cosmos, and the interconnectedness of all living and non-living beings—reflecting the deep ecological and spiritual worldview embedded in Rongmei oral traditions.



Special folk song – Manipur Chapter

The post-lunch session featured a Panel Discussion on “Folklore as Intangible Cultural Heritage and Its Role in Identity, Morality, and Social Structure.” The panel consisted of Dr. S. Hungyo from Pettigrew College, Shri L.P. Golmei, Retired IAS officer, and Dr. Khumukcham Ranibala Devi from D.M. University. Each panellist offered unique insights into the socio-cultural significance of folklore, highlighting its role in shaping identity, transmitting moral values, and reinforcing social structures. The session was moderated by Prof. Chungkham Sheelaramani, former Principal of D.M. College of Arts, who adeptly steered the discussion toward the enduring relevance of oral traditions as repositories of communal memory and cultural continuity.

In the next Technical Session, Shri C.P. Lungkubon, a noted Rongmei litterateur, presented a paper titled “Rongmei Oral Traditions in Contemporary Contexts: Language Revitalisation, Cultural Adaptation, and Representation in Modern Media and Literature.” His presentation explored the evolving relevance of oral traditions in the face of modern cultural and technological shifts.

Following this, Shri R. Gangmei, President of the Rongmei Literature Society, delivered a paper on “Folktales, Proverbs, and Indigenous Songs,” highlighting the richness and pedagogical value of these traditional forms in preserving communal wisdom and identity, communal harmony.

The session was moderated by Shri Norbert Disinang, Retired IAS officer, who facilitated an engaging exchange on the intersections of tradition and modernity within the Rongmei cultural landscape.

Dr. Chirom Rajketan Singh, a renowned folklorist and Professor of Manipuri at Manipur University, delivered the Closing Remarks of the event. He warmly commended the quality and depth of the presentations made throughout the observance, noting that the sessions were not only scholarly but also deeply rooted in the lived experiences and collective wisdom of the Rongmei community. According to him, the event marked more than a knowledge-sharing platform – it was a meaningful journey of learning, one that fosters empathy, healing, and trust in a culturally diverse and often fractured society like Manipur.

Dr. Rajketan reflected on the imaginative and symbolic power of folklore, observing that in folk narratives, any being or object can assume a central role – a cat may emerge as a hero, a python might become a husband, and a tiger, a wife. These fantastical characterizations, he noted, are not arbitrary but intentional, conveying layered messages of morality, social conduct, caution, and trust. Folklore, he argued, mirrors the pluralism of our society, offering timeless lessons through the art of storytelling.

He underscored that folktales and oral traditions are not just relics of the past but dynamic tools that carry forward values of heroism, villainy, sacrifice, and community ethics. By engaging with them, both speakers and listeners are drawn into a shared cultural space that transcends linguistic or ethnic boundaries.

In closing, Dr. Rajketan extended his heartfelt appreciation to the INTACH Manipur Chapter for organising the event in collaboration with the Rongmei Literature Society. He urged the organisers to initiate similar programmes with other indigenous communities of Manipur, highlighting the need to document and celebrate the diverse oral traditions that collectively constitute the state’s rich intangible cultural heritage.

The International Mother Language Day 2025 observance, jointly organised by INTACH Manipur Chapter and the Rongmei Literature Society, successfully brought together scholars, cultural practitioners, and community leaders in a collective endeavour to celebrate and preserve the intangible cultural heritage of the Rongmei people. Through keynote addresses, paper presentations, folk performances, and panel discussions, the event reaffirmed the critical role of indigenous languages, oral traditions, and folklore in shaping communal identities and fostering social cohesion. The active participation of diverse stakeholders reflected a growing recognition of the need to revitalise and safeguard Manipur's multilingual and multi-ethnic heritage. As echoed in the closing remarks, such initiatives must be extended to include other indigenous communities, thereby contributing to a more inclusive cultural policy framework and strengthening the shared cultural fabric of the state. This observance not only honoured the Rongmei community's rich traditions but also offered a model for cultural dialogue, resilience, and mutual respect in contemporary Manipur.



Young scholars savouring the deep discourses – Manipur Chapter

Orissa Cuttack

The INTACH Cuttack Chapter in association with the State Chapter officially launched the book 'Relics of Kalinga in South India, Part-I' at a ceremonial event held on Sunday, 27th April at the IPS Officers' Mess, Cantonment Road, Cuttack. This landmark publication is part of an INTACH initiative to list and document archaeological and historical sites linked to the Kalinga heritage in South India. Authored by INTACH member Shri Deepak Kumar Nayak, the book has been jointly edited by retired IAS officer Shri Sanjib Chandra Hota and Professor Dr. Asoka Kumar Rath.

The first edition was formally released by eminent Odissi exponent and former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Padmashri Dr. Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi who was the Chief Guest for this function.

The event was graced by several other dignitaries, including INTACH Odisha State Convener Shri Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, INTACH Cuttack Chapter Convener Eng. Shri Gopal Krishna Behera, the book's editor Shri Sanjib Chandra Hota, author Shri Deepak Kumar Nayak, and publisher Shri Bijay Kumar Mohapatra of B.K. Publications Pvt. Ltd.

Part I of the book focuses on tangible and intangible heritage in five districts of North Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvatipuram Manyam, Visakhapatnam, and Anakapalle while INTACH plans to bring other remaining relics from South India in its upcoming volumes.



Book Release Relics of Kalinga in South India, Part-I – Cuttack Chapter

Punjab

1. Hari Singh Nalwa - The 188th martyrdom anniversary of legendary Sikh commander Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa was commemorated with solemnity and pride at Guru Gobind Singh Public School (GGPS) in Hoshiarpur on April 30. The event, jointly organized by INTACH Punjab and the Hari Singh Nalwa Foundation Trust, paid tribute to one of the



greatest military leaders of the Sikh Empire, whose legacy continues to inspire generations. The ceremony, held under the leadership of Principal Harjit Singh, drew over 700 schoolchildren, members of the Nalwa family from Delhi, Chandigarh and Ludhiana, INTACH Punjab representatives and prominent personalities from the region. The chief guest for the occasion was Lt Gen A S Bahia (Retd), who emphasized that Hari Singh Nalwa’s place in Indian and Sikh history is permanent and unparalleled. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh (Retd), Convener of INTACH Punjab, said that it is essential to remember heroes like Nalwa who defended the subcontinent’s identity and heritage. “INTACH is dedicated to preserving such legacies so that our youth learn about the immense sacrifices made by our ancestors,” he said.

The highlight of the event was an illuminating address by Maj Gen (Dr) Kulpreet Singh (Retd), a descendant of Nalwa, who recounted the life and military achievements of the famed commander. Born in 1791 in Gujranwala to Gurdas Singh and Dharam Kaur, Hari Singh Nalwa rose to become the Commander-in-Chief of the Sikh Khalsa Army during Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s reign.

Known for halting the centuries-old invasions through the Khyber Pass, he expanded the Sikh Empire’s frontiers into Afghanistan, including regions like Peshawar and Kashmir.

The story behind his famed title “Nalwa” was also shared. Legend says that as a young man, Hari Singh killed a tiger single-handedly while on horseback. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, impressed by his bravery, exclaimed “Wah! Mere Raja Nal,” likening him to the mythic hero from the Mahabharata. Over time, this admiration became the name he is remembered by – Nalwa. Hari Singh Nalwa wasn’t just a military genius; he was also a diplomat and administrator. By 1822, he had served as governor of Kashmir, Hazara and Peshawar and built the city of Haripur. His administrative legacy includes the introduction of a coin, the “Hari Singhee,” in Kashmir for tax collection.

The Battle of Jamrud in April 1837 marked a critical moment in his military career and the region’s history. Facing a massive Afghan force of 50,000, Hari Singh Nalwa and his small Sikh contingent of under 800 men defended Jamrud Fort at the mouth of the Khyber Pass. Though he was mortally wounded in the battle, the Sikhs retained control of the strategic location, halting further Afghan advances. Dr Vaneet Kaur Nalwa, who could not attend due to health reasons, sent a heartfelt message, stating, “Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa is not merely a figure of family history; he is a beacon of the Sikh Empire of Punjab.” She described him as not only a warrior but a philanthropist, visionary builder and horticulturist.

Books authored by Dr Vanit Nalwa were presented to key attendees, including Sardar Tarsem Singh, President of the Guru Gobind Singh Education Society (GGES) and Principal Harjit Singh. Tarsem Singh, who travelled from Jharkhand for the event, thanked the organizers and highlighted the importance of such commemorations in preserving cultural heritage. “This event is a source of great motivation for our children,” he said, noting the rare presence of four Indian Army Generals at the function. The commemoration concluded with a collective pledge to keep the flame of history alive and ensure that the heroism of Hari Singh Nalwa continues to be remembered with honour.



A Ceremony of the 188th martyrdom anniversary of legendary Sikh commander Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa – Punjab State Chapter

2. Sainik School Kapurthala

INTACH PUNJAB is continuously pursuing the case of Sainik school kapurthala for repair of historic building . Sainik School Kapurthala is located in a Jagatjit Palace of the erstwhile Maharaja of Kapurthala . The palace was built in 1908 on the pattern of Versailles built by Louis-the XIV of France. It holds a immense historical and cultural significance for the state of Punjab.

The building itself is a testimony to the architectural prowess of the bygone era, and the artefacts and wall paintings within it provide glimpses into the rich heritage and royal history of Kapurthala.

However, over time, neglect and lack of maintenance have resulted in significant deterioration of the heritage building. The artefacts, including sculptures, carvings, and historical relics, are suffering from decay, while the magnificent wall paintings, showcasing intricate designs and depictions of the Maharaja's reign, have been subjected to fading, peeling, and damage.

4. Earth Day Celebration

Lt Col Jasjit Singh, INTACH life member Addressed about 1000 students of Sacred Heart School, Mohali on environment and climate changes on Earth Day in Apr 2025. It was very well received by the students. INTACH Punjab making all out efforts to bring awareness on various important issues across Punjab.



Earth Day Celebration - Punjab State Chapter

3. World Heritage day

INTACH Punjab celebrated World Heritage day by speaking to architect students of Lovely Professional university(LPU) Jalandhar and taking them to Shaheed Bhagat Singh ancestral house at khatkar Kalan .



World Heritage day – Punjab State Chapter

4. APJ and INTACH Punjab organised Art and cultural Extravaganza at APJ Fine arts college, Jalandhar where on the inauguration day Governor of Punjab was the chief Guest and on Prize distribution day Convener Punjab State was the Chief Guest.

It was magnificent showcase of India's traditional art and craft. The various workshops were organised to learn the unique treasure of traditional cultural heritage . The artisans from various states were invited



APJ and INTACH Punjab organised Art and cultural Extravaganza at APJ Fine arts college, Jalandhar – Punjab State Chapter

7. Opening of Ferozpur Fort

Opening of Ferozpur Fort for Public on Sunday/ Public Holidays nearly after 200 years, the Army establishment at Ferozpur with the concerted efforts of INTACH Punjab and Ferozpur Chapter, gave permission for the Public to visit the Ferozpur Fort on Sunday / Public Holidays.

This fort is in existence since 1839 and has three layered defensive perimeters with carefully designed gates, escape ways and tunnels for communication between each perimeter defenses. It also finds a mention in events of summer of 1857 (The year of the Sepoy Revolt) in Ferozpur when about 300 native soldiers had scaled the walls of this fort with the help of scaling ladders and with assistance from the native Sepoys already stationed inside and took control of it .It was again recaptured by the British troops and the Sepoys driven out. The arsenal for the major siege of the recapture of Red Fort in Delhi by the British in Sep 1857, was primarily dispatched from the Ferozepur fort.

Post-independence, the fort was used as a small ammunition holding depot. However, in the 1980's due to the old vintage and dilapidated state of buildings, the ammunition was shifted from here and major portion of the fort was vacated.

Amritsar

1. On the occasion of World Heritage Day, INTACH Amritsar organized a special heritage exploration focused on the frescoes from the Sikh Raj era, highlighting Punjab's deep-rooted legacy of art, architecture, and spiritual expression.

Led by Gagandeep Singh Virk, the team visited several historically significant temples, admired for their architectural design, intricate paintings, and ancient frescoes. A key stop was the Radha Kishan Temple in village Kishankot, situated on the Amritsar–Sri Hargobindpur road, known for its beautifully preserved wall art. 48 members of INTACH Amritsar took part in the activity, celebrating the day with great enthusiasm and a commitment to heritage learning.

Gagandeep Singh Virk remarked, “We are actively organizing heritage awareness campaigns and cultural visits to reconnect people—especially the younger generation—with the timeless beauty of our historical landmarks. Today’s visit gave us a deeper understanding of our cultural inheritance.” He added that Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, INTACH Convener Punjab, continues to be a source of inspiration, under whose leadership INTACH is doing remarkable work across the state.



World Heritage Day – Amritsar Chapter

2. Harpreet Singh Bhatti from Batala, a passionate volunteer of INTACH participated on world heritage day along with his friends and highlighted certain heritage building which require immediate attention.



World Heritage Day – Amritsar Chapter

3. INTACH Amritsar Hosts Lecture on "Guru Nanak: An Embodiment of Oneness" by Amardeep Singh

The Amritsar chapter of INTACH organized an inspiring lecture titled "Guru Nanak: An Embodiment of Oneness" at Virsa Vihar, delivered by globally acclaimed author and historian Amardeep Singh. The event, attended by a large gathering of literature enthusiasts, scholars, and school students, celebrated Guru Nanak’s universal philosophy of Eka (oneness).

Bibi Inderjeet Kaur, President of Pingalwara, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Nat Shiromani Kewal Dhaliwal attended as the special guest. In their welcome address, INTACH Convener Gagandeep Singh Virk and Co-Convener Professor Harbal Singh Randhawa emphasized the event's goal of reviving Amritsar's literary culture. They praised Amardeep Singh's remarkable contributions, including his acclaimed books and 24 documentaries, urging that his work reach every household.

Bibi Inderjeet Kaur lauded Amardeep Singh's efforts, attributing his monumental achievements to divine blessings, stating, "His work is a testament to Guru's grace, enabling one individual to accomplish such extraordinary feats." Kewal Dhaliwal expressed pride in the event being held at Virsa Vihar, commending Amardeep Singh's unparalleled insights into Guru Nanak's Eka philosophy, which promotes unity and inclusivity.

Amardeep Singh, joined by his wife Vaninder Kaur, was recognized for their 16-year journey producing five impactful documentaries at significant personal expense. He challenged the notion that Sikh traditions and identity should be confined to Punjab, highlighting the presence of Nanak Panth and Sikh Panth followers across India, from Sindh to every corner of the country, many of whom may never have visited Punjab. He stressed the need to unite these communities under Guru Nanak's universal principle of Eka (oneness).

The event was skillfully moderated by Dr. Naresh Kumar, a life member of INTACH. Dr. Baljeet Kaur, INTACH Tarn Taran Convener, attended and congratulated the Amritsar chapter for organizing the remarkable event. Notable attendees included Colonel Sukhwinder Singh, historian Surinder Kochhar, Gurinder Singh Johal (Chairman, AITO), representatives from Fulkaari Women of Amritsar led by Kamal Uppal and team members, Kunwar Sukhpreet Singh, Dr. Gurbir Singh Brar (President, Sahit Akademi Amritsar and editor of Surat Magazine), CA Davinder Singh, Dr. Iqbal Singh, Professor Harpreet Singh, Dr. Gurdeep Singh, poet Amit Ji, and Sukhpal Singh, along with a significant number of Amritsar's literary community.

The lecture left an indelible mark, fostering a renewed appreciation for Guru Nanak's teachings. The event concluded with Bibi Inderjeet Kaur honoring distinguished guests. Special stalls showcasing Amardeep Singh's books were also organized, drawing significant interest.

This landmark event underscored Amritsar's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich literary and cultural heritage.



Bathinda

The World Heritage Day on 18.4.2025 was jointly celebrated by all the Conveners and members of Bathinda, Faridkot and Malerkotla chapters by visiting Heritage building of Canal Guest House of village Teeona and Gulabgarh district Bathinda. Bhim Singh Kanwar Convener Bathinda chapter told the importance of the building. Baltej Singh Brar Convener Faridkot Chapter highlighted the importance of heritage building of Faridkot. Sh. Salim Mohamad Convener Malerkotla chapter told about heritage building of Malerkotla. Sh. Rashid Khan and Mohamad Sadiq Khan members from Malerkotla, Rupinder, Daljit Singh and Bakhtawar from Bathinda, Shavinder Kochhar, Ashok Chawla participated from Faridkot. Raj Kumar Aggarwal Co-convener Faridkot chapter highlighted the importance of World Heritage Day and presented vote of thanks for all the participants.

Faridkot

I feel happy in reporting of World Heritage Day -2025 jointly celebrated by INTACH Bathinda, Faridkot and Malerkotla Chapters on April 18, 2025.

Conveners Kanwar Bhim Singh, Prof Baltej Singh Brar, Dr Salim Mohd, Convener Er Raj Aggarwal, with members from Three Chapters viz Rashid Khan, Mohd Sadiq Khan, Rupinder Singh, Daljit Singh, Shivinder Singh Kochhar, Bakhtawar Singh Sidhu, Ashok Chawla n others were among the team. The team visited and checked in Three Historically important Heritage Buildings Canal Rest House Teona, Bathinda a 130 year old well Preserved Building owned by Irrigation Department Punjab; Nehri Kothi Gulab garh 125 year old under renovation process and well maintained n preserved more than 100 year old Building of Methodist Church near RailwayStation Bathinda.

This was a wonderful experience because team members gave their bite over TV channels. Conveners Prof Baltej Singh Brar, Kanwar Bhim Singh and Salim Mohd accepted team's suggestion to organize such visits in future including and inviting more Chapters n members to visit such Heritage sites. This was a very healthy and enjoyable experience.

All participating members were served refreshment / felicitation. It is for your info & perusal.



Canal Rest House Teona (Bathinda)1890's – Faridkot Chapter



Nehri Kothi Gulabgarh (Bathinda)1890's – Faridkot Chapter

Firozpur

1. To celebrate World Heritage Day, DCMI School students took a meaningful journey to the historic Jamni Sahib Gurudwara in Firozpur. Through this visit, they learned about the rich heritage and spiritual significance of the site. The students paid obeisance at the sacred Guru Granth Sahib Ji, experienced the serenity of Panj Ishnan in the holy pond, and shared in the spirit of unity and service through langar. A beautiful way to connect with our roots and honor our heritage with INTACH.

2. To celebrate World Heritage Day, DCMI School students took a meaningful journey to the historic *Jamni Sahib Gurudwara* in Firozpur. Through this visit, they learned about the rich heritage and spiritual significance of the site. The students paid obeisance at the sacred Guru Granth Sahib Ji, experienced the serenity of panj ishnan in the holy pond, and shared in the spirit of unity and service through langar. A beautiful way to connect with our roots and honor our heritage with INTACH



Celebrated World Heritage Day – Firozpur Chapter

3. Visit to National Museum and Hussainwala Ferozpur

As part of our initiatives to promote tourism in this border district, around 70 persons including noted businessmen, doctors, educationists reached Ferozpur on April 6 and visited the National Martyrs Memorial at Hussainiwala and watched the thrilling retreat ceremony at the Indo-Pakistan Joint Check Post

It was a day to remember for them. All of them appreciated the efforts of the INTACH Ferozpur Chapter in promoting the tourism in this region



Visit to National Museum and Hussainwala – Ferozpur Chapter

4. Veer and Veteran Punjab border Heritage Bike Riders

To give spike to tourism welcomed the Veer and Veterans Punjab Broder Herthage Bike Riders and their participation in Round Table Conference organized by INTACH Ferozpur Chapter



Veer and Veteran Punjab border Heritage Bike Riders – Ferozpur Chapter

Jalandhar

1. Jalandhar Celebration of World Heritage Day at Swami Sant Dass Public School, Phagwara* - Swami Sant Dass Public School, Phagwara, celebrated World Heritage Day with great zeal and enthusiasm to instill awareness about preserving our rich cultural legacy. Class VIII students showcased the culture of the paired states Punjab and Andhra Pradesh through a vibrant Show and Tell activity. To test their knowledge of historical sites and cultural heritage, students of Class VII enthusiastically took part in an engaging Heritage Quiz. Class IX participated in a meaningful Heritage Walk, raising impactful slogans and spreading awareness about the importance of preserving monuments and traditions. Class X students expressed their thoughts on conservation through creative poster making and slogan writing. The celebration served as a reminder of our shared responsibility to safeguard heritage for future generations.

2. Swami Sant Dass Public School, Phagwara, celebrated World Heritage Day with great zeal and enthusiasm to instill awareness about preserving our rich cultural legacy. Class VIII students showcased the culture of the paired states Punjab and Andhra Pradesh through a vibrant Show and Tell activity. To test their knowledge of historical sites and cultural heritage, students of Class VII enthusiastically took part in an engaging Heritage Quiz. Class IX participated in a meaningful Heritage Walk, raising impactful slogans and spreading awareness about the importance of preserving monuments and traditions. Class X students expressed their thoughts on conservation through creative poster making and slogan writing. The celebration served as a reminder of our shared responsibility to safeguard heritage for future generations.



Celebration of World Heritage Day -Jalandhar Chapter

3. R.D. Khosla DAV Model Senior Secondary School came alive with cultural vibrance and patriotic fervor as the Heritage Club marked World Heritage Day 2025 with an inspiring celebration. Held under the banner of INTACH Jalandhar Chapter, the event reflected the school's deep-rooted commitment to preserving and promoting India's rich cultural legacy.

Students of the school – fondly known as Rdians – put forth a spirited display of heritage through soul-stirring poems, thought-provoking speeches, vivid paintings, and slogans that echoed pride and purpose. Dressed in traditional attire from various Indian states and offering a spread of regional delicacies, they beautifully brought to life the idea of Unity in Diversity.

A solemn Heritage Pledge was taken by all present, affirming their resolve to respect, protect, and conserve India's invaluable cultural treasures.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Bindu Bhalla highlighted the importance of this global observance, celebrated annually to deepen awareness about safeguarding monuments, traditions, and intangible heritage. Speaking on this year's theme – "Disaster and Conflict-Resilient Heritage" – she urged students to become conscious custodians of our heritage in the face of both natural and human-made challenges.



Celebrated World Heritage Day 2025 – Jalandhar Chapter

Malerkotla

The World Heritage Day on 18.4.2025 was jointly celebrated by all the Conveners and members of Bathinda, Faridkot and Malerkotla chapters by visiting Heritage building of Canal Guest House of village Teeona and Gulabgarh district Bathinda. Bhim Singh Kanwar Convener Bathinda chapter told the importance of the building. Baltej Singh Brar Convener Faridkot Chapter highlighted the importance of heritage building of Faridkot. Sh. Salim Mohamad Convener Malerkotla chapter told about heritage building of Malerkotla. Sh. Rashid Khan and Mohamad Sadiq khan members from Malerkotla, Rupinder, Daljit Singh and Bakhtawer from Bathinda, Shavinder Kochhar, Ashok Chawla participated from Faridkot. Raj Kumar Aggarwal Co-convener Faridkot chapter highlighted the importance of World Heritage Day and presented vote of thanks for all the participants.



The World Heritage Day was jointly celebrated by all the Conveners and members of Bathinda, Faridkot and Malerkotla chapters – Malerkotla Chapter

Tarn Taran

1. Well revived at Saragarhi martyr memorial site in Tarn Taran

At Dhun Dhai Wala, a small village in the border belt of Tarn Taran district, the memory of Naik Lal Singh is cherished. A martyr of the Battle of Saragarhi, one of the best known but scarcely documented war, Naik Singh's legacy has been preserved in the form of a Saragarhi Memorial at the village that stands as a testament to his sacrifice and that of his comrades.

Annual commemorations are held to honour their legacy, attracting commoners and dignitaries alike. In a recent development, members of the village panchayat, led by sarpanch Jagroop Singh, and locals dug up a well located at the memorial site and made it functional. The villagers, in collaboration with Punjab INTACH Tarn Taran chapter, had moved a proposal to develop the memorial site, including Naik Lal Singh's family land, into a heritage site.

During a recent visit of INTACH ex-chairman Maj Gen LK Gupta (retd) to Naik Lal Singh's memorial, he said the historic well, which was in a state of disuse, should be conserved and preserved. Dhun Dhai Wala village panchayat led by sarpanch Jagroop Singh and Surjit Singh from Saragahi Welfare Society, members of panchayat and village women, led by Parkash Kaur, started the process of digging up the well, along with Dr Baljit Kaur, INTACH Tarn Taran convener.

Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, INTACH State Convener, said with the help of the village panchayat and volunteers, manual digging of the well was done. "After 15 feet digging, the water was found. The well is now functional. Earthen buckets that were used to extract water at that time were found while digging, confirming that the well is historic indeed," said Maj Gen Balwinder Singh.

Born at Dhun Dhai Wala, Lal Singh hailed from a family with a rich martial tradition. The village, located on fertile land, has been a nurturing ground for many bravehearts, who have served

The land on which the well is situated belonged to Naik Lal Singh. Next to the well is the War Memorial of Naik Lal Singh. "In September every year, a function is held wherein over 2,000 people from nearby villages gather to remember Lal Singh's sacrifice," said Dr Baljit Kaur, Tarn Taran INTACH chapter convener.

In September last, recognising the historic significance of the Saragarhi battle and the need to preserve its legacy, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) initiated efforts to maintain and promote the related sites. The third generation of Naik Lal Singh's family attended the memorial ceremony and pledged the land for heritage use. "Last year, defence personnel from the British and US Army came to pay tribute as history of Saragarhi martyrs is well known in Europe," added Maj Gen Balwinder Singh.

Battle of Saragarhi

On September 12, 1897, the British Indian Army's 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4 Sikh) was stationed at the Saragarhi post, a small outpost connecting two major forts – Lockhart and Gulistan – in the North-West Frontier. Naik Lal Singh was at the Saragarhi fort and made a supreme sacrifice, along with, all the 21 soldiers while fighting back more than 10,000 Afghan tribesmen.



Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Sikh soldiers displayed exceptional valour. They repelled multiple assaults, inflicting significant casualties on the attackers. The battle lasted for several hours, during which all 21 defenders, including Lal Singh, were martyred. In recognition of their unparalleled bravery, all 21 Sikh soldiers were posthumously awarded the Indian Order of Merit, the highest gallantry award for Indian soldiers at the time. The honour is considered equivalent to the present day Param Vir Chakra.

Well revived at Saragarhi martyr memorial site in Tarn Taran – Tarn Taran Chapter

2. Tarn Taran very enthusiastically participate in Heritage week and organised a heritage walk to various heritage places .



Heritage week and organised a heritage walk – Tarn Taran Chapter

Rajasthan

Alwar

1. "Rang Parampara Ke"

On 11th March 2025, the INTACH Alwar Chapter, organized a vibrant cultural program titled "Rang Parampara Ke" at Krishna Vatika Park to mark the auspicious occasion of Holi. The event aimed to preserve and promote the region's fading folk traditions and cultural heritage. Women and girls from Aryanagar actively participated, performing traditional folk songs and dances accompanied by dholak and chang. Their performances conveyed a powerful message about the importance of safeguarding folk culture from extinction and passing it on to future generations. A special highlight of the event was a delightful presentation by young children portraying Shri Krishna and Radha, symbolizing the spirit of Holi and spreading the message of love and mutual harmony. Over 100 women and girls took part in the celebration.

The event was well received by local community members, particularly women scholars and cultural enthusiasts, who praised the initiative as a meaningful and inspirational effort toward cultural preservation. Ms. Sunita Mittal, Convener, INTACH Alwar Chapter expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the women and intellectuals present for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the event a grand success.



Cultural Program titled "Rang Parampara Ke" – Alwar Chapter

2. "Mehndi Gangaur Ki"

On 29th March 2024, INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a special program titled "Mehndi Gangaur Ki" at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Deviji Ki Gali, to celebrate Gangaur, the traditional festival of Rajasthan. The event aimed to preserve and promote the region's fading customs, traditions, and cultural practices. 50 girls from Classes 9 to 11 participated in the celebration. Under the guidance of the INTACH Alwar Chapter team, the students beautifully adorned their hands with mehndi, symbolizing their commitment to keeping folk traditions alive. Chapter Convener Ms. Sunita Mittal spoke on the cultural and symbolic significance of mehndi, describing it as a mark of good fortune. She emphasized the importance of celebrating festivals rooted in tradition and culture with sincerity and joy, ensuring that such heritage remains vibrant for future generations.

The program concluded with the distribution of refreshments to all the participating students.

3. On the occasion of World Heritage Day, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a program titled "Virasat Se Roobaroo" (An Encounter with Heritage). As part of the heritage tour, school students, volunteers, and INTACH members explored both historical and natural heritage sites – some on foot and others by bus.

One of the key stops was Natni ka Baran, a site of both historical and ecological significance, where the nearly extinct Ruparel River – Alwar's only river – still flows. According to historians, Natni ka Baran was constructed in 1924 as a water divider. It split the flow of the Ruparel River in a 45% and 55% ratio between Alwar and Bharatpur.

An indelible mark on the pages of history, the legend of a female Nat breathes life into the name of this place. Nestled amid the scenic Aravali hills and serving as a haven for migratory birds, the area is rich in natural beauty. Wildlife experts shared insights on various aquatic species, and participants were introduced to numerous medicinal plants and educated about their significance.

A quiz competition on local heritage was also conducted, led by subject expert Suman Yadav and quiz specialist Pushpa Kundnani.

INTACH Program Coordinator Rajkumar Saini led an in-depth discussion on the topic "How to Conserve Heritage." Emphasizing the importance of natural heritage – water, land, and forests—he urged everyone to begin with personal responsibility and take collective action by forming groups dedicated to heritage conservation. On the occasion of World Heritage Day, all participants took a pledge to protect and preserve heritage. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by INTACH members Rashmi Goswami and Manisha Bansal.



Special Program titled "Mehndi Gangaur Ki" – Alwar Chapter

4. World Heritage Day – “Encounter with Heritage”

On April 18, 2025, to mark the occasion of World Heritage Day, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a program titled "Face to Face" at *Natni Ka Baran*, a site rich in both historical and natural heritage. The event focused on the theme of Water, Land, and Forest and saw active participation from the students of Chinar Public School, members of INTACH Alwar Chapter, and local volunteers. Wildlife expert Mr. Sanjeev Kargwal delivered an insightful talk about the migratory birds and native wildlife found in the *Natni Ka Baran* area, highlighting several endangered species. He also shared the historical significance of the location, enriching the participants’ understanding of its ecological and cultural value. After this, INTACH members Ms. Suman Yadav and Ms. Pushpa Kundnani then engaged in an interactive discussion with the students on the subject of Water, Land, and Forest.

The experts emphasized the importance of preserving Alwar’s fading cultural practices and its crumbling architectural heritage. They also explored how both tangible and intangible heritage can be safeguarded for future generations. The students contributed their suggestions during the discussion and gained valuable insights into Alwar’s legacy. Later, INTACH Convenor Ms. Sunita Mittal led a heritage walk for the children, further elaborating on the theme of the program. She motivated all the children and volunteers to take responsibility for conserving heritage and concluded the program with an inspiring address.

5. World Earth Day – “Shramdaan”

On 22.04.2025, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a *Shramdaan* (voluntary clean-up drive) at the historic *Lal Diggi* swimming pool to commemorate *World Earth Day*.

The program began with historian Mr. Harishankar Goyal sharing valuable insights about *Lal Diggi*, describing it as a key component of Alwar’s traditional water management system. The clean-up drive saw enthusiastic participation from 40 students of Government Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School, Nayabas, along with INTACH Co-convener Mr. Bijendra Singh Naruka and members Mr. Satish Chand Chaudhary, Ms. Asha Kalra, Mr. Rajkumar Saini, Mr. Lakhan, Ms. Neeta Devani, Ms. Lakshmi Gupta, Ms. Shashi, Ms. Manisha, Ms. Lata Agarwal, Mr. Ashok Sharma etc. Together, they collected plastic waste and spread the message that protecting the environment is essential for sustaining life on Earth. Convenor Ms. Sunita Mittal spoke about the World Earth Day 2025 theme – “*Our Power, Our Planet*”. She emphasized the collective responsibility of preserving our planet and conveyed a strong message to the younger generation about the urgent need for environmental conservation.

6. INTACH Alwar Chapter “Yoga for One Earth, One Health.”

In celebration of the 11th International Yoga Day, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a five-day yoga camp at Ramvatika Park, Arya Nagar, culminating in a community-wide session on 21 June. The program, titled “*Yoga for One Earth, One Health,*” emphasized the global relevance of yoga, rooted in Indian cultural heritage. Around 90 to 110 participants – including men, women, and children – practiced *dhyana mudra*, *Om chanting*, *tadasana*, *vrikshasana*, *surya namaskar*, *bhujangasana*, and *setubandhasana*.

The yoga instructor highlighted how meditation, *pranayama*, and *yogasanas* contribute to a disciplined and healthy life. Yoga is the best way to balance the body, mind and soul. Participants were encouraged to devote at least 15–20 minutes daily to yoga for holistic well-being. The INTACH Convenor explained yoga’s health benefits, including stress and anxiety reduction, and concluded by leading the participants in a pledge to incorporate yoga into their daily lives. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Suman Yadav.



11th International Yoga Day – Alwar Chapter

Barmer

Children Spread Message of Environmental Awareness, Plant Trees on World Environment Day

An Environmental Initiative to Safeguard Earth’s Future Contributor - Rawal Kishan Singh Jasol

“Only a deep connection between humans and nature can sustain life” – Jetmal Singh Rathore

Jasol – Protecting the environment is, in essence, protecting humanity. Environmental pollution remains a pressing global challenge. World Environment Day serves as a powerful campaign to promote cleanliness, instill love for nature, and safeguard it from destruction. The future of our planet will only be secure if we adopt the spirit of World Environment Day in our everyday lives. These sentiments were expressed by Rawal Kishan Singh Jasol during a public awareness program held on the occasion of World Environment Day. He emphasized that trees not only bring rainfall but also add beauty, greenery, and a sense of virtue to life. As long as trees exist, they benefit all living beings. He stressed the importance of nurturing an environmental consciousness in children alongside their formal education. To protect the environment, he urged everyone to plant more trees, use water judiciously, and preserve natural water bodies like wells, stepwells, and ponds by preventing encroachments and pollution. He advocated for the reuse and rational use of water, rainwater harvesting, and modern irrigation techniques. “Conserving nature is our moral responsibility,” he stated. The World Environment Day program was organized at Shri Rani Rupade Ji Temple, Palia, under the joint aegis of Shri Rani Bhatiyani Mandir Sansthan, Jasol, and INTACH Barmer Chapter.

Additional District Education Officer Secondary (Barmer) Jetmal Singh Rathore said that Environment Day is celebrated to increase awareness. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to reduce industrial pollution. He noted that in the current era, where lifestyle changes have become increasingly unbalanced and detrimental, it is more important than ever to preserve and protect the environment. He expressed concern that while the world continues to progress toward modernity, many developments have led to the use of materials and practices that are harmful to both the earth and the environment. “There is a deep and intrinsic connection between humans and nature, and when this balance is disturbed, it leads not only to health and ecological problems but also to frequent natural disasters,” he said. Following the program, children were served snacks and given fruits. The event was graced by the presence of several dignitaries, including Mang Singh Jagsa, Uday Singh Dandali, INTACH life member Mohan Bhai Punjabi, and Jitendra Singh, a teacher from R.V. Upadhyay Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Boravas (Tilwara), among others.

Beawar

INTACH Beawar renovates school auditorium with support from Bhamashah: Collector and MLA laud the Chapter’s efforts

The INTACH Beawar Chapter renovated the auditorium of Government Patel Higher Secondary School, which was inaugurated on July 15. The Chief Guest of the event was MLA Shankar Singh Rawat, while District Collector Kamal Ram Meena presided over the function. The renovation of the Cultural Centre auditorium was made possible by the generous support of Bhamashah Sanjay Garg (of Swarn Ganga and Kanak Sagar Jewelers family), who also donated 108 chairs for the facility. District Education Officer Ajay Gupta was the special guest at the event.

In his address, MLA Rawat highlighted that the city of Beawar stands as a testament to the visionary urban planning and deep architectural understanding of its founder, Colonel Charles Dixon. He also noted that Colonel James Tod, who penned the history of Rajasthan resided in Todgarh, Beawar district and was the first to refer to the region as "Rajputana." The district holds great historical significance and played an important role in the freedom struggle. He appreciated INTACH's proactive efforts in heritage conservation, stating that such work will serve as an inspiration for the younger generation.

Presiding over the event, District Collector Kamalram Meena commended the initiative, emphasizing that through Heritage Clubs in schools, students are learning to value cultural heritage—an important step towards cultural enrichment. INTACH Chapter Convenor Ramprasad Kumawat briefed the audience on the chapter's ongoing heritage conservation initiatives.

During the ceremony, ten school principals were honored along with volunteers and meritorious students who contributed to a month-long free English-speaking course. Additionally, on 31 May, 2025, INTACH organized a patriotic musical evening titled "*Ek Shaam Sainik Ke Naam*" at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Circle to express gratitude to Indian soldiers for their courageous response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir.

Winners at the state and district levels of the "*Rangarang Bharat Poster Competition*" organized by INTACH's Heritage Education & Communication Service (HECS) were also felicitated with medals and certificates. The event commenced with the singing of *Vande Mataram* and concluded with the National Anthem.



Renovated the auditorium of Government Patel Higher Secondary School – Beawar Chapter

Bhilwara

INTACH Organizes Essay Competition on World Water Day

"Life Cannot Be Imagined Without Water": Jaju

Bhilwara, 22 March 2025 – On the occasion of World Water Day, INTACH Bhilwara Chapter organized an essay competition on the theme of Water Conservation and Management at Government Higher Secondary School, Pansal. Students actively participated by expressing their views on the urgent need for conserving and managing water resources.

INTACH Convener Mr. Babulal Jaju highlighted the alarming state of potable water availability and emphasized that "life cannot be imagined without water." He noted that only 4% of the Earth's water is suitable for drinking, stressing the need to adopt sustainable water usage practices and prioritize rainwater harvesting to curb wastage.

Mr. Jaju further observed that due to changing lifestyles, water consumption has increased 20-fold, while the average rainfall has decreased by nearly 60%. He called for a collective shift in attitude towards responsible water use. INTACH Treasurer Mr. Dilip Goyal and school program coordinator Mr. Guman Singh Pipada said that all 27 participants were awarded certificates and resource catalogues on water conservation. Following the competition, teachers Mr. Suresh Surana, Ms. Kusum Tiwari, and Ms. Sushila Panwar spoke about the importance of educating students on water preservation. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by School Principal Ms. Asha Mantri.



Essay Competition on World Water Day – Bhilwara Chapter

Bikaner

1. "We exist because of our heritage – without it, we are nothing." – Mr. Hinglaj Ratanu
One-Day Seminar and Dialogue by INTACH and Rotary Club

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, a seminar and interactive dialogue was organized at the Rotary Club auditorium under the joint aegis of INTACH Bikaner Chapter and Rotary Club Supreme. The seminar was coordinated by Prithviraj Ratanu, Convener of both organizations. The program was held in the presence of prominent personalities including social worker and former Rotary Club Governor Mr. Rajesh Chura, Treasurer Mr. Manmohan Kalyani, Public Relations Officer Mr. Hinglaj Ratanu (from Kolkata), and former Governor Mr. Maheshwari. Convener Mr. Prithviraj Ratanu provided detailed insights into the concrete efforts being made by INTACH for the revival and preservation of India's rich heritage and culture. He also informed the gathering that on this World Heritage Day, UNESCO has included India's sacred text The Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natya Shastra in the list of World Heritage documents – an important global recognition of India's literary and cultural legacy.

Continuing the discussion, Vishnoi ji from the Rajasthan Oriental Studies Institute spoke on Jambh Vani, the folk literature of Jamboji. He connected Rajasthani folk culture and heritage with spirituality, emphasizing that heritage preservation has been a continuous process since ancient times. He illustrated this through the teachings of Guru Vanis. Dr. Manju highlighted the enduring relevance of the devotional songs of Matsya Ki Meera from Alwar, noting that despite their mythological origins, they still resonate today and are an integral part of our heritage. Mrs. Sudha Acharya raised concern over the gradual disappearance of mythological folk songs and stressed the importance of their preservation as a vital cultural responsibility. Dr. Ritesh Vyas, a Senior Fellow with the Ministry of Culture spoke on the subject of water conservation and management, underscoring its critical importance in today's context.

He drew attention to traditional water management techniques historically used in Bikaner to address water-related challenges. Dr. Vyas cautioned that if water is not properly managed, the next world war could very well be fought over water.

Mr. Sharad Kewaliya, Secretary of the Rajasthani Language and Literature Academy emphasized that we still need to educate ourselves on the subject of heritage. He noted that before attempting to beautify the city, it is essential to first make its residents aware of the true meaning of beauty. Continuing the discussion, Shri Jagdish Dan Ratnu highlighted the environmental conservation efforts of Swami Krishnened Saraswati of Dasudi. Dr. Namami Shankar Acharya expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of Bikaner's historic havelis. Dr. Mohammad Farooq Chouhan affirmed his commitment to making every possible effort to preserve Bikaner's historical heritage, including safeguarding its architectural evidence and aesthetic value. Shri M.L. Jangid voiced deep concern over the ongoing erosion of Bikaner's heritage. Shri O.P. Sharma concluded by stating that if any legal hurdles arise in the path of heritage conservation, they will be confronted and challenged with determination.

Continuing in the same vein, artist Yogendra Purohit emphasized the need to launch a campaign that inspires public awareness and consciousness about heritage preservation. He shared that an organization in France invites artists from around the world to participate in art camps, where they paint France's historical buildings, thereby preserving their form through artistic expression. He suggested that similar initiatives could be undertaken in Bikaner to promote and preserve its heritage through art.

The keynote speaker of the program, Mr. Hinglaj Daan Ratanu, stated that he is actively working to preserve Bikaner's cultural heritage while based in Kolkata. Reflecting on his international travels, he noted that many foreigners visit India because they are deeply impressed by its rich heritage. He emphasized the need to develop Bikaner's havelis, temples, wells, and stepwells into prominent tourist destinations.

The head of the Rotary Club, Mr. Rajesh Chura, stated that discussions with the administration will be held in the upcoming meeting. He emphasized that along with dialogue, concrete action on the ground is also necessary. If any administrative issues arise, they will be resolved at the community level – with collective support being crucial. Mr. Manmohan Kalyani remarked that mediation is essential for the conservation of havelis. Even though they are private properties, havelis must be recognized by their owners as an integral part of Bikaner's heritage. Rotary Club President Mr. Sarada highlighted the need for concrete action on heritage conservation and proposed organizing a variety of events in the near future. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by former Rotary Club Governor, Mr. Maheshwari, who expressed gratitude to all who were present.

Bundi

1. Bundi, 18 May

International Museum Day was celebrated on 18 May under the joint aegis of the INTACH and the Department of Archaeology. On this occasion, a seminar on the theme “*The Future of Museums in a Rapidly Changing Community*” was organized at the museum located in Sukh Mahal. Speaking at the seminar, INTACH Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich emphasized the importance of collecting the ancient heritage scattered across the city and preserving it in the museum so that it remains protected for future generations. INTACH member Piyush Pachak highlighted the need to digitize museums, integrate them with AI, and transform them into centers of collective participation. Archaeologist Om Prakash Kuki gave detailed insights into the prehistoric rock paintings and archaeological wealth of Bundi district, also sharing his discoveries. INTACH member and descendant of the great poet Surmal Mishran, Khuman Singh, underscored the importance of preserving ancient languages and scripts within museum spaces. Other speakers, including Ashok Sharma Talwas, Satish Sharma, Mahendra Sharma Mantunda, Superintendent Jagdish Verma, JP Tripathi, Yuvraj Singh, Nomi Nair, Nandji Sharma, Mahendra Upadhyay, and Parvi Tripathi also shared their views. The seminar was conducted by INTACH Co-Convenor Rajendra Bhardwaj. On this occasion, INTACH honored archaeologist Om Prakash Kuki and Museum Superintendent Jagdish Verma with mementoes in recognition of their exceptional contributions to archaeological heritage.

2. Bundi, 22 June

As part of the Bundi Foundation Day Celebration Week, a heritage walk was organized on Sunday under the aegis of INTACH, in collaboration with Bharat Scouts and Guides. The walk, led by INTACH District Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich, commenced at 8 a.m. from the Bharat Scouts and Guides Bhawan at Page Ground and passed through the city’s main roads, culminating at the Garh Palace. Tourism experts and historians shared detailed information about the city’s major tourist attractions and historical monuments with the participating students from the Scouts and Guides. Participants also had the opportunity to explore these sites first-hand. During the walk, Bundi’s renowned miniature artist Gopal Soni gave a live demonstration of nail painting. He impressively painted a tigress on the nail of noted artist and lecturer Yuvraj Singh in just three minutes, leaving the children amazed. The heritage walk concluded at Garh Palace, where District Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Meena, Additional SP Uma Sharma, and Deputy SP Arun Mishra congratulated the participating students on Bundi Foundation Day and wished them well for the event. They also posed for photographs with the students at Chitrashala. Tourism writer and poet Piyush Pachak provided a detailed account of Bundi’s miniature paintings and the history of Chitrashala. Among those present during the walk were INTACH Convenor Rajkumar Dadhich, Co-Convenor Rajendra Bhardwaj, Piyush Pachak, Ashok Sharma Talwas, Mahendra Sharma, Satish Joshi, Vishwajeet Joshi (Scout Guide), Manish Sisodia, Shifaul Haq, Razia Khatoon, Nandji Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Ayush Dutt Mehta, and members of the Good Morning Citizens group along with numerous students. At the concluding program at Chitrashala, all speakers shared their valuable perspectives on promoting tourism in Bundi. Students also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to INTACH for acquainting them with the rich heritage of Bundi and organizing a memorable event.

3. As part of the 784th Foundation Day celebrations of Choti Kashi Bundi, a series of programs were organized by the District Administration, the Tourism Department, and the INTACH Bundi Chapter. The festivities began with the ceremonial inauguration of Garh Ganesh, accompanied by traditional *shehnai* music.

The program commenced with the chanting of Vedic mantras by Pandit Vishwanath. Amid the sacred sounds, dignitaries including the District Collector performed a collective *aarti*, praying for Bundi's prosperity. On this occasion, the District Collector extended his greetings and remarked that Bundi's rich historical heritage continues to captivate visitors. As a special gesture, entry to all monuments under the Department of Archaeology was made free for the general public on Foundation Day.

To mark the occasion, a green initiative titled "Plant Saplings, Beautify Bundi" was launched with a tree plantation drive at *Beti Gaurav Udyan* near the Circuit House. District Head Chandravati Kanwar and Tourism Officer Premshankar Saini initiated the campaign by planting a Peepal tree. Social workers also pledged to plant and nurture various native species such as Jamun, Sheesham, Karanj, Neem, Mulberry, and Drumstick.

Another highlight of the celebrations was the inauguration of a Photo and Painting Exhibition at the State Museum, Sukh Mahal, by District President Rameshwar Meena and Chairperson Saroj Agarwal. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of a visual display that showcased Bundi's heritage sites such as Garh Palace, *Raniji ki Baori*, *Chaurasi Khambon ki Chhatri*, *Sukh Mahal*, *Bhimlat Waterfall*, and *Chitrashala*. Paintings by local artists were a major attraction, featuring depictions of Hadi Rani, wildlife sanctuaries, and local folk traditions. To conclude the celebrations, folk artists mesmerized the audience with vibrant performances of *Kalbelia*, *Kachhi Ghodi*, and *Ghoomar* dances at heritage sites like *Raniji ki Baori*, *Sukh Mahal*, and *Chaurasi Khambon ki Chhatri*.

4. Bundi, 22 June

As part of the Bundi Foundation Day Celebration Week, a *Heritage Tour* was organized on 22 June under the aegis of the INTACH Bundi Chapter, with the support of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Led by INTACH Chapter Convenor Shri Rajkumar Dadhich, the tour commenced at 8:00 AM from the Scout Guide Bhawan at Page Ground and proceeded through all the major streets of the city, culminating at the historic Garh Palace. Tourism experts and historians provided insightful commentary and detailed information about various tourist spots and heritage monuments encountered along the route. Participants also had the opportunity to visit these sites firsthand. A unique highlight of the journey was a live demonstration by renowned miniature artist Shri Gopal Soni, who impressively painted a tigress on the fingernail of noted painter and lecturer Yuvraj Singh in just three minutes. The participants, including students and local citizens, were later taken on a guided tour of Garh Palace.

At Chitrashala within the palace, the District Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Meena, Additional Superintendent Uma Sharma, and Deputy Superintendent Arun Mishra greeted the students, congratulating them on the occasion of Bundi Foundation Day. They also posed for photographs with the Heritage Yatra participants, offering words of encouragement.

Tourism writer and poet Shri Piyush Pachak provided an in-depth explanation of Bundi's miniature paintings and the legacy of Chitrashala to the assembled group. The event saw enthusiastic participation from INTACH Co-Convenor Shri Rajendra Bhardwaj, Ashok Sharma Talwas, Mahendra Sharma, Satish Joshi, Vishwajit Joshi and Manish Sisodia from the Scout Guide, Shifaul Haque, Razia Khatoon, Nandji Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Ayush Dutt Mehta, as well as several students and local citizens.

During the program held at Chitrashala, all speakers shared valuable insights on the potential for tourism development in Bundi. The students also expressed their appreciation, sharing their experiences and thanking INTACH for offering such an enriching and memorable introduction to the heritage of Bundi.

5. Heritage Walk organized as part of Bundi Foundation Day Celebrations

Bundi, June 23: A Heritage Walk was organized on Sunday under the aegis of INTACH, with support from Bharat Scouts and Guides, as part of the Bundi Foundation Day Celebration Week.

The walk began at the Bharat Scouts and Guides headquarters at Pech Ground and proceeded through the main roads of the city culminating at the historic Garh Palace. Along the route, tourism experts and historians shared valuable insights about the tourist spots and historical monuments with the participating students from the Scouts and Guides.

A special highlight of the journey was a live demonstration by renowned miniature painter Gopal Soni, who painted an intricate image of a tigress on the fingernail of art lecturer Yuvraj Singh in just three minutes, leaving the children awestruck. At Garh Palace, the group was welcomed by District Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Meena, Additional Superintendent of Police Uma Sharma, and Deputy Superintendent of Police Arun Mishra, who congratulated the students on the occasion of Bundi Foundation Day at the iconic Chitrashala. Tourism writer and poet Piyush Pachak gave an informative talk on Bundi's traditional paintings and the historical significance of the Chitrashala to all participants.

Among those present were INTACH Co-Convenor Rajendra Bhardwaj, Ashok Sharma Talwas, Mahendra Sharma, Satish Joshi, Vishwajit Joshi from the Scout Guide team, as well as Manish Sisodia, Shifaul Haque, Razia Khatoon, Nand Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Ayushdatt Mehta, and members of Good Morning Citizens, along with enthusiastic students.



Bundi Foundation Day Celebrations – Bundi Chapter

Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer's heritage shines from Sonar Fort to Patwon Ki Haveli on World Heritage Day. Along the way, the participants saw the historical heritage of Jaisalmer closely and understood their importance. The performances of folk artists made this journey even more colorful.

World Heritage Day: Jaisalmer, the golden city of yellow stones, today displayed its historical heritage and rich culture on the occasion of World Heritage Day. Historical heritage walk and cultural programs were organized in Jaisalmer today on the occasion of World Heritage Day. Based on the theme 'Heritage, culture and conservation is a shared responsibility', this event gave the message of awareness towards the rich heritage of Jaisalmer.

The heritage walk commenced at 7:30 AM from the iconic Sonar Fort, with tourism expert Brajkishore Gopa officially flagging off the event. The participants' enthusiasm was palpable. Camels adorned in traditional attire, the rhythmic beats of drums, and vibrant folk performances infused the atmosphere with energy and color. A large number of students, local residents, and tourists actively participated in the walk. The route meandered from Sonar Fort through Gopa Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, and Nathmal Ki Haveli, concluding at the majestic Patwon Ki Haveli, offering participants an enriching and immersive glimpse into Jaisalmer's splendid cultural and architectural heritage.

A close encounter with historical heritage.

Along the route, participants experienced Jaisalmer's historical heritage up close and gained a deeper understanding of its significance. The vibrant performances by folk artists added color and energy to the journey. Artists in traditional attire, riding camels, offered a captivating glimpse into the rich and vibrant culture of Jaisalmer.

Painting competition held on the first day

After reaching Patwon Ki Haveli, the second phase of the program commenced with a grand exhibition showcasing the artworks of students who had participated in the painting competition held on the first day. Children from classes 3 to 12 brought Jaisalmer's heritage to life through their vivid imaginations and artistic expression. Their paintings beautifully depicted the Sonar Fort, historic havelis, folk life, and the rich cultural tapestry of Jaisalmer.

Alongside the exhibition, a "Public Art Canvas" was also organized, where local artists and citizens came together to create a large collaborative artwork. This unique initiative successfully conveyed the message of heritage conservation through collective effort. The vibrant colors on the canvas breathed new life into the glorious past of Jaisalmer, infusing it with renewed energy and spirit.

2. Report on World Heritage Day Celebration – Jaisalmer Chapter

We are pleased to report that, despite ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan – especially with Jaisalmer being a frontline region – our chapter successfully organized one of the most impactful heritage programs to date

We are also actively addressing the generational gap within our organization. A membership drive is currently underway to engage younger individuals and ensure continuity, as the majority of our current members are above 60 years of age, and many senior members have sadly passed away.

On 17th April, on the eve of World Heritage Day, we conducted a painting competition that witnessed enthusiastic participation from 221 students across various schools in Jaisalmer.

The celebration continued on the morning of 18th April with a vibrant Heritage Walk across the city's main historic landmarks. The walk was enriched by the presence of folk musicians, decorated camels, traditional dancers, and local bands, creating a lively and culturally immersive experience for all participants.

The program concluded with a seminar and prize distribution ceremony held at Patwon Ki Haveli Chowk, where all participating students were recognized and honored with gifts and awards for their commendable contributions.

We are proud of the enthusiastic community participation and the collective effort to celebrate and preserve our cultural heritage, even during these uncertain times.

Additionally, we have submitted a proposal for wells and water conservation initiatives to the National Office, with the hope of advancing sustainable heritage practices in our region.



Nagaur

1. On the occasion of World Environment Day, on 5th June 2025, the INTACH Nagaur Chapter organized a meaningful awareness program in the city to highlight the importance of environmental conservation, with a special focus on water preservation under the theme “If there is water, there is life.”

The event aimed to raise public consciousness about the critical role water plays in sustaining life and the urgent need to protect our natural resources. Volunteers, students, and local citizens participated enthusiastically in activities such as cleanliness drives, poster-making, and street plays emphasizing water conservation and sustainable living.

2. Conservation Work of Ancient Heritage at Agricultural Market Yard, Medta City

The historic and mythological significant city of Medta holds many invaluable cultural treasures. One such set of ancient heritage monuments – the memorials (Devalis) of valiant warriors – located within the premises of the Agricultural Produce Market and Agricultural Extension Office, had long been awaiting preservation.

With the dedicated initiative and guidance of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) and in collaboration with Shri Chaturbhuj Shiksha Samiti (Shri Charbhuj Hostel), the conservation of these ancient Devalis has been undertaken.

These memorials, dating from the 15th to the 18th century, commemorate brave warriors who attained martyrdom in various battles fought during that period. For years, they stood neglected, silently waiting for a savior.

Thanks to the collective efforts, guidance, and support of the committee and INTACH, the preservation work has now been successfully carried out.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members involved in this noble cause.



World Environment Day – Nagaur Chapter



Conservation Work of Ancient Heritage at Agricultural Market Yard – Nagaur Chapter

Pokhran – Phalodi

1. Restoration of Narasar Talao and protection of the Narasar Kund cenotaphs –

The Narasar Talao was constructed by Rao Nara who established the old town of Pokhran (Satalmer). The Talao dates to 15th century and is a picnic spot for the residents of Pokhran town during rainy season.

The chapter undertook the work of desilting and deepening of the Narasar Talao and cenotaphs around the Narasar Kund complex. Work has been undertaken by our newly added member Shri Balwant Jodha. The cenotaphs are under constant threat from the antisocial elements' Balwant Jodha is arduously doing the restoration work with public support in a commendable way.



Inscriptions on one of the broken cenotaphs at Narasar - Pokhran - Phalodi Chapter



Water collected in the Talao after recent rains at Narasar - Pokhran - Phalodi Chapter



Cenotaph at Narasar Kund complex - Pokhran - Phalodi Chapter



Public at Narasar Kund during recent rains - Pokhran - Phalodi Chapter



Cenotaph of Rao Nara at Narasar Kund Complex being destroyed for want of conservation - Pokhran - Phalodi Chapter

2. Participation in the capacity building program for conservation of sacred groves (Orans) organized by the NGO KRAPAVIS at PHALODI.

A program was organized by KRAPAVIS an NGO working in the field of sustainable environment for the capacity building of local people and its workers at Phalodi. The main topic was the protection of Orans in view of the judgement of Honorable Supreme court of December 2024 in Godavaraman case.

Convener and co-convener Pokhran Phalodi Chapter Sh. G.S.Bhati and Sh. Devi Singh Bhati attended the program as experts. The program was a success and very informative and was given good media coverage also.

Rajsamand

The INTACH Rajsamand Chapter organized a Swaroochhi Camp from 25th to 30th June, offering training in various disciplines including dance, painting, computer skills, mehndi, singing, and more. The five-day camp also included yoga sessions, prayers, and physical training (PT) to instill a sense of discipline and well-being among the participants. Dance training was conducted by Ms. Sapna Rajpurohit, who prepared students for a welcome dance and a Radha-Krishna dance performance. These dances were later presented at the Shri Dwarkadhish Prabhu Patotsav ceremony organized by Dwarkesh Rashtriya Sahitya Parishad, where they received great appreciation from the audience and scholars alike.

The camp was directed and managed by Dr. Rachna Tailang, who efficiently coordinated all activities. Each day began with Guru Vandana, Gayatri Mantra, Saraswati Vandana, bhajans, PT, pranayama, and motivational thoughts, creating a spiritually uplifting and disciplined environment for the students.

Shri Rajesh Tailang led the painting sessions, during which students created masks, greeting cards, cartoons, and paintings based on their own interests. An exhibition of the students' artwork was held, where visitors were welcomed wearing masks, and impressive portrait paintings were also displayed.

Mrs. Sandhya Kashyap conducted training in mehndi and cooking. She taught students how to create intricate mehndi designs and floral patterns, which the students demonstrated by applying mehndi on the hands of their fellow students and instructors. The overall coordination and execution of the camp were managed by Mrs. Hemlata Gehlot, who also educated the students about discipline, dining etiquette, and the cultural heritage of Rajsamand and Nauchaiki.

On the final day of the camp, outstanding students were felicitated, and prizes were distributed to all participants.



Organized a Swaroochhi Camp – Rajsamand Chapter

Shekhawati

1. INTACH SHEKHAWATI CHAPTER announces and supports-
Events across 3 districts of Shekhawati on the occasion of World Heritage Day

NAVALGARH -

18th April - Heritage Walk with students

21st April

Vivana Museum Hotel - A special Walk through the beautiful Shekhawati Museum by Atul Khanna, Co convener INTACH (open on all other days as well) At Ramgarh Shekhawati from 18th - 24th April, 9.00 am onwards

A) Wall Painting Week from 18th to 24th April on the occasion of World Heritage Day - The Lovely women and children and youth of Shekhawati will be painting walls in the premises of Shruti Foundation's Museum of Heritage and Art (MOHAR) at Ramgarh Shekhawati!

Do come to encourage them and maybe do a few strokes with them as well at our museum and creative residency MOHAR

B) The "Museum of Heritage and Art at Ramgarh Shekhawati" (MOHAR) has organised a spectacular exhibition of the artworks of Raja Ravi Varma and Ravi Varma Press at its beautiful Arched Art Gallery, The Grand Archway.

(which was transformed from a broken dump of broken unused things to a beautiful Art Gallery) The Mohar Haveli and its wall paintings, its secret room is a Museum by itself since it is unique in its company style wall paintings and will be specially presented by Shruti Poddar, Convener, INTACH on 20th, 22nd and 23rd April

At CHURU - 19th April

A big Shekhawati Heritage Art Competition organised by Nagar Parishad Churu , INTACH SHEKHAWATI CHAPTER, Nagarshri, supported by Shruti Foundation-Venue - Nagar Shri Churu (9.30 am to 1.30 pm)

DUNDLOD - 22nd April

An engagement with Dundlod Fort and its history of the Marwari Horses of Rajasthan with Thakur Raghavendra Singh Dundlod

Shekhawati Bhopa Bhopis and Sufi music VEDAARANYA HAVELI Hotel at Ramgarh Shekhawati over the weekend 19th and 20th April

2. INTACH Shekhawati Chapter - Kantha embroidery workshop from 26th to 30th January 2024- taught by Traditional Artisans from Bengal to students from school of Jhunjhunu and Churu district and local women craftspersons - in collaboration with Bangalnatak.com and Shruti Foundation

VHAH FEST (Vedaaranya Heritage and Healing Festival) January 26-29, 2024 - collaboration with Shruti Foundation and Tourism Department, Govt of Rajasthan. INTACH has been partner to VHAH FEST since 2018 every year and continues to support the festival with volunteer and member efforts. A galaxy of artists including Padma vibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh, Padma Shri Geeta Chandran, sitarist Shubhedra and Internally acclaimed Dutch cellist Saskia Rao, along with Iranian traditional folk, Rajasthani Folk, world-famous artist Satish Gupta pairing Shiva on stage with chants, Many others activities such as heritage walk, Ayurvedic workshops and other events were conducted. A lot of media publicity was achieved for INTACH with any financial liability on INTACH. The Sikar collector was the chief guest of our function. Our Co-convener Dr Khemchand Soni also assisted in the event and conducted a Churu heritage walk for our Irish guests.

INTACH Monsoon Music Retreat August 22-24, 2024. Kinkar Lal Bhopa and troupe crew indicted a learning workshop if Rajasthani folk music with school students and some adults. At the end of the retreat, there was a show of the students performing attended by our INTACH Coconvener Dr Khemchand Soni and volunteers.

INTACH Craft Workshop, a collaboration between INTACH Shekhawati Chapter with banglanatak.com and Shruti Foundation. February 2025. I was supported by Shruti Foundation.

VHAH FEST (Vedaaranya Heritage and Healing festival) February 13-27, 2025 was a huge success and graced by honorable Cabinet Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, collector Chiru and many other artists and dignitaries, including the great Acharya Shriwats Goswami, world famous odissi dancer, Sujata mohapatra. INTACH Shekhawati Chapter. Padamshri Geeta Chandran, Irish performing artist Jason Donnelly, a tribute to 100 years of Guru Dutt, performance by Raja Rama Varma, descendant of the great artist Raja ravi Varma. The Grand archway the art Gallery at MOZhAR was inaugurated by both the Honorable minister as well as Raja Rama Varma. This was conducted as a collaboration with intach shekhawati chapter and central ministry of tourism and well as state department of tourism

On the occasion of World Heritage day a Heritage Wall Painting Week at MOHAR (Museum of Heritage and Art at Ramgarh Shekhawati from April 18-24, 2025. Many local women and school students from Sikar and Jhunjhunu were inspired by wall frescoes and painted beautiful motifs at the Museum of heritage and Art at Mohar

INTACH shekhawati chapter conducted a wonderful Churu heritage walk and a very large Art competition with school students from all three districts of Shekhawati at Churu on 19th April, 2025 in collaboration with Nagar parishad, Shruti Foundation and Nagar Shri museum, Churu on the occasion of World Heritage day.

Vivana Museum Hotel, Navalgarh - Vivana Museum Hotel conducted Heritage museum walk, interactions and workshops with students and also made an INTACH Membership Drive announcement on 21st April, 2025, on the occasion of World heritage day 2025. The Convener, Dr shruti Nada poddar conducted a talk with students at the event and the Co- Conveners and other members also spoke at the event. The members present were also taken around to to view the museum at the premises

Thakur Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod, member INTACH shekhawati chapter organised an event on the request of Convener, on the occasion of World Heritage Day along with World Earth Day on 22nd April 2025 At Dundlod Fort.! Children from schools of Dundlod and some wonderful people from all three districts of Shekhawati were present at the occasion fort, discuss concerns about saving Shekhawati Heritage and speaking about the history and significance of the native horse “The Marwari”. It was amazing session with Thakur asahab speaking on fascinating facts about these unique breed of horses and their expertise and achievements on the world stage.

3. International Yoga Day workshop on Nada Yoga at MOHAR Haveli at Ramgarh Shekhawati on 21st June 2025 - The INTACH Convener, Shruti Nada poddar used her expertise on Nada Yoga and conducted a session for people from all three districts, students and local women and girls. This was a culmination of a week long Hath yoga session conducted in the lawn of at Museum of Heritage and Art at Ramgath (MOHAR) Haveli by the Sikar Government. Even though this event was decided at the very last minute, it was well attended. Certificates were distributed to the students, women and other guests present by the EO and former Chairman, Nagar Palike, Ramgath Shekhawati. The guests were also taken to see the The Grace Archway, the art gallery at MOHAR, which is exhibiting Raja Ravi Varma oleographs.



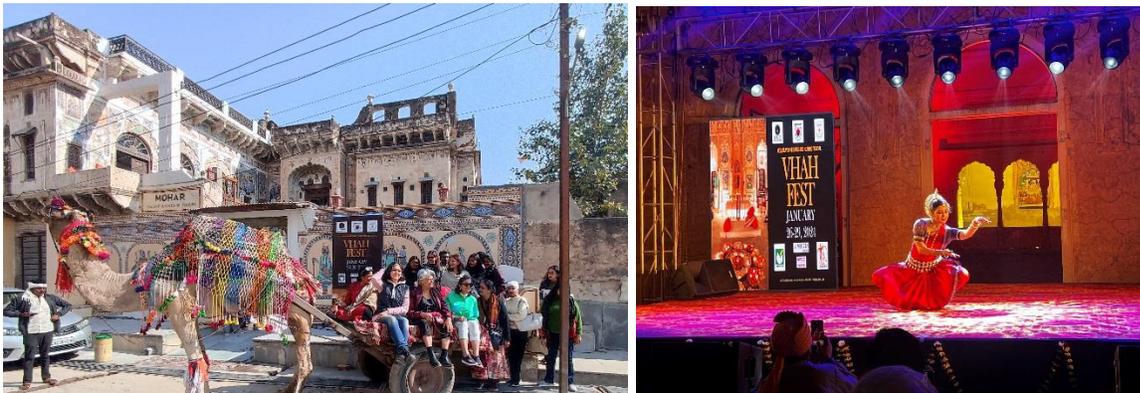
Art completion and Heritage walk on 19th April 2025 for World Heritage Day in Churu-Shekhawati Chapter



World Heritage Day celebrations on 21st April at Vivana Museum Hotel – Shekhawati Chapter



World Heritage Day wall painting heritage week - Shekhawati Chapter



VHAH FEST - Shekhawati Chapter

4. Deputy CM Rajasthan, Princess Diya Kumari ji visited Ramgarh Shekhawati on a personal request by Shruti nada Poddar, convener Intach Shrkhawati Chapter on 29th



April as part of the governments goal to make Ramgarh Shekhawati a model town.

She visited MoHAR (museum of Heritage and Art at Ramgarh) where the lunch and stakeholders meeting took place. She then visited Vedaaranya Haveli, a heritage hotel and headquarter of INTACH Shekhawati Chapter.

She lit the lamp and visited the exhibition of Raja Ravi Varma's art at The Grand Archway, the Art Gallery at MOHAR Haveli. She then drove through the unique HAVELI cluster of Ramgarh, the Poddar cluster of chhatris(Jagdish ji mandir) and Ramgopal Poddar Chhatri at Ramgarh Shekhawati and was really impressed by the stunning beauty of this unique heritage town.



Deputy CM Rajasthan, Princess Diya Kumari ji visited Ramgath Shekhawati – Shekhawati Chapter

Tamil Nadu

Book on Understanding South Indian Temples

The Chapter has been working on a unique book on ‘Understanding the South Indian Temple’ and the manuscript for the same has now been finalized and submitted to INTACH’s Architectural Heritage Division for final editing and publication. Mainly covering the five major states of South India – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu,-- the proposed book primarily aims to demystify the Hindu temple and make it more intelligible to both the sincere devotee and the serious tourist. At the same time, it can double up as a handy guidebook that could be easily carried and consulted while going round some of the temples. Of course, it will also be useful to scholars and students interested in learning more about the temples.

Based on extensive field studies and library and archival researches, the book has more photographs and line drawings than most of the other guidebooks and monographs on Hindu temples. The book also contains a few rare photographs, including close-up views of certain lesser-known temples, sculptures, paintings and inscriptions, many of them being published for the first time ever. The descriptions and illustrations are more for the temples that are more frequently visited by tourists and others.

(Three Photographs from the book are attached herewith, in 3 separate attachments. Caption for each photo is the file name of the photo attachment.)

Conservation of Southern Railway Headquarters Building, Chennai

The Chapter coordinated the finalization of an MOU between INTACH and the Southern Railway for the restoration of the Southern Railway Headquarters Building, located next to the Chennai Central Railway Station, in the heart of Chennai. The Headquarters Building is a Grade-I Heritage Building and one of the major landmarks of the city. On the request of the Southern Railway, State Convener Dr. S. Suresh had a series of meetings with the Railway officials, both technical and administrative, and after nearly two years of discussions and negotiations, the project is now a reality. The actual restoration work will commence shortly.

Heritage Awareness Program for children at Mahabalipuram

As part of its ongoing Heritage Awareness Programs, the Chapter organized, on 18th April, 2025, a unique educational tour of Mahabalipuram for the children of the sculptors and fishermen living in that place. Conducted on the request of the local citizens, the program, led by Dr. Suresh, the State Convener and Archaeologist, was intended to create awareness about Mahabalipuram's glorious heritage amongst the children living there. Although they reside in the midst of the monumental ruins, they are simply unaware of the history and architecture of the site. The children thoroughly enjoyed the tour. In the coming months, the Chapter plans to do more such Heritage Walks and Tours for the local children in other heritage sites such as Saluvankuppam in Tamil Nadu.



Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Kanchipuram - Tamil Nadu Chapter



Sri Rama Temple, Triprayar, Kerala - Tamil Nadu Chapter



Virupaksha Temple, Hampi, Karnataka- Tamil Nadu Chapter

Chennai

1. "The India I Saw - The Freedom Struggle as seen by Ambujammal" by Sriram V. on April 4, 2025 at Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam (WIA) Alwarpet, Chennai.

"The Freedom Struggle as seen by Ambujammal" based on the English translation of her autobiography "The India I Saw" by Sriram V.

Many of us take the independent India we live in for granted and we only heard our grandparents and parents speak of the struggle for freedom.

Every time we remind ourselves of the Freedom struggle is when we realize how rough the road was to experience freedom.

S. Ambujammal (1899-1981), freedom fighter and social service worker, chose a path of personal sacrifice for the sake of the nation despite being born into a wealthy family. She wrote her autobiography, "Naan Kanda Bharatham", a riveting and insightful account of life in Madras in the times of the freedom struggle. In the book, she traces India's journey to independence. Ambujammal was a Gandhian, her dedication and contribution to the motherland are legendary and was awarded the Padma Shri in 1964.

Sriram V., historian who translated Ambujammal's autobiography into English as "The India I saw" from the Tamil original spoke about her life in her very own premises, the Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, a place that is a gem of Chennai's history .

Ambujammal founded Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, a social service organization, on the passing of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. She named it combining the names of her biological father and spiritual father - Sriman Srinivasa Iyengar and M.K. Gandhi. It does yeoman service for women's welfare with focus on education, health and skills development. The Tulasi Madam near the entrance holds Mahatma Gandhi's ashes.

Sriram V. enlightened members of INTACH on Ambujammal's inspiring life, giving rare glimpses not only into the freedom struggle, but also into the socio-cultural milieu of Madras of the period.

2. 'Strangers in the Sun' : Trailblazers from across the seas in pre-independent India" by Mr. Venkatesh Ramakrishnan on April 25, 2025 at Ashvita's, Mylapore, Chennai.

This talk brought focus on the numerous individuals from foreign lands, who lived in India long enough to make an impact. About half a million foreigners lived in India in the century before independence. Not only did they come from England and Scotland, but from all over the world including Luxembourg, Ukraine, Lithuania and Albania.

They spanned many different walks of life. Having endured long and arduous journeys across the seas by ships without stabilisers or over land perhaps on horseback came Doctors, Chroniclers, Artists, Administrators, Hunters, Conservationists and so on ...Some of them came for political missions, religious pursuits, cultural exchange, trade and commerce or historical documentation.

Venkatesh, a bilingual author with deep interest in history, shared their narratives. Viewing India through the lens of their lives and experiences, threw light on the contribution of these so called outsiders.

3. "Sweet Talk - ALWA that is HALWA Indian Culinary History of Sweets" by Mr. Sivasankar Babu on May 29, 2025 at Ashvita's, Mylapore, Chennai.

India is a diverse land of cultures and languages. An integral part of culture is the different cuisines that reflect local traditions, climate and local produce. Sweets, which are prepared during celebrations, festivals and religious poojas have acquired special significance. One of the widely popular and quintessential sweets of India is Halwa. Even though its origin is documented as being from Persia and the middle east, similar preparations with similar ingredients have existed in our culture for ages.

This talk spans various aspects of halwa - history (origin and story of famous shops), geography (wide spread varieties in different regions across India) and even chemistry (the structural component of halwa) and physics (the level of softness of halwa varieties).

Sivasankar Babu, who has delved deep into heritage, history, epigraphy, art and architecture of temples, a volunteer with Tamil Heritage, an 'Incredible India Tourist Facilitator' and 'Tourist Guide for Advanced Heritage' spoke to INTACH members about the incredible varieties and cultural connections of the sweet 'HALWA'.

4. Documentary film screening 'SHAKTIDASAN: A Poet's Quest for Truth' on Subramania Bharathi on June 26, 2025 at Ashvita's, Mylapore, Chennai.

'SHAKTIDASAN : A Poet's Quest for Truth' on Subramania Bharathi

ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

An inspiring documentary film on Subramania Bharathi, 'SHAKTIDASAN - A Poet's Quest for Truth' was screened on June 26, 2025. The unique film in Tamil, with English subtitles. Focused exclusively on the spiritual not religious struggle and quest of the famous Tamil poet, Mahakavi C Subramania Bharathiar.

In his short life of 38 (11 December 1882-12 September 1921), the poet had myriad experiences and meetings with extraordinary persons, all of which shaped his thinking, philosophy and ideals and catalysed his brilliant writings, which are extremely relevant even today.

This 70 minute documentary has been shot in various places where Bharathiar lived - Ettayapuram, Kadayam, Varanasi, Chennai and Pondicherry and showcases some of his significant poems, works and revolutionary ideas which impacted the times he lived in, during the Indian freedom struggle.

This documentary comprised narration and dramatization, with visuals, songs, dance and cinematic techniques that made the storytelling both informative and compelling.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

The producer, Soundarya Sukumar, with formal training in broadcast journalism, has been a media practitioner in India and Singapore for several years, including as TV News Editor. She is the recipient of the All India Silver medal for Journalism from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi and the Commendation Medal from the President of Singapore and has been very active in the field of music, theatre and arts.

THE SHAKTIDASAN TEAM

The film team consists of experts in their field an experienced Director (Usha Rajeswari), nationally acclaimed music composer (Rajkumar Bharathi), well-known research scholar (Niranjan Bharathi), famous musicians (Sikkil Gurucharan, Abhishek Raghuram), popular media and stage personalities (Karthik Gopinath, Elango Kumanan, Isai Kavi Ramanan), technical experts in audio and video, Director of Photography (Anand Thiagarajan) and Audio Engineer (MT Aditya Srinivasan), who have brought their talents into the making of the film.

INTACH Chennai Chapter was honoured by the presence of Soundarya Sukumar, the producer of the film, who came from Singapore, Usha Rajeswari, the Director and the senior carnatic music vocalist, Sikkil Gurucharan at the screening.

5. "Heritage and Culture of India" by Dr. Chitra Madhavan on July 5, 2025 at Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar, Chennai.

'The Heritage and Culture of India' by historian Dr. Chithra Madhavan

On July 5th, 2025, Young INTACH of Chennai Chapter conducted a unique initiative. A pictorial lecture on 'The Heritage and Culture of India' by historian Dr. Chithra Madhavan drew overwhelming response from the city schools with 250 enthusiastic children in the audience at Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar, Chennai. The children listened keenly and were bursting with curiosity, making the exercise a very satisfying one, having lit a spark of heritage awareness in the torch bearers of tomorrow. Chithra Madhavan, who has an M.A. and an M.Phil. in Indian History and a Ph.D. in Ancient History and Archaeology, she is the author of nine books and is also the General Editor of books on the Srirangam temple the Varadaraja Perumal temple, Kanchipuram and the Srivilliputtur temples. She is guest-faculty at various institutions such as Kalakshetra Foundation, DakshinaChitra and the Asian College of Journalism. She is the recipient of two post-doctoral fellowships from the Department of Culture, Government of India and from the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.

She spoke on ancient scripts of India, inscriptions on stone and copper plates, sculptures in stone and metal, brilliant architectural traditions of temples of India and allied topics and kept the children enthralled.



Talk on "The India I Saw - The Freedom Struggle as seen by Ambujammal" by Sriram V - Chennai Chapter



INTACH Chennai Chapter team with Soundarya Sukumar, Producer, Usha Rajeswari Thiagarajan, Director, Sikkil Gurucharan, Carnatic Music vocalist – Chennai Chapter

Madurai

1. March 15, 2025 - Handmade paper poster was printed to be placed in institutions for public awareness of antiquity of Tamil culture over the ages after the announcement was made by the Tamilnadu Chief Minister, based on the dating of archaeological finds in Sivagalai. An excursion tour was organised to visit Sivagalai, which included participants from other cities. The poster was released at a temple nearby, seeking the grace of God Maya Koothar.

Sivagalai stands as a model archaeological site brought to the attention of archaeologists and historians worldwide by the mission of a resident teacher Manikkam. We extended our support to the forum established by him to safeguard hordes of artefacts buried deep within their home soil and educate the local community about significance of archaeology. A similar step of responsibility to be undertaken by locals of other archaeological sites to preserve their legacy was sensitised.



Handmade paper poster programme for public awareness- Madurai Chapter

Nagercoil

1. World Environment Day 5.6.2025

On 5th of June, 2025, chapter commemorated 'World Environment Day' at Kavimoni Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Government Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil. Convener Anitha Natarajan spoke about the theme of World Environment Day -2025 "Beat the Plastics" and she gave an elaborate speech on the hazards of plastics.

She said that this year's theme of "beating the plastics before it beats us" is a clarion call to the people highlighting the hazardous impact of plastic waste on our ecosystem, animal life especially aquatic animals which are consumed by wider population and human health all around the globe. The students were given simple solutions to avoid plastic usage.

1. Bringing water cans instead of plastic bottles.
2. Using stainless steel lunch boxes.
3. Taking cloth bags to shops to buy things.
4. Very importantly, never to get hot food wrapped in plastic bags. Instead take stainless boxes to buy eatables.

Ms. Nina Joseph, Green Fellow, Kanyakumari District gave an enriching speech on 'Environment Day' and Ms. Jeyanthi, environmentalist, presented the "green pledge". Our INTACH members Mr. Joe Prakash spoke about the importance of observing World Environment Day. 300 students participated in the program.



World Environment Day – Nagercoil Chapter

2. Competition for School Students on 'Art from Waste' to commemorate World Environment Day

A competition was conducted for the students "Art from Waste" and prizes and certificates were presented to the first three place and participation certificates to those who participated.

Our Member Dr.Renu Devaprasath and Dr.Shunmuga Kumar very systematically assessed the entries and gave a fair judgement. Prizes and certificates were given by INTACH.



3. Tree Planting on WED-2025



Tree Planting on WED-2025 – Nagercoil Chapter

Tree planting drive was organised at Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Government Hr.Sec.School to celebrate World Environment Day 2025.

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter under the leadership of Convener Anitha Natarajan planted trees at Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt Hr. Sec. School. We planted native “magilum tree saplings” which are fruit bearing and shady trees. Our members, teachers and students actively participated. More than 1200 students get benefited. Our Convener Anitha Natarajan, Mr. Joe Prakash Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Renu Devaprasath, Dr.Shunmuga Kumar and Mrs. Rekha attended the program .

4. 'International Day of Biological Diversity' and World Turtle Day Celebration'

On 22nd of May ,2025 , INTACH, Nagercoil Chapter commemorated 'International Day of Biological Diversity' and 'World Turtle Day' Celebration at Hotel Pioneer Grand Palace , Nagercoil.

We had two speakers – Dr. R. Suresh Swamiyar Kaani M.A , Ph.D., and Ms. Nina Joseph, Green Fellow, Kanyakumari District

Two of our members who had participated at the XIV Capacity Building Workshop, Mr. Joe Prakash and Mr. Shahul Hameed , shared their review and experiences and knowledge that they gathered at the Workshop. Our Convener Anitha Natarajan and Co-Convener Dr. Sunil Richardson pinned the new members Dr. Devaprasath and Dr. Renu Devaprasath with the pins and pledge of INTACH.



'International Day of Biological Diversity' – Nagercoil Chapter

Convener Anitha Natarajan explained about the importance of celebrating International Day of Biological Diversity (22nd May , 2025) and the theme for the day - '**Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development**' and the importance of observing the day to create awareness and also 'World Turtle Day - May 23rd , 2025 to raise awareness about protecting turtles , tortoises and their habitats for their survival. The theme for day was 'Dancing Turtles Rock' and she reiterated that it is imperative to create knowledge about conserving the endangered species. In Kanyakumari District , at Rajakamangalam beach , there is nesting of Olive Ridley turtles . One of the speakers, Ms. Nina Joseph , Green Fellow of Kanyakumari District is involved in the Government initiative to protect the turtle eggs during the hatching season .

We have given an elaborate report about her presentation and also about another important heritage of Kanyakumari District, the Lifestyle and medicinal practises of Kaani Tribal People.

5. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIODIVERSITY & WORLD TURTLE DAY 2025 - Nina M Joseph, Green Fellow (Kanniyakumari)

In the hustle and bustle of today's fast-paced world, we often forget to pause and observe the marvellous nature around us. Modern lifestyle has detached us and made us believe that we are above and beyond nature.

The International Day for Biological Diversity, commemorated every year on May 22, 2025, is a reminder to ground ourselves and celebrate the variety of life forms on the Earth. The theme for the year 2025 is *harmony with nature and sustainable development*, which focuses on the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the 23 targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The bigger picture focuses on creating a better tomorrow, strengthening the deliberations of the UN's Pact for the Future.

Biodiversity can be defined as the species richness in any given area and it can be further classified into genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity. Genetic diversity is the diversity among species and the plethora of dog breeds is a suitable example for this. Species diversity is the diversity between species and ecosystem diversity is the availability of diverse ecosystems. Scientists believe that there are around 8.7 million species, of which only 1.2 million have been discovered to date. The Living Planet Report 2024 shared by the World Wide Fund for Nature estimates that 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction.

According to Conservation International, a region becomes a biodiversity hotspot if it has at least 1,500 endemic plant species and has lost over 70% of its original vegetation. The Western Ghats, which run through Kanniyakumari district, meet this criterion – making this southern tip of India not only ecologically critical but also urgently in need of conservation. The Suchindrum Theroor Wetland Complex located in Kanniyakumari district is also a crucial spot in the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds.

Another important factor contributing to the richness of biodiversity in Kanniyakumari is due to the natural physiography of the district with elevations ranging from beaches to mountains which stand tall at 1800 m.

The district hosts sandy beaches, rocky beaches, mud flats, intertidal regions, freshwater bodies, scrub forests, lush green forests, shola grasslands, and much more.

The Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary having an area of 402.4 Sq.km is a part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve which is a UNESCO listed heritage site. There are around 20 different types of forests with species such as wood snakes, lion-tailed macaques, elephants, wild boars, jungle fowl, pangolins, and so on.

Every year **World Turtle Day is observed on May 23**. The most common sea turtles of Tamil Nadu are the Olive Ridley, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, and Green Sea Turtle. Of these, Olive Ridley is commonly found in Kanniyakumari district. The Green Sea Turtle can be found in areas with seagrass beds and the leatherback prefers coral reefs to feed on sponges. Sea turtles are crucial for ecosystems as they keep the sponge and jellyfish populations under control maintaining ecosystem equilibrium. Green sea turtles maintain the productivity of seagrass beds. Turtles also serve as carriers/transporters for barnacles and other organisms. Nutrient cycling is also an important ecosystem service provided by turtles.

Turtles can be distinguished based on the number of their scutes and claws on their limbs. Olive ridleys are one of the smallest turtle species with a flat heart-shaped carapace (shell) with an olive green tint. Infant olive ridleys have charcoal colored carapaces, juveniles are brownish and older turtles are greyish green. The color of the carapace also gets affected by salt exposure, biofouling, and wear and tear.

Olive ridleys are 2 to 2.5 feet long and weigh about 45 kg. Although there is no clear understanding about the life span of olive ridleys, scientists believe that they may have life spans ranging from 30 to 50 years.

One of the most unique features of olive ridleys is their nesting behaviour. Olive ridleys nest alone (solitary) or in arribada (mass nesting), where tens of thousands of female turtles arrive at a beach at the same time to lay eggs. This can be observed in some of the beaches of Odisha in India. In Kanniyakumari, solitary nesting is observed in Lemur, Rajakkamangalam, and Dwarakapathi beach stretches, to name a few. The turtles dig holes/nests that are 40 to 50 cm deep and lay eggs and then cover the holes with sand. On average, 100 eggs will be laid in a nest. During arribada nesting, the competition is so high that only 1 in 1000 eggs will successfully hatch.

Another interesting fact is the influence of temperature on the gender of the turtles. At sand temperatures below 27 degrees Celsius, the hatchlings will be male, and above 31 degrees Celsius, the hatchlings will be female. Due to global warming, there is a decline in the number of male hatchlings, thus affecting the turtle population.

Some of the major issues faced by turtles include getting caught in trawlers and as bycatch, female turtles and eggs being harvested, light pollution causing confusion to the hatchlings, anthropogenic causes such as installation of groynes, marine vehicles, and pollution.

Thus, in order to live in harmony with all life forms on Earth, development and conservation should go hand in hand promoting integrated and holistic development. Policy interventions and outreach lay the foundation for a transformation.

Organizations such as INTACH can promote Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the establishment of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, and aid in the identification of sacred groves and, geo-heritage sites.

With all the stakeholders playing their roles, we can create a better tomorrow and this is extremely crucial as our knowledge of keystone species is limited and we may unknowingly eliminate a crucial species. And let us remind ourselves every day that *we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.*

6. Biological Diversity- “Kattu Vaithiyam”

Dr. R.Suresh Swamiyar Kaani, M.A., Ph.D., National Representative of Southern Tribals, National Tribal Development Network, New Delhi

To commemorate ‘World Biodiversity Day’ we had a speaker from the Kani tribe, Dr.Suresh Swamiyar Kaani. The Kani is an indigenous community primarily found in the forests and hills of the western side of Kanyakumari District. They are known for their deep connection to the forests and their knowledge of medicinal plants. Dr.Suresh Swamiyar Kaani is the first research scholar from the Kaani tribe. He has got his Ph.D on the indigenous medicine and medical practises of the Kani tribe.

He spoke on the topic ‘Kaatu Vaithiyam’ meaning medical treatment of the forest people. His presentation was very interesting. He spoke about his father, a tribal chief called ‘Mootukani’ and from him he learnt the medicinal values of herbs and trees in the forest. Their child birth is unique. The expected mothers will be given a concoction when she would be ready for labour. The concoction contains a little amount of an intoxicating substance. The expectant mother is made to hold a saree which would be tied like a swing. The mother would be allowed to sway and she would deliver the baby naturally in a sitting poster holding the saree.



‘World Biodiversity Day’ – Nagercoil Chapter

He spoke about a medicine which can heal broken bones in a few hours. Out of the innumerable medicinal plants found in the forest, Dr. Suresh Kani has documented 142 medicinal plants and trees. It was a wonderful presentation which enthralled the audience.

7. Kalmadam visit on 29.5.2025 - We explored the kalmadam at Kavalkinaru, the outskirts of Nagercoil which is a structure made of stone and hence the name “Kalmadam”. It is an architectural beauty in itself but it is in a very bad condition. Kalmadam are wayside inns built during the times of ancient kings for wayfarer to stay for a short time and take rest. This particular wayside inn must be used by groups of people during their pilgrimage or trading venture.

It is a two storey stone building with an attic for sunshine and aeration. Plenty of carvings of fish could be seen indicating association with Pandiya Kingdom. Half of the madam is beneath the ground due to years of negligence and neglect. But if renovated, it would be an amazing sight for the people who pass the way it would stand tall as a beautiful heritage piece on the NH road connecting Kanyakumari District and Tirunelveli District.



Our members Mr.Premdhas, Mrs.Latha Ramaswamy, Mrs.Nageswari Janarthanan, Mrs.Rekha for their support and presence – Nagercoil Chapter

Telangana Warangal

The following activities were conducted by Warangal Chapter during April 2025 - June 2025.

Organised Heritage Education Tour on 5th April 2025 to high school students of Zilla Parishad High School, Orugonda village, Hanamkonda District. The education tour covered Chandragiri Chennakeshava Jathra premises comprising of fort walls, temples under dilapidated conditions, bhairava shilalu, water ponds, saptagundalu etc. Recharla Padmanaikulu ruled this region during 15th century from Chandragiri.

Dr Racharla Ganapathi, Social teacher and Senior Member of Warangal Chapter along with teachers from the school accompanied the students and explained them about the contribution of kakatiyas to this region by constructing huge water bodies for irrigation and drinking water, townships and temples.

He explained the importance of the heritage field visits which would help the students that they learnt in the class from text books. A total number 40 (forty) students. The School teachers and high school students participated, appreciated and enjoyed the heritage education tour.

World Heritage Day was organised on 18th April 2025 at UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Monument Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulugu District. Chief Guest Prof. G. Ramachandra Reddy, Former Director, National Institute of Technology, Guest of Honour Mr. Veeramalla Prakah, Former Chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation, Telangana State, Convener Prof M Pandu Ranga Rao, Co-convener Prof Deva Pratap, Senior Members of Warangal Chapter Dr M. Sambaiah, Dr R. Ganapathi and local citizens and students were present at the celebrations. A large number of visitors from different parts of our country participated in the programme and interacted with us to get their doubts clarified regarding sand box technology, aseismic design, selection of materials in construction along with floating bricks. Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao, explained in detail with the help of a big banner consisting Ramappa lake towards upstream of the temple and further downstream about 5 km away, the proposed opencast mine project to a depth of 300 m.

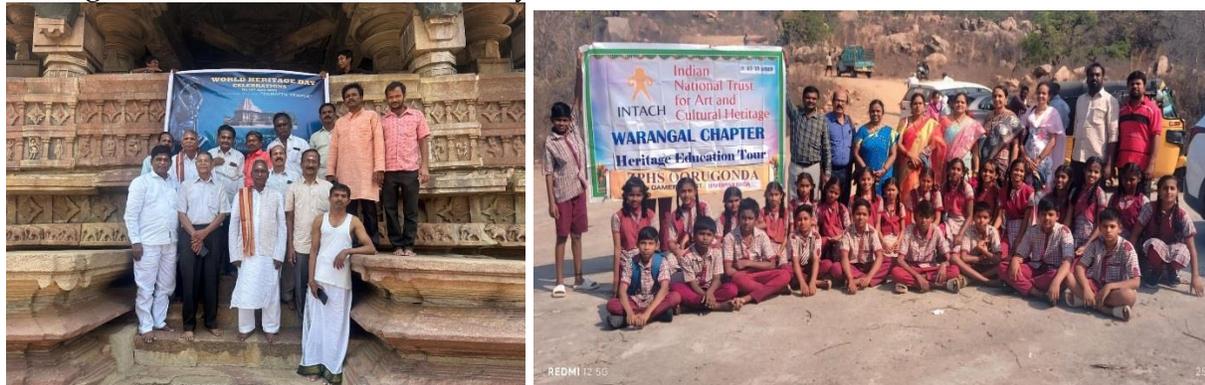
The whole area is highly disturbed tectonically leaving traces in the form of fractures, lineaments, highly intersecting joints with horizontal rock bedding. All these structural features were interpreted by using high resolution satellite imageries.

Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, is of the firm belief that the proposed opencast project to a depth of 300 m will be of a great threat to both Ramappa temple and lake. In all probability the mining activity will lead to leakage and seepage of water through the fractures, lineaments and joints culminating to piping phenomenon releasing huge quantities of water leading to the burst of existing Ramappa Tank bund which was built more than 800 years back. Under these circumstances the whole group unanimously felt and requested the government to stop opencast project of Singareni Collieries Company permanently. Chief guest Prof. G. Ramachandra Reddy addressed the participants and impressed upon them on the importance of conservation of the heritage structures and monuments of our heritage for future generation & he also advised the local citizens and students to actively participate in propagating the role of people to preserve and maintain the cleanliness surrounding monuments. Mr. Veeramalla Prakah, Chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation, addressed the students on the Kakatiya heritage and also irrigation structures constructed by them and their significance even today in fulfilling the drinking water and irrigation requirements.

INTACH Warangal Chapter along with Kakatiya Heritage Trust at the invitation of District Collector and Magistrate, Mulugu District actively participated in heritage tour of Miss World 2025 contestants. A distinguished group of 35 Miss World Competitors from 35 countries visited Ramappa Temple on 24.05.2025.

All the competitors enjoyed the exuberant art and architecture with extraordinary carving, creating beautiful life size Naginis and Raginis in black dolerite rocks with high polish event after more than 800 years. Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao, Convener and Mr. J. Sridhar Rao, convener HEC, explained in detail about the kakatiya dynasty and art and architecture, construction technology of Kakatiya rulers.

All the participants enjoyed going round the temple and had a glimpses of Perini Dance Forms. They carried the excellent mementos and were also presented coffee table books on Kakatiya Dynasty and Heritage authored and edited by Prof M. Pandu Ranga Rao. The legacy of the architectural beauty of Ramappa temple was transferred to 35 countries through these ambassadors of beauty.



World Heritage Day Celebration – Heritage Educational Tour – Warangal Chapter Warangal Chapter

Uttar Pradesh Gorakhpur

1. Seminar on World Heritage Day (19th April 2025)

A seminar was organised in collaboration with the Department of Ancient History, DDU Gorakhpur University, on the theme “*World Heritage 2025: Heritage under Threat from Disaster and Conflicts.*” Faculty members, students, and INTACH members actively participated.

Chapter Convener **Shri M.P. Kandoi** explained in detail the dangers to tangible and intangible heritage and suggested solutions such as:

- Listing of endangered heritage,
- Creating community awareness regarding the importance and threats to heritage,
- Providing expert advice and continuous monitoring of conservation measures.

Dr. Pragya Chaturvedi, Head of Department, Ancient History, stressed the academic community’s role in tackling these issues, while **Prof. Rajvant Rao**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, highlighted the MoU between INTACH and DDU University for joint heritage conservation.

The seminar was conducted by **Dr. Mumtaz Khan**, and the vote of thanks was presented by **Shri Surya Kumar Tripathi**, Life Member. The programme concluded with light refreshments.

2. Heritage Discussion with *Dainik Hindustan* (15th April 2025)

On the request of national Hindi daily *Dainik Hindustan*, INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter organised a discussion meeting with its members and eminent persons of the city interested in heritage.

The participants, including **Prof. Rajvant Rao**, **Prof. Pragya Chaturvedi**, and several heritage enthusiasts, shared their views on listing, awareness programmes, repair of damaged heritage, and the involvement of youth and community.

Convener **Shri M.P. Kandoi** pointed out that the major challenge in heritage work lies in obtaining the consent of owners for listing and conservation. He informed that while the Chapter has identified more than 350 properties, response from owners has been poor.

Members also expressed concern over:

- The deteriorating status of folk arts due to modern technology,
- Alterations made to heritage structures during renovation by both owners and government agencies.

3. Third Mango Festival (22nd-23rd June 2025)

The Gorakhpur Chapter organised its third **Mango Mahotsav** on 22nd June 2025, with the **INTACH Chairman** gracing the occasion as Chief Guest.



Prior to the event, the Chairman visited the historic **Gorakhnath Temple** with Life Member **Shri Shivendra Vikram Singh**, who explained the temple's history and architecture. He also met the Aide-de-Camp of **Yogi Adityanath**, Head of Gorakhnath Math and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, to discuss

conservation issues.

At the festival venue, the Chairman inaugurated the Mahotsav, joined on stage by distinguished guests including:

- **Wing Commander Arvind Shukla (Retd.)**, Director Chapter Division,
- **Prof. N.K. Singh**, Indian Agricultural Research Institute,
- **Dr. Shailesh Rajan**, Ex-Director, CISH,
- **Prof. Rajvant Rao**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, DDU Gorakhpur,
- **Prof. Divya Rani Singh**, HoD, Home Science, DDU Gorakhpur,
- **Shri Paras Nath**, District Horticulture Officer,
- **Dr. Shiraz Wazih**, Chairman, Gorakhpur Environment Action Group,
- **Prof. Shivsaran Das**, Convener INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter, and Co-Conveners.

Special pins designed for the event were presented to the dignitaries. Convener **M.P. Kandoi** welcomed guests, mango growers, scientists, and the public, highlighting the need to conserve traditional mango varieties now endangered by the spread of hybrid cultivars.

The Chairman, in his inaugural address, spoke about INTACH's mission to conserve tangible, intangible, and natural heritage, under which the Mango Mahotsav is an important initiative. **Prof. N.K. Singh** and **Dr. Shailesh Rajan** made technical presentations for mango orchard owners.

The Chairman later visited stalls displaying over 40 varieties of mangoes, interacted with orchard owners, and encouraged conservation efforts. He also toured recipe demonstration stalls. A session was held with Chapter members to discuss local heritage issues.

Dignitaries such as the **Vice Chancellor of DDU University, Prof. Poonam Tandon**, and the **Mayor of Gorakhpur** also attended. Discussions were held regarding:

- Expanding heritage activities under the INTACH-DDU MoU,
- Conservation of rare books at Nagar Nigam Library with support from INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow,
- Development of mango-based food processing industries with the Chamber of Industries.

Competitions were also held:

- **Best Mango** prize awarded to **Mr. Nusrat Abbasi**,
- **Best Stall** prize awarded to **GEAG** for showcasing traditional Biju mangoes,
- Recipe competition certificates were distributed by **Prof. Poonam Tandon**.

The festival attracted more than 5,000 visitors.

23rd June 2025 – Heritage Visits by Chairman

The Chairman visited **Gita Press**, including the manuscript section containing rare palm-leaf manuscripts with gold painting. He was informed that INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow, had trained the custodians, and the manuscripts are now preserved as per INTACH guidelines. He assured full support for digitisation. He also visited **Leela Chitra Mandir Gallery** and held discussions with Manager **Shri Lal Mani Tewari**.

The Chapter successfully secured recognition of **Basant Sarai** and **Reed Sahib Dharamshala** as protected sites by U.P. ASI after a decade-long effort. The Chairman visited these sites to discuss future plans.

His final stop was the **Ancient History Department of DDU University**, where **Dr. Pragya Chaturvedi** showcased the museum of excavated relics from Sohgaora and other

sites. She sought INTACH's assistance in planning and digitisation of artefacts, for which the Chairman requested a formal proposal.



Third Mango Festival organized by Gorakhpur Chapter- Gorakhpur Chapter

Lalitpur

1. A Heritage Conservation Seminar, Heritage Painting Competition, and Exhibition were organized by the INTACH Lalitpur Chapter on World Heritage Day, 18 April 2025. On this occasion, attendees took a pledge to preserve and protect heritage. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Rajkumar Jain, while Chapter Convener Santosh Kumar Sharma presided over the event.

The program was graced by several dignitaries, including artist O.P. Birathre, Manmohan Jadiya, Vinod Tripathi, Rajkumar Rathore, Govind Vyas, Urvashi Gupta, Anuradha Modi, and Dr. Jeet Gupta. The event was conducted by Brajmohan Sangya, and a vote of thanks was delivered by Co-Convener Rajneesh Chaddha.

2. 05 May 2025 :: Kala Bhavan :: Grand Closing Ceremony of Free Art Practice Camp (6 April - 5 May 2025)

The grand closing ceremony of the month-long Free Art Practice Camp was held at Kala Bhavan on 5 May 2025. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Shri Ramratan Kushwaha, Hon'ble MLA of Lalitpur (Sadar). The event was chaired by Shri Pradeep Choubey, Member of the Bundelkhand Development Board and Manager of Nehru Mahavidyalaya, Lalitpur. Special guests included Dr. Rajkumar Jain and Shri Santosh Sharma, Convener, INTACH Lalitpur Chapter.

The camp was organized by Shri Omprakash Birathre, with Shri Mahesh Prasad Birathre serving as Camp Assistant. The program was conducted by Shri Brijmohan Sangya, President of Sanskar Bharti.

On this occasion, a special highlight was the unveiling of an oil painting of Bundelkhand Kesari Maharaja Chhatrasal Bundela created by Shri Omprakash Birathre based on a year-long period of research and study. Art practitioners who participated in the camp were felicitated by the guests with mementoes and certificates. The event saw the gracious presence of several dignitaries including journalist Shri Vinod Tripathi, former Principal Mrs. Shanti Malviya, Govind Vyas (Patron, Sanskar Bharti), Mrs. Preeti Choubey, Mrs. Anuradha Modi, Dr. Jeet Gupta, Suresh Sahu, and Jayant Choubey, among others.

Meerut

1. World Heritage Day Program: INTACH Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 19 April – The INTACH Meerut Chapter organized a special program for senior students of The Aryans School to raise awareness about the significance of World Heritage Day and to encourage them to take a pledge to protect and preserve heritage. The event was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Senior Assistant Sugarcane Commissioner and Co-Convener of INTACH Meerut Chapter. The students were engaged and inspired through insightful sessions by distinguished INTACH members, including Mr. G.C. Sharma, Mr. Sheelvardhan, Dr. Ishwar Chand Gambhir, and poets Mr. Ram Lakhan Patel and Dr. Gambhir. Mrs. Soma Gupta, Senior Coordinator of the school, expressed gratitude to the guests on behalf of the school.

2. Ambedkar Jayanti Program – INTACH, Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 14 April 2025 – On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, the INTACH Meerut Chapter organized a commemorative meeting at the residence auditorium of Treasurer Shri A.K. Goyal. The program was presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Retd. IAS/ Convener of the Chapter, with Dr. Manu Bhatnagar from INTACH Headquarters as the Chief Guest. The event began with a heartfelt tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, with all attendees paying homage and reaffirming their commitment to be inspired by his visionary thoughts and ideals.

A key focus of the meeting was a detailed discussion on water conservation. Members were encouraged to take proactive steps, and a committee was formed to work on water-related initiatives across different areas of the Meerut Division. The program was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter.

3. Salute to the Martyrs of 1857 – INTACH, Meerut Chapter

Meerut, 10th May – The INTACH Meerut Chapter observed Shaheed Kranti Diwas by paying heartfelt tribute to the brave heroes of the First War of Indian Independence at Shaheed Smarak, Meerut. The morning program was presided over by Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, Convener, and conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convener. Senior member and historian Mr. A.K. Gandhi spoke about the historical significance of the 1857 revolution, while other members also shared their reflections.

Later in the day, at 5 PM, a seminar was jointly organized by the Indian Genealogical Society of India (IGSI) and INTACH Meerut Chapter at the Circuit House, Meerut to further honor the martyrs of the 1857 uprising. Dr. Kiran Singh delivered a detailed account of the events and sacrifices of the freedom struggle. The atmosphere was deeply moving as revolutionary songs were performed by Mr. Ram Lakhan Patel, Dr. Ishwar Chand Gambhir, and Mr. A.K. Johri.

A special tribute was also paid to the martyrs of Pahalgam, with strong condemnation of terrorism and a resolution passed demanding strict action.

The program was attended by several distinguished individuals including A.K. Johri, Sheelvardhan, Ram Lakhan Patel, Dinesh Saxena, Yashpal Singh, Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, M.S. Jain, Hemant Kumar Gupta, Deepak Sharma, A.K. Gandhi, Ashok Kumar, Ankit Kumar, Arun Kumar, Rohini Singh, Ashish Agarwal, Dr. Kiran Singh, Shakeel Saifi, K.L. Goyal, J.K. Jain, Manmohan Singh Ahuja, D.P. Srivastava, Madhu, Sarvesh Gupta, Rajiv Sharma, and Dr. Gambhir.

4. "No Plastic" pledge reinforced with emphasis on tree protection

Meerut, 5 June 2025 – INTACH Meerut Chapter organized an environmental awareness program at ITI Saket, Meerut to mark World Environment Day. The event was held under the chairmanship of Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar, IAS (Retd.)/ Convener, INTACH Meerut Chapter. Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Meerut graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Bhatnagar, Member, District Environment Committee was the Special Guest. Both were warmly welcomed with garlands and presented with mementoes. The program was conducted by Mr. A.K. Johri, Co-Convener, who also introduced INTACH and its objectives. Lt. Colonel A.D. Tyagi, Mr. Sheelvardhan, and the DFO spoke on the importance of environmental conservation. All attending students took a pledge to make ITI Meerut a “No Plastic Zone” and committed to the continued care and protection of trees planted during last year’s drive. Prominent participants included Mr. A.K. Goyal, Mr. Sheelvardhan, Lt. Col. A.D. Tyagi, Dr. Ishwar Chand Gambhir, Mr. Ram Lakhan Patel, and Mr. Jaswant Singh. Poets Dr. Gambhir and Mr. Patel recited environment-themed poems that resonated deeply with the audience.

Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar expressed his heartfelt thanks and extended his blessings to all participants.



World Heritage Day Program: INTACH Meerut Chapter



Salute to the Martyrs of 1857 – Meerut Chapter



Ambedkar Jayanti Program

Prayagraj(Allahabad)

1. INTACH Prayagraj Meeting Concludes with Insightful Discussions on Mahakumbh and Heritage Conservation- Prayagraj, 27 April.

A meeting of the INTACH, Prayagraj Chapter was held today at a local hotel in Civil Lines. The keynote speaker, Professor Dr. Ritu Jaiswal delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the topic “Mahakumbh and its various dimensions”, highlighting the historical, religious, and cultural significance of the Kumbh Mela in depth.

Dr. Jaiswal stated that the Maha Kumbh of Prayagraj is not merely a symbol of religious faith, but also a reflection of the remarkable continuity and cultural consciousness of Indian civilization. He traced the history of the Maha Kumbh from ancient Vedic texts, the Puranas, and epics to the accounts of foreign travelers like Hiuen Tsang, and highlighted the grand gatherings organized by Emperor Harshavardhana on the banks of the Sangam.

He specifically mentioned that the Maha Kumbh organized on the banks of Sangam in Prayagraj has been the center of ideological and religious discourse of ascetics, pilgrims, acharyas and kings for ages. The prestige of Dwadash Madhava, which makes the religious identity of Prayagraj unique, adds more depth to the religious dignity of the Maha Kumbh.

Dr. Jaiswal said that representatives of Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta, Buddhist and Jain traditions have been gathering together in the Maha Kumbh, which is a living example of India's cultural diversity and tolerance. He also underlined that Maha Kumbh is not only an occasion for spiritual purification, but also a great festival of social harmony, charity, service, and public dialogue.

During the meeting, member Puja Gupta suggested that INTACH should actively contribute to preserving the intellectual and cultural heritage of Prayagraj. Her proposal was supported by Convener Shambhu Chopra and Co-Convener Anupam Parihar, who assured that it would be presented to the central office for consideration.

In his statement, Convener Shambhu Chopra affirmed INTACH’s commitment to preserving the cultural and historical heritage of Prayagraj and encouraged members to actively contribute to the organization’s growth and outreach. The vote of thanks and publicity for the event were handled by Co-Convener Anupam Parihar.

Many members including Professor Santosh Saxena, Dr. Shubhra Mishra, Garima Jaiswal, Anupam Kumar, Rishi Kumar, N.D. Jaiswal, Sudhanshu Agarwal were present in the meeting.

2. " A curated trail of Allahabad Law Museum & Archives was organised by INTACH Prayagraj Chapter dated 14 June '2025 in Prayagraj. Unacquainted to the lesser- known heritage of the Allahabad High Court, the members were awed to see the museology wonder with having an interesting collection of medieval era historical judgments, dress, furniture and rare artifacts consisting the original charter of Queen Victoria of 1866 by which the High Court was created - Compromise Deed hand written by Tulsidas ji, bearing seal of Qazi Benares - 1975 election petition of Indira Gandhi, the Chauri Chaura case of 1922 – original Mughal farmaans dated 1572 to 1665 and much more....

This heritage walk of the Allahabad chapter members was a part of the heritage series undertaken by the chapter for creating awareness of the members of the unique heritage importance of Allahabad. The High Court Museum and Archives is a unique institution set up by Allahabad High Court to preserve and protect and conserve the old but most important heritage documents, judgments and artifacts and farmans of the Mughal period and the pre-colonial period.

On this occasion event three new life members were conferred with the membership badges and certificate by Mr. Shambhu Chopra (Convener).

1. Mrs Shruti Agarwal
2. Mr. Saransh Srivastava
3. Mrs. Shobha Misra.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Shambhu Chopra, (Convener) and was attended by Mr. Anupam Parihar (Co-Convener), Mr. Vaibhav Maini, (Secretary), Mr. Nilesh Narayan (PR & Event Coordinator), Mr. Sudhanshu Agarwal (Treasurer) and several others...



A curated trail of Allahabad Law Museum & Archives was organised by INTACH Prayagraj Chapter – Prayagraj Chapter

Varanasi

1. Head of Chitrapur Muth Shirali Karnataka Sadyojat Shankarashram Swami ji visited exhibition today on my request. He came to Rajaghat to inaugurate their building in front of Entrance of Peshwa Haveli. 250 devotees from all over India are here with him. I requested Swami ji to have DARSHAN of Maa Annapurna and Vishnu ji inside Peshwa Haveli. Then he enquired from Shri Nitin Gokarn IAS (retd) Former Divisional Commissioner Varanasi in his own language . Gokarn ji known to me since 2005, he also confirmed.

Swami ji then went around and also wanted to see entire building. His comments are precious about the place.



Head of Chitrapur Muth Shirali Karnataka Sadyojat Shankarashram Swami ji visited exhibition – Varanasi Chapter

2. Dwadash Madhav Exhibition and Cultural Centre Peshwa Haveli Raja - First group of students visited today. Students from The Aryan International School, an INTACH institutional member. Total 8 schools have so far confirmed to send students in next one week.

Chapter organised presentation by school students who had visited Peshwa Haveli to see Dwadash Madhav Exhibition and displays on INTACH. The presentation was based on reports submitted by 8 schools whose students had visited till April 8. I am sharing few photos for information. We gave away prizes to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Special prize. Momentos were given along with booklet on Dwadash Madhav. DPS VARANASI hosted the event. They are institutional member of INTACH.



Dwadash Madhav Exhibition and Cultural Centre Peshwa Haveli Raja – Varanasi Chapter

3. Varanasi: The Virasat Darshan program, which promotes the cultural heritage of Kashi, concluded with all its grandeur in a banquet hall located in the cantonment of Varanasi. Hundreds of cultural ambassadors, i.e. tourist guides, and INTACH members participated in this program.

The main speaker of the program, litterateur Vyomesh Shukla, while highlighting the specialties of Banaras Holi, said that "Banaras' Holi does not need any rules. It is a unique confluence of traditions and gaiety, which starts from Vasant Panchami and continues till Budhwa Mangal." Thus, Banaras' Holi is a unique festival

The main speaker Vyomesh Shukla explained in detail about the Holi traditions of the ancient musical gharanas of Banaras and the historic Durgaghati boxing. He said that during this event organized at Durgaghat, neither any dispute reached the police station nor did anyone have to be taken to the hospital. This shows the cultural importance of this festival. Khamsa is a special singing tradition here, which was sung by groups of young people roaming around in different groups during Holi.

This lecture is an important initiative towards cultural preservation.

On this occasion, INTACH Varanasi convener Ashok Kapoor said that every two months, Virasat Darshan program is organized, in which four major organizations of guides of Banaras together make this event successful. The purpose of this program is to introduce the tourists coming to Banaras to the cultural heritage of Kashi.

Presence of eminent people

The program was conducted by Jainendra Rai, while on this occasion many dignitaries including Ajay Singh from TGFI, Varanasi Tourist Guide Association President Akhilesh Kumar, ITFA State President Vikram Mehrotra, Approved Tourist Guide Association President Rajeshwar Singh, Ankit Singh Maurya, Sharad Upadhyay and Karan Singh were present.

This program is not only an important step towards preserving the cultural heritage of Banaras, but is also an effort to connect tourist guides with their historical heritage.



The Virasat Darshan program – Varanasi Chapter

4. Heritage walk was organized by Shri Ashok Kapoor, INTACH Varanasi convener, on 23rd March 25. Today we were to visit Dattatreya Mutt, Chitrapura Mutt, and INTACH Cultural Center Peshwa Haveli, all located in the Raja Ghat area.

All participants assembled at Bengali Tola College. Subsequently, we walked through the narrow by lanes of the Bengali Tola area to Dattatreya Mutt. We were received by Swamyji, who briefed us on the Mutt. Dattatraya is described in Mahabharat as an exceptional Rishi with extraordinary insight and knowledge. He is an Avtar of Lord Vishnu. In the temple, he has three heads representing Lords Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. We had darshana of deities in other temples in the premises. This included temple of Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman and temple of Naradeshwar Mahadev set up by Rishi Narad. We also saw large no students in the Mutt.

We then moved to our next destination Chitrapura Mutt. This Mutt had a very beautiful location and was right on Ganga Ghat. We could get beautiful views of Ganga from here. The Mutt had three beautiful temples of Shiva with other deities. We had darshan of them. On the backside was a newly renovated residential area for Ashram members and pilgrims. As per information from priest they were waiting for their Mutt head to come and inaugurate the newly renovated areas.

Our final stop was Peshwa Haveli, the newly acquired building of INTACH. We had a chance to see exhibition on 'Dwadesh Madhav'. The posters and paintings gave us fine details of all these temples mostly located in Prayagraj. We understand that large number of students have planned to visit here in batches. It is nice to know that Peshwa Haveli will help students to get an exposure to our culture at an early age.



Heritage walk – Varanasi Chapter

4. On the occasion of Ganga Saptami, INTACH VARANASI CHAPTER organized Ganga Aarti at Raja Ghat under the supervision of scholar and vedic teacher Pt Shadanan Pathak who recently joined INTACH as Life member. Mr Pradeep Pathak, who also joined as Life member coordinated with priests.

INTACH Cultural Center Peshwa Haveli is situated at Raja Ghat.

Mr Anil Keshari, Mr Akhilesh Kumar, Mr Jainendra Rai, Mr Sumit Kedia Mr Vinod Gupta, Mr Sharad Upadhyaya, Ms Aditi Gulati, Man Mohan Gupta and couple of INTACH members were present alongwith large number of Tourist Guides and devotees.

Ashok Kapoor Convener Varanasi Chapter alongwith Mr Anil Kinjawadekar conceptualised this and ensured participation.

All expenses were contributed by members.

We wish to continue this project on regular basis.

Initially it will be carried out by one priest but 3 to 5 priests will be performing on special occasions/festivals.

Since Peshwa Haveli is situated at Raja Ghat, this activity will create greater awareness and that too without any financial burden on INTACH or Varanasi Chapter.



Ganga Aarti at Raja Ghat – Varanasi Chapter

5. A book based on extensive and detailed work on Sarangi has been published by Indica books,. Whose owner Mr Alvaro Entarria is INTACH Life member and former Co Convener. INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised the event hosted by INTACH Life member Shri Shashank Singh ji of Hotel Ganges View Assi. Pt Ritwik Sanyal, Padmashree Awardee, with Pt Rabindra Goswami ji eminent scholar and Sitar artist with Sarangi Maestro Pt Kanhaiya Lal Mishra ji released the book. Pt Kanhaiya Lal Mishra ji spoke about history of Sarangi. Shri Alvaro Entarria spoke about the book and author. Pt Ritwik Sanyal ji spoke about importance of Sarangi. Ashok Kapoor Convener INTACH Varanasi Chapter proposed vote of thanks.



A book based on Sarangi has been published by Indica books – Varanasi Chapter

6. A special heritage walk focused on the traditional craft of wooden toy-making in Varanasi was organized on 27th April 2025 by Shri Anil Keshri for the members and families of the INTACH Varanasi Chapter. This enriching initiative was inspired and supported by Shri Ashok Kapoor and Shri Vinay Rawal.

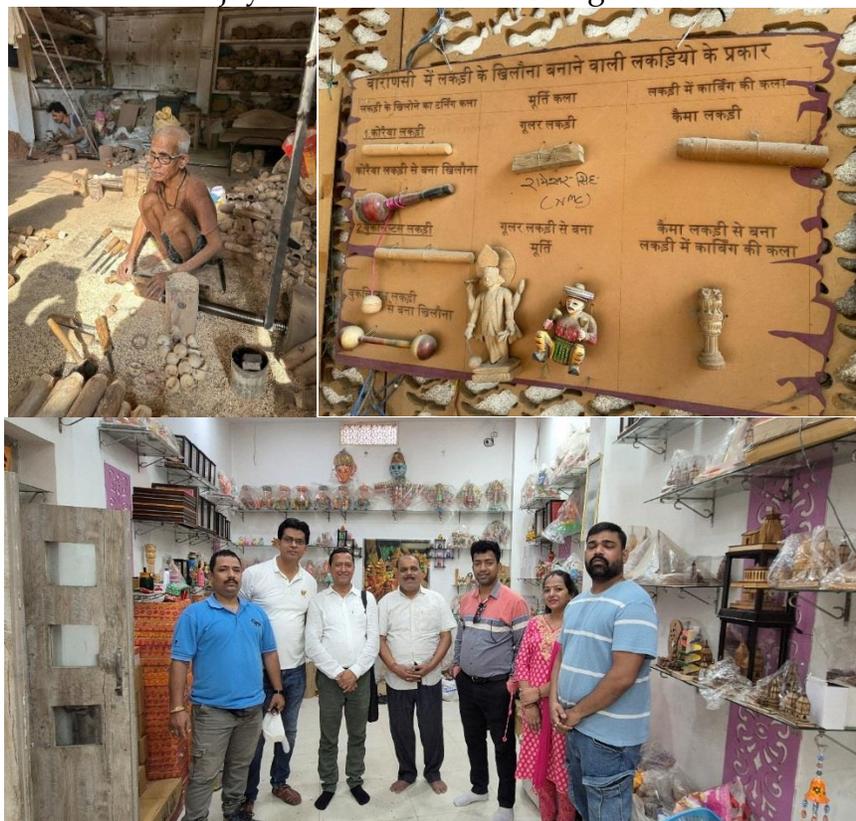
The walk began with participants gathering at the ISKCON Temple, Durgakund, which served as the meeting point. From there, the group walked a short distance to Jawahar Nagar Extension, where they were warmly welcomed by Shri Rameshwar Singh, a renowned craftsman and owner of Balaji Handicrafts, along with Shri Akhilesh Kumar.

Shri Rameshwar Singh introduced the participants to the rich heritage of wooden toy-making in Varanasi. He explained how this craft emerged as an alternative after the ban on ivory, with many artisans being descendants of ivory carvers who once served in royal courts. The legacy continues today through their intricate work on wood.

During the visit to the manufacturing unit, participants observed skilled artisans meticulously working on different stages of wooden toy production. The passion and expertise of the craftsmen were evident in every detail of their work.

The group also toured the painting section, where expert artists were adding vibrant colors and intricate details to the carved toys. The visit concluded at the Balaji Handicrafts showroom, where participants explored the beautifully finished products and did some shopping.

After the immersive craft experience, the group headed to Hotel Diamond, where they enjoyed a lavish breakfast together.



Heritage Walk on the traditional craft of wooden toy-making in Varanasi – Varanasi Chapter

7. Sad demise on May 28,2025. Family is direct descendant of Shri Bhartendu Harishchandra, well known Poet, Author, scholar, composer in Hindi Literature. An aristocratic family of Varanasi. Her husband was also INTACH Life member. Both her sons ,Dipanker Chowdhary and Shubhanker Chowdhary are also INTACH Life members. Mrs Rubi was very active in society for upliftment of women having held many posts in Mahila Mandal Kashi.



Ms. Ruby Chowdhary

8. To celebrate the "World Heritage Day" on 18th April, INTACH-Vns had organised visit of our member schools to our cultural center at Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat during the month of April. Students from eight of our member schools had visited the Peshwa Haveli before April 12 to see the INTACH Exhibition as well as Dwadash Madhav exhibition at Peshwa Haveli, Rajaghat. The student went around Peshwa Haveli too.

The students prepared two reports of their visit and then gave a presentation on 17th April as part of World Heritage Day Celebration at DPS-Varanasi.. Reports were based on Dwadash Madhav exhibition and Peshwa Haveli/ INTACH.

Each team gave a presentation of about 5 minutes. Their performances and reports were assessed by the judges, and the schools were given awards for their presentations. A total of 200 plus students had visited the Peshwa Haveli, to celebrate the occasion of World Heritage Day'. The final presentation of their visit and reports was held on 17th of April at DPS-Varanasi.

The students and our member schools were very happy with this unique program and prepared excellent reports with outstanding presentations on the world heritage day program.

Little Flower House, Aryan International School, DPS-Vns and Vanita Public School were among the top performers and winners of the two competitions to celebrate the World Heritage Day. 8 Awards were given in both category.

All in all, it turned out to be a memorable event for our member schools as well as for our chapter. DPS Varanasi, an INTACH institutional member hosted the event and extended grand hospitality. The presentation project was conceptualised by Nirmal Joshi Addl Co Convener and Ms Aditi Gulati Coordinator Heritage Education Cell of Varanasi Chapter. Students visit programme for 7 days before April 17 and then for 3 days from April 18 was coordinated by Ashok Kapoor and Anil Keshari.



Celebrated the "World Heritage Day" - Varanasi Chapter

9. Heritage Walk Tour on 11 May 2025, based on 'Gulabi Meenakari Art'

As INTACH Varanasi organizes heritage walk tours every month, in which every time a heritage, religious or spiritual site or artwork related to the tangible and intangible heritage of Banaras is given prominence and the members are made to know about it closely. The theme of the heritage walk organized on 11 May 2025 was 'Meenakari Art of Banaras'. Located in the narrow streets of Vishweshwar Ganj, the ancient area of Banaras, Amar Prasad Verma, who has been preserving the art of pink and other meenakari for many generations, showed some samples of the said art to all INTACH members along with his team and threw light specially on pink meenakari. He also told that the meenakari of Banaras goes to Jaipur where it is finalized and presented in the market in the name of Jaipur. The important things told by the Verma family are as follows.

The pink meenakari of Banaras is a very famous and unique handicraft, which is mainly a fine artistic workmanship done on gold and silver jewelry. This Meenakari has become the special identity of Banaras and it is also called "Banarasi Gulabi Meenakari".

Features:

1. Use of pink color - In this style, the main color is pink, which is engraved on a white base. That is why it is called Gulabi Meenakari.
2. Delicate design - Flowers, leaves, birds and traditional Indian designs are engraved in it.
3. Use of pure metals - This work is mostly done on the surface of silver or gold.
4. Handmade art - Every design is handmade, which makes it extremely rare and precious.

History:

The tradition of Meenakari in Banaras is believed to have started from the Mughal period, but Gulabi Meenakari became especially popular in the 19th century.

This work is different from Rajasthani Meenakari, because the color combinations and designs in it are more soft and gentle.

Products:

Birds, animals, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, anklets, pendants etc.

Nowadays it is also being used on decorative items, puja plates, sword handles.

GI Tag:

Banarasi Gulabi Meenakari has also received Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which gives it a unique identity at the international level.

About 20 members present expressed their heartfelt gratitude to INTACH Varanasi Chapter.

Members had a glimpse of entire process of meenakari work from silver plate to final artists touch. A short film is also being produced by Chapter.

Sharing some photos too.

The Heritage walk was conducted by Binay Rawal Akhilesh Kumar, Jainendra Rai and Anil Keshari. Ashok Kapoor Convener encouraged members to promote craftsmen.



Heritage Walk Tour based on 'Gulabi Meenakari Art' – Varanasi Chapter

10. GANGAA AARTI was organised by Varanasi Chapter on May 31, 2025 at Raja Ghat Varanasi on the occasion of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar 300th Birth Anniversary. Peshwa Haveli is situated at the bank of Maa Ganga. Marathas built the Haveli as well as the GHAT so it is appropriate to celebrate the Birth anniversary by offering Puja to Maa Ganga.

Mr Akhilesh Kumar, Mr Shadanan Pathak, Mr Varun Agrawal (all INTACH Varanasi Chapter members) and Convener Ashok Kapoor were present on the occasion and ensured proper arrangements.

Five priests were hired to do the Aarti. Mr Pathak supervised as he is a Maharashtrian Brahmin and a scholar.

Many foreign tourists and a group of photo artists were present and captured the images.

11. Heritage walk to Saambhaditya Surya temple, Suraj kund, Panchameswar Mahadev and Gautameswar, and kali temples

On Sunday, 1st June 2025, a limited group of nineteen INTACH members, proceeded to visit some important heritage sites, encompassing Saambhaditya, Panchameswar Mahadev and Gautameswar temples in Varanasi. The heritage walk was organized under the guidance of Convener, Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Co Convener, Mr Anil Kesari, senior tourist Guides, Mr Jainendra Rai and Mr Akhilesh Kumar.

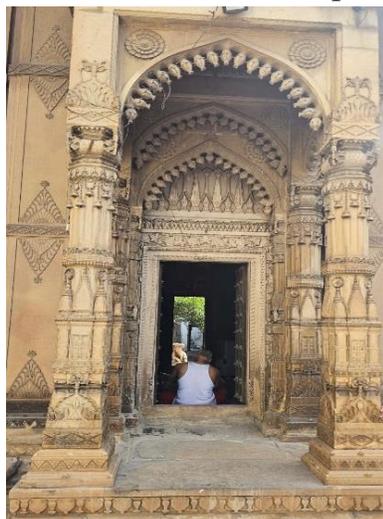
We first assembled at Suraj Kund and were briefed in detail regarding the twelve (dwadash) Aaditya temples in Varanasi. We visited the largest and most complete temple dedicated to Surya- Sun god. There was a Suraj kund located near the temple.. The Kund is completely restored and looked beautiful.

Saamaditya darshan

This Surya temple was called Saamaditya temple. Mr Jainendra and Mr Akhilesh briefed us in considerable detail and gave us insightful information on the temples which were so interesting and elevating. The temples were built in 13th century by Maharaja Narsinghadeva. The Surya temple has a beautiful, central, sun -shaped stone idol, surrounded with twelve lotus petals. Eight of the petals have horses superimposed on them, the vehicle of Surya Dev. The saying is that if one visits the sun temple , they will be free of any skin disease. Saam, was the son of lord Krishna who was very beautiful , but because of a curse by his father, Shri Krishna, was made to look ugly. He prayed to the sun god and was again transformed to his original looks; hence the temple got the name of Saamaditya.

Panchmeswar temple

Our next stop was to the Panchameswar temple. The temple had 4 shivalingas and the architecture of the temple was built in naagar style.



Thereafter we visited the Gautameswar shiva temple and to a Kali temple . The gorgeous temple dedicated to goddess Kali was built during the reign of maharaja of Banaras. The carvings on the pillars, ceilings etc were simply marvellous.



Heritage walk to Saambhaditya Surya temple, Suraj kund, Panchameswar Mahadev and Gautameswar, and kali temples – Varanasi Chapter

11. An evening of BHAKTISANGEET based on Marathi Devotional Songs and ABHANG was organised by Varanasi Chapter on Sunday June 15,2025 at INTACH Cultural Center Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat. Ms Tejeswani Vernekar of Konkan region presented soulful devotional songs composed by renowned saints of Maharashtra. She was accompanied on Tabla by Pankaj Rai and Mohit Sahani on harmonium.

The programme was coordinated by Abhijit Agrawal, a Life member and Dr Ashish Jaisawal a scholar and performing artist. Ashok Kapoor Convener conceptualised the programme. He explained that Peshwa Haveli will become a prominent hub of cultural and spiritual activities in Banaras.

Ms Aditi Gulati, Jitendra Nagar, Anil Keshari, Binay Rawal, Abhijit Agrawal and few more INTACH members were present.

The programme coincided with Solo Exhibition of Water colour paintings of eminent Artist Shri Anil Sharma. The exhibition also opened for visitors the same day. Both the events were organised by INTACH Varanasi with support from Hina Bhatt Art Foundation, Pune.



Bhakti Sangeet at Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat- Varanasi Chapter

12. INTACH VARANASI with support from Hina Bhatt Art Foundation, Pune organised 7 days Exhibition of 100 Water Colour Paintings of eminent Artist Shri Anil Sharma at Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat. The exhibition was inaugurated on Sunday June 15, 2025 by Padmashree Dr Rajeshwar Acharya an eminent scholar and musicologist and Ashok Kapoor Convener Varanasi Chapter. Eminent personalities of Banaras were present and jointly inaugurated. Dr B N Mishra, Dr S P. Shukla, Prof Vijai Singh, Prof Manish Arora and Manish Khattry spoke on the occasion and appreciated the contribution of INTACH Varanasi in promoting Art, Culture and Music in Banaras.

Appx 70 to 75 Artists and Art students were present along with some INTACH members. All the guests had the opportunity to see Dwadash Madhav exhibition which is there on first floor of Peshwa Haveli.



Solo Show of Water colour Painting at Peshwa Haveli Rajaghat- Varanasi Chapter

13. As part of the nationwide observance of International Yoga Day, Little Flower House, Nagwa, in collaboration with INTACH Varanasi Chapter, organized a rejuvenating yoga session on 21st June 2025. The session aimed to promote physical well-being, mental clarity, and holistic health among educators.

The event was graced by Yoga Guru Shri Anil Keshari Ji, an eminent yoga trainer and Additional Co-Convener of INTACH Varanasi Chapter, who conducted the session with deep insight and spiritual guidance. His expertise and engaging style encouraged participants to embrace the essence of yoga as a path to inner harmony.

Approximately 25 teachers from the school enthusiastically participated in the session, which included a blend of breathing techniques (Pranayama), basic asanas, and a brief meditation practice. The session not only refreshed the participants but also emphasized the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life for sustained well-being.

The programme concluded with a brief interaction, where Shri Anil Keshari Ji highlighted yoga's relevance in today's fast-paced world and urged the participants to carry forward the message of health and mindfulness in their respective spheres.

INTACH is supporting such meaningful initiatives and look forward to continued collaboration with educational institutions in nurturing India's cultural and wellness heritage.

The entire programme was coordinated by Ms Aditi Gulati, INTACH Life member, Coordinator for Heritage Education Cell of Varanasi Chapter and Dy Director LFH group of Educational institutions.



Celebrated International Yoga Day – Varanasi Chapter

14. Varanasi Tourism Guild, one of the oldest organisation of Varanasi for promoting



Tourism in the city celebrated its 25 years. They invited Ashok Kapoor Convener INTACH Varanasi Chapter and felicitated him for contribution in promoting Heritage Tourism in Banaras. VTG, as it is commonly known has appx 150 members. Hoteliers, Travel Agents, Tour operators, Senior Govt of India approved Tourist Guides and stakeholders are its members. They wish to collaborate with INTACH VARANASI for major programmes.

15. Heritage walk to Saangved vidyalay, Balaji ghat, Mangla Gauri temple and Mayukhaditya temple of Varanasi On Sunday, 29th June, '25, in the midst of monsoons, we were 26 participants in the heritage walk, to some wonderful historic sites in old parts of Varanasi.

Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, Mr Akhilesh and committee members organized a wonderful visit to the amazing sites such as ancient Mangla Gauri temple, ancient Mayukhaditya sun temple, restored Balaji Ghat, Anand Bhairav, to one of its kind - the Saangved vidyalay and finally breakfast at historic Bhartendu Bhawan.

We first visited Mangla Gauri temple dedicated to Goddess parvati. The temple is located deep inside the lanes and by lanes, in the chowk area of Varanasi. Participants being briefed by Shri Akhileshji in the lanes of Varanasi Near Mangla Gauri temple, is the Mayukhaditya temple. The temple is part of the Dwadash Sun temples in Varanasi. This is the 5th of them. It is said that Surya Dev did so much meditation here, that tears rolled down his eyes which became the kirana river and dhootpapa river, two of the five rivers that form part of the Panchganga ghat.

Mayukhaditya temple dedicated to Sun god

Thereafter, we visited the beautifully restored Balaji ghat. It belongs to the Scindia family. It took 17 years to restore and finally was handed over by INTACH to the Scindia family in 2018. The views of the Ganga river from here is spectacular. It also has a small museum. The structure columns and architecture of this ghat is marvellous and kudos to INTACH in doing a fabulous restoration, as we were told that this place was in utter crumbling and disrepair state. Another interesting fact we learnt was that Bismillah Khan used to practice shehnai here, at the naubat khana, everyday. The ghat has a beautiful temple with the idols of Lord Balaji, Bhudevi and Sri Devi, made in black stone. The sun and moon emblems adorned on both sides of the idols, represent the insignia of the Scindia family. The temple has been with the family since the year 1750. Before that it belonged to the Peshwas.

The walk moved towards the Saangved vidyalay. It's a school that teaches 6 parts of all the vedas. It's a beautifully made and maintained school in the heart of old city of Varanasi. Ganeshwar shastri Dravid is the presiding priest here and he has been awarded the Padmashri. He was the priest who decided on the Muhurat date, for the opening of Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya. He was requested by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji to propose his name while filing his nomination in 2024. The vidyalay is certainly amazing where all the vedas are taught. They don't really welcome outsiders. The heritage walk concluded at Bhartendu bhawan where we had sumptuous, traditional, outstanding banarsi breakfast. The home is more than 250 years old and it is here that Bhartendu ji and his ancestors lived and descendants still live. He was the one who integrated various local languages, spoken in the 1800s by different strata of people, like Awadhi, bhojpuri, Brij, khadi, bundelkhandi, Persian, English, Sanskrit and popularised Hindi to be that unifying language. Whether it's the language or literature, he is known as the father of Hindi language. His most important and familiar work being 'Andher Nagri chaupat Raja' Breakfast in the courtyard 'Aangan' of historic Bhartendu bhawan

The Heritage Walk programme of INTACH Varanasi Chapter commenced in April 2017 and fortunately the group had visited Bhartendu Bhawan then too.

The Heritage walk is being continuously organised due to moral, physical and emotional support of ever smiling Co Convener Mr Anurag Chandra whose presence attracts most of the participants.

This report is prepared by shalini Chandra who is also a core member of Heritage walk group.



Heritage Walk – Varanasi Chapter

16. Heritage Club of Sunbeam School and Hostel Suncity Varanasi, (an institutional member of INTACH Varanasi Chapter) was declared 2nd best in India by INTACH Delhi. The trophy and certificates received from Delhi were given away by Ashok Kapoor Convener INTACH Varanasi Chapter to heritage Club member students. The school has been receiving some or the other winner trophies for last 9 years.

17. Two brothers Shri Beni Ram and Shri Vishambhar Ram of Bhonshala State of Nagpur who were residing in Banaras supported an initiative of Swamy Brahmchari to build a replica of Jagannath Temple of Orissa in Banaras in the year 1802. Rathyatra festival on the lines of Puri's Rathyatra was started by these two brothers in the year 1806.

There is an annual ritual to give Bath to the Idols after placing them on the rooftop of the temple, once in a year. Fresh Ganga Jal is brought from nearby Ganga River and deities are give bath the whole day by devotees. The ritual is known as JALAABHISHEK of Jagannath Swamy.

INTACH Varanasi Chapter organises Jalaabhishek by members every year. This is only once in a year when devotees get the opportunity to give Bath to deities.

INTACH members participate in large numbers.

It is believed that the all the 3 deities fall sick after continuous day long bath and darshan is stopped for 15 days. Thereafter after one day of light prashad, Chariot festival is organised for 3 days.

This ritual of Jalaabhishek and 15 days recovery period is unique. INTACH Varanasi members get the opportunity to participate in the Jalaabhishek ritual once a year.

This year 40 members joined. Anil Keshari Addl Co Convener organised Fresh Ganga Jal. Ashok Kapoor Convener INTACH Varanasi Chapter encouraged members.



Heritage Club Award- Varanasi Chapter

Uttarakhand

Mussoorie

INTACH Mussoorie sub chapter collaborated with Mussoorie Heritage Centre and Landour Lecture Series to organize 3 talks in the months of April, May and June. All the 3 talks were on various Cultural Living Heritage practices of Uttarakhand State.

In April the sub chapter collaborated with Landour Lecture Series and organized a Talk on 'Selku Mela' by Architect Stuti Panwar. Stuti Panwar specializes in building with natural materials and has worked in different parts of the Garhwal region, emphasizing on local building materials and practices. The talk covered interesting details of the Selku Mela which is a unique cultural fair celebrated in the Harsil Valley of Uttarakhand usually in the month of September. The festival is characterized by the worship of Someshwar Devta (a local deity). The deity's idol is carried in a palanquin around the villages of Harsil Valley. The Selku Mela is known for its vibrant atmosphere, traditional dances, traditional music and the participation among others , of the married daughters who return to their parental homes for the Festival.

In May the sub chapter organized a talk in collaboration with Mussoorie Heritage Centre and Landour Lecture Series on 'Tunes, Rhythms, and Epic tales of Garhwal' by Professor Andrew Alter. Professor Andrew Alter is Adjunct Professor of music at Macquarie University in Sydney Australia where he researches and teaches music theory from Europe, India, and Indonesia. He has published two books on the music of Garhwal in which he has written about village community performance, ritual drumming and popular music practice. His musicological research explores the relationship between drumming and ritual action as well as the intersection of history and music through current practice. The Garhwali dhols (drums) are a part of growing up in the hills, as these are played at every auspicious occasion, at weddings, festivals, processions etc. Professor Alter spoke about the significance of the dhols, the beats, the various distinctive notes, the mastery etc. He along with his friend sang 2 Garhwali songs and left the audience in rapture.

In June the sub chapter organized a talk in collaboration with Mussoorie Heritage Centre and Landour Lecture Series, and The Fern Brentwood Resorts, on ' Uttarakhand Cuisine, Food and Folktales from the Hills' by Prachi Raturi Misra. Born and raised in Mussoorie author, Prachi spoke on the culinary traditions and food folk tales of the State.

The book, which is published by Om Books International, intertwines 6 folk tales and over 100 recipes, which the author gathered from Garhwal, Kumaon and Jaunsar Bawar regions. The author read excerpts from the book.

A group of local Women, who had helped the author with local authentic recipes came and talked about the richness of the local ingredients. They performed a few local songs which are interspersed with food stories. The audience were enthralled as many new facets of the Living Heritage of the Uttarakhand State were discussed through the talk. All the above talks were livestreamed on Instagram by our collaborator Mussoorie Heritage Centre.



Organise talks collaborated with Mussoorie Heritage Centre – Mussoorie Sub-Chapter

West Bengal

Hooghly

On the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, INTACH Hooghly Chapter organised a district level poster making competition on 23 January 2025 at Chandernagore Banga Vidyalaya, Chandannagar. Approximately thirty students from various schools in the Hooghly district participated in the competition. The theme of the competition was 'Celebrating India', and participants depicted local traditions, festivals, customs, and rituals in their posters, accompanied by short write-ups encapsulating the messages they aimed to convey. Among those participants, Tridip Ghosh, from Uttarpara Govt. High School, was selected as one of the Regional Winners.

As a part of MoU between Serampore Girls' College and INTACH Hooghly Chapter, 70 students from the Department of History, Serampore Girls' College, did their Summer Internship (as per Calcutta University curriculum) with INTACH Hooghly Chapter, as Heritage Volunteers from 15 to 30 May 2025, documenting different heritage aspects in the Hooghly district and prepared their internship project reports under the supervision of the members of INTACH Hooghly Chapter.

On the first day of this fortnight-long internship, a one-day workshop on 'Methodologies of Heritage Documentation' was organised in the college. In the business sessions, members from INTACH Hooghly Chapter spoke on several aspects of heritage in Hooghly and how document them. Dr Ramanuj Konar, Convener, INTACH Hooghly Chapter, also spoke on the ethics of fieldwork, methodologies of data processing for writing the project report.

From the next day the students started their fieldwork, as the Heritage Volunteers of INTACH Hooghly Chapter, documenting heritages that each of them selected for their heritage documentation project reports. The students were asked to thoughtfully select one heritage near their locality in Hooghly and no student was allowed to select the same heritage that someone else is documenting. During the fieldwork, data processing and report writing INTACH Hooghly Chapter continuously monitored and reviewed their work, with constant coordination and support from the college, through online meeting sessions twice-every-week and one-to-one supervisions almost every day.

The reports were submitted and after a Viva-Voce the students completed their internship with renewed interest in heritage that they rediscovered within their own locality where they grew up! For our Chapter, this has been a new experience to work with young minds and to know their perspective on heritage as they documented them.



A District Level Poster Making Competition – Hooghly Chapter

Kolkata

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of Subrata Kumar Roy, of 3 Outram Street, Kolkata, on Friday 27 June, 2025.



Shri Subrata Kumar Roy- Kolkata Chapter

Santiniketan

Santiniketan Chapter organised Mango Utsav at 'Patabahar'. Renowned Art Historian Ashok Das was chief guest. Members delivered speeches on the heritage value and economic impact of mango in West Bengal and India. Mr. Das depicted the history of mango during the Mughal period.

Santiniketan Chapter arranged Poster & Write up Contest on Intangible Heritage. Trophies & Certificates were distributed to the students. There were Regional winner and rank holders among the participant students.



Mango Utsav at 'Patabahar' – Santiniketan Chapter

Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) Activities

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Delhi

19th April, 2025, 63 teachers, 57 schools

HECS organized a teacher training workshop at INTACH for Delhi-NCR schools. Ms. Purnima Datt spoke on INTACH's role and the importance of heritage education. Ms. Nanki Kaur and Ms. Vaishnavi introduced HECS publications, and the new publication 'Built Heritage for Young Hands' was launched by INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Vice Chairman Dr. Sukhdev Singh, and historian Dr. Swapna Liddle. Dr. Liddle spoke on Shahjahanabad's built heritage, while Dr. Narayani Gupta explored Delhi's rural past and local history. Mrs. A. Vijaya, Director, Architectural Heritage Division, highlighted conservation success stories. Participants toured INTACH's Conservation Lab and viewed HECS resources. Public historian Mr. Anirudh Kanisetti concluded the day with an engaging talk on temple architecture in peninsular India, focusing on linguistic and cultural diversity across the region shaped architectural forms, especially on the Deccan plateau.

Varanasi

24th-25th April 2025, 46 participants, 24 schools

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Little Flower House, Nagwa. The workshop was attended by Ms. Aditi Gulati, Mr. Nalin Gulati, Mr. Ashok Kapoor (Convenor), and other dignitaries. Sessions on Day 1 included talks by Mr. Akhilesh Kumar on Varanasi's built heritage, Mr. Raj Kumar on the city's food culture, and HECS sessions on types of heritage, heritage education, and setting up Heritage Clubs by Ms. Nanki Kaur and Ms. Vaishnavi Singh. Day 2 featured a heritage walk at Peshwa Haveli, led by Mr. Ashok Kapoor and Mr. Anil Kesari, followed by an introduction to the Built Heritage book. Teachers presented creative group activities on Varanasi's heritage.

Peshwa Haveli, once a stop for the Maratha Peshwas, focused on Anna Kshetra – a space for serving food to Marathi pilgrims. Participants learned about the Laxmi Narayan Murli at the Haveli, which is linked to Goddess Annapurna and her symbolism of nourishment. The walk also highlighted INTACH Varanasi's efforts in preserving such sites.

Tura

24th – 25th April 2025, 25 teachers, 11 schools

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Meghalaya Chapter, conducted a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Mission Compound Hall, Tura. Key participants included Dr. Ramona M. Sangma (Co-convenor Meghalay Chapter), Chapter members Dr. L. K. Gracy, Pangsang Rudy N. Sangma, and from HECS, Ms. Purnima Datt and Ms. Christina Shangne. Day 1 featured sessions by Dr. Ramona on Garo Oral Culture and by

Ms. Datt on “What is Heritage?” and heritage education. Day 2 began with a heritage walk to key sites like Krima IV monument, Principal’s residence built in 1933, Tura Baptist Church (1877) etc., followed by presentations on HECS resources and group activities on Tura’s heritage.

Christian Girls’ Higher Secondary School is the oldest educational institution in the Garo Hills. Established in 1920, reflects the rich legacy of the missionary era and continues to celebrate local culture by incorporating traditions like the Garo Wangala dance into its curriculum.

Gangtok

8th - 9th May 2025, 40 teachers, 20 schools

HECS in collaboration with the INTACH Sikkim Chapter organized a Teacher Training Workshop attended by teachers from schools across the region. The workshop began with a welcoming speech by Dr Charishma Lepcha, Sikkim Convenor, followed by a session by Dr Anira P Lepcha, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sikkim University. She talked about heritage and the different facets of heritage in great detail, highlighting the unique and local heritage of the state and how it can be taught in classrooms. Session on ‘What is heritage?’ was carried out by Ms. Nanki Kaur and Ms. Smriti Malhotra to explain the tangible and intangible forms of heritage. The teachers presented an engaging group activity.

Bharuch

13th - 14th June 2025, 95 teachers, 95 schools

The Heritage Education and Communication Division (HECS) of INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Bharuch Chapter and Rotary Club, Bharuch, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at the Rotary Club, Bharuch. Teachers from across the city participated, along with key guests including Ms. Pilloo Sarosh Ginwalla, Ms. Sujata Mukund Rao, Ms. Archana Patel (INTACH Bharuch Chapter), Ms. Rachana Poddar (President, Rotary Club), and Ms. Swati K. Raol (District Education Officer). HECS was represented by Mr. Abhishek Das and Ms. Christina Shangne. Day 1 featured sessions by architect Mr. Ashwin Modi on “Bharuch: A Hindu Town beyond Myth and Map,” Mr. Das on INTACH’s work and heritage types, and Mr. Mahesh Thakkar on Dashaashwamegh Ghat.. Day 2 included a virtual heritage walk of Bharuch by Mr. Divyajeet Singh Zala, a film on HECS, discussions on Heritage Clubs and digital initiatives, and creative group presentations by teachers. Ms. Rizwana Zamindar showcased Sujani craft.

Bharuch is the second-oldest city of India having continuous habitations, first being Kashi (Varanasi). Bharuch Sujani, a traditional quilt-making art that originated in Bharuch, Gujarat, in the 1860s, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, bringing it greater recognition and value. Sujani is unique as it is the only textile handloom crafted exclusively by weavers of Bharuch.

Baramati

24th -25th June 2025, 54 teachers, 29 Schools

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Pune Chapter, held a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture (VPSOA), Baramati. School teachers across Baramati, Bhor, Supe, and Indapur participated. The inaugural session featured Prof. Rajshree Patil (Principal, VPSOA), Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS), Ar. Jui Tawade, Ms. Supriya Goturkar (Co-Convenors, Pune Chapter), and Ms. Vaishnavi (HECS). Day 1 sessions included Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar's talk on the heritage of Pune and Baramati, highlighting historic sites and emphasizing community participation. Ms. Datt introduced the concept of heritage, followed by Ar. Jui's session on Pune's layered history, architectural styles, and Pune Chapter's initiatives. Ms. Datt also discussed the importance of heritage education and how to set up heritage clubs. Day 2 commenced with a heritage walk to significant sites in Baramati led by Dr. Chaphalkar and Mr. Joshi. Post walk, HECS resources were presented by Ms. Vaishnavi. Teachers showcased creative presentations through role play, storytelling, and visual displays.

An engaging teacher-led presentation showcased the Pandharpur Wari, a vibrant 21-day annual pilgrimage where devotees walk for 250 km for 21-days in devotion to Lord Vitthal, celebrating faith, unity, and tradition.

Ahmedabad

1st - 2nd July 2025, 44 participants, 19 schools

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter, organized a two-day Teacher Training Workshop on **Textile Education** at the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum. The workshop opened with a welcome by Ms. Utpala Desai (Convenor, Ahmedabad Chapter), followed by Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS) introducing the concept of living heritage through stories, a film screening, and discussions on textiles as part of India's natural, built, material, and living heritage. Ms. Sujata Parsai (Director, LD Museum) delivered an insightful session on the history of trade textiles, from the Indus Valley to global markets, while Ms. Shilpa Patel (Crafts Council of Gujarat) spoke about documenting textiles and integrating textile education into schools. Teachers also participated in interactive textile games. Hands-on activities included tie-and-dye (Bandhani) and Patola weaving sessions by Ms. Vineeta Nahar, along with a presentation by Ms. Datt on sari drapes. Day 2 featured a guided museum tour by Ms. Parsai and Ms. Priyanka Kundu, showcasing Jain manuscripts, miniature paintings, and textile motifs. Mr. Pranav Gupta (India Recycles) presented on sustainability, urging schools to hold textile reuse initiatives. Closing remarks by Ms. Utpala Desai and Mr. Kalpesh Dalal (Co-Convenor, Ahmedabad Chapter), emphasized the importance of textile heritage.

Jain manuscripts, miniature paintings, and sculptures of the LD Museum showcased textile details. One such artefact was an intricate Jain painting of the concept of 7 levels of life. It highlighted the rich textile heritage of India through the patterns in the painting, the depiction of special clothing and designs, as well as their usage.

COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Delhi

22nd April 2025, 56 students, 9 Colleges

HECS, in collaboration with INTACH Heritage Academy, organized a workshop on Introduction to Heritage Documentation for undergraduate students of Delhi colleges. Mrs. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, introduced INTACH's work and conservation initiatives, followed by a film screening. Dr. Parul Munjal, Director, Heritage Academy, led sessions on the meaning and values of heritage, while Ms. Tavishi Gautam discussed methods for documenting intangible cultural heritage, including interviews and mapping. The workshop concluded with case studies on Chakrata and Mandvi.

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Tree of Life Workshop

For Sikkim Literature Festival, Gangtok

8th and 9th May 2025

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with the Sikkim Chapter, participated in the Kuzu Cultural Festival's Sikkim Literature Festival on 8th May 2025. The festival, organized at Manan Bhawan by the State Central Library, celebrated 50 years of Sikkim's statehood and was inaugurated by Mr. G.T. Dhungel, Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Culture, along with other dignitaries. The festival was curated by Ms Mary Therese Kurkalang with support from Mr Raman Shresta. As part of a panel on Children's Literature Literature and the role of books amongst the Youth, Ms. Nanki Kaur (Programme Coordinator, HECS) spoke on the significance of heritage education for youth. HECS also conducted a specialised 'Tree of Life' workshop for 45 middle school students from Gangtok. HECS representatives Ms. Smriti Malhotra and Ms. Nanki Kaur introduced natural heritage through interactive discussions, a sensory game using tree-related objects, and creative activities like colouring worksheets and scrapbook ideas.

Kala Utsav Winners Heritage Walk and Workshop

For National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

13th May, 2025

HECS, INTACH, in collaboration with NCERT, organized a workshop for Kala Utsav winners attending the Pratibha Samvardhan Programme at National Bal Bhavan, Delhi. The day began with a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens for 80 participants, led by HECS team. At INTACH headquarters, Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS) introduced INTACH's educational initiatives, screened a film on its work, and held a session on tangible, intangible, and natural heritage. Participants also interacted with an award-winning Chhau dancer from Jharkhand. The day concluded with a tour of

INTACH's Conservation Laboratory, where Ms. Merrin Anil and Ms. Ratan Kaur Rainu demonstrated preservation techniques for textiles, paintings, and artefacts.

DISCOVER YOUR LIVING HERITAGE- ENDANGERED ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS IN COLLABORATION WITH RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS

Patna

Patna Kalam training camp was organized by Patna Art College campus and INTACH Patna Chapter from 12th May to 19th May 2025 in collaboration with HECS. The camp was attended by 50 students of Patna schools. Resource Persons of the 7-days long event were senior artist Sunita Prakash, Ankur Kumar and Rupesh Kumar who guided the students with step-by-step process of making the art. INTACH Patna Chapter took an interesting initiative and conducted an endangered art and crafts workshop on traditional clay modelling for 52 art teachers of Patna on 8th July, who had hands-on experience on creating products.

Varanasi

INTACH Varanasi Chapter conducted an endangered art and craft workshop on Banaras Miniature Painting on 15th and 17th July for approximately 100 students of Little Flower House, Kakarmatta and Nagwa and Sunbeam School, Mughalsarai. The resource persons of the event were Shri Daya Shankar and Shri Gokul Prajapati.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

YOUNG INTACH NEWSLETTERS

World Heritage Wonders (April-June 2025) in English and Hindi

This newsletter delves into World Heritage Sites of India and acts as a brief repository for information on these sites. With the use of text, illustrations, activities, and interactive games, the newsletter helps readers understand the outstanding value of these sites, their uniqueness, as well as the reason why they have been put on UNESCO's prestigious list.



India's Multi-Hued Headgears (July-September 2025) in English and Hindi

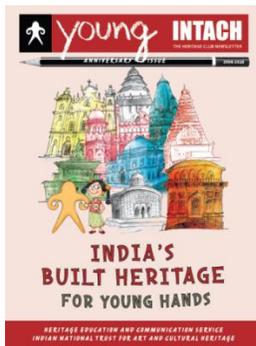
This newsletter explores the diverse and rich variety of India's multi-hued headgears. From history connected to various headgears, to their use and significance, the newsletter gives an insight into the cultures and traditions that depict such headgears. With the use

of text, illustrations, activities, and interactive games, the newsletter aims to bring these unique aspects of our attire to the forefront, and help with their conservation.



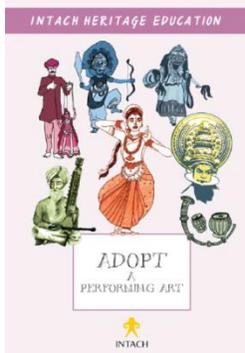
Anniversary Issue Newsletter on Built Heritage for 20 years of the Young INTACH Newsletter

This publication 'India's Built Heritage for Young Hands' has been specially developed for students, teachers and heritage enthusiasts. It is a compilation of HECS' Young INTACH Built Heritage Issues from 2004 to 2024 and contains some of the best articles and activities.



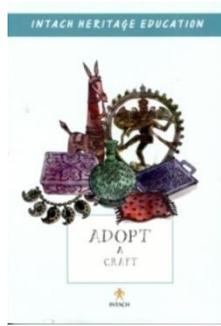
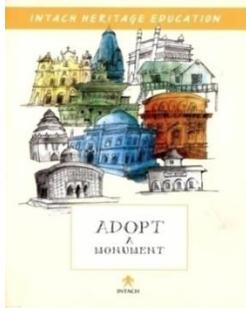
Adopt a Performing Art

The fourth issue of the *Adopt a Heritage* series, this book focusses on adopting a performing art. It aims to strengthen the understanding of different performing art traditions, their rich past, styles, artistic achievements and its relevance in society today. Further it will help in creating awareness on the need to preserve our performing arts.



Reprint of Adopt Series – Adopt a Tree, Adopt a Monument, and Adopt a Craft

These handbooks for teachers, students and heritage enthusiasts help them learn how to conserve India's built and natural heritage, and its crafts.



ONGOING

- Story cum Colouring Book on Mizoram
- Assamese Translation of Moloya Braids a River Journey
- Reprint of Heritage Club Passports

Young INTACH Website

The young INTACH webpage (www.youngintach.org) is updated with more educational resource material. These included worksheets on Textiles, Footwear, Metal Crafts, Headgears, Jewellery, **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, newsletter details and HECS activity updates.

Social Media

Challenges taken up in the month of April 2025- July 2025

| Month | Challenge |
|-------|---|
| April | Earth Day Challenge |
| May | Local Biodiversity Watch Challenge |
| | Museum Day Challenge |
| | Heritage Beacon Award |
| June | Good Citizen Award- Bicycle Day Challenge |
| | World Music Day Challenge |
| | World Yoga Day Challenge |
| | World Bicycle Day Challenge |
| July | Van Mahotsav Challenge |
| | World Snake Day |

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Celebrating India- National Poster Making Competition

Guwahati

8th April 2025

Celebrating India poster-making competition was organized by the Kamrup Chapter and Assam State Chapter at the Royal Global University, Betkuchi, Guwahati. A total of 63 students from 7 schools participated in the competition. Vice Chancellor of Royal Global University Prof. Y.S.R. Murthy graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Bhagalpur

22nd February

INTACH Bhagalpur Chapter organised the Celebrating India poster making competition at Divine Happy School, Mirjanhat, Bhagalpur. Dr. K. D. Prabhat, Convenor, Dr. Wibhu Kumar Roy, Additional Co-convenor, and Dr. Anita Pandey, MD of Divine Happy School were present for the event. 75 students from 5 schools participated in the competitions who were accompanied by their teachers.



Gaya

15th April 2025

Organized the Celebrating India poster-making competition at D. A. V. School, Cantt. Area, Gaya.

Patna

20th April 2025

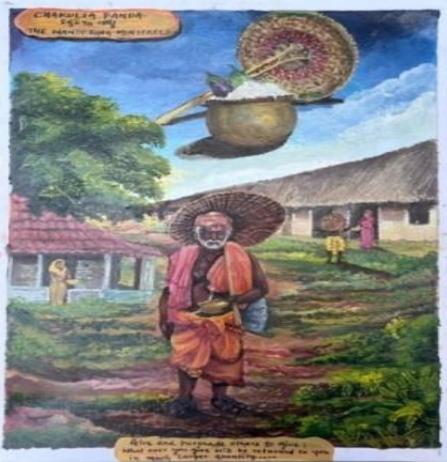
Patna Chapter in collaboration with Your Heritage organized the poster-making competition at the Patna Museum. 20 students from 5 schools participated in this competition.

Jammu

INTACH Jammu Chapter organised the Celebrating India poster making competition in three phases on different dates. A total of 249 students from 25 schools participated in the competition. The events were graced by inspiring address by Mr. S.M. Sahni, Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter who briefed the students about INTACH and the poster making competition.

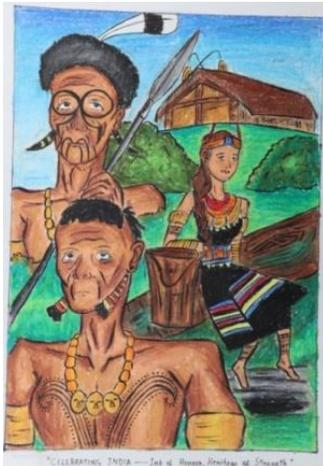


Celebrating India – National Winners Entries



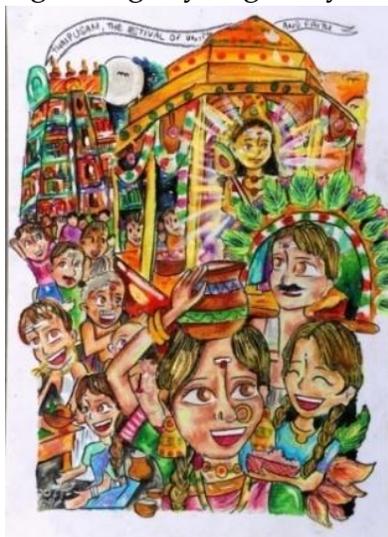
**Shriyans Panda, VIII, Saraswati Public School, Bhubaneshwar
Chakulia Panda**

Chakulia Pandas, Vaishnavites of Odisha, are devotional bards who roam door-to-door reciting religious poems from ancient Odia literature. They are usually dressed in Saffron robes with sandalwood paste on their heads.



**Shoiyan Y. Wumnok, IX, Little Star Hr. Sec. School, Dimapur
Konyak Tribe (Tattoos)**

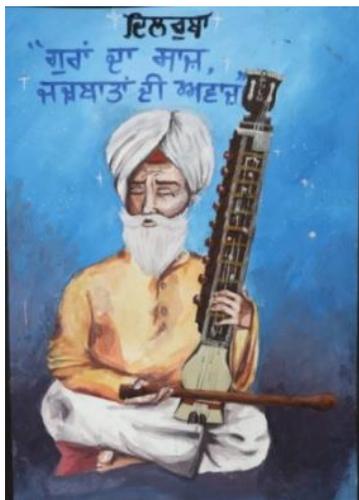
The ancient practice of tattooing in the Konyak Tribe is seen as a mark of valour among men and women. Men tattoo their chests and faces and women folk tattoo their arms and legs to signify eligibility for marriage.



Shabdha Sriram, VIII, P. S. B. B. K. K. N. School, Chennai

Thaipusam

Thaipusam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the Tamil community in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore. It falls on the full moon of Tamil month of *Thai* and is dedicated to the Lord Murugan.



Seeratjot Kaur, VII, Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar

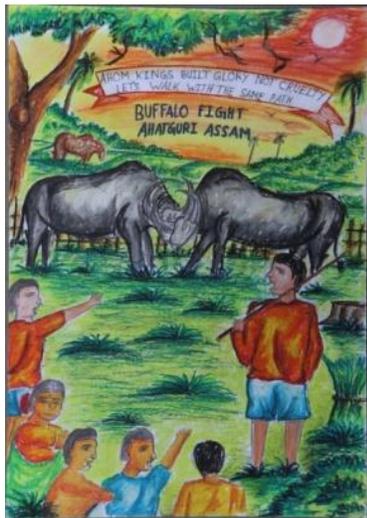
Dilruba

Dilruba was invented by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Its unique sound has captivated musicians and music lovers for centuries and it continues to be an important instrument in Indian classical music, Sufi devotional music, and Sikh sacred music.



Kardam Sonaiya, IX, Bhavan's A. K. Doshi Vidyalaya, Jamnagar
Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesha. We bring clay idols of Ganesha home, decorate them, and offer *modaks*. On the last day, we say goodbye to him with songs and prayers as the idol is immersed in water.



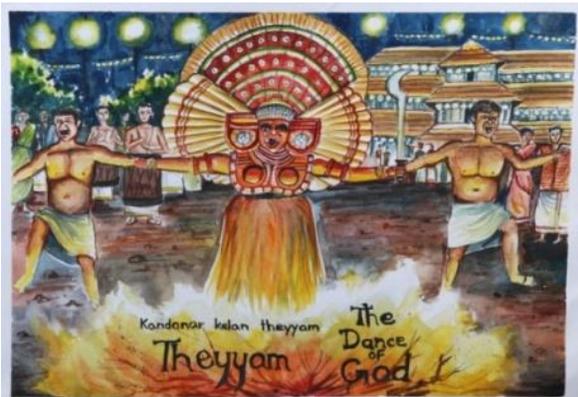
Kamal Kishore Chutia, IX, Maharishi Vidya Mandir III, Guwahati
Buffalo Fight

Locally known as MohJuj, Magh Bihu is incomplete without the Buffalo Fight. It was introduced by Ahom Sargadao Rudra Singha almost 200 years ago. In this, two buffaloes fight with their horns till one of them don't want to fight.



Mahi Sahu, IX, Eklavya English School, Arjunda, Saraipali
Godna Art of Chattisgarh

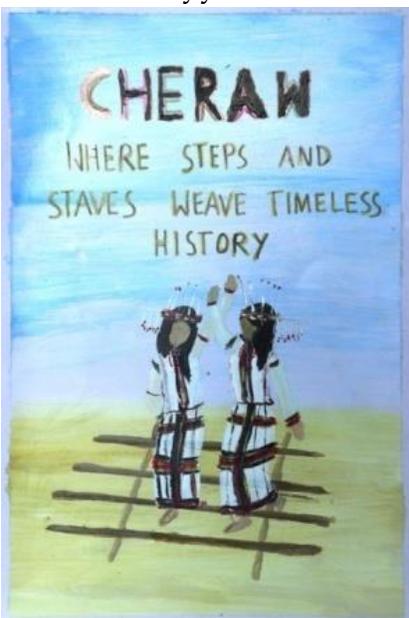
This poster talks about the ancient Godna tattoo tradition. This is predominantly done by women on women. Godna is also believed to have medicinal effects on the body. However, this tradition is declining in modern times.



G. Kretheesh, VII, K. M. Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Thrissur

Theyyam- The Dance of God

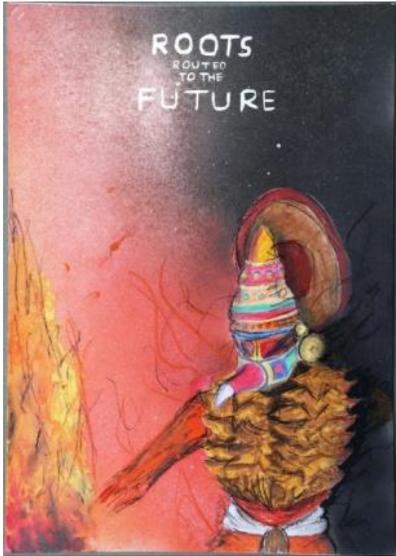
It is a ritual dance performed in several temples of Kerala. Theyyam consists of music and theatre performance. There are 400 types of Theyyams. The people of this region consider Theyyam as a channel to receive blessings from God.



Faith R. Chongthy, VIII, Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, Delhi

Cheraw: Mizoram's Traditional Dance

It is one of the oldest dances of Mizoram. It was originally performed to bring peace to the soul of a departed mother leaving her child behind. Since then it has evolved into a highlight of the events and festivals.



**Brahmansh Thapa, IX, Suncity School, Sec- 54, Gurugram
Garu Dan Thookam**

It is an intense ritual performed outside temples. It translates to 'Flaming Eagle'. It is celebrated as a tribute to Garuda, which is Lord Vishnu's vahana



**Hruturaj S. Joshi, VIII, Indian Model School, Solapur
Pandharpur Wari**

It's a popular pilgrimage in Maharashtra. This annual pilgrimage honours Lord Vithoba. This ritual instils a sense of community, bonding, and deep devotion.

BEST CHAPTER AWARDS

1. INTACH Gurgaon Chapter
2. INTACH Ambala Chapter
3. INTACH Ayodhya Chapter
4. INTACH Solapur Chapter
5. INTACH Jammu Chapter
6. INTACH Anantapur Chapter

7. INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter
8. INTACH Karauli Chapter
9. INTACH Mahbubnagar Chapter

National Winners' Educational Excursion and Felicitation Ceremony - 9th - 11th July 2025

INTACH's Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) hosted the national winners of the *Celebrating India* poster-making and essay-writing competition in Delhi from 9-11 July 2025. Students from 11 cities took part in an educational trip celebrating heritage and creativity. Day 1 included an orientation by HECS Principal Director Ms. Purnima Datt, a meeting with Member-Secretary Mr. Ravindra Singh, visit to INTACH's Conservation Lab and a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens. Day 2 featured a tour of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya and the Sanskriti Museums, joined by Chairman Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur. On Day 3, after visits to Sunder Nursery and Humayun's Tomb Interpretation Centre, the winners were felicitated at INTACH. Mr. Sohail Hashmi and Dr. Swapna Liddle were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. The programme as also attended by the INTACH Chairman and Member Secretary.





INTACH NATIONAL HERITAGE QUIZ 2025

Since 2014, the Heritage Education and Communication Service has organized the INTACH National Heritage Quiz, one of the largest quizzes on Indian heritage for students of classes 7-10. Covering India's built, natural, material, and living heritage, the multilingual quiz is conducted in regional languages and English and Hindi, ensuring widespread participation from schools across the country. It aspires to foster awareness, volunteerism, and activism among students while promoting regional languages as part of India's heritage.

This year around 130 INTACH chapters nationwide will be participating. Some of the quizzes will be done in collaboration WITH Xpressminds Edutainment Ltd. The participating chapters are: Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Chennai, Coimbatore, Kodaikanal, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur, Calicut, Kochi, Kasargod, Palakkad, Thrissur, Trivandrum, Anantapur, Guntur, Kadapa, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Ajmer, Alwar, Beawar, Bhilwara, Sirohi, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Karauli, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, Burhanpur, Datia, Dhar, Katni, Khandwa, Morena, Mandla, Chanderi, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Patna, Purnea, Bettiah, Bilaspur, Raipur, Saraipali, Durg Bhilai, Mahasamund, Korea, Rajnandgaon, Gaurella, Pendra, Marwahi, Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Mayurbhanj, Balangir, Gurgaon, Panipat, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Faridabad, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Mandi, Kangra, Shimla, Amritsar, Faridkot, Jalandhar, Patiala, Malerkotla, Kapurthala, Bathinda, Sangrur, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Allahabad, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Lucknow, Dehradun, Nainital, Kotdwar, Mussoorie, Belagavi, Bijapur, Dharwad, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Kolkata, Santiniketan, Darjeeling, Murshidabad, Hooghly, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, Vadodara, Navsari, Rajkot, Bharuch, Pune, Nashik, Nagpur, Mumbai, Chandrapur, Solapur, Wai Panchgani, Amravati, Baramati, Guwahati, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar), Tripura, Dibrugarh, Jammu, Srinagar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Delhi.

Articles

1. Young Scouts of 1965 War

- By Colonel R D Singh (Retd.)
Convener, Ambala Chapter

Young Scouts of 1965 War: As the clouds of Indo- Pak war hover around in 2025, I remember the 1965 war clearly as a young school boy. 60 years down the memory lane and the mock drills being conducted now in May 2025, my childhood nostalgia returns. We, a group of children from our village Pilimandori (Haryana), were selected to help in ensuring ' black outs ' etc at night in the village. We were to make sure that no light comes out from any house. No one loiters around aimlessly. The people had also made an underground open bunker, kind of four walled structure that would be covered with wooden planks, adjoining their house. Sometimes the family spent the entire night huddled in the bunkers as the loud sound of deadly aircrafts flew above us . With every passing jet, the small children would snuggle closer to their mother finding eternal peace and solace in her lap.

In those days, we had no electricity - only lanterns and earthen lamps, added by candles. We children would form into small groups and be allotted respective areas by the elders. Equipped with a lathi and a whistle, we would go around in narrow lanes and see that no house is a defaulter. In case, we saw any ray of light coming out, we would check it immediately. Also warn them of the consequences. We truly behaved like young recruits, carrying out the instructions with childish authority and conviction. We believed that well being of our village people is in our tiny hands!

As we moved around, at times the sounds of air crafts flying low and loud would fill us with dread! These could be of the enemy, and attack if attracted by lights - indicating habitation. It was scary!

We would make sure people stick to their houses, and follow laid down drills. Sirens were sounded to pre-warn people to adopt caution.

What I clearly remember is village unity and brotherhood. We helped one another, irrespective of caste or colour. It was a feeling of one India, woven in a single thread. We did swear by our village unity, and helped one another. Shared food with each other and stocked enough for difficult times. That made us feel safe and strong. The village pride and the national fervor pervaded us. As children, we loved carrying Tiranga and singing the national anthem.

How proud I felt - while I was a young scout in the village - my elder brother Capt Jagadish (2 Guards) , was fighting the enemy on the borders. He became our village hero. In those days, Army was highly respected and and army men were treated with great dignity and gratitude. Soldiering was in our blood!

War ended but our patriotism kept soaring high. We had taught Pakistan a good lesson not to mess up with us. Highly motivated, many of us young scouts later donned uniform proudly. Today our children are carrying forward the legacy - nation always first! A number of soldiers from our village have laid down their life for the nation. Salute to our soldiers!

2. Buddhist Fable Story: Padakusalmanavaka Jataka: Tangible and Intangible Studies of - Prof. Dr. Chandrashekhar Gupta

- By Prof. Dr. Chandrashekhar Gupta

Jataka stories are pre-birth accounts of Bhagvan Buddha, as a Bodhisattva on his path to becoming the Buddha. He performed good deeds for the welfare of humankind, even sacrificing his own life. In one of these births, he was born to a Yakshini, a Vyantara Devata, who made him an expert in the study of footprints, or 'pugmarks'. So, he was called by the name Padakusalamanava. His mother was an ill-spirited Yakshi, having the head of a mare and the body of a lady, who was cursed for speaking a lie. She lived in the jungle, capturing and killing passers-by for food.

Once, she found a handsome youth and made him captive in a cave, and loved him. This resulted in the birth of a boy - the Bodhisattva. The Yakshi used to keep them in the cave while going out to gather roots and fruits for their food, blocking the cave entrance with a rock slab.

After the boy grew a little, he asked about the difference in their appearances. After learning everything, both planned to escape. They acted accordingly, removed the covering of the cave, and made a run for it. But the Yakshi learned of this, rushed back, and captured them. They later tactfully made her reveal her power limits. So, the father and son made a second attempt, which was successful. They crossed the bounded area. The helpless Yakshi accepted her defeat and requested them to allow her to gift her son a boon to make his life easier. The boy was given the knowledge of the Art of tracing and detecting the Pugmarks [of men and animals] left behind.

As based on this above-cited narrative, the Jataka Katha (जातक कथा) is carved/depicted at Bhaja, Bodhgaya, Bharhut, Sanchi, Mathura, Baroda, located in Maharashtra, Bihar, MP, UP, Gujarat, and Halebidu Belur in Karnataka in South India, etc. These are narratives only.

Much description and discussion on this has been done by art historians, but all this is limited only to belonging to 'their Tangible Heritage nature'. The very aim or purpose of the story is neither coming out through it, nor is it the intended object to be explained. In the story, Padakushala is the son bestowed with the professional art/expertise given by his mother, only to earn his own livelihood.

As said above, the Bodhisattvas were made to help people for good causes and the welfare of the people and ultimately attain 'Buddhahood'. Nothing is said about this aspect in the art depictions.

We wished to talk about this separately, but thinking it would be better to discuss it here, it is put forth. In this context, the Sanskrit word 'Gaveshana' (गवेषणा), equivalent to 'discovery', may also be remembered as it is a synonym and significant here. In good old [pre- and prehistoric] days, every material thing useful for living was considered important, e.g., tools/weapons, hides, edibles, etc. But the most worthy item amongst them was the cow or bovine (गौ), like our present-day Currency/Money. It was often lost, innocently, accidentally, or forcibly. Its search was therefore quite essential to recover the loss.

Therefore, 'Gaveshana' was quite important. At first, the word stood only for the search of cows, i.e., 'coined' for the search of the lost cow/s, later turning into the widely understood meaning of the search for anything which is to be searched or discovered.



Recently, especially during the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 on the western borders, when the enemy trespassed heavily but stealthily and wanted to attack, our brave civilian Scout Shri Ranchhod Das Rabari, an enlightened 'Pagi' well-versed in the skill of tracing Pugmarks, searched for them and helped

our forces in drawing them out of their hideouts. For these gallantry deeds, he was generally rewarded, and on our border, a Pillar dedicated to him, surmounted with his bust, was erected. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was his appreciator.

Thus, this skill of studying and tracing pugmarks, known by the name 'Gaveshana', still practiced in our country, is a worthy Intangible Cultural Heritage. Its popularity in the past is reflected not only through our Tangible Cultural Heritage, but it has proven its importance and even now is proving it.

3. INTACH Unveiling the Prehistoric Legacy of Dolbaha

- By Maj Gen Balwinder Singh
Punjab Convener

During the visit of Maj Gen Balwinder Singh (R) , INTACH State Convener at the historic Dolbaha located approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Hoshiarpur in Punjab, is a site of considerable archaeological significance. The Dolbaha Dam, is more than just an irrigation structure built in 1987 on the Dholbaha Khad River as it lies in a region steeped in history near the archaeological site of Dolbaha village. The place is so important that researchers and historians from the world should be converging to this area but unfortunately no such importance is given. On-going through the past history of the place, in all probabilities, it was inhabited during the Pleistocene epoch , as evidenced by the discovery of fossils and stone tools indicative of early human activity. This area is believed to have been inhabited since prehistoric times, potentially dating back over 10,000 years, based on the nature of artefacts unearthed. Its historical significance deepened with findings tied to the post-Gupta period, particularly from the 7th to 13th centuries, aligning with the rule of the Gurjara-Pratihara (8th-11th centuries) and Paramara (9th-13th centuries) dynasties. These dynasties were supposedly major powers in northern and western India, renowned for their patronage of art, architecture, and temple-building, and their influence seems to have reached this part of Punjab. Among the historical facts tied to the region, Dolbaha's artefacts suggest it was a cultural /religious hub. Excavations and chance discoveries have revealed a wealth of stone sculptures, including deity figures, architectural fragments, and intricately carved panels, pointing to the presence of settlements.

One notable historical connection is the region's proximity to the Shivalik foothills, which have yielded evidence of ancient trade routes linking the plains of Punjab to the Himalayan regions and beyond. This could explain the sophisticated craftsmanship seen in the artefacts, hinting at interactions with distant cultures. As for specific stones and materials found, the site is rich in sandstone and limestone artefacts. Sandstone, commonly used in north Indian sculpture during the medieval period, dominates the collection, with pieces featuring detailed carvings of Hindu deities like Vishnu, Shiva, and Durga, as well as ornamental motifs like lotus flowers and geometric patterns. Limestone fragments, possibly from structural elements like pillars or door jambs, have also surfaced, some bearing weathered inscriptions in early Brahmi or Devanagari scripts – though these are yet to be fully deciphered in public records. Additionally, crude stone tools and polished pebbles from earlier prehistoric layers suggest a much older human presence, potentially from the Paleolithic or Mesolithic eras. Many of these finds, especially the medieval sculptures, are preserved in the Sadhu Ashram Hoshiarpur Archaeological Museum, reflecting Dolbaha's layered history from primitive toolmakers to skilled artisans under dynastic rule. The museum's exhibits include sculptures of deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, Parvati, and Ganesha, as well as Jain Tirthankaras, reflecting the region's diverse religious heritage .

Dolbaha stands as a silent sentinel of India's deep past. The site has yielded crucial artefacts ranging from Paleolithic tools to protohistoric relics, shedding light on the technological and cultural evolution of early human societies in the Indian subcontinent. With its historical richness and archaeological significance, Dolbaha deserves greater attention – not only from historians and scholars but also from the public and policymakers.

Excavations unearthed a range of stone tools, including hand axes, cleavers, and scrapers – typical of the Lower Paleolithic era. Successive layers also revealed microliths and pottery, suggesting habitation during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The tools and relics found at Dolbaha indicate that early hominins in this region practiced hunting-gathering and eventually transitioned toward early forms of agriculture and settlement. Dolbaha is one of the few archaeological sites in India where a continuous sequence of prehistoric cultures is evident. It bridges the gap between early stone tool usage and the emergence of more sophisticated human societies. Its importance can be understood under several themes like Stratigraphy and Geological Evidence which is comparable to other significant prehistoric sites like Narmada Valley and Soan Valley, tool typology showing one of the earliest tool-making cultures in the world and human evolution and migration which might have been part of a larger network of settlements through which early humans dispersed across south asia including the settled life. .

It is felt that challenges facing Dolbaha are many which include neglect and underdevelopment, lack of infrastructure , no proper roads , signages, visitors amenities .It remains largely absent from tourist maps and public consciousness. There are no museums or interpretation centres to display the artefacts or explain their historical context. The average citizen of Punjab, India and the world – and even many scholars – are unaware of Dolbaha's existence. There is minimal documentation in popular media, and no promotional campaigns have highlighted the site's historical value.

With targeted efforts, Dolbaha can be developed into a premier archaeological tourism destination. A well-planned Dolbaha Archaeological Park could preserve the excavation sites while offering an educational and immersive experience to visitors. Developing a Museum and Interpretation Centre can serve as a central knowledge hub. It should involve community involvement and Skill Development to empowered them to participate .Even partnerships with UNESCO or international heritage organizations for funding and promotion is recommended .

Dolbaha is more than a dot on the archaeological map – it is a window into the prehistoric heart of India. Its layered past tells the story of our ancestors, their resilience, innovation, and gradual evolution into complex societies. Yet, like many such sites, Dolbaha is at the risk of being forgotten. By investing in its preservation and promoting it as a tourist and educational destination, we can ensure that Dolbaha becomes a symbol of Punjab's historical depth. A tourist-friendly Dolbaha would not only generate local employment and academic interest but also inspire a deeper appreciation of India's ancient roots. It's time we turn this overlooked gem into a living museum, connecting the past with the present – and the world.



Dolbaha – Punjab Chapter

4. THE GLORIOUS TEPPAKULAM OF MADURAI

- By K.Dheepika

Madurai is known for numerous architectural vestiges which have survived the ravages of time and continue to stand as a testimony to its proud inherited legacy. Mannar Thirumalai Nayakkar (1623-1659), a prominent ruler (mannar) who hailed from the Madurai Nayakkar dynasty (16th-18th century), was a great builder and the city owes a lot to his architectural contributions. One of his finest creations is Teppakulam, a sacred float tank built in 1635, situated close to Vandiyur Mariamman Temple.

Known to be one of the biggest temple heritage tanks of South India, Teppakulam was aesthetically constructed over a spread of 22.97 hectares. The 30 feet deep float tank has a parapet wall with lamp niches, platform, entries, striking sculptural elements, elaborately designed gargoyles at the outset. In the middle of the tank is a central hall (maiya mandapam) designed like a temple supported by portrait sculptural columns particularly Mannar Thirumalai Nayakkar, amidst a temple garden (nandavanam) with four pavilions in the corners stylised as a miniature temple. Close to the tank, are its associate structures of an open pillared hall (mandapam) and collection wells with inlet and overflow channels. Originally sourcing water through a network of canals from river Vaigai and its tributary, this tank plays a significant role in boosting the groundwater level.

The annual Float Festival (Teppa Thiruvizha) of Meenakshi Sundareaswarar Temple was introduced by Mannar Thirumalai Nayakkar on his birthday, in this tank. It is the full



moon day of Poosam star prevailing in the tamil month of Thai (mid January- mid February), when Madurai the City of Festivals celebrates the occasion with great pomp and show. The festive deities are mounted to a glamorous float bedecked brightly with colourful lights. People participate to draw the long coir rope attachments of the float, around the tank with devotion and enthusiasm.

Today the float tank has emerged as a popular tourist attraction. Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) has enhanced facilities with a boat ride to the central hall and numerous eatery outlets pull a huge crowd late in the evening.

The locality has a significant settlement of Sourashtra community, where few families are engaged in traditional weaving. The roadside space around the Teppakulam is used by them to spread yards of yarn for dyeing and check for removing the frayed strands before it reached the loom.

The majestic Vandiyur Teppakulam in granite grandeur renders a serene atmosphere to the busy city. A prominent landmark in the Temple City of Madurai, it perfectly combines historic architectural feat, heritage tourism and cultural aspects. The glorious Teppakulam of Madurai is accredited as one among the 75 water heritage sites of India.

5. Long Hidden Heritage- Monolithic Stone Ganapathi, 9th Cent. C.E., Bikkavolu, Andhra Pradesh

-By Vedula VLN Murthy

Convener

INTACH East Godavari Chapter

The large monolithic stone Ganapathi is situated in the green agricultural fields in the Bikkavolu village in the East Godavari district located at a distance of some 32 kms. from Kakinada and 39 kms. from Rajamahendravaram city. Several theories and believes explain the existence of this Ganaapathi. As per the history, East Chalukyas ruled this area during 849-892 C.E. who constructed several temples in the Bikkavolu village that shows craftsmanship of the Chalukyan architecture. It is believed that the King Gunaga Vijayaditya III has named this village as Birudankinavolu, which was transformed and now called Bikkavolu. The seal of the king Gunaga Vijayaditya from Sataluru shows similar Ganesa on one side and the Goddess Lakshmi on the other side. The seal is presently placed in the Chennai Govt. Museum. Hence, the Ganapathi is called Lakshmi Ganapathi. As per the folklore, King Gunaga Vijayaditya used to offer prayers to this deity before and after the battle, who won many battles. Hence, the Ganapathi is also called Vijayanand Ganapathi. It is believed that there is only one pair of arms and additional pair was added during the period of the king Gunaga Vijaditya.

A story tells that the Ganapathi was a self-manifested one (Swayambhu) found by a farmer long time ago, while ploughing the field and the present temple that shelters the Ganapathi was built recently. The unique feature is that the trunk is turned towards the right of the Ganapathi towards south. The idol is 7 feet tall above the ground and the base of the idol was deeply hidden in the ground. Water comes out from the bottom portion of the left leg of the Lord Ganapathi. It is said that the idol grows about 2 centimeters every year right from its original size of a coconut. The size and depth of the base of the stone under the ground are not known. Devotees whisper their wish in the Lord's ear. It is believed that the whispers in the ears of the Ganesha will be granted and they will revisit the temple.



Monolithic Stone Ganapathi, Bikkavolu, Image – East Godavari Chapter