



# CHAPTERS NEWSLETTER

Issue 01 – December 2025 to March 2026

## Dear Heritage Enthusiasts

Last quarter has once again demonstrated the remarkable vitality and commitment that define INTACH's nationwide network. Across the country, chapters have continued to translate the organisation's vision into meaningful action—rooted in local contexts, yet aligned with a shared national purpose.

The synergy between the chapters and the Central Office is increasingly evident. The rollout of proposed digital platforms, including the new website and chapter dashboard, marks an important step toward greater transparency, efficiency, and connectivity across the organization. State Conveners and Orientation workshops for newly appointed Conveners and Co-conveners, are equipping chapters with the tools and knowledge necessary to meet emerging challenges and strengthening chapters to form a dynamic ecosystem that is both resilient and responsive.

As we move forward, there is a growing opportunity to deepen this collaboration. Thematic regional conferences, increased inter-chapter exchanges, and partnerships with state governments can further amplify our impact. Equally important is the need to document and share success stories, so that best practices can inspire replication across regions.

Heritage conservation today demands not only technical expertise but also advocacy, community participation, and sustained dialogue. INTACH, through its widespread presence and collective strength, is uniquely positioned to lead this effort.

Let us continue to build on this momentum—with renewed commitment, shared learning, and a forward-looking vision—ensuring that our rich and diverse heritage is preserved for future generations.

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



*State Conveners Meet 2026*



*Orientation Workshop 2026*



*Honouring excellence in environmental  
stewardship 🌿*

*Shri Babu Lal Jajoo receives the Anirudh  
Bhargava Environmental Award 2025 by the  
Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, INTACH*

## CHAPTERS DIVISION

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# Appointments

INTACH New Appointments (December 2025 to March 2026)				
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
<b>December, 2025</b>				
<b>Kerala</b>	Kerala State	-	Shri Arun Narayan (State Co-Convener)	-
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	Lucknow	Ms Neetu Agarwal	-	-
<b>January, 2026</b>				
<b>Punjab</b>	Gurdaspur	Shri Harpreet Singh Bhatti	Shri Harmanpreet Singh	-
<b>February 2026</b>				
<b>NIL</b>				
<b>March 2026</b>				
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Andhra Pradesh	-	Dr D Rajasekhar Reddy (State Co-Convener)	-
<b>Bihar</b>	Darbhanga	Dr Sushant Kumar	Dr Ayodhya Nath Jha	-
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	Mussoorie	-	Ms Jaijaiwanti Karanwal	-
<b>Kerala</b>	Kollam	Dr Manoj Kumar Kini	Dr Santhoshkumar K G	-
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Guntur	Shri Prasanna Ravi Sankar Mudigonda	Shri Adapa Venugopal	-

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## Chapters Division



### **State Conveners Meet 2026**

The State Conveners Meet 2026 was conducted on **29–30 January 2026** at the **INTACH Multipurpose Hall**. A total of **27 State Conveners** participated in the event, which was highly appreciated by the attendees.

This meet is organized annually for State Conveners and serves as an important platform for highlighting the projects undertaken by various Chapters, reviewing progress, and discussing issues faced by Chapters across the country.



### **Orientation Workshop 2026**

With a view to familiarizing newly appointed Conveners, Co-Conveners, and Additional Co-Conveners with INTACH's mission, programmes, and activities, the Chapters Division conducted an **Orientation Workshop from 16–19 March 2026** at the **Residency Resort, USI, New Delhi**.

A total of **27 recently appointed Chapter Conveners/Co-Conveners/Additional Co-Conveners** from across the country attended the workshop.

### **Anirudh Bhargava Environmental Award Ceremony**

It is with immense pride and pleasure that **Shri Babu Lal Jajoo**, Convener of the **Bhilwara Chapter, Rajasthan**, has been conferred the **Anirudh Bhargava Environmental Award 2025** by INTACH.



This prestigious recognition is a fitting tribute to his lifelong dedication, unwavering commitment, and exemplary contributions to environmental conservation. Shri Jaju's tireless efforts in environmental protection, animal welfare, and the rejuvenation of water bodies have created a lasting and meaningful impact. Through his vision and

perseverance, he has not only safeguarded natural resources but has also inspired a strong sense of environmental responsibility among future generations.

Selected from **14 applications** received from Chapters across the country, Shri Jaju was shortlisted for this distinguished award, which carries a **cash prize of ₹1,00,000/-** along with a formal citation.

Heartfelt congratulations to Shri Babu Lal Jaju on this well-deserved honour. May his continued journey of service inspire many more individuals to contribute towards environmental preservation and sustainable development.



## Chapters Activities

### **Andaman & Nicobar**

#### **Rag Doll Making Workshop (8-13 January 2026)**

The HCCD wing of INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Chapter, under the mentorship of Ms. Bindu Manchanda, successfully conducted a five-day rag doll making workshop in Port Blair. The workshop witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 30 women and aimed at skill development and creative engagement. Ms. Ashwini Kurup served as the resource person, guiding participants through the process of crafting traditional rag dolls.

#### **Conservation Support for Netaji Artefacts (20 January 2026)**

On 20 January 2026, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) approached the INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Chapter for assistance in cleaning artefacts associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As the Chapter lacked formal training in artefact conservation, guidance was sought from Shri Arvind Shukla, Head of the Chapters Division, who referred the matter to Shri Nilabh Sinha.

Under his expert guidance, the Chapter undertook dry brush cleaning of the artefacts. This initiative marked a significant and proud moment for the team. The conserved artefacts were subsequently displayed at the ITF Ground during an event commemorating the 129th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

#### **Tree of Life Poster and Essay Competition (21 January 2026)**

The Chapter organized a 'Tree of Life' poster and essay competition on 21 January 2026, encouraging awareness and creativity among school students. Participation was received



from five schools, including Government Senior Secondary School, Manpur – one of the farthest schools in South Andaman. A total of 100 poster entries were submitted to the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), INTACH, reflecting the enthusiasm and engagement of young

participants.

*Rag Doll making workshop at Port Blair – A&N Chapter*



*Clean artefacts belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose – A&N Chapter*

## Heritage Walk on World War II Trail

A heritage walk along the World War II trail was conducted in Port Blair in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture and the INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Chapter. The walk saw the participation of 16 college students from the BBA Tourism department, along with local tour guides and officials from the Department of Art and Culture. The initiative aimed to provide participants with an immersive understanding of the region's historical significance during World War II.

The trail commenced at the historic Cellular Jail, a prominent symbol of India's freedom struggle. From there, participants proceeded to the Battle of Aberdeen Memorial, followed by a visit to a Japanese war bunker—an important remnant of the island's wartime past.

The walk continued to the Andaman Club, and the historic site associated with the signing of the instrument of surrender by Japanese forces. Participants also visited the Flag Point, where Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the first Indian tricolour in the islands. Further stops included the War Memorial and the Zulfiqar Ali Memorial, where the walk concluded. The programme offered valuable insights into the layered history of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and highlighted their role during World War II and India's freedom movement.



*Heritage Walk at Cellular Jail- A&N Chapter*

## Andhra Pradesh Visakhapatnam

### Participation in District Tourism Council Meeting (28 November 2025)

Members of the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter, including Co-convenor Dr. B. Surendra Kumar and senior members Edward Paul, Monish Row, Dr. Renuka Rani, and Venkat Rama Reddy, participated in the District Tourism Council meeting held on 28 November 2025.



The Chapter offered several key suggestions, including improvements to the Information Centre at Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex, erection of a monument commemorating the Vizag Sepoy Mutiny, promotion of the

Madhavadhara–Simhachalam trekking route and

its natural heritage, conservation of Erra Matti Dibbalu in light of the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh order dated 24 September 2025, and preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Shilparamam/ Jatara at Madhurawada.

2. Subsequently, Convener Dr. D. Rajasekhar Reddy submitted the compiled suggestions to the District Tourism Officer for follow-up action. These included proposals for enhancing the Information Centre at Thotlakonda, documenting evidence related to the Sepoy Mutiny, and developing the proposed Anandapuram-Pandurangi tourism circuit.

### 3. Participation in Andhra Pradesh History Congress (3-4 January 2026)

Life Member P. Venkata Rama Reddy, along with student members Sai Teja and Hitesh, represented the Chapter at the 48th Annual Session of the Andhra Pradesh History Congress, organized by VVIT University, Nambur, and Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.



The following research papers were presented:

- Analysis on the Need for a Systemic Study to Revamp the Vintage Buildings of Bheemunipatnam - P. Venkata Rama Reddy
- Trade and Religious Pluralism in the Gosthani River Basin, North Coastal Andhra - P. Sai Teja
- A Study on the Strategic Guild in Visakhapatnam - H.K.A. Rawal

*INTACH members presentations in Andhra*

*Pradesh History Congress - Visakhapatnam Chapter*

### 4. Heritage Treasure Hunt (29 January 2026) - In collaboration with Andhra Pradesh



Tourism, the INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter organized a Heritage Treasure Hunt for college and university students on 29 January 2026, as part of the Visakha Utsav celebrations.

A total of 78 students participated enthusiastically. Five teams, each comprising two students, were declared winners and awarded cash prizes.

*Student participants in the Heritage Treasure Hunt - Visakhapatnam Chapter*

### 6. Interaction with Eastern Naval Command (24 February 2026)





An INTACH delegation comprising Co-Convener Dr. Surendra Kumar and Life Members Monish Row, Edward Paul, and Dr. Renuka Rani met Sanjay Bhalla, Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, on 24 February 2026.

The team briefed him on the Chapter's ongoing activities and outlined future initiatives aimed at heritage conservation and awareness in the region.

*Co-Convener, Dr. B. Surendra Kumar and Life Members Dr. Renuka Rani, Monish Row and Edward Paul with Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Chief of ENC - Visakhapatnam Chapter*

## **Arunachal Pradesh**

### **Book Discussion on Himb INTACH: Tale of a Transcended Beauty Held in Itanagar**

A book discussion on Himb INTACH: Tale of a Transcended Beauty, the debut work of author Lopa Rebi Kojum, was held at the State Museum on 23 November, as part of the World Heritage Week celebrations.

The event was organized by the Indigenous Publishing House (IPH)—the first independent publishing house of Arunachal Pradesh—in collaboration with the INTACH Arunachal Pradesh Chapter, under the convenorship of Oken Tayeng and co-Convener Kari Lombi. Marking IPH's first public literary programme, the occasion signified an important milestone in its literary journey.

The discussion was enriched by the presence of distinguished academicians, Bompi Riba and Doyir Ete, Assistant Professors of English at Rajiv Gandhi University. Yumlam Tana, Deputy Director in the Education Department, noted poet, and author of The Man and the Tiger, attended as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the vital role of IPH in providing a platform for tribal voices and highlighted the evolution of literature in Arunachal Pradesh, underlining the importance of documenting indigenous narratives such as Himb INTACH.

The book brings to life a folktale of the Tagin tribe, vividly narrated by Kojum and complemented by evocative illustrations by Tomar Tomsai Nayam. Tokong Pertin, former Director of Trade and Commerce and Guest of Honour, spoke about the emergence and growing influence of the Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society (APLS) in fostering literary culture in the state.

The session was hosted by Wango Socia and was adeptly moderated by Topi Bagra, Guest Faculty in the Department of English at Dera Natung Government College. The programme concluded with insightful observations and critical perspectives shared by Dr Riba and Dr Ete, followed by an engaging question-and-answer session with the audience.





The Indigenous Publishing House, founded by Jummi Yomcha along with Creative Director Deni Lombi, expressed gratitude to all participants and conveyed its commitment to promoting indigenous literature through future initiatives.

*Book discussion on 'HimbINTACH: Tale of a Transcended Beauty', debut book of author Lopa Rebi Kojum at State Museum – Arunachal Pradesh*

## **Bihar**

### **Patna**

#### **Heritage Walk through Historic Patna City**

The INTACH Patna Chapter organized a heritage walk across the historic precincts of Patna City on 20 December 2025, commencing at 11:00 AM. Supported by Lovely Creations, the event witnessed the participation of around 23 heritage enthusiasts and was further enriched by the presence of senior journalist Kavita Kanan Chandra.

The walk began at Rajapur Bridge, where participants assembled before proceeding in auto-rickshaws and private vehicles. En route, the group passed notable landmarks such as Bamboo Ghat, Kali Temple, and Golghar, before reaching the scenic stretch of J P Marine Drive. The picturesque view of the Ganges, along with the confluence of the Gandak and Ganga rivers and the iconic Sabhyata Dwar, offered a memorable visual experience.

The group then arrived at Kangan Ghat and continued the walk on foot. This site holds deep historical and spiritual significance, associated with the childhood of Guru Gobind Singh, who is believed to have played here as Govind Rai. The visit included the Kangan Ghat Gurudwara, where preparations for the Guru's birth anniversary were underway. Further exploration led participants to the revered Takht Sri Patna Sahib, one of the holiest sites in Sikhism. Nearby heritage sites, including Harmandar Gali, a mosque, and a Shiva temple, were also visited, reflecting the area's syncretic cultural fabric. The group then visited Bal Leela Gurudwara, where participants offered prayers and partook in langar.

The heritage walk continued to the historic Hitaishi Library, known as the oldest library in Patna City and an important centre during the freedom movement. The group also visited Gandhi Sarovar (Mangal Talab), located near Manoj Kamaliya Stadium, another site associated with the region's historical legacy.

Traversing the narrow lanes of Patna City, participants briefly visited a Jain temple (though entry was not possible due to visiting hours) and engaged with the local cultural landscape. Adding a culinary dimension to the experience, the group explored the famous local delicacy Khurchan and enjoyed popular street food such as tomato chaat.

The first phase of the walk concluded with a tribute at the statue of Bhagat Singh at Patna City Chowk. Participants then proceeded to Gaighat, where they experienced a memorable boat ride on the Ganga, offering a unique perspective of the lower structure of the Mahatma Gandhi Setu – a key link between Patna and Hajipur.

The walk concluded with a tea break at Gaighat, as participants dispersed after an enriching and engaging experience. Combining heritage exploration, spiritual sites, local cuisine, and riverfront landscapes, the walk highlighted the immense tourism potential of Patna City's culturally rich yet relatively unexplored heritage zones.

### **Launch of Patna Kalam Painting Style Training 7.0**

The INTACH Patna Chapter launched Patna Kalam Painting Style Training 7.0 at the auditorium of Giriraj Utsav Palace. The training programme was conducted from 22 to 31 December 2025, with daily sessions held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The sessions were led by Jitendra Mohan, a senior painter and former student of Patna Art College, under the supervision of INTACH member Kamal Nayan Srivastava.

The inaugural ceremony on 22 December was attended by Bhairav Lal Das, along with Kamal Nayan Srivastava, Alok Chopra, Rajesh Raj, and Rajesh Vallabh, besides a large number of local art enthusiasts.

A notable highlight of the programme was the participation of four members from the family of the renowned Patna Kalam artist Mahadev Lal, who joined the training to learn and carry forward the intricate techniques of this traditional art form.

Addressing the gathering, the Convener emphasized that many practitioners of the Patna Kalam historically belonged to the Diwan Mohalla and Nakkhas areas of Patna City. He highlighted the important role of local communities in reviving and sustaining this unique artistic tradition, while also noting the need for enhanced cultural infrastructure, including the establishment of an art gallery in Patna City.

Kamal Nayan Srivastava, Alok Chopra, and Jitendra Mohan introduced participants to the rich legacy and significance of Patna Kalam painting. Approximately 20 participants enrolled in the programme, which was offered free of cost, with all expenses borne by the INTACH Patna Chapter.

The training concluded on 31 December 2025 with a closing ceremony, during which certificates were awarded to the successful participants.

### **Visit of INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur**

Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman of INTACH, visited Patna from 27 to 29 November 2025 to inaugurate the Arghya Exhibition, organized in collaboration with the INTACH Patna Chapter and partner institutions.

#### **Day 1: Visit to Buddha Memorial Park and Exhibition Preparations (27 November 2025)**

Upon arrival, the Chairman visited the Buddha Smriti Park, where he paid homage at the sacred relic of Lord Buddha. He was accompanied by Bhairav Lal Das, Shivkumar Mishra, Prof. Jayant Kumar, Mr. Manish Kumar, and other members. He also toured the museum galleries and attended a documentary screening on the life of Lord Buddha.

In the evening, the Chairman visited the Lalit Kala Akademi Exhibition Gallery, where preparations for the exhibition were underway. He interacted with participating artists, reviewed artworks, and offered valuable suggestions. During an informal interaction later, he emphasized the importance of preserving Bihar's rich artistic heritage, particularly its folk traditions.

### **Day 2: Inauguration of Arghya Exhibition (28 November 2025)**

On 28 November, the Chairman inaugurated the Arghya exhibition at the Lalit Kala Akademi Chitragar. The event was graced by Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of the Bihar Museum, as Chief Guest, along with several distinguished dignitaries including Prof. Ajay Khare (SPA Bhopal), Prof. Kamini Sinha (NIT Patna), and senior officials and academicians.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a musical presentation. A booklet titled Arghya was released on the occasion, after which guests toured the exhibition.

The Arghya exhibition (28–30 November 2025) featured over 75 artworks by more than 53 artists, showcasing diverse art forms such as Madhubani, Manjusha, Tikuli, Patna Kalam, Bhojpuri paintings, Sujani art, terracotta, crochet, photography, and Vaidyanath paintings.

During a post-event interaction, the Chairman and the Director General of the Bihar Museum discussed key issues related to heritage conservation. The Chairman proposed that INTACH be entrusted with the conservation of state-listed heritage structures, including the Nepali Temple and Ara House associated with Veer Kunwar Singh. The proposal was positively received, with assurance that it would be considered at the appropriate level. The discussion also highlighted the need for strengthening conservation infrastructure and expertise in the state.

Later, the Chairman visited the Patna Museum and the Bihar Museum, where he was guided by noted numismatist Vishi Upadhyay. He also visited Kumhrar and other significant heritage sites.

### **Day 3: Visit to Hajipur and Cultural Interactions (29 November 2025)**

On 29 November, the Chairman visited the Nepali Temple at Konhara Ghat in Hajipur, accompanied by Bhairav Lal Das and Dr. Shiv Kumar Mishra. Travelling via the Hariharnath Temple and Konhara Ghat, the team reached the temple, which is renowned for its intricate wooden architecture.

The Chairman expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition of the temple, particularly its carved wooden elements, and emphasized the urgent need for conservation. He reiterated INTACH's willingness to provide technical and possible financial support and directed the Patna Chapter to formally take up the matter with the State Government.

Returning to Patna, the Chairman attended ongoing programmes at the Lalit Kala Akademi, where the Arghya exhibition coincided with celebrations of Chhath. He listened to soulful renditions of Chhath songs associated with Sharda Sinha and attended a performance by Hriday Narayan Jha, whom he felicitated for his contribution to folk music. He remarked on the growing national and global recognition of Chhath as a significant cultural festival.

## **Conclusion**

The visit concluded on an emotional note, as artists and participants bid farewell to the Chairman with traditional gestures of warmth and respect. The sharing of Chhath prasad, including thekua and traditional cuisine, and the singing of Samadoun—a poignant Mithila farewell song—created a deeply moving atmosphere.

The Chairman's visit not only marked the successful inauguration of the Arghya exhibition but also strengthened dialogue on heritage conservation, cultural promotion, and institutional collaboration in Bihar.

### **Arghya 2025 Exhibition: An Artistic Tribute to Chhath Mahaparva**

The INTACH Patna Chapter organized Arghya 2025, a unique exhibition celebrating Bihar's traditional art forms centered on the Chhath Mahaparva, at the Bihar Lalit Kala Akademi Chitrashala from 28 to 30 November 2025. The exhibition served as a cultural initiative advocating for the inclusion of Chhath in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The exhibition was inaugurated on 28 November at 11:30 a.m. by Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of the Bihar Museum, and Ashok Singh Thakur. Prof. Ajay Khare of SPA Bhopal attended as Special Guest, alongside senior officials, scholars, and artists.

Welcoming the gathering, Bhairav Lal Das noted that the exhibition, curated by Mrs. Alka Das and Mrs. Manisha Jha, brought together 75 artworks by 53 artists across diverse disciplines. These included Madhubani painting, Manjusha art, Tikuli art, Bhojpuri art, Patna Kalam, Sujani embroidery, terracotta, fine arts, crochet, double stitch, Vaidyanath paintings, and photography—marking a first-of-its-kind thematic convergence in Bihar. During the inauguration, the Arghya 2025 brochure was released. Shri Anjani Kumar Singh highlighted the exhibition's vivid portrayal of the cultural diversity associated with Chhath and observed that the festival meets key UNESCO criteria for recognition as Intangible Cultural Heritage. Shri Ashok Singh Thakur emphasized Chhath's growing significance as a symbol of faith, devotion, and cultural identity, both in India and among the global diaspora, and suggested showcasing the exhibition in New Delhi, including at INTACH Headquarters.

On this occasion, a Chhath photo album by senior photographer Vijay Kumar Jain was also released.

### **Highlights of the Exhibition**

The exhibition received technical support from the Madhubani Art Centre and Lovely Creations, Patna. Curator Mrs. Alka Das emphasized the regional diversity reflected in the celebration of Chhath across Bihar, while co-curator Mrs. Manisha Jha highlighted its role as a defining cultural identity for the people of Bihar.

On the second day, renowned lyricist and composer Hriday Narayan Jha captivated audiences with soulful Chhath songs, many of which were popularized by Sharda Sinha. The third day featured a scholarly symposium with senior artists and experts, who shared insights into various artistic traditions and practices. At the request of participants, Hriday Narayan Jha performed once again, adding to the cultural vibrancy of the event.

A major attraction was the live depiction of a Chhath Ghat on the premises, along with the distribution of traditional mahaprasad—including thekua, khajuria, and bhuswa (kasar)—which offered visitors an immersive cultural experience. The warmth and hospitality of participating artists conveyed the deeper spiritual essence of the Mahaparva.

The exhibition drew a large number of visitors, including art enthusiasts, scholars, and representatives from cultural institutions such as the Bihar Museum and ICCR. It also received wide coverage across print, electronic, and social media platforms.

### **Conclusion**

In his concluding remarks, Bhairav Lal Das expressed gratitude to all contributors and participants, acknowledging their support in making the exhibition a success. He noted that the inauguration by the INTACH Chairman significantly enhanced the stature of the event and expressed hope for continued collaboration in future initiatives.

## **Chhattisgarh**

### **Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM)**

#### **World Heritage Week Awareness Programme**

On the occasion of World Heritage Week, the INTACH GPM Chapter organized an awareness programme to educate children of the district about the benefits of traditional mud houses and the use of naturally available forest-based medicinal resources in Chhattisgarh.

Observed annually from 19 to 25 November, World Heritage Week aims to promote awareness regarding the preservation and protection of cultural heritage and monuments. Addressing the gathering, Shahid Jama Khan, Convener of the INTACH GPM Chapter, emphasized the importance of conserving ancient temples, heritage sites, and traditional knowledge systems, particularly indigenous herbal practices that form an integral part of India's cultural legacy.

The programme also highlighted that World Heritage Day (Vishwa Virasat Diwas) is celebrated annually on 18 April to further strengthen awareness and appreciation of heritage conservation.

The event witnessed active participation from members of the INTACH GPM Chapter, along with educators and students from SS College of Education. Among those present were Mr. Naveen James, Principal Dr. Abdul Sattar, Mrs. Gayatri, Swati, Mayuri, Jadav, Hemant Tiwari, and B.Ed. students, who engaged enthusiastically in the programme.

The Chapter extended warm greetings to all on the occasion and reiterated the importance of community participation in safeguarding both tangible and intangible heritage.



World Heritage Week - Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) Chapter

## Raipur

### Heritage Walk-1

The INTACH Raipur Chapter organized *Heritage Walk-1* on 28 June 2025 for students and local citizens, with the objective of exploring and understanding the rich heritage of Raipur city. The walk witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 20 individuals, who visited over seven important heritage sites and gained valuable insights into their historical and cultural significance.

### Heritage Sites Covered

The walk included visits to the following main sites:

- Tori Hatri (approx. 200 years old)
- Jagannath Swami Temple (approx. 100 years old)
- Jaitusaav Math (approx. 200 years old)
- Siddha Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple Baoli (approx. 150 years old)
- Mahavir Vyayamshala Akhara (approx. 140 years old)
- Raj Rajeshwari Mahamaya Devi Temple (14th century)
- Ramchandra Swami Trust Nagridas Temple (approx. 100 years old)

These sites collectively reflect the layered history and cultural richness of Raipur, many of which date back several centuries.

### Interpretation and Insights

During the walk, Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convener, INTACH Raipur Chapter; Arvind Mishra; and Shivi Joshi provided detailed interpretations of each site.

Particular emphasis was laid on the socio-cultural significance of certain landmarks. Tori Hatri was highlighted as an early example of women's empowerment in the region, as it was historically managed and operated by women. The Jaitusaav Math was noted for its association with India's freedom movement, having hosted prominent leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Rajendra Prasad.

The Raj Rajeshwari Mahamaya Devi Temple was discussed for its historical association with Tantric practices, while the Mahavir Vyayamshala Akhara was noted for its traditional wrestling culture, historically attracting renowned wrestlers.

### Participation

The walk was attended by 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.

## Conclusion

The Heritage Walk provided participants with an enriching experience, fostering a deeper appreciation of Raipur's tangible and intangible heritage. It also highlighted the importance of preserving these culturally significant yet often under-recognized sites.



*Heritage Walk - 1 at Heritage Sites – Raipur Chapter*

## Heritage Walk-2

(09 December 2025)

The INTACH Raipur Chapter organized *Heritage Walk-2* on 09 December 2025 for school and college students, along with local citizens, with the objective of exploring the architectural and historical richness of Raipur city. The walk witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 40 individuals, who explored prominent heritage monuments and institutions while gaining in-depth insights from subject experts.

### Heritage Sites Covered

The walk included visits to the following महत्वपूर्ण sites:

- Free Mason Hall (Chhattisgarh Lodge No. 85) (established 1911)
- Mahakaushal Vithika (c. 1875)
- Town Hall (Victoria/Jubilee Hall) (established 1887)
- Guru Ghasidas Museum (c. early 20th century)

These heritage structures, dating back over a century, reflect the architectural legacy and historical evolution of Raipur.

### Interpretation and Insights



During the walk, Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convener, INTACH Raipur Chapter; Arvind Mishra; and Lokeshwar Prasad Sinha, along with INTACH members and subject experts including Mr. Kuleshwar Prasad Sahu, Mr. Shesh Narayan Shukla, Mr. Aseem Chandel, and Mr. Satish Agarwal, provided detailed interpretations of the sites. Contributions were also made by members of the Free Mason Hall (Chhattisgarh Lodge No. 85) and associated architects.

The Free Mason Hall (Chhattisgarh Lodge No. 85), located in the city center, was highlighted as a fine example of British-era architecture, notable for its geometric staircase and Italian stained glass windows.

The Mahakaushal Vithika, constructed in 1875, was described as one of the earliest museums established during the colonial period, reportedly built in honor of Queen Victoria with support from regional rulers.



The Town Hall (Victoria/Jubilee Hall), originally known as Victoria Hall or Jubilee Hall, was established in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's reign and continues to function today as a heritage building under district administration.

The Guru Ghasidas Museum, located near Ghadi Chowk, was appreciated for its rich collection of stone and metal sculptures representing the cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh. The परिसर

also houses a "Garh-Kaleva" outlet offering traditional Chhattisgarhi cuisine, which remains a popular attraction among visitors.

### Participation

Students from Chanakya School, Tatibandh; Durga Mahavidyalaya; and Government Atmanand Shaheed Smarak School, Raipur, actively participated in the heritage walk, demonstrating keen interest in the city's history and architecture.



VISIT FREEMASONS HALL – Raipur Chapter

### Conclusion

The programme concluded with refreshments for participants, followed by a certificate distribution ceremony, where all attendees were awarded Heritage Walk certificates. The walk proved to be an enriching educational experience, strengthening awareness about Raipur's built heritage and the importance of its conservation.

### Heritage Walk-3

(22 January 2026)

The INTACH Raipur Chapter organized *Heritage Walk-3* on 22 January 2026 for school and college students, along with local citizens, with the objective of exploring the historical and cultural legacy of Raipur. The walk witnessed the participation of over 50 students, who visited heritage sites dating back more than five centuries and gained valuable insights into their significance.

### Heritage Sites Covered

The walk included visits to the following प्रमुख sites:

- Dudhdhari Math
- Maharajband Talab
- Budha Talab
- Surrounding heritage precincts of the old city

These sites, many of which date back over five and a half centuries, reflect the deep-rooted spiritual, architectural, and socio-cultural traditions of the region.

### **Interpretation and Insights**

During the walk, Mahant Ram Sundar Das of Dudhdhari Math provided detailed insights into the historical and religious importance of the Math. Key highlights included the ancient Hanuman Temple, Balaji Temple, the presence of floating stones, Tulsi Choura, Sita Rasoi, sacred footprints of former Mahants, and a unique banyan tree with bowl-shaped leaves.

It was also shared that both Dudhdhari Math and Jaitusaav Math had historically served as places of refuge for freedom fighters during India's struggle for independence.

Aseem Chandel elaborated on the historical importance of the centuries-old Maharajband Talab, while Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Convener, INTACH Raipur Chapter, explained the architectural features and evolution of the Math complex. Participants were also informed about the Sanskrit school established at the Math in 1936 and its contribution to traditional education.

### **Participation**

The walk saw enthusiastic participation from students of Durga Mahavidyalaya, Chanakya College, Radhabai Girls College, Shaheed Smarak Atmanand School, and Laxminarayan Girls Higher Secondary School, Raipur. A large number of heritage enthusiasts and citizens also joined the walk.

Prominent attendees included Arvind Mishra, Dr. Lokeshwar Prasad Sinha (Raipur Chapter Co-ordinator), Mr. Kuleshwar Prasad Sahu, Mr. Satish Agarwal, Aseem Chandel, Mr. Sunil Baghel, and Mahant Nirmal Das Ji.



*Heritage Walk at Dudhdhari Math, Maharajband Talab, Budhatalaab – Raipur Chapter*

### **Saraipali(Sarangarh – Raigarh)**

### **Heritage Awareness Activities and Nagar Darshan Programme**

The INTACH Saraipali Chapter organized a series of heritage awareness initiatives aimed at promoting the understanding of cultural, natural, and food heritage among students and the local community.

### **Heritage Awareness Activity: Lecture on Millets**

A lecture-cum-exhibition titled “*Treasure of Taste, Health, and Nutrition: Shri Anna (Millets)*” was conducted in Saraipali, with the participation of around 70 attendees. The programme highlighted the importance of millets as an integral part of India’s traditional food heritage.

Experts delivered insightful keynote addresses on the nutritional value and health benefits of millets, emphasizing their relevance in contemporary diets. Participants were encouraged to incorporate locally available millets into their daily diets and to actively promote awareness regarding their cultural and nutritional significance.

### **Heritage Walk: Shishupal Mountain Range & Kalidarha Dam Area**

A Heritage Walk was organized in the scenic surroundings of the Shishupal Mountain Range and Kalidarha Dam, with the participation of around 30 young people.

The walk aimed to raise awareness about water conservation while also connecting participants with the natural heritage of the region. The picturesque landscape provided an engaging learning environment, where participants explored the ecological and historical significance of the area. Resource persons shared insights into the importance of these sites as vital natural resources, fostering a deeper appreciation for environmental sustainability.

### **Nagar Darshan Programme: Heritage Walk-cum-Educational Tour**

Under the INTACH “*Nagar Darshan Programme*”, the Chapter organized a *Heritage Walk-cum-Educational Tour* to promote awareness about local heritage and its conservation. The initiative was conducted under the leadership of Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary, Convener, INTACH Saraipali Chapter.

The programme witnessed the participation of 50 individuals, including 35 school students, 5 teachers, and 10 heritage enthusiasts, who explored various heritage sites within the Saraipali Municipal Council area and nearby villages.

The tour provided participants with comprehensive insights into the historical, archaeological, cultural, and religious significance of local sites. It also aimed to



familiarize them with the city’s history, major landmarks, and traditional practices.

Students from Heritage Clubs actively participated in the programme, engaging with diverse aspects of art, culture, and history. The initiative significantly enhanced awareness and sensitivity toward heritage conservation, encouraging a sense of

responsibility and deeper appreciation for both tangible and intangible heritage.

### **Natural Sightseeing Tour: Satrenga**

The INTACH Saraipali Chapter organized a *Natural Sightseeing Tour* to Satrenga, popularly known as the “Mini Goa of Chhattisgarh,” to provide an immersive outdoor experience for 115 youth participants.



Located approximately 40 km from Korba, Satrenga is a scenic tourist destination surrounded by hills and rich natural landscapes. It is situated along the expansive reservoir of the Hasdeo Bango Dam, whose striking blue waters and panoramic views create a visually captivating environment.

The tour offered participants an opportunity to closely engage with nature, exploring forests, hills, reservoirs, and landscaped gardens while gaining awareness about the local ecosystem and biodiversity. The serene

environment provided an ideal setting for experiential learning and recreation.

Participants also took part in activities such as boating and trekking, enjoying the site in a manner reminiscent of a natural beach destination. The experience not only fostered environmental appreciation but also encouraged youth to value and conserve natural heritage.

### **Lecture: Protecting Forests and Wildlife – Our Role**

The INTACH Saraipali Chapter organized a *Van Dhan* lecture programme at Birkol Village, aimed at promoting awareness about forest and wildlife conservation. The programme included an informative lecture session followed by a guided visit to the nearby forest area.

The sessions emphasized the crucial role of human intervention in safeguarding forests and wildlife, with particular focus on preventing forest fires and strengthening awareness regarding biodiversity protection. Around 40 members associated with the Forest Committee participated in the programme and gained valuable insights, encouraging them to actively contribute to conservation efforts.

### **Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage**

*(World Wetlands Day – 2 February 2026)*

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the INTACH Saraipali Chapter organized a programme on “*Wetlands and Human Wellbeing*”, aligned with the global theme “*Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage*.” The programme was conducted under the leadership of Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary and was attended by around 50 schoolchildren.

The keynote address was delivered by Sankarshan Patel, a retired lecturer and environmentalist, who provided comprehensive insights into the ecological, cultural, and biodiversity significance of wetlands. He highlighted their critical role in sustainable development and human well-being, emphasizing both traditional knowledge systems and modern ecological perspectives.

Participants were introduced to the multiple ecosystem services provided by wetlands, including water purification, groundwater recharge, flood control, climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and support for biodiversity. The discussion also underscored the importance of wetlands in food security through fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture. Special emphasis was placed on the role of local communities, who, through traditional practices such as paddy cultivation, maintain a harmonious relationship with wetland ecosystems, prioritizing sustainability over short-term economic gains.

As part of the programme, students visited nearby ponds and paddy fields to gain first-hand experience of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity.

### **Local Heritage Awareness Programme & Human Chain Initiative**

Under the *Local Heritage Awareness Programme*, the Chapter engaged Scouts, Guides, and teachers from the Bharat Scouts and Guides Local Association, Saraipali, in activities aimed at sensitizing them to the region's diverse heritage.

Resource persons C. L. Puhup and Barun Kumar Shobha Nayak provided detailed insights into local heritage, including temples, churches, gurdwaras, palaces, hills, gardens, ponds, and traditional art and crafts. They encouraged participants to actively contribute to the preservation of these cultural assets.

Pushpanjali Chaudhary further highlighted the region's ancient heritage and facilitated visits to selected heritage sites. The programme, conducted under the leadership of Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary, enabled participants to develop a deeper connection with their local heritage.

The event concluded with a *Human Chain for Heritage Conservation*, where all participants reaffirmed their commitment to protecting cultural and natural heritage. A total of 40 participants, including 35 students and 5 teachers, benefited from the programme.



*Local Heritage Awareness Program – Saraipali Chapter*

### **INTACH Heritage Conservation Inter-State Tour and Dialogue Programme**

The **INTACH Heritage Conservation Inter-State Tour and Dialogue Programme**, organized by the INTACH Saraipali Chapter, brought immense enthusiasm and joy to its participants. Designed to foster curiosity, nurture responsible citizenship, and emphasize the importance of heritage conservation, the programme emerged as a highly meaningful and impactful initiative.

The journey from Chhattisgarh to Odisha offered a transformative learning experience, enabling participants to gain new perspectives on life, personal growth, and their role in society. By effectively blending education with exposure, the programme deepened participants' understanding of cultural and natural heritage and the need for its preservation. A total of 150 individuals benefited from the programme, including 130 students, 10 teachers, and 10 art enthusiasts.

Immersed in nature's pristine beauty, participants experienced the harmony of living in close connection with the environment. The exposure to rivers, mountains, dams, forests, temples, gardens, medicinal plants, power generation sites, and flower cultivation enriched their appreciation of biodiversity and natural heritage. This engagement inspired a deeper sense of responsibility towards conservation.

The group also gained valuable insights into Odisha's folk traditions, culture, heritage, lifestyle, cuisine, and traditional attire. A vibrant cultural exchange took place, with participants enthusiastically sharing regional recipes and culinary practices. Local delicacies such as Chakuli Pitha, Gaja, Dahi Bada, Idli, and coconut water were relished, alongside traditional Chhattisgarhi dishes including Katni, Khurmi, Aisa Pitha, and Thethri.

A highlight of the tour was the visit to the Hirakud Dam—the longest dam on the Mahanadi River—where participants walked up to Zero Point and explored Jawahar Minar and Gandhi Minar, while enjoying the surrounding landscape of hills and gardens. At Chiplima, they observed the functioning of a hydroelectric power generation system, enhancing their understanding of sustainable energy.

The itinerary also included visits to culturally and ecologically significant sites such as Maa Ghanteshwari Temple, Devjharan Waterfall, and Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary. In Sambalpur, participants spent time amidst lush gardens, appreciating the region's rich flora. Educational visits to the Planetarium in Burla, where they viewed a space-related film, and the Science Park further strengthened their scientific curiosity.

At Maa Samaleshwari Temple, students learned about its historical and cultural significance, offered prayers, and experienced an engaging laser show. The journey,



which began with curiosity—"Did you know?"—gradually evolved into a deeper realization: "There is still so much more to learn."

Overall, the programme proved to be a transformative experience, encouraging participants to step beyond their comfort zones, build confidence, and develop a heightened awareness of their social and environmental responsibilities. The interaction with diverse communities and exploration of

heritage sites left a lasting impression, making the tour both enriching and memorable.

The successful organization of the programme was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Convener Mr. Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary, Convener Mr. Radheshyam Chaudhary, and Life Member Ms. Pushpanjali Chaudhary.

### **30 Schoolgirls Trained in Bamboo Crafts**

In an effort to empower young girls, promote self-reliance, and preserve the traditional art of bamboo craftsmanship, the INTACH Saraipali Chapter, Chhattisgarh, organized a week-long bamboo craft training programme. Conducted by four skilled instructors, the initiative successfully trained 30 schoolgirls, introducing them to the intricate techniques and dedicated effort involved in this traditional craft.

The programme not only provided hands-on learning but also sensitized participants to the socio-economic realities of artisan communities such as the Bansod/Turi, who have long sustained this craft in rural areas despite limited livelihood opportunities. The support extended by INTACH has brought renewed motivation and hope to these artisans, encouraging the continuation of their traditional skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Convener Mr. Yashwant Kumar Chaudhary highlighted that bamboo craft is an ancient, eco-friendly form of handicraft deeply rooted in India's tangible cultural heritage, particularly in tribal regions. The craft involves skillfully shaping thin bamboo strips – through peeling, dyeing, and cross-weaving – into a wide range of utilitarian and decorative items such as baskets, mats, furniture, and artistic objects. Participants were trained in creating traditional bamboo products including Jhenjri, Supa, Tukni, Tukna, Bhugli, Dala, Chalni, Dhithori, Parra, and Supli. They were also introduced to modern applications such as flower pots, chairs, and tables, thereby linking tradition with contemporary utility and market potential.

The training emphasized the cultural significance of bamboo craft, which has been passed down through generations among tribal communities such as the Kamar and Turi tribes in Chhattisgarh. Regions including Mahasamund, Raigarh, Gariaband, Balodabazar, Bastar, and Surguja continue to be important centers of this craft tradition.

Bamboo, as a raw material, is highly sustainable and environmentally friendly due to its rapid growth and carbon absorption capacity. This makes bamboo craft not only a cultural asset but also a model of eco-conscious livelihood.

Convener Mr. Radheshyam Chaudhary noted that the Chapter's initiative aimed to connect young girls with traditional skills through practical training, which has been widely appreciated in the region. Life Member Ms. Pushpanjali Chaudhary emphasized the importance of such programmes in preserving this rare art form while ensuring that the artisans and their products receive due recognition and respect.

Overall, the programme played a significant role in reviving interest in bamboo handicrafts, strengthening cultural identity, and opening avenues for self-employment. By equipping young participants with practical skills and awareness, the initiative has contributed meaningfully to both heritage conservation and community empowerment.



*Bamboo Crafts – Saraipali Chapter*

### **Sculpture Training Workshop**

The INTACH Saraipali Chapter organized a sculpture training workshop for schoolchildren, aimed at introducing them to the fundamentals of clay modelling. The workshop provided an engaging platform where students explored the creative possibilities of clay and developed an appreciation for this traditional art form.

The sculptor interacted closely with the participants, addressing their questions and encouraging a hands-on learning approach. Demonstrations included techniques for shaping and painting sculptures of various forms and sizes, along with guidance on essential precautions. The workshop fostered creativity, curiosity, and confidence among the students, making it a highly enriching experience.

### **Handloom Weaving Training Programme**

In a significant step towards economic empowerment and skill development, the Saraipali Chapter conducted a handloom weaving training programme for rural women and girls. The initiative aimed to promote self-employment, enhance income opportunities, and encourage self-reliance.

A total of 25 schoolgirls participated enthusiastically, learning the basics of handloom weaving, including the use of tools and techniques involved in the process.

The training also introduced participants to essential marketing skills, enabling them to explore livelihood opportunities. The programme highlighted weaving as a powerful medium to transform creative ideas into tangible products.

### **Clay Art Demonstration and Training**

To promote traditional pottery and clay-based crafts, the Saraipali Chapter organized a clay art demonstration and training programme in collaboration with local potters and artisans. The initiative encouraged participants to reconnect with the art of working with clay while gaining practical skills.

A total of 35 participants benefited from the training, learning to create a variety of items such as clay pots, toys, and decorative artifacts. Special emphasis was placed on traditional techniques, including the use of the potter's wheel for making diyas. The programme successfully revived interest in this age-old craft and underscored its cultural and artistic significance.

### **Origami Paper Craft Training**

The Saraipali Chapter also conducted a training programme in origami paper craft, inviting local folk artist Shri Nehrual Nayak as the resource person. The workshop introduced participants to the art of paper folding, highlighting its creative and practical applications.

A total of 40 beneficiaries participated in the training, learning various folding techniques to create items such as caps, carry bags, paan dhaans, and decorative objects. The programme not only enhanced artistic skills but also encouraged innovative thinking and resourcefulness among participants.

## **Gujarat**

### **Ahmedabad**

#### **FILMIT India Film Festival 2026**

**12 February 2026 | Shreyas Foundation, Ahmedabad**

The **FILMIT India Film Festival 2026** was successfully conducted on 12 February 2026 at Shreyas Foundation, Ahmedabad, with enthusiastic participation from 10 schools and over 75 students. This year, the newly introduced Bucky Gallery was transformed into a closed auditorium venue, contributing significantly to the smooth conduct and overall success of the event.

FILMIT 2026 provided a vibrant platform for young learners to explore themes of culture, sensitivity, and social awareness through the creative medium of filmmaking. The festival witnessed active engagement, thoughtful discussions, and an impressive showcase of student films that reflected originality, teamwork, and social consciousness. Participants confidently presented their work, sharing the ideas, research, and inspiration behind their films, making the event both interactive and intellectually enriching.

The festival was honored by the presence of Arnav Kumar, a noted filmmaker, as the Chief Guest. He appreciated the students' storytelling abilities and encouraged them to continue expressing their perspectives through cinema. Leena Patil, Principal of Shreyas Foundation, addressed the gathering and emphasized the role of creative education in nurturing socially aware and confident individuals.

The programme was further enriched by the presence of Christina Shangne, representing HECS and INTACH Delhi, who brought valuable insights to the event.

All participating students and teachers were awarded certificates in recognition of their efforts. Schools were acknowledged for their outstanding films, celebrating creativity, meaningful storytelling, and collaborative spirit.

The FILMIT India Film Festival concluded on a highly positive note, leaving participants inspired and motivated. The enthusiastic participation of schools and the high quality of films presented made the festival a meaningful and memorable experience for all involved.



*FILMIT India Film Festival – Ahmedabad Chapter*

## Members’ Annual Meeting

The INTACH Ahmedabad Chapter convened its Members’ Annual Meeting on 20 December 2025 at the L D Museum. The meeting was attended by 32 members and focused on reviewing ongoing initiatives and outlining future plans. Key discussions centered on strengthening community participation, encouraging youth involvement, and expanding INTACH’s public engagement across Gujarat.



### Looking Back: Ongoing Initiatives (2024–25)

Members were apprised of the Chapter’s expanding work in education and cultural outreach during the year. A range of activities were undertaken in the areas of heritage education and intangible cultural heritage.

Programmes such as Heritage Quiz and Filmit were conducted for middle school students at Shreyas Foundation and Anand Niketan School Shilaj, with participation from nearly 18 schools.

A significant new initiative was the introduction of teachers’ training workshops. Two such workshops were organized – one at C N Vidyalaya focusing on Heritage Education, and another at the L D Museum on Indian textiles – aimed at fostering heritage awareness among both educators and students.

Cultural initiatives during the year included Samanvay and Dayaro, organized in collaboration with the L D Museum and St Xavier’s College Ahmedabad respectively. These programmes served as effective platforms for community engagement and the promotion of heritage values.

## Key Outcomes of the Meeting

Several important decisions were taken to strengthen the Chapter’s impact:

Heritage awareness activities will be developed and conducted as a core focus area.

Greater emphasis will be placed on engaging young members and students to ensure continuity.

Interest-based groups will be formed in areas such as architecture, textiles, intangible heritage, documentation, and outreach.

Expanded focus on intangible heritage, including crafts, textiles, traditions, and community narratives.



Plans to extend INTACH activities beyond Ahmedabad to other cities across Gujarat.

Enhanced public engagement through exhibitions, heritage walks, collaborations, and interactive events.

Introduction of youth-oriented initiatives, including textile-based programmes and creative formats in regional languages.

### **The Road Ahead**

Members were encouraged to actively share their ideas and areas of interest to support structured planning and deeper engagement. The Chapter envisions building an inclusive heritage movement – transforming heritage from a passing interest into meaningful public engagement rooted in awareness, education, and participation.

*Ahmedabad Chapter: Members' Meeting - Ahmedabad Chapter*

## **Bhavnagar**

### **Ply-Split Braiding Workshop**

**10–11 January 2026 | Bhavnagar**

Renowned textile expert Errol Nelson Pires visited Bhavnagar for the third time, continuing his long-standing engagement with the city and its interest in traditional crafts. During his two-day visit, he conducted hands-on training sessions on the intricate craft of ply-split braiding for students from various local institutions.

Ply-split braiding is a traditional textile technique in which one cord is passed through the plies of another to create a dense, knot-free structure. Historically, this method has been practiced by camel-herding communities in western India to produce camel belts and decorative ornaments.

A distinguished textile designer and former faculty member at National Institute of Design, Pires has devoted over four decades to studying and documenting this unique craft. His association with ply-split braiding began in the 1980s during fieldwork in Rajasthan, where he learned the technique directly from traditional artisans.

Participants in the workshop included students from Kumarshala, Shree Nandkuvarba School (English and Gujarati Medium), Fatima Convent School, Amarjyoti School (English and Gujarati Medium), Silver Bells School, and Maharani Shree Nandkuvarba College. The sessions introduced students to the meditative process of creating structured braids using hand-twisted cords.

Through guided practice, students learned the fundamentals of cord construction, tension control, and basic pattern sequences, gradually progressing to creating small sample pieces. Emphasizing patience and precision, Pires encouraged participants to focus on consistency rather than speed.

In addition to technical training, he highlighted the cultural significance of the craft, traditionally sustained by pastoral communities and now facing decline due to the dwindling number of master practitioners. By engaging with young learners, the initiative aims to ensure the continuity and evolution of this rare textile tradition.

The workshop concluded with students proudly presenting their ply-split samples, reflecting both their technical understanding and growing confidence. The programme proved to be an enriching experience, fostering appreciation for traditional craftsmanship among the younger generation.



*Ply-Split Braiding Workshop - Bhavnagar Chapter*

### **Museum on Wheels: Mapping Ancient Networks in Bhavnagar** **23–24 January 2026 | Bhavnagar**

The **Museum on Wheels** initiative brought a unique and enriching cultural outreach experience to Bhavnagar, transforming familiar public spaces into vibrant centres of learning and discovery. Conceptualized as a mobile museum, the programme extends India’s artistic and historical heritage beyond conventional gallery spaces, making it accessible to students and the wider community.

During its visit, the travelling museum was stationed at multiple locations across the city, including Shree Nandkunverba Kshatriya Kanya Vidyalaya, Bal Vatika, Victoria Park, Nilambag Palace, and Shri Khodiyar Mandir in Rajapara. The initiative attracted thousands of visitors, with school students forming a significant portion of the audience—many of whom experienced a museum setting for the first time. Local residents also actively engaged with the exhibition in parks, heritage sites, and community spaces.

This edition featured the exhibition “**Networks of the Past: India and the Ancient World,**” which explored India’s early connections with other civilizations through long-distance trade, exchange of goods, and the movement of ideas. Central to the narrative was the Harappan Civilization, known for its advanced urban planning, material culture, and extensive trade networks.

The exhibition further highlighted links between the Harappan world and Mesopotamia, illustrating how commodities, seals, and technological knowledge travelled across regions, establishing cultural and economic connections long before modern boundaries existed.

Through a well-curated display of visuals, artefacts, and interpretive panels, visitors gained insight into India's integral role in ancient global networks, challenging the notion of isolated civilizational development.

For younger audiences, these narratives brought history to life, presenting the past as a dynamic process shaped by interaction, curiosity, and exchange. Complementing the exhibition was a hands-on **intaglio printing workshop**, which proved especially engaging. Participants learned the fundamentals of this printmaking technique – incising designs onto a surface, inking, and transferring images onto paper – offering a tactile and immersive learning experience.

Educators appreciated the programme for encouraging observation, inquiry, and creative thinking, while visitors valued the opportunity to engage with complex historical themes in an accessible and interactive format. The mobility of the museum enabled it to reach diverse audiences, creating informal yet meaningful learning environments across the city.

More than a travelling exhibition, the Museum on Wheels visit became a shared cultural experience for Bhavnagar – connecting local communities with ancient civilisations and far-reaching networks of exchange. By bringing stories of the Harappan world and its links with Mesopotamia into everyday public spaces, the initiative reaffirmed the power of museums to inspire curiosity, foster understanding, and connect generations.



*Museum on Wheel on Bhavnagar – Bhavnagar Chapter*

## **Lines of Legacy – Sketch Event at Alfred High School**

**22 February 2026 | Bhavnagar**

On the morning of 22 February 2026, the historic campus of Alfred High School was transformed into a vibrant hub of artistic expression during “**Lines of Legacy**,” a live sketching and painting programme. The event brought together students, practicing artists, and art enthusiasts, offering a unique opportunity to engage closely with one of Bhavnagar's prominent heritage landmarks.

Jointly organized by Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Bhavnagar, Bhavnagar Heritage, and Kala Sangh, the programme encouraged participants to observe and interpret the architectural character of the school through on-site sketching and painting. The building itself – featuring arches, domes, corridors, and façades – served as both subject and inspiration, offering rich visual material for artistic exploration.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., the campus evolved into an open-air studio. Participants spread across courtyards and surrounding spaces, selecting vantage points to capture distinctive architectural details. Using mediums such as pencil, ink, and watercolor, they translated their observations onto paper, with each artwork reflecting a personal interpretation shaped by individual style and perspective.

Throughout the session, senior artists and mentors interacted informally with participants, sharing insights on composition, perspective, and the visual interpretation of architectural forms. The focus remained on attentive observation and creative engagement rather than producing finished works, allowing both emerging and experienced artists the freedom to experiment and explore.

By the end of the programme, a diverse collection of sketches and paintings had emerged, collectively presenting multiple perspectives of the same historic structure. Each piece offered a unique visual narrative, demonstrating how architecture can inspire varied interpretations through line, color, and form.

More than an art activity, **Lines of Legacy** highlighted the role of heritage sites as living cultural resources. By encouraging direct artistic engagement with the built environment, the initiative strengthened the connection between Bhavnagar's architectural heritage and its contemporary creative community.

Through this shared experience, the programme reaffirmed art as a powerful medium for understanding, appreciating, and preserving historic spaces, while fostering a deeper sense of cultural continuity across generations.



*Sketch Event at Alfred High School – Bhavnagar Chapter*

## **Navsari**

### **Parsiwada Precinct Curated Heritage Walk with Urban Sketchers**

A moment captured through a camera preserves time – but when interpreted through an artist's pencil or brush, guided by imagination, it transcends mere documentation. Such artistic expressions infuse life and emotion into the frame, capturing not only the moment but also the spirit of a place or personality. This enduring quality of art, rooted in a tradition that predates even written language, lends a unique depth that often surpasses the immediacy of photography.

This artistic essence came alive during the curated heritage walk at the Parsiwada Precinct in Navsari, organized by INTACH Navsari Chapter in collaboration with the Navsari Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Urban Sketchers Surat. The initiative was supported by Shri Dev Chaudhry, Commissioner of NMC, along with Khurshed Desai and other trustees of prominent Parsi institutions in the precinct.

Artists from Surat, Billimora, and surrounding regions gathered from early morning, capturing the architectural and cultural richness of the area through live sketching. In a rare gesture of encouragement, access was granted (within permissible limits) to the compound of the revered Atash Behram, allowing artists to interpret its sacred surroundings.

The artists also documented moments from the conclusion of an induction ceremony of two young boys into the Parsi priesthood at Vadi Daramaher, adding a living cultural dimension to their work.

The heritage walk was led by INTACH's Ruzbeh Umrigar, with curated inputs from Chaitali Desai of Fardunji D. Maherji Rana Library (FDMRL), Priest Farzan Antia, Trustee Khurshed Desai, and Shri Hitesh Parekh, Principal of Lady N Tata Girls High School.

The Navsari Municipal Corporation is actively developing world-class heritage precincts to promote heritage tourism in the city. At the forefront of this initiative is Parsiwada Precinct-1, considered the cultural heart of Navsari. The precinct encompasses significant landmarks such as the Tata Founder Birthplace Museum, the Fardunji D. Maherji Rana Library, Vadi Daramaher, and the Atash Behram, among others.

A notable moment captured during the event includes Commissioner Dev Chaudhry being ceremonially received by Trustee Khurshed Desai at the Fire Temple garden, alongside INTACH's Ruzbeh Umrigar, Urban Sketchers Surat representative Ar. Raj Thakkar, and participating artists. Throughout the walk, artists were seen deeply engaged in sketching, bringing the precinct's heritage to life through their creative interpretations.



*PARSIWADA Heritage Walk with URBAN Artists at Navsari Fire Temple – Navsari Chapter*

**Haryana  
Ambala**

**Cultural Celebration at Father's International School, Ambala Cantt  
15 November 2025 | Ambala Cantt**

A vibrant celebration of culture, creativity, and childhood unfolded at Father's International School on 15 November 2025. The occasion, designed as a carnival-cum-annual day, brought together students, parents, and educators in an atmosphere filled with joy, enthusiasm, and cultural pride.

The event featured a series of colorful cultural programmes, innovative stalls, and engaging activities that highlighted the richness of Indian heritage and traditions. The central theme of **"unity in diversity"** was beautifully reflected in the performances, showcasing the varied cultural expressions of the country.

The programme was graced by Neelam Bhalla, Principal of the school, whose thoughtful initiative included the creation of a dedicated heritage corner, adding depth and educational value to the celebrations. The event was further enriched by the presence of the Convener, INTACH Ambala, invited as the Guest of Honour.

Students participated with great enthusiasm and energy, presenting lively and rhythmic performances that captivated the audience. The joy and excitement of the children were matched by the pride and appreciation of parents, who thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

The event also recognized excellence, with prizes awarded to achievers across various disciplines, celebrating talent and encouraging continued pursuit of excellence.

Overall, the celebration was a memorable occasion that successfully combined learning with enjoyment, reinforcing cultural awareness while creating a joyful and engaging experience for all present.



*Gala children's school function – Ambala Chapter*

## **Himachal Pradesh**

### **Kangra**

#### **Army Vijay Diwas Commemoration**

**16 December 2025 | Dharamshala**

Army Vijay Diwas was observed with solemnity at the State War Memorial, Dharamshala, to honour the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.

Members of the INTACH Kangra Chapter, led by Convener L. N. Aggarwal, participated in a wreath-laying ceremony, paying heartfelt tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives in service to the nation.



*Convener Kangra Chapter paying tributes to Martyrs - Kangra Chapter*

### **National Poster Making Competition - "Tree of Life"**

**6 February 2026 | Dharamshala**

A National Poster Making Competition on the theme **"Tree of Life"** was organized at



Government High School, Sidhbari, Dharamshala.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 79 students representing nine schools.

The programme was graced by Mohit Rattan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dharamshala, as the Chief Guest. He interacted with the students, appreciated their creativity, and motivated them to continue engaging with themes of environment and heritage.

Convener L. N. Aggarwal honoured the Chief Guest with an ang vastra and a memento on behalf of INTACH. The Principal of the host institution, J. S. Guleria, was also felicitated by members of the Kangra Chapter. The event received wide coverage in local media.



*Chief Guest, SDM Dharamshala honoured by Convener Kangra Chapter - Kangra Chapter*

### **Chapter Membership Update**

The Kangra Chapter reported encouraging growth in its membership, with several new members joining during the period. Additionally, a number of previously inactive members renewed their association by updating their membership, strengthening the Chapter's engagement and outreach.

### **Mandi**

#### **Mandi Chapter Honours Emerging Cultural Practitioners**

The INTACH Mandi Chapter organized a special programme to honor emerging and accomplished artists, playwrights, historians, and journalists who have made notable contributions to the promotion and conservation of the region's heritage – particularly its rich intangible traditions.

The initiative recognized efforts towards preserving diverse cultural expressions of the Mandi region, including the traditional miniature art form Mandi Kalam, local folk songs, fading festivals, traditional cuisines, and historic wool-based crafts. The event highlighted the importance of safeguarding these cultural practices, many of which are at risk of decline.

The function was presided over by Apoorva Devgan, Deputy Commissioner of Mandi, who assured the gathering that the district administration would actively support heritage conservation initiatives. He emphasized the need to promote traditional art forms such as Mandi Kalam and to engage youth in cultural preservation programmes.

Convener Naresh Malhotra stated that the Chapter has planned several initiatives aimed at involving young people in heritage conservation and in reviving fading cultural practices of the region. Co-Convener Anil Sharma expressed gratitude to the artists and writers for their valuable participation and support in advancing INTACH's mission.

The event served as an important platform to acknowledge creative contributions while reinforcing collective responsibility towards preserving the cultural identity and living traditions of the Mandi region.

### **Shimla**

#### **Heritage Walks in Shimla during Audit Week Celebrations**

**November 2025 | Shimla**

As part of the **Audit Week Celebrations** following Audit Diwas on 16 November, a series of engaging heritage walks were organized in Shimla. The week-long programme commemorates the historic origins of the institution of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and is marked by a range of educational and cultural activities.

In Shimla—home to the National Academy of Audit and Accounts (NAAA)—these celebrations featured daily early morning heritage walks led by Raaja Bhasin, Convener of the INTACH Shimla Chapter. Conducted in small, interactive groups, the walks encouraged active participation, dialogue, and exchange of ideas. Senior officers of the Audit and Accounts Service, along with staff members, enthusiastically took part in these immersive sessions.

The walk route commenced from Gorton Castle, which houses the offices of the Accountant General and Auditor in Himachal Pradesh, and concluded at Chadwick House, home to the museum of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—developed by INTACH.

Gorton Castle, an imposing neo-Gothic structure, was designed by Samuel Swinton Jacob, who served as Executive Engineer in the princely state of Jaipur for over four decades. His admiration for Rajasthani architecture is reflected in the building's intricate decorative elements, including *jharokhas* and *jaalis*, seamlessly integrated into its design. Beyond architectural history, the walks also highlighted Shimla's rich natural heritage. Participants were introduced to the region's native trees, wildflowers, and commonly found herbs along the route, offering a holistic understanding of both built and natural environments.



*Shimla Chapter*

These heritage walks not only deepened participants' appreciation of Shimla's historical and ecological significance but also demonstrated the value of experiential learning in heritage conservation. The initiative successfully blended education, engagement, and exploration, making it a memorable feature of the Audit Week celebrations.

*The 'Audit Week Celebrations' -*

## **Jammu & Kashmir**

### **Heritage Walk at Amar Mahal, Jammu**

**INTACH - IDPS Ghoumanhasan, Jammu & Kashmir**

A delightful blend of learning and recreation marked the heritage walk organized for young students of IDPS Ghoumanhasan at Amar Mahal Palace, Jammu. Designed as a joyful picnic-cum-educational outing, the programme introduced children to heritage in an engaging and age-appropriate manner.



The day unfolded with laughter and excitement as the young participants explored the scenic *परिसर* of Hari Niwas, enjoying games, sharing snacks, and interacting with their peers. The gardens echoed with cheerful voices, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with innocence and joy.

Alongside the recreational activities, the children were gently introduced to the cultural and historical significance of the Amar Mahal complex. Sudhir Singh, along with K. K. Sharma and members of the organizing team, including the Secretary of AMML and school teachers, guided the students through an interactive session on Jammu's rich heritage.

The Amar Mahal Palace, situated along the banks of the Tawi River and overlooking the Trikuta Hills, provided an ideal backdrop for introducing young minds to the region's cultural legacy. Through simple explanations and storytelling, the children gained an early appreciation of heritage and its importance.

The event successfully combined enjoyment with learning, allowing the young participants to connect with their surroundings in a meaningful way. It was a memorable experience that fostered curiosity, awareness, and a sense of belonging towards local heritage from an early age.



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*Heritage Walk- Amar Mahal Jammu- J&K Chapter*

## **Jammu**

**Heritage Walk at Mubarak Mandi: Conservation in Progress**

**9 December 2025 | Jammu**

A heritage walk through the historic Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex was organized by the INTACH Jammu Chapter in collaboration with the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society on 9 December 2025. The walk provided members with a comprehensive insight into the ongoing conservation and restoration efforts within this significant royal complex.

The programme commenced with a briefing session held in the Central Courtyard (Diwan-e-Aam). S. M. Sahni introduced the participants and outlined the background and vision of the heritage conservation project. Sarfraz Ahmed presented a detailed, building-wise update on the progress of restoration works, while Apoorva Bhargava elaborated on the adaptive reuse plans for the complex.

The proposed redevelopment envisions a dynamic cultural hub incorporating facilities such as a Heritage Conference Centre, Dogra Art Museum, Interpretation Centre, Crafts Emporia, Multi-storied Parking, Management Offices, and a Café-cum-Library – ensuring both preservation and contemporary relevance.

Following the briefing, participants undertook a guided walk through key structures of the complex, beginning from the Deodhi and moving through Chowk Chabutra, the proposed Café-cum-Library, erstwhile Foreign Office and Military Headquarters, the Green and Grey Darbar Halls designated as Heritage Conference spaces, and the Dogra Art Museum (erstwhile Pink Hall).

The route also included Badi Deodi, Royal Courts, Gadvai Khana, Raja Amar Singh Mahal, and areas leading towards Panjtirthi, including the former treasury and secretariat zones associated with Raja Ram Singh Mahal.

Members of the INTACH Jammu Chapter appreciated the efforts of the Department of Culture, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, and MMJHS in safeguarding this invaluable cultural asset. The initiative was recognized as a significant step towards promoting heritage tourism, education, and community engagement in the region, and as a potential model for conservation practices elsewhere.



The Mubarak Mandi complex – once the seat of the Dogra dynasty – has long awaited restoration. With conservation, preservation, and adaptive reuse efforts now progressing under a structured framework, there is renewed optimism that the site will soon regain its historic prominence.

During the walk, members also shared constructive observations.

The loss of a heritage Khirni tree (*Manilkara hexandra*) within the परिसर was noted, with suggestions for replanting saplings of the same species. Concerns were raised regarding the care of existing trees, emphasizing the need to protect greenery during restoration works. It was also recommended that the proposed cafeteria promote traditional Dogra cuisine to enhance the cultural experience for visitors.

Members further highlighted the importance of maintaining aesthetic sensitivity in conservation works, encouraging closer coordination between conservation experts and executing agencies to ensure that restoration aligns with the original architectural character despite administrative and financial constraints. Suggestions were also made to explore public-private partnerships for certain components, such as heritage hospitality, through transparent processes.

Overall, the heritage walk proved to be both informative and inspiring. Participants



expressed satisfaction with the progress, particularly in the outer courtyard areas, and conveyed optimism that the project will soon emerge as a major cultural landmark—reviving the legacy of the Dogra rulers and enriching the heritage landscape of Jammu, often revered as the “City of Temples.”

*Heritage Walks Conducting by Kripal*

*Singh – Life Member INTACH – Jammu Chapter*

### **Ethnic Foods Workshop: “Taste of Traditional Jammu”**

**21 November 2025 | Jammu**

As part of the **World Heritage Week celebrations**, the INTACH Jammu Chapter, in collaboration with the Heritage and Tourism Club UTSAAH and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, organized a culinary workshop titled “**Taste of Traditional Jammu**” in Jammu. The initiative aimed to showcase the richness and cultural significance of traditional Dogri cuisine while fostering awareness among students and heritage enthusiasts.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM, who emphasized the importance of preserving local cuisines as an integral part of cultural heritage. He highlighted that culinary traditions not only strengthen regional identity but also contribute significantly to cultural tourism and provide valuable practical exposure for students.

Meena Sharma, Convener of UTSAAH, spoke on the need to document and revive indigenous food practices to ensure their continuity for future generations. S. M. Sahni, Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter, reiterated INTACH’s commitment to promoting cultural awareness, noting that traditional food systems embody both nutritional value and deep cultural significance, linking generations through shared practices.

The workshop also featured insights from Rajinder Singh Jamwal, who elaborated on the cultural relevance, nutritional aspects, and tourism potential of Dogra cuisine. The practical session was conducted by Sham Lal, Former Head Cook of JKTDC, who demonstrated traditional cooking techniques, the use of authentic ingredients, and the importance of preserving original flavors.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and heritage enthusiasts, who showed keen interest in learning about and promoting Jammu's culinary heritage. The workshop provided a valuable platform for experiential learning and cultural exchange.

The programme was attended by several distinguished guests and academicians, including O. P. Vidharthi, Parikshat Singh Manhas, Arvind Kotwal, Sudhir Singh, Sadaf Shah, Rashim Kashyap, K. K. Sharma, Rajesh Sharma, Vivek Sharma, Kuldeep, Chinmoyee Maharana, Poonam Sharma, Priyanka Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Honeyka Mahajan, Vikas Sawhney, Tapas Tandon, and Anirudh Raina, along with students of SHTM.

The event was effectively coordinated by Suvidha Khanna and her team from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Overall, the workshop successfully highlighted the importance of culinary heritage as a vital component of cultural identity, while encouraging younger generations to preserve and promote the traditional food practices of the Dogra region.



A Culinary Workshop titled "Taste of Traditional Jammu" – Jammu Chapter

### Heritage Walk & Raksha Bandhan Celebrations at Suchetgarh Border 8 August 2025 | R.S. Pura, Jammu

A unique blend of cultural tradition, heritage awareness, and patriotism was witnessed during the **Heritage Walk and Raksha Bandhan celebration** organized at Suchetgarh Border Post. The programme was conducted by the Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu in collaboration with the INTACH Jammu Chapter under the guidance of S. M. Sahni.

The visit provided students with a meaningful opportunity to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with the soldiers of the Border Security Force, who serve at the India-Pakistan International Border, often away from their families. Girl students from the university participated with great enthusiasm, tying *rakhis* to the soldiers as a gesture of respect, gratitude, and emotional solidarity.

Raksha Bandhan, traditionally symbolizing the bond of protection between siblings, was beautifully reinterpreted in this context—extending beyond familial ties to express a collective sense of trust and appreciation towards the nation's protectors. The ritual, rooted in Indian cultural traditions, underscores values of care, protection, and mutual respect.

The participation of students from diverse backgrounds, including both Hindu and Muslim girls, added a powerful dimension of unity and harmony to the celebration. By tying *rakhis* to the soldiers, the students acknowledged their sacrifices and dedication, reinforcing a shared sense of national pride and responsibility.

The event was further enriched by the presence of members from various organizations, along with young students from IDPS Ghou Manhasan, who joined in the celebrations. The interaction with BSF personnel offered participants a deeper understanding of life at the border and the commitment required to safeguard the nation.

Beyond its strategic importance, Suchetgarh also holds cultural and historical significance. The visit highlighted its dual identity as both a security outpost and a heritage site, promoting awareness of border heritage and encouraging initiatives such as border tourism.

As part of the programme, students also visited the nearby Raghunath Ji Temple, further enriching their cultural experience.

Overall, the event served as a meaningful convergence of tradition, heritage, and patriotism. It not only strengthened civilian–military bonds but also instilled in participants a deeper appreciation of India’s cultural values and frontier legacy, making it a truly memorable and enriching experience.



*Celebrated Raksha Bhandha at Suchetgarh – Jammu Chapter*

### **Deliberations on Natural Heritage Areas of Jammu Meeting with Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, J&K Government**



#### **Theme: Dedicated to Conservation**

A significant consultative meeting on the identification and conservation of Natural Heritage Areas in Jammu was convened by INTACH Jammu Chapter. The programme was graced by **Mrs. Sheetal Nanda, IAS**, Commissioner/ Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### **Welcome Address**

Mr. Saleem Beg, State Convener, INTACH J&K, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest and participants. He also felicitated newly enrolled members and highlighted INTACH's pioneering work in cultural and natural heritage conservation across India. He elaborated on ongoing initiatives such as heritage documentation, conservation planning, and ecological restoration projects, including work on Ramsar-listed lakes in collaboration with IUCN.

Emphasizing youth engagement, he spoke about awareness programmes such as heritage walks, nature walks, and school outreach activities aimed at fostering environmental consciousness among young generations. He reiterated that INTACH, as a voluntary organization, derives its strength from the active participation of professionals, scholars, and community stakeholders.

## Proposed Natural Heritage Sites

### 1. Riverine Wetland Corridor of Jammu

This proposed corridor includes a chain of wetlands located along the border belt, forming a unique ecological system:

- **Pargwal Wetland (49.25 sq. km)** – Rich aquatic biodiversity but facing degradation and poaching.
- **Kukarian Wetland (24.25 sq. km)** – Biodiversity hotspot under threat from encroachment.
- **Sangral Asa Chak (7 sq. km)** – Important bird habitat with management challenges.
- **Gharana Wetland (0.75 sq. km)** – Critical for migratory birds such as Bar-headed Goose and Pintail.
- **Nanga Wetland (15.25 sq. km)** – Part of Indo-Pak wetland system, facing infrastructural gaps.

These wetlands collectively form a **linear artificial wetland system** that evolved from defence infrastructure, now serving as vital habitats for biodiversity.

#### Flora and Fauna:

The region supports diverse terrestrial and aquatic vegetation, along with mammals such as wild boar, jackals, and mongoose. It is especially rich in avifauna, hosting both resident and migratory bird species, including several that fall under Near Threatened and Vulnerable categories of the IUCN Red List.

#### Significance:

The corridor represents a rare example of ecological transformation of defence landscapes into thriving biodiversity zones, making it suitable for designation as a **Mixed Natural-Cultural Heritage Site**.

### 2. Traditional Mata Vaishno Devi Route

The historic pilgrimage route, extending from Jagti (Nagrota) to Katra, traverses villages, streams, and forested landscapes. Once a mud track, it is now partially developed but retains its cultural and ecological significance.

- Rich in **sub-tropical forest biodiversity**
- Presence of **traditional water systems** such as stepwells, ponds, and sacred streams
- Strong association with **pilgrimage traditions and intangible heritage**

This route reflects sustainable land-use practices and centuries-old human-nature interaction, strengthening its case as a **Cultural Landscape of Heritage Value**.

### 3. Purmandal-Utterbehni Heritage Circuit

Located along the Devika River in Samba district:

- **Purmandal** – Known as *Chhota Kashi*, with a cluster of historic temples
- **Utterbehni** – Sacred site where the river flows northwards, considered auspicious

The circuit represents a **sacred river landscape** combining natural processes with religious traditions, qualifying under both natural heritage criteria and cultural landscape classification.

## Karnataka

### Bagalkot

#### Awareness Programme on Lajja Gouri Scheme for Promotion of Normal Delivery

29 December 2025

A meaningful awareness programme on the *Lajja Gouri Scheme* for the promotion of normal delivery was successfully conducted on 29th December 2025.

The event was graced by the presence of Co-Convener **Shri M. S. Hiremath**, along with **Shri Shashidhar Mulimani** and **Shri Shivarayappa Jogin**. The programme witnessed active participation from ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers, reflecting strong grassroots engagement.

**Shri Shashidhar Mulimani** delivered an insightful and engaging talk on *Lajja Gouri*, elaborating on its cultural and symbolic significance. The session highlighted how traditional knowledge systems have long recognized and supported natural childbirth practices.

**Dr. Ashok Kale** presented a highly informative talk on reducing the incidence of caesarean sections and promoting safe and natural vaginal delivery. He shared that his inspiration came from the iconic representation of *Lajja Gouri*, which led him to conceptualize and design a specialized delivery seat known as the "*Lajja Gouri Chair*". This innovative approach aims to make the process of normal delivery more comfortable and effective.

The programme underscored the profound scientific wisdom embedded in India's cultural heritage. Ancient sculptural representations like *Lajja Gouri* not only symbolize fertility and motherhood but also serve as a medium through which traditional knowledge has been preserved and transmitted across generations.

Overall, the initiative beautifully demonstrated the relevance of **cultural and intangible heritage in addressing contemporary healthcare practices**, bridging tradition with modern medical understanding.



*A program regarding Lajja Gouri scheme for promotion of normal delivery – Bagalkot Chapter*

## **Bangalore**

**Bangalore | 13 March 2026**

The first phase of restoration of the prestigious Bangalore Club, located in the heart of the city, is nearing completion. Key conservation works – including lime plastering and structural strengthening of masonry, roofing systems, and wooden members – have been successfully completed. Ongoing works include interior finishing, electrical installations, façade lighting, Mangalore tile roofing with timber trusses, landscaping, and tiling.



On 17th January 2026, the Chapter organized a well-attended lecture on the architectural and cultural significance of Hoysala temples by visiting researcher Dr Katherine Kasdorf. The event was conducted in collaboration with Mythic Society and received an enthusiastic response from heritage enthusiasts and scholars.



The Chapter is also collaborating with Historically Tempered collective, a group of history teachers and writers, to develop a video series on history for children. The initiative was formally launched on 27th January with a workshop for school teachers, followed by a screening of two films from the series.

Between 16th and 25th January 2026, as part of the city-wide festival Bangalore Hubba, the Chapter successfully organised five heritage walks across different parts of the city.

Notably, several of these walks were led by participants who had completed the Chapter's first six-week *Heritage Walk Leader Training Programme* held during October–November 2025.

Since January, these newly trained walk leaders have continued to actively contribute by conducting additional heritage walks, including specially curated walks for school groups.

## Belagavi

1. INTACH Belagavi Convener Shri Vinod Doddanavar was conferred the Honorary Doctorate (D.Litt) by Rani Channamma University, Belagavi for his contribution to the fields of Heritage Conservation, Education and Environment Protection. The honor was presented on 25 November 2025 by Hon'ble Governor Shri Thawarchand Gehlot during the University's Convocation ceremony held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, Belagavi. His work for heritage conservation has been significant.

A lover of history, architecture, and ancient wisdom, Dr. Vinod Doddanavar is one of Belagavi's strongest voices for heritage. It is not a new phenomenon; it is a lifelong pursuit. Right from his college days when he would read magazines and papers and discuss passionately with friends. He bought books, gazette copies, historical books, biographies and whole sets of epigraphia Indica, simply because he loved history.

A new leaf turned with the establishment of INTACH Belagavi chapter. He found a platform to work for heritage and what a job he did. Today, as Convener of INTACH Belagavi, he initiated the listing of over 100 heritage sites, published books, and handed over rare artefacts to archaeological departments.



He led the restoration of ancient temples at Halasi, Benwad, Idaragucchi, and Hannikeri – bringing forgotten monuments back to life. The projects at Benwad and Idargucchi were supported by the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwar Dharmotthan Trust. His most extraordinary contribution is the setting up of the Manuscript Restoration Center at Bahubali, through Acharya Shantisagar Foundation where over 70,000 ancient manuscripts have been restored and digitized. The next project is slated to start at Shravanabelagola where over one lakh ancient manuscripts will be restored and digitized.

The manuscript conservation center at Karanja, Maharashtra which houses the original palm leaf manuscript of Bharatesh Vaibhav written by Poet

Ratnakar Varni in the sixteenth century, is also being digitized.

In the saga of Karnataka's heritage, his role is profound, passionate, and priceless.

## Dharwad

The INTACH Dharwad Chapter conducted a series of meetings and activities focused on strengthening membership, reviewing progress, and promoting heritage education and conservation.

### General Body Meeting

#### **4 January 2026 | Halbhavi Art Gallery, Dharwad**

A General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held at the Halbhavi Art Gallery. New members were formally welcomed, and membership documents received from the INTACH Chapter Division were distributed.

During the meeting, previously unmaterialized activities were reviewed, and the reasons for their non-implementation were discussed in detail. Members responsible for these initiatives were encouraged to take necessary action going forward. A renewed emphasis was placed on the membership drive, with members urged to actively contribute to enrolling new members.

Upcoming HECS (Heritage Education and Communication Service) activities were outlined, and members were encouraged to participate actively. The meeting concluded with a post-meeting lunch.

#### **HECS Activity: Endangered Craft Workshop**

##### **16 February 2026 | JSS High School, Hubli**

As part of the HECS initiative on *Endangered Crafts*, a one-day workshop was organised at JSS High School, with participation from 117 students.

The workshop focused on **Lamani (Banjara) embroidery**, a distinctive traditional craft that is gradually declining. Four women artisans from Kalghatgi served as resource persons, demonstrating the intricate embroidery techniques. One of the artisans also showcased the traditional Lamani costume, enriching the learning experience.

The programme was attended by nine members of the INTACH Dharwad Chapter, who graced the occasion and encouraged student participation.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

##### **7 February 2026**

An Executive Committee Meeting was held to review ongoing activities and plan future initiatives. The expenditure incurred for the craft workshop was presented and discussed.

Members also deliberated on organising a forthcoming poster competition and were informed about **Gaja Loka**, a centrally sponsored initiative. It was unanimously resolved that the Chapter would actively participate in this programme.

#### **Mangaluru**

INTACH Mangaluru's World Heritage Week Opens with Talk on Tulu Language

##### **Mangaluru | 19 November 2025**

The World Heritage Week 2025, organised by the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter in association with Art Kanara Trust, commenced with an engaging oration by noted author and Tulu scholar Dr. Ganesh Amin Sankamar.

Titled "*Tulu Bashe Bokka Baduk*", the talk explored the history, evolution, and cultural significance of the Tulu language. The week-long celebrations, held at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture from November 19 to 25, feature a diverse range of activities including lectures, workshops, demonstrations, and exhibitions showcasing the region's rich art and cultural heritage.

In his address, Dr. Sankamar highlighted the deep-rooted connection between the Tulu language, agrarian traditions, and indigenous belief systems. He emphasized that the language evolved organically from agricultural life and was closely intertwined with



*Daivoaradhane* (spirit worship), which together formed the foundational pillars of Tulu culture. He observed that the gradual shift of Tulu-speaking communities away from agriculture, along with the commercialization of traditional practices, has impacted the essence and continuity of the language.

Drawing from personal experiences and reciting verses from traditional *pardhanas*, he eloquently traced the linguistic, cultural, and social evolution of Tulu across generations, underscoring the need for its preservation.



Earlier, Chapter Convener Subhas Chandra Basu welcomed the gathering and outlined the objectives and programme schedule for the annual heritage week, noting that this marks the Chapter's third year of celebrations. Jeevan Salian introduced the speaker, while Nemiraj Shetty delivered the vote of thanks. The session concluded with the felicitation of the speaker.

As part of the celebrations, an art exhibition titled "*Namma Ooru Namma Nela*" is scheduled to open on November 22 and will remain open to the public until November 29, further enriching the cultural engagement of the festival.



*World Heritage Week Opens with Talk on Tulu Language by Dr. Ganesh Amin Sankamar – Mangalore Chapter*

## INTACH Mangaluru Hosts Talk on Western Ganga Dynasty Coins Mangaluru | 20 November 2025

On the second day of World Heritage Week 2025, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in association with Art Kanara Trust, organised an engaging lecture and coin display titled *“Marked by History: The Western Ganga Dynasty Coins.”* The programme was held at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.

The session was delivered by noted numismatist M. Prashanth Shet of S.L. Shet Jewelers and Diamond House. His presentation focused on the rich coinage traditions of the Western Ganga dynasty, which ruled large parts of southern Karnataka and present-day Andhra Pradesh for nearly 650 years, with capitals at Kolar and later Talakad.

Sharing his personal journey, Mr. Shet spoke about his lifelong fascination with coins, which began at the age of five. He highlighted his interest in coins depicting gods, animals, birds, and royal symbols – particularly elephants. What started as a modest collection has grown into what is believed to be one of the most extensive collections of Western Ganga coinage in the world. He noted that his collection includes nearly all known varieties minted during the dynasty’s reign.

Through an engaging narrative supported by a display of select coins, he explained the evolution of iconography and motifs in Western Ganga coinage across different periods. The session offered valuable insights into the historical, artistic, and cultural significance of numismatics.

Emphasizing the importance of heritage-oriented pursuits, Mr. Shet expressed his commitment to making his collection accessible for study, research, and educational purposes. He encouraged young people to cultivate meaningful hobbies that contribute to society and heritage preservation.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion on identifying authentic ancient coins, encouraging young collectors, and understanding the auction ecosystem in India. Deekshith R. Pai delivered the introductory address and anchored the session. The event concluded with the felicitation of the speaker.



*Talk on Western Ganga Dynasty Coins by Numismatist Prashanth Shet – Mangalore Chapter*

## INTACH Mangaluru Explores Female Impersonation Tradition in Yakshagana Mangaluru | 21 November 2025

On the third day of World Heritage Week 2025, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in association with Art Kanara Trust, hosted an insightful lecture titled “*Streevesha in Yakshagana: Female Impersonation Tradition in Indian Performing Arts.*” The session was held at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.

The talk was delivered by artiste and PhD scholar Shruti Bangera, who explored the historical and cultural dimensions of female impersonation in Yakshagana.

In her presentation, Ms. Bangera traced the origins of *streevesha* – the portrayal of female roles by male performers – within the broader context of Indian performing traditions. She explained that social, religious, and cultural restrictions historically limited women’s participation on stage, leading to the emergence of male artistes performing female characters in classical and folk theatre forms such as Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Yakshagana, and Jatra.

She further highlighted the social and psychological challenges faced by *streevesha* performers, who are often subjected to stereotyping and societal perceptions. Drawing upon historical sources, literature, and her own artistic experience, she elaborated on the intense physical and mental transformation required to authentically portray female characters on stage.

The session concluded with an engaging interactive discussion on topics such as the evolving role of women in Yakshagana, distinctions between the Thenkuthittu and Badaguthittu styles, and the importance of developing indigenous frameworks for understanding traditional art forms. Parallels between Yakshagana and other storytelling traditions were also explored.

Deekshith R. Pai introduced the speaker and anchored the session. The programme concluded with the felicitation of Ms. Bangera.



*Talk on the tradition of female impersonation in Yakshagana – Mangalore Chapter*

### **INTACH Mangaluru Unveils ‘Namma Ooru Namma Nela’ Art Exhibition Mangaluru | 22 November 2025**

On the fourth day of World Heritage Week 2025, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in association with Art Kanara Trust, inaugurated a vibrant art exhibition titled “*Namma Ooru Namma Nela*” at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.

The exhibition showcases a diverse collection of paintings, drawings, and installations by ten artists from the Tulunadu region. The participating artists include Harish Kodialbail, Janardhan Havanje, Jeevan Salian, Reshma S. Shetty, Santhosh Andrade, Santhosh Pai, Shilpa Bhat, Umesh V. M., Vishwas M., and Wilson Souza.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Tharanath Gatti Kapikad, Chairman of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy. In his inaugural address, he described Tulunadu as a culturally rich “*panchavarna bhoomi*” and expressed concern over the gradual erosion of cultural values in the face of rapid modernization. He noted that such exhibitions play a vital role in preserving and communicating cultural identity to future generations, while also providing a platform for artists to reflect on both tradition and contemporary social realities.

Subhas Chandra Basu welcomed the gathering and introduced the programme, while Rajendra Kedige proposed the vote of thanks. The chief guest was felicitated in the presence of the participating artists.

The exhibition remained open to the public until November 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., offering visitors an immersive experience of the artistic expressions rooted in the land and culture of Tulunadu.

### **Workshops on Traditional Crafts Mark Day 5 of INTACH’s World Heritage Week Mangaluru | 23 November 2025**

The fifth day of World Heritage Week 2025, organised by the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter in association with Art Kanara Trust, featured engaging hands-on workshops on traditional crafts at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.

The day-long sessions focused on **traditional basket weaving** and the making of *kadegol*



(a wooden butter churner), offering participants an immersive experience in indigenous craftsmanship. Basket weaving was demonstrated by artisans **Babu Koraga Kadtala** and **Ammi Koraga Kadtala**, while **Sadananda Gudiga Keruwashe** and **Prashant Gudiga Keruwashe** conducted the *kadegol*-making workshop.



Participants were introduced to the use of natural materials, traditional hand tools, and time-honored techniques that underpin these crafts. The demonstrations covered the entire process – from raw material selection and preparation to the final crafting stages.



A variety of handmade kitchen and household items were also displayed and made available for purchase.

The artisans shared valuable insights into the challenges faced by traditional craft communities in the contemporary market. They highlighted the growing replacement of handmade products with machine-made alternatives, which often lack the authenticity and durability of traditional crafts. The discussion also brought attention to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their livelihoods, as well as the logistical and financial challenges involved in marketing and transporting their products to wider audiences.

The workshops concluded with an interactive session between artisans and participants, fostering appreciation for traditional knowledge systems. Many attendees extended their support

by purchasing handcrafted products.

The programme commenced with an introduction of the artisans by Reshma S. Shetty.



*Workshops on Traditional Basket Weaving and Kadegol Craft Mark- Mangalore Chapter*

## **INTACH Hosts Traditional Basket-Weaving Workshop for BEM High School Students**

**Mangaluru | 24 November 2025**

As part of World Heritage Week 2025, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, in association with Art Kanara Trust, organised a traditional basket-weaving workshop for students of Basel Evangelical Mission (BEM) High School.

The half-day session featured veteran artisan **Guruamma**, who has practised this heritage craft for several decades. Students from Classes 6, 7, and 8 were introduced to traditional weaving techniques, natural materials, and hand tools used in basket-making.



Through a live demonstration, Guruamma explained the types of wood suitable for weaving and guided students through the step-by-step process of crafting baskets. Working in groups, students actively participated by creating their own baskets using the raw materials provided, making the session both interactive and experiential.

The workshop offered valuable exposure to an endangered traditional craft, especially at a time when handmade products are increasingly being replaced by mass-produced alternatives. Direct interaction with an experienced artisan enabled students to appreciate not only the technical aspects of the craft but also its cultural significance and sustainability.

Suma delivered the introductory address, while Yashavanth Mada welcomed the gathering. Reshma S. Shetty introduced the artisan, and Rev. Manoj coordinated the programme. The event concluded with a felicitation of the guests by the students.



*Traditional basket-weaving workshop for students – Mangalore Chapter*

## **INTACH Screens Documentary on Ferdinand Kittel to Mark Finale of World Heritage Week**

**Mangaluru | 25 November 2025**

The Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), in association with Art Kanara Trust, concluded World Heritage Week 2025 with the screening of a documentary film on Ferdinand Kittel and his remarkable journey as a lexicographer.

Titled *The Word and the Teacher*, the documentary was screened at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture at 5:30 p.m. The event was attended by director Prashant Pandit and executive producer Swati Acharya.

In his introductory remarks, Prashant Pandit described the film as an authentic portrayal of Kittel's life and work, drawing from his personal notes, letters, and archival records. He highlighted that while Kittel is widely known for compiling the first Kannada dictionary, his contributions extended far beyond, encompassing nearly 40 literary works over a span of five decades. He also noted Kittel's proficiency in several Dravidian languages and his deep engagement with Kannada.

The 80-minute documentary traces Kittel's travels across Karnataka during his missionary service and his efforts in collaborating with educational institutions to develop inclusive curricula. The screening was followed by an engaging interaction with the filmmaker.

Speaking on the occasion, Bennet Amanna emphasised the scholarly depth of Kittel's work, noting that his dictionary not only provides meanings but also offers comparative insights into regional dialects and languages, enriched by his keen observations. Despite being an outsider, Kittel's contributions to Kannada language and the Mangaluru region remain invaluable.

Deekshith R. Pai introduced the guests and moderated the session. The programme concluded with the felicitation of the dignitaries.

The ongoing art exhibition *Namma Ooru Namma Nela*, inaugurated earlier during the week, will remain open to the public until November 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.



*Screening of a documentary film on Ferdinand Kittel and his journey as a lexicographer-  
Mangalore Chapter*

## **INTACH-Art Kanara Trust Mark International Mother Language Day with Dialogue on Multilingualism in Mangaluru**

**Mangaluru | 21 February 2026**

To mark International Mother Language Day, the Mangaluru Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), in association with Art Kanara Trust, organized a thought-provoking discussion on "*Multilingualism and Cultural Identity in Mangaluru*" at the Kodial Guthu Centre for Art and Culture.

Bringing together scholars, writers, and cultural practitioners, the session explored language as a vital component of intangible heritage and emphasized the need to preserve linguistic diversity in a rapidly evolving world.

In his opening remarks, Subhas Chandra Basu traced the origins of International Mother Language Day, linking it to the 1952 language movement for recognition of the Bangla language in present-day Bangladesh, later acknowledged globally to promote linguistic diversity.

The panel featured eminent speakers including P. Krishnamurthy, Raghu Idkidu, Anarkali Saleem, Raymond D’Cunha, and Subraya Bhat.

Moderating the discussion, Prof. Krishnamurthy reflected on Mangaluru’s plural linguistic culture, observing that while communities may have different mother tongues, a shared emotional connection through language fosters unity and shapes the region’s cultural identity.

Raghu Idkidu spoke about the deeper cultural role of language, noting that a mother tongue extends beyond communication to influence one’s character, values, and worldview. Anarkali Saleem shared his bilingual experience, highlighting how Kannada became central to his literary expression despite Urdu being his home language.

Raymond D’Cunha elaborated on the widespread presence of Konkani across communities and regions, while Subraya Bhat discussed the uniqueness of Havyaka Kannada, describing it as a dialect closely aligned with old Kannada traditions.

The programme concluded with an engaging interactive session, where participants discussed themes such as language use in diaspora communities, the growing influence of English-medium education, and the importance of nurturing interest in mother tongues among younger generations. The event reaffirmed the need to safeguard linguistic diversity as an integral part of the region’s rich cultural heritage.



*Discussion on “Multilingualism and Cultural Identity in Mangaluru” – Mangaluru Chapter*

## **Kerala**

Initiative to Revive INTACH Kollam Chapter Gains Momentum

**Kollam | 28 February 2026**

An important initiative to revive the INTACH Kollam Chapter was undertaken with an introductory session held at D Fort Hotel. The Chapter, which had witnessed a decline in activity and membership over the past decade, is now being actively revitalized through renewed engagement with the local community.

The meeting was coordinated by the Kerala Chapter and attended by Eugene Pandala, along with members Manoj Kini and Santosh Kumar, and State Co-Convener Arun Narayan.

Organised as an open invitation to the public, the session received an encouraging response, with 22 prospective members in attendance. The programme commenced with a presentation by Arun Narayan, who introduced the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage—its history, objectives, and significant contributions to heritage



conservation across the country. The session concluded with a call to participants to actively engage with and contribute to the organization’s mission. The interactive discussion highlighted a strong interest among attendees, including several young professionals, who expressed the need for a dedicated platform to address issues related to Kollam’s rich historical and cultural

heritage. Reflecting on the Chapter’s legacy, Eugene Pandala noted that since its establishment in 1999, the Kollam Chapter had undertaken several impactful initiatives, particularly during the early 2000s.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with several participants enrolling as members and others expressing their intent to join soon. With the previous leadership team stepping down, the process of appointing a new Chapter leadership is currently underway, alongside efforts to further strengthen membership and reinvigorate activities.

## Cochin

### Muziris Heritage Walk & Talk

12 November 2025 | Kottappuram

The INTACH Cochin Chapter, in association with the Muziris Heritage Project, KTIL, and Indian Institute of Architects Kerala Chapter, organized a *Muziris Heritage Walk & Talk* at Kottappuram.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 70 attendees and featured a panel of six eminent discussants. Curated and coordinated by conservation architect Rakhi Mariam Johnson, the event offered valuable insights into the historical and cultural significance of the Muziris region while encouraging dialogue on heritage conservation.



*Muziris Heritage Walk & Talk – Cochin Chapter*

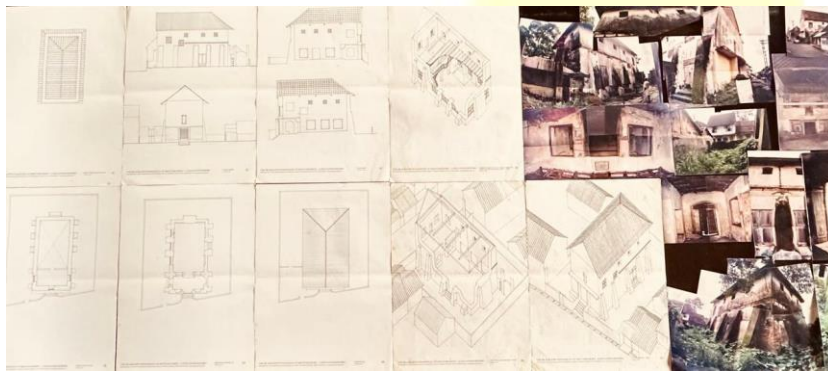
## Restoration Initiatives: Kadavumbhagom Synagogue & St. George Orthodox Syrian Church

6 December 2025

As part of its ongoing conservation efforts, the Chapter has initiated the preparation of a detailed technical report on the restoration of the 500-year-old Kadavumbhagom Synagogue. The report, being jointly prepared by Jacob Cherian and Vishnu Prakash, will include comprehensive documentation and historical research. It is expected to play a crucial role in securing funding support from national and international heritage organisations.

In a parallel initiative, efforts are underway to conserve the historic murals of the St. George Orthodox Syrian Church. A technical report is being prepared by Ajay Abey in collaboration with Sneha Mary Mathew. The documentation draws upon earlier work by Eugene Pandala and his team.

The initiative gains added urgency in light of the challenges posed by the construction of NH66 in close proximity to the church. Abin Mathew represented the parish in discussions, contributing to the collaborative conservation effort.



NH66 in close proximity to the church. Abin Mathew represented the parish in discussions, contributing to the collaborative conservation effort.

*Photographs and Hand Drawn Drawings by Ar. Jacob Cherian – Cochin Chapter*



Documentation Of Cheppad St. George Orthodox Syrian Church  
Prepared By : Prof Eugene Pandala , Centre for Sustainable Built and Natural Environment

*Documentation by Prof. Eugene Pandala, Ar. Ajay Abey & team – Cochin Chapter*

## Cheenavala Documentation Project

29 December 2025 | Fort Kochi

In partnership with Saintgits Design School, the Chapter has initiated a comprehensive documentation project on the iconic *Cheenavala* (Chinese fishing nets) at Fort Kochi.

The project includes structural drawings, photographic and video documentation, artistic sketches, and historical research, culminating in a proposed exhibition and publication. Jayadevi participated in the field visit and discussions. The initiative is being guided by Jacob Cherian on technical aspects and K. J. Sohan on historical documentation.



*The documentation of the iconic and historic Cheenavalas at Fort Kochi – Cochin Chapter*

### **Documentation of 16th Century Basilica Relics**

**29 December 2025 | Fort Kochi**

Representatives of the INTACH Cochin Chapter visited sites in Fort Kochi where relics of a 16th-century basilica, unearthed during works at the Water Metro Terminal site, are currently stored. The visit was conducted along with Rinol Job and K. J. Sohan.

The Chapter has initiated documentation and dialogue aimed at collaborating with archival and academic institutions, including partners in Lisbon, to reconstruct and interpret these historical fragments. An inception report is being prepared for submission to the Department of Archaeology, advocating for proper preservation, storage, and public exhibition of the relics. The effort also highlights the potential for further underwater exploration of remaining structural remains near the Fort Kochi sea mouth.



*Visited sites where old 16th century basilica relics unearthed from the Fort Kochi Water Metro Terminal Site – Cochin Chapter*

### **Madhya Pradesh**

**Bhopal**

**The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh launches INTACH Bhopal's Publication**



*Launching of "Geo-Heritage of Udaypur" by the Hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav – Bhopal Chapter*

INTACH Bhopal has been carrying out documentation of significant cities, locations, and districts for the past many years. The journey of documenting the rich heritage has taken the chapter to Udaypur, a medieval town, which was settled by the legendary king Udayaditya of the Parmar dynasty.

A project to research the Geo Heritage of the Hill Fort of this place was given by the Natural Heritage Division of the head office to the chapter. The excellent documentation report was chosen to be the only book to be launched on Madhya Pradesh foundation day by the Honorable Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. The government also decided to buy copies of this report for wider dissemination. A photo of the Chief Minister, Dr. Mohan Yadav, launching the book "Geo Heritage of Udaypur " was taken in the presence of the Ministers and a huge audience of the state in Lal Parade Maidan, Bhopal. Our work has been recognized by different agencies and departments for its quality, depth of research, and seriousness.

### **Coins of Madhya Pradesh**

Bhopal Chapter hosted the first ever 3 days state level seminar at the State Museum,



Bhopal (MP). Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH, along with Mrs. Urmila Shukla, Commissioner, Directorate of Archaeology, Archives, and Museums, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, inaugurated the seminar. A book on the Catalogue of the Coins of Ujjain, published and printed by the Bhopal Chapter and written by Dr. Dilip Rajgor, a numismatic scholar, was also released. A replica of Parmar king Narmarman's Gold coins that used to be in

existence during the period of the Parmars of Malwa in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries CE was also released by the Chairman & Commissioner on this occasion.

The seminar was very well attended, and it showcased how the punch-mark coins were prepared 2000 years ago through an actual demonstration of the technology by coins, expert Mr. Ravi Shankar Sharma from Kolkata.



*Coin Launching at the seminar on Coins of Madhya Pradesh – Bhopal Chapter*

### **Restoration of the ancient city fortification gates at Parmar city of Udaypur**

The medieval era town of Udaypur had been lamenting the very poor maintenance of the large number of heritage locations, dating back several centuries.



This significant town, falling on the trade route of Malwa, had a fortified city, which had multiple gates and a stone masonry wall. This ancient fortification wall used to house the royal palaces, places of worship, multiple steps, stepwells, and well laid network of roads. All this had fallen into disuse and started crumbling. Funded by the government, the Bhopal

Chapter carried out this extensive stone masonry gate conservation work. The work has been widely appreciated by the citizens, and INTACH has become a household name in this region because of the extensive campaigns on different programmes initiated by the Bhopal Chapter.

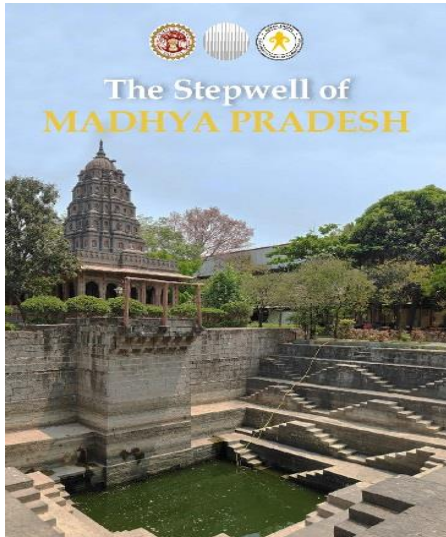
*Moti Masjid Gate in the Udaypur City Fortification Gate, before the start of restoration work – Bhopal Chapter*



*Moti Masjid Gate in the Udaypur City Fortification Gate, after the completion of restoration work– Bhopal Chapter*

## **Stepwells of Madhya Pradesh**

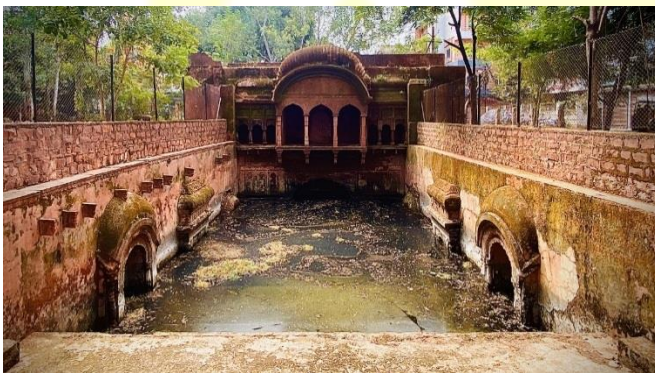
Bhopal Chapter has been conducting the identification, listing, and photographic documentation work. Historically, many parts of Madhya Pradesh, located on the Gondwana plateau, have been suffering drought, and these stepwells were the ideal technology of the area. A set of books covering nearly 534 stepwells from 16 different districts has been prepared, and we are going to have to be shared with different agencies, responsible for their conservation and restoration.



This intensive work was completed in a period of 12 months. This publication work is going to be of immense use to the departments in preparing future conservation plans or starting water recharging activities during the summer season.

*Cover page of the listing on Stepwells of Madhya Pradesh – Bhopal Chapter*

## **Restoration of Raja Khushwaqt Rai Saxena Memorial (Bawdi & Chhatri)**



Raja Khushwaqt Rai Saxena Memorial, comprising his chhatri & Bawdi, is situated in the heart of Bhopal. Dedicated to the first Hindu Prime Minister of the state of Bhopal, it was built during the Bhopal Nawab's era by his successors in his memory. Lack of care in the past 70 years has reduced this magnificent architectural marvel to a place where residents would dump

their garbage or encroach upon the territory. The Bhopal Chapter took on the responsibility of restoring this site. All the old addition alterations done in the original structure of the multi-storied Bawdi (stepwell) and complex have been removed, and conservation based on traditional methods and materials is being carried out. Once this conservation work is completed. This place is going to be the most visited site in Bhopal, more because of the systematic conservation techniques adopted.

**Conservation of the Prisoners of War Camp in Bhopal, constructed for 20000 Italians prisoners:**

During the Second World War, England was part of the Allied forces, and Bhopal, being under the direct control of the British, was one of the places where 20000 Italian prisoners, captured from Egypt, were kept as prisoners of war. They stayed here for nearly four years, from 1942 to 1946 CE. To house such a large population, multiple military camps were constructed. One such prisoner-of-war camp was located in the Delawadi forest area, which is now being conserved by the Bhopal Chapter. Spread over more than 150 acres of land inside the forest, this conservation project is part of the heritage tourism development programme of the department. A large number of military barracks, the road network, culverts, the kitchen, horse feeder, car washes, toilets, bath arena, water supply system, and drainage system are some of the heritage properties being conserved by the Bhopal Chapter.

This is going to be the largest Second World War Memorial of the prisoners, probably anywhere else in the world, which is being maintained at such an extensive scale.

This project is going to enhance tourism in this area.



*Ongoing Restoration of POW Camp, Delawadi – Bhopal Chapter*

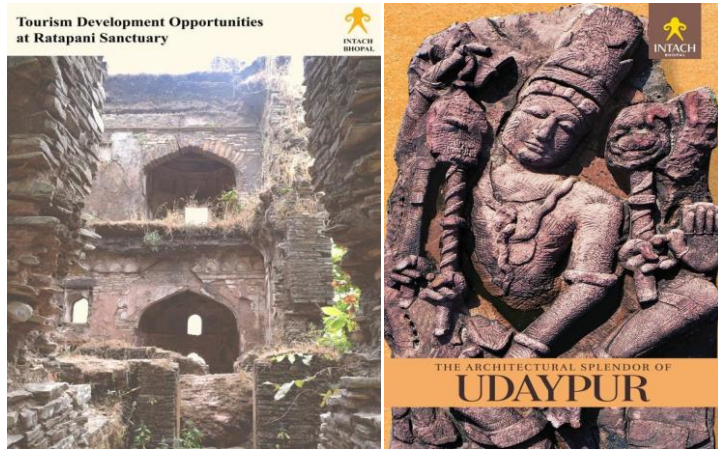
### **INTACH Bhopal Chapter Facilitates Protection of Archaeological Sites under MP AMASR Act**

The INTACH Bhopal Chapter has played a pivotal role in securing statutory protection for several significant yet previously unprotected heritage sites under the Madhya Pradesh Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964. This initiative marks a major step toward safeguarding the rich and diverse archaeological heritage of Madhya Pradesh, which spans all 55 districts of the state.

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### **Documentation and Research Initiatives**

The Chapter undertook extensive documentation of the Ratapani Sanctuary region, including the historic Ginnorgarh Fort – associated with the former Gond kingdom – and the heritage-rich settlement of Udaypur, linked to the Parmar dynasty.



The documentation of Ginnorgarh was further refined by the INTACH Architectural Heritage Division, enhancing its utility as a technical reference for the Forest Department. The Udaypur study was published as a book titled *“The Architectural Splendour of Udaypur”*, bringing wider recognition to the region’s architectural legacy.

These reports were disseminated among key stakeholders, including

departments of tourism, archaeology, forest, and tribal welfare, as well as district and local authorities, significantly increasing awareness of the region’s heritage value.

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### Strategic Follow-up and Multi-Level Coordination

Building upon the documentation, the Bhopal Chapter undertook a series of strategic actions:

- **Public Outreach:** Distribution of reports and publications to government departments and local bodies
- **Identification of Priority Sites:** Selection of key monuments for protection under the Act
- **Technical Documentation:** Preparation of detailed conservation reports for each identified site
- **Interdepartmental Coordination:** High-level meetings chaired by senior officials, including the Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), with participation from departments of tourism, archaeology, and tribal welfare
- **Proposal Submission:** Comprehensive documentation submitted to the Directorate of Archaeology for formal review

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### Notification and Legal Protection Process

Following due procedure, the Department of Archaeology initiated statutory action, including:

- Issuance of preliminary notification inviting public objections
- Gazette publication and district-level dissemination
- Review of objections and submission of reports by district authorities
- Final notification by the state government

This rigorous process culminated in several monuments being officially declared as protected sites.

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### Monuments Declared Protected

As a result of these sustained efforts, the following monuments have been granted protected status:

- Ginnorgarh Fort (c. 14th century CE)
- Udaypur Hill Fort (pre-10th century CE)

- Udaypur Palace (pre-14th century CE)
- Ganesh Mandir Udaypur (pre-14th century CE)
- Uday Sagar Talab (11th century CE)
- Sethon Ki Baniya Bawdi (pre-15th century CE)

Additionally, Bija Mandal (10th–11th century CE) is currently under consideration, pending resolution of certain observations.

### Impact and Future Actions

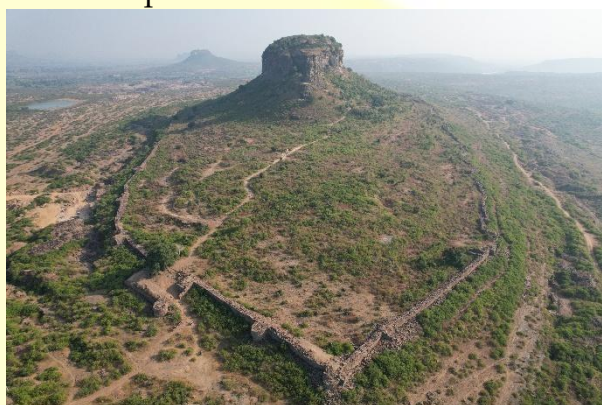
This marks the first instance where, through the initiative of the INTACH Bhopal Chapter, the state government has undertaken protection of multiple previously unrecognized monuments at this scale.

Post-notification, the responsibility for these monuments now rests with the Directorate of Archaeology, which has already initiated measures such as deployment of security personnel and preparation of conservation plans.

The initiative has also significantly enhanced awareness among stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and administrative bodies. Importantly, the Department has now entrusted the Chapter with preparing detailed proposals for conservation, restoration, and development of these protected sites.



*Ginnorgarh Fort, Sehore District*



*Udaypur Hillfort, Udaypur, Vidisha District*



*Udaypur Palace, Udaypur, Vidisha District*



*Ganesh Mandir, Udaypur, Vidisha District*



*Udaysagar, Udaypur, Vidisha District*



*Setho Ki Baniya Bawdi, Udaypur, Vidisha District*

## **Datia**

### **INTACH Convener Vinod Mishra Honored at Bharat Parv in Datia Datia | Republic Day 2026**

On the occasion of Republic Day of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh organised *Bharat Parv* celebrations across all districts, showcasing a vibrant array of folk and regional art forms.



In Datia, the event was held at the New Collectorate Auditorium, where artists presented cultural performances reflecting the rich heritage of the region. Following the programme, distinguished officers, employees, and social workers were felicitated for their contributions during the year 2025-26.

On this occasion, Vinod Mishra was honoured for his notable contributions to the field of archaeology and heritage conservation. The award was presented by Swapnil Bankhede, who conferred a certificate of appreciation in recognition of his dedicated service. The recognition highlights the important role played by INTACH members in preserving and promoting India's rich cultural and archaeological heritage at the grassroots level.

## **Gwalior**

### **1. INTACH Gwalior Chapter celebrated world heritage week with engaging cultural and educational initiative**

The INTACH Gwalior Chapter celebrated Heritage Week with great enthusiasm and purpose, organizing a series of impactful activities aimed at strengthening awareness and appreciation of India's cultural and intellectual legacy.



The week-long celebration successfully brought together students, educators, heritage enthusiasts, and local residents through thoughtfully curated events.

### **Vedic Mathematics Session at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya**

A key highlight of the celebrations was a special session on **Vedic Mathematics**

held at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, one of India's most prestigious residential schools for girls.

Rooted in the ancient **Atharv Ved**, Vedic Mathematics offers highly effective methods to solve numerical problems with remarkable speed and accuracy. Its relevance spans across school curriculum, higher education, and competitive examinations, making it invaluable for learners of all ages.

The session was led by **Shri Vikas Singh**, an eminent Vedic Mathematician and author of the acclaimed seven-volume series "*Vedic Math: From Sutra to Solution.*" His engaging demonstrations showcased how ancient Indian knowledge systems provide elegant and simplified approaches to even the most complex mathematical operations. Students responded with great enthusiasm, expressing admiration for the techniques and gaining fresh motivation to explore India's intellectual heritage.

### **Heritage Walk at the Historic Moti Mahal**

Another major event of Heritage Week was a **Heritage Walk** organized at the magnificent **Moti Mahal**, an iconic structure that once served as the residence of the Scindia rulers and later housed the Madhya Bharat Legislative Assembly until 1952.

The walk saw active participation from students of various schools mainly Scindia kanya Vidyalaya, Simpkins public School as well as residents of Gwalior. **Dr. Kamakshi Maheshwari**, Assistant Professor at IITTM Gwalior, led the walk, guiding participants through the architectural brilliance, historical anecdotes, and rich cultural narratives associated with the monument. Caps and snacks were provided by the chapter.

The presence of INTACH Governing Council Members **Shri Neelkamal Maheshwari** and **Shri Rajiv Tomar**, Chapter Convener **Shri Vikas Singh**, Co-convener **Shri Chandradeep Singh**, along with chapter members and volunteers, added to the significance of the event.

During the walk, the Chapter Convener reiterated the dedication of the Gwalior Chapter, stating that "*The Gwalior Chapter is fully committed to fulfilling the vision that the INTACH Chairman has envisioned.*"

The experience left participants with a deeper sense of connection to Gwalior's glorious past and an enhanced appreciation of its living heritage.

## Conclusion

Through these meaningful activities, the INTACH Gwalior Chapter once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to **heritage education, conservation, and community engagement**.

Heritage Week 2025 emerged as a memorable celebration – honoring knowledge, culture, and history while inspiring the younger generation to value and preserve India’s extraordinary heritage.



*Heritage Walk at the Historic Moti Mahal – Gwalior Chapter*

## Three-Day Coin and Postal Stamp Exhibition “Virasat” organized by INTACH Gwalior Chapter

### Introduction

The three-day “Virasat” Heritage Exhibition, organized by the INTACH Gwalior Chapter, aimed to promote public awareness about India’s rich historical and cultural heritage through numismatics and philately.



The exhibition served as a vibrant platform for students, heritage enthusiasts, and collectors to engage with rare artifacts representing India’s past. The exhibition was inaugurated by former Member of Parliament from Gwalior, Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar, who appreciated the initiative for its role in strengthening heritage consciousness among

citizens. Over the course of three days, the exhibition witnessed an encouraging response from students, teachers, collectors, and citizens across the city. The second day was exceptionally dynamic and educational. From early morning, students from various schools arrived in large numbers—437 students explored the diverse collections displayed. Participating Schools • Rishi Galav Public School

- IATS Public School

- Doon Public School
- A.M.I. Shishu Mandir Students enthusiastically observed rare historic coins and postal stamps. The curated display of Mughal-era coins – from Babur to Bahadur Shah Zafar – deeply captivated young visitors, offering them tangible links to historical narratives previously encountered only through textbooks. During their visit, the exhibitors, including the Convener and Co-Convener Shri Chandradeep Singh, explained the importance and historical value of coins, stamps, and numismatic heritage. Noted collector Shri Kamal Guru from Kota showcased a unique collection consisting of a rare Montblanc silver pen, vintage watches, chapras, and antique objects, drawing strong interest from students. Similarly, collectors Shri Santosh Soni and Shri Pawan Verma introduced visitors to remarkable collections of Mughal-period coins and rare postal stamps. To cultivate the hobby of collecting, the three collectors distributed gifts to students from every participating school, which was warmly received. The concluding day continued with high enthusiasm. Approximately 257 students – primarily from:
  - Greenwood Public School (Adityapuram)
  - Gwalior Glory High School visited the exhibition and explored the displays. A significant number of citizens and heritage enthusiasts also participated, expressing deep appreciation for the initiative. Visitors particularly valued the opportunity to understand India’s cultural and historical evolution through numismatics and philately. Collectors Shri Kamal Guru, Shri Santosh Soni, and Shri Pawan Verma further encouraged engagement by presenting souvenirs to teachers and citizens.

### **Valedictory Session**

The closing ceremony was graced by Alok Sharma, Director of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), as the Chief Guest. He commended INTACH Gwalior for curating a meaningful initiative that helps connect the younger generation with India’s cultural roots. On this occasion, heartfelt gratitude was expressed to Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), whose visionary guidance and support enabled the successful execution of the exhibition. The program was attended by members of the INTACH Gwalior Chapter, including Co-Convener Shri Chandradeep Singh, Governing Council Member Shri Rajiv Tomar, and other chapter associates.

### **Conclusion**

The three-day “Virasat” Heritage Exhibition emerged as a highly successful and impactful initiative. It effectively promoted heritage awareness among students and the wider community, deepened public interest in numismatics and philately, and strengthened the collective connection to India’s rich cultural legacy. The exhibition not only enriched knowledge but also inspired the younger generation to appreciate, preserve, and celebrate India's heritage.



*Three-day “Virasat” Heritage Exhibition – Gwalior Chapter*

**Maharashtra  
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad)  
Chapter Members’ Meeting  
19 October 2025 | The Cellar**

A Chapter meeting was held at The Cellar to review ongoing activities and discuss upcoming programmes. Members were encouraged to actively participate in shaping the Chapter’s initiatives.

**Outcome:**

- Improved internal communication
- Strengthened coordination among members
- Streamlined planning of future activities

**Documentation Standards Review for Stepwells (Barav) Survey  
13, 24 & 25 November 2025**

As part of the Barav (stepwell) documentation initiative, an online review meeting was conducted with the INTACH Architectural Heritage Division on 13 November 2025. This was followed by field visits on 24–25 November at sites including Bidkin, Satara, and the University Campus at Samarth Nagar.

The fieldwork involved detailed on-site assessment, photographic documentation, hand sketches, and collection of baseline data for historic stepwells. The documentation was compiled and submitted for further technical review.

**Outcome:**

- Alignment with INTACH documentation standards
- Completion of field documentation for Baravs
- Strengthened foundation for conservation-focused work

**Heritage Walk and Cleanliness Drive – Museum Precinct  
23 November 2025**

On the occasion of World Heritage Week, the Chapter organised a Heritage Walk and Cleanliness Drive from Rangin Darwaja to the Shrimant Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum.



The initiative highlighted conservation challenges such as waste accumulation, dampness, termite infestation, and fungal growth. It was conducted in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, and local volunteer groups.

**Outcome:**

- Improved cleanliness of the heritage precinct
- Raised awareness of conservation challenges
- Strengthened collaboration with civic bodies

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### Special Heritage Walk at Bibi ka Maqbara

7 December 2025

A special heritage walk was conducted at Bibi Ka Maqbara by Ar. Amit Deshpande for senior administrative officials, including the Commissioner of Police.



The walk focused on the monument's historical, architectural, and cultural significance, emphasising the importance of safeguarding heritage sites.

**Outcome:**

- Increased awareness among administrative authorities
- Strengthened institutional sensitivity toward heritage conservation

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### Documentation of Ancestral Residence, Tuljapur

6 & 10 December 2025 | Tuljapur

Preliminary and measurement documentation visits were conducted at the ancestral residence of Shri Dhiraj Patil, located near the Tulja Bhavani Temple.

Considered older than the temple's existing gateways, the residence represents an important example of living heritage. It continues to serve pilgrims free of cost and preserves archival records in Modi and Farsi scripts. The presence of a continuously burning sacred lamp aligned with the deity underscores its ritual significance.

**Outcome:**

- Assessment of heritage value
- Completion of measurement documentation
- Foundation for detailed conservation proposals

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### Heritage Trail at Pahadsinghpura Precinct

21 December 2025 | Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Campus

An invitation-only heritage trail was organised at the historic Pahadsinghpura precinct within the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University campus, focusing on the area around Soneri Mahal.

The trail highlighted lesser-known Mughal-period remains and cultural markers, offering insights into the layered historical evolution of the site.

**Outcome:**

- Enhanced awareness of the precinct's Mughal-period history
- Interpretation of lesser-known heritage features
- Promotion of heritage-sensitive exploration

*Heritage Trail at Pahadsinghpura Precinct (Dr. BAMU Campus) - Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Chapter*

**Pune****Heritage Quiz - City & State Rounds****14 November 2025**

The INTACH Pune Chapter hosted the City and Maharashtra State Rounds of the Heritage Quiz at the Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture.

The quiz format and content were designed by Madhur Barve under the guidance of Sharvey Dhongde, with active involvement from the Chapter's Executive Committee.

- **City Round Quiz Masters:** Mahesh Bangad & Madhur Barve
- **State Round Quiz Masters:** Sourabh Marathe & Madhur Barve
- **Score Keeper:** Jui Tawade

**Outcome:**

- Encouraged heritage awareness among students
- Strengthened academic engagement with cultural heritage

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**Discover Pune - Heritage Treasure Hunt (22nd Edition)****11 January 2026**

The 22nd edition of *Discover Pune*, an annual heritage treasure hunt organised by the Chapter, was conducted with support from Amanora City Corporation.

Conceptualized by Madhur Barve, the event took participants through various historical layers of Pune using clues, maps, and cryptographic challenges. A total of 20 teams participated, making it a vibrant and engaging event. The closing ceremony was held at Evolve High School Auditorium.

**Outcome:**

- Promoted experiential learning of city heritage
- Encouraged youth participation in heritage exploration

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**INTACH Utsav - Puneri Saree Revival Project**



### 28–31 January 2026 | New Delhi

As part of the Puneri Saree Revival Project led by the INTACH Heritage Craft and Communication Division, in collaboration with Pune and Hampi–Anegundi Chapters, the revived Puneri sarees were showcased at *INTACH Utsav* in New Delhi.

Jui Tawade represented the project under the guidance of Vandana Manchanda. The exhibit received appreciation for both the sarees and the accompanying interpretative panels.

#### Outcome:

- Revival and promotion of traditional textile heritage
- National-level recognition of the project

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### Heritage Walks and Talks Series

The Chapter continued its monthly heritage engagement initiatives through curated walks:

- **Pataleshwar Caves Walk (Nov 2025):** Conducted by Sourabh Marathe at Pataleshwar Caves, focusing on 8th-century rock-cut architecture
- **Traditional Water Systems Walk (Jan 2026):** Led by Shubhada Kamalapurkar, exploring Peshwa-era water systems
- **Lakaki Lake Walk (Feb 2026):** Conducted by Mukul Mahabaleshwarkar, highlighting biodiversity and natural heritage

Additionally, several customized heritage walks were organised, including:

- Cantonment Food Walk & Aga Khan Palace Walk by Jui Tawade
- Riverside Pune Heritage Walk by Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar
- Core City Walk by Madhur Barve and team

#### Outcome:

- Enhanced public engagement with Pune's built and natural heritage
- Promoted thematic exploration of urban history

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### Traditional Board Games Demonstration

#### November 2025

Jui Tawade presented a display and live demonstration on traditional board games at *Rootopia Paramparik Khel Utsav*, organised by The Youth Cosmo at the Pune International Centre.

#### Outcome:

- Revived awareness of intangible cultural heritage
- Encouraged interactive participation

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### Participation in Temple Town Economy Conclave

#### 23 February 2026

Jui Tawade was invited as a panelist at *The Temple Town Economy and Entrepreneurship Conclave*, held at the Persistent Systems Office.

She shared insights alongside Dinanath Kholkar and Girish Kulkarni, contributing to discussions on strengthening temple town economies and supporting micro-entrepreneurs.

**Outcome:**

- Strengthened INTACH's engagement with policy and development discourse
- Highlighted heritage-linked livelihoods

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**Panel Discussion on Ram Nadi Conservation**

**20 February 2026**

Supriya Mahabaleshwarkar participated as a panelist in a discussion on river conservation at Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantdada Patil College of Architecture.

The session, part of an academic studio on Pune's water systems, brought together experts including Shailaja Deshpande and Sanskriti Menon.

**Outcome:**

- Promoted dialogue on urban ecological heritage
- Strengthened academic collaborations



*Discover Pune – Pune Chapter*



*Heritage walks and talks – Pune Chapter*

## Solapur

### World Heritage Week Celebrations

#### INTACH Solapur Chapter

The INTACH Solapur Chapter organized a series of heritage walks on 22nd and 23rd November 2025 as part of World Heritage Week celebrations, adopting the theme “*Preserving Our Past – Inspiring Our Future.*” The walks witnessed enthusiastic participation from heritage lovers and scholars, offering a rich exploration of Solapur’s cultural, literary, spiritual, and colonial legacy.

#### Day 1 – 22nd November 2025

The first day’s walk covered Barad Library, Shri Ram Mandir, and Shri Shubharai Maharaj Math, presenting a confluence of history, literature, art, and spirituality. The walk was convened by Convener Dr. Narendra Katikar, with Founding Convener Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar and Life Member Nitin Anvekar leading the participants.

The walk commenced at the Barad Library, which houses a remarkable collection of rare manuscripts, books, coins, and letters curated by the late Gyandev Neelkanthsa Barad. This invaluable collection, now maintained and made accessible to scholars by his son Shri Omprakash Barad, includes a rare handwritten copy of the *Shrimad Bhagavad Gita* dating to circa 1630 CE, coins spanning from the 1st–2nd centuries BCE to the medieval period, and historical correspondence reflecting the thoughts and actions of freedom fighters during India’s independence movement. A rare copy of *Geeta Rahasya* authored by Lokmanya Tilak is also part of this collection.

The walk then proceeded to Shri Ram Mandir, constructed in 1919 under the supervision of Gondawalekar Maharaj in the distinctive ‘Mandir Wada’ architectural style of Solapur. The two-storied temple features a central entrance flanked by shops, with a continuous balcony on the upper floor. The interior comprises a spacious double-height hall leading to the garbhagriha, adorned with five arches. Side doorways provide access to the pradakshina path, while open boundaries allow filtered natural light to enhance the serene ambience within. Despite its location in the bustling Navipeth market area, the temple offers a tranquil spiritual retreat.

The final stop was Shri Shubharai Maharaj Math, established in the late 18th century by Shubhraj Maharaj, a revered saint, poet, singer, and painter. The Math is known for its peaceful environment and distinctive 200-year-old paintings created by the saint himself, offering participants a glimpse into a unique artistic tradition.

Among the participants were Dr. Anita Dhoble, Achyut Katikar, Atul Deshpande, Shridhar Khedgikar, Prof. Sonali Giri, Vijay Jadhav, Krishna Malvekar, and several other heritage enthusiasts.

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#### Day 2 – 23rd November 2025

The second day focused on Solapur’s colonial heritage, with visits to the State Excise Office and the Dr. Kotnis Memorial.

At the State Excise Office, participants were introduced to the recent restoration efforts undertaken under the supervision of Superintendent Inspector Mrs. Bhagyashree Jadhav. The restoration also included a bungalow within the premises, now reused as official quarters. A “before and after” presentation showcased the transformation of the site, highlighting the value of adaptive reuse and collective conservation efforts. Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar elaborated on Solapur’s development during the colonial period and the collaborative interactions between local communities and colonial administrators. Participants explored the premises, appreciating its architectural features and conservation approach.

The walk concluded at the Dr. Kotnis Memorial, dedicated to Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis, a member of the Indian medical mission sent to China during wartime to treat wounded soldiers and combat epidemics. Serving under extremely challenging conditions, Dr. Kotnis made the ultimate sacrifice in service to humanity. He continues to be deeply respected in China for his contributions. His ancestral home in Solapur has been restored as a memorial, displaying photographs and memorabilia that commemorate his life and work. The building itself is a fine example of early 20th-century domestic architecture in Solapur.

In addition to heritage enthusiasts, 25 trainees from the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), run by Bank of India, also participated in the walk along with their trainers and Manager, Mr. Deepak Wadawale. Their participation added an important dimension of community engagement and awareness-building among rural youth.



*World Heritage Week Celebrations – Solapur Chapter*

### **Sacred Waste Training Programme at Solapur INTACH Heritage Craft and Community Division & Solapur Chapter**

The Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD) of INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Solapur Chapter, successfully conducted a four-day *Sacred Waste Training Programme* from 17th to 20th December 2025 at Saraswati Mandir Sanstha’s S. H. N. High School, Solapur. The programme was supported by the Rotary Club of Solapur as part of its vocational training initiative.



Mr. Praveen Tiwari (Programme Coordinator) and Ms. Anushka Rawat (Programme Associate) served as trainers for the workshop.

Registrations for the programme began well in advance, with posters, information sheets, and Google forms widely circulated to reach individuals seeking self-employment opportunities. The workshop attracted members of self-help groups, priests, temple disciples, trainers, and young entrepreneurs interested in setting up small-scale units.

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### Inaugural Session - 17th December 2025

The programme commenced with participant registration and attendance formalities,



followed by the inaugural session held in the presence of distinguished guests including:

- DGE Rtn. Jayesh Patel, Rotary District 3132 (Presiding Officer)
- Sou. Shubhangi Bua, Founder, Pakhar Sankul (Chief Guest)
- Prof. Roopali Dhamane, Dean, MIT School of Design, MIT Vishwapravag University, Solapur
- Ms. Neeta Yermalkar, Headmistress, S. H. N. High School
- Prof. Narendra Katikar, Convener, INTACH Solapur Chapter
- Rtn. Dhanashri Kelkar, President, Rotary Club of Solapur



Prof. Narendra Katikar welcomed the guests and participants, emphasizing the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of converting sacred floral waste into sustainable products. The initiative was widely appreciated by the

dignitaries. Sou. Shubhangi Bua expressed her intent to establish a similar unit at Shubhray Math.

The inaugural session was compered by Prof. Bhingouda Patil, Life Member.

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### Training Highlights

#### Day 1:

The training began with hands-on segregation and sorting of fresh and dried flowers. Participants were guided to separate usable petals, which were then dried on the school terrace. Once dried, the petals were processed using a pulverizer procured by the Chapter. Participants learned sieving techniques to obtain fine floral powder.

#### Day 2:

Mr. Praveen Tiwari explained the ingredients required for making incense sticks, their proportions, and functions. He demonstrated the kneading process to achieve the correct consistency, followed by a practical demonstration of rolling Agar Battis. Participants actively engaged and successfully rolled incense sticks, which were left to dry.

### Day 3:

Participants independently carried out the complete process—from segregation and drying to crushing, sieving, mixing, and rolling. By the end of the day, they had developed confidence and proficiency in producing agarbattis.



### Final Day 4:

The final day focused on packaging and finishing techniques. Participants learned to prepare butter paper packets for packaging. Mr. Tiwari demonstrated the preparation of scented mixtures using aromatic oils and

DOP, followed by dipping the agarbattis to enhance fragrance. The workshop space was filled with the aroma of freshly prepared incense sticks.

One participant, Mr. Vinit Kanna, designed and printed packaging envelopes, which were used to package the final products.



*Petals being sorted by participants – Solapur Chapter*

### Valedictory Session

The programme concluded with a valedictory session attended by:

- PDG Rtn. Miniyar, Trustee, Ayodhya Temple Trust
- Mr. Bayas, Lokmangal Bank

Prof. Narendra Katikar delivered the concluding address. A total of 65 participants successfully completed the training programme.

Rtn. Miniyar appreciated the initiative and expressed interest in replicating it in Ayodhya through the INTACH Chapter. Mr. Bayas informed participants about financial schemes available through the bank and assured support for those seeking funding to start enterprises.

The session was compered by Co-Convener Ms. Shveta Kothavale, while Co-Convener Ms. Pushpanjali Katikar conducted the certificate distribution.

Participants expressed great satisfaction and enthusiasm to initiate similar ventures within their self-help groups and temple communities. Continued support and guidance were assured to them.



Co- Convener Ar. Shveta Kothavale translating the ingredient names and information for the participants – Solapur Chapter

### Acknowledgements

The programme's success was made possible through the dedicated efforts of team members including Revati Kulkarni, Shashikant Patil, Govardhan Chatla, Achyut Katikar, Shubham Verma, Aditya Bangar, Samruddha Bagale, Amit Verma, Shubham Kore, and Basavaraj Savalagi.



Initial attempts at agarbatti making – Solapur Chapter



Group Photo – Solapur Chapter

## Heritage Walk to Khadki Labyrinth

### INTACH Solapur Chapter

In October 2026, a remarkable archaeological discovery was made in the grasslands of Khadki in Tuljapur taluka, Dharashiv district—a fifteen-layered labyrinth, locally referred to as a '*Chakravayuh*', believed to be nearly 2,000 years old. Located just 21 km from Solapur, this unique site has generated significant interest among historians, archaeologists, and heritage enthusiasts.



To explore this extraordinary find, the INTACH Solapur Chapter organized a heritage walk to the site on 11th January 2026 at 7:30 am. The visit was thoughtfully combined with a Boramani Grassland Safari, offering participants a rare opportunity to experience both natural and ancient heritage in a single excursion. En route, participants observed herds of blackbucks and a variety of grassland bird species, enriching the overall experience.

Convener Prof. Dr. Narendra Katikar welcomed the participants and introduced them to the significance of this newly discovered heritage site.

Bharat Chheda, Founder of the Nature Conservation Circle and former Honorary Wildlife Warden, who first reported the labyrinth, shared insights into its discovery and subsequent developments. He emphasized the strong possibility of uncovering more such circular structures in the Khadki grassland region.

Nitin Anvekar, a history enthusiast and one of the key discoverers of the labyrinth, elaborated on its historical context. He noted that the structure, estimated to be around 2,000 years old, is likely linked to a period of active trade between Dharashiv and the western world during the Greco-Roman era. Upon learning of the discovery, he consulted archaeologist Dr. Sachin Patil and Prof. P. D. Sabale, Head of the Archaeology Department at Deccan College, Pune, who affirmed that this is the largest labyrinth in India in terms of the number of concentric layers.

Senior geologist Mushtaq Sheikh from the Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency, Solapur, provided a technical perspective on the structure. He explained that the labyrinth is constructed entirely from locally available basalt stones, arranged in fifteen concentric circles without the use of any binding material. The precision in its layout and construction reflects a high level of technical and engineering knowledge possessed by the society of that era.

The landowner, Mr. Vinod Chavan, and his family, on whose land the labyrinth was discovered, were felicitated along with the experts who contributed to understanding the site.

The programme saw the dedicated efforts of Pappu Jamadar, Vikas Kulkarni, Achyut Katikar, Dr. Bhimgonda Patil, and Dr. Dhanesh Ligade. The event was attended by several distinguished individuals including senior editor Milind Kulkarni, entrepreneur Yuvraj Chumbalkar, entrepreneur Hemant Sathe, and environmental expert Ninad Shah.

The walk witnessed participation from over 100 history enthusiasts, researchers, and citizens from diverse fields in Solapur, including Asim Chaphalkar, Shrikant Anjutgi, Shanta Yelambkar, and Geetanjali Diddi, among many others.



*Heritage Walk to Khadki Labyrinth – Solapur Chapter*

### **DEEPOTSAV on MAHASHIVRATRI – Heritage Visit to Mardi**

INTACH Solapur Chapter has been celebrating *Deepotsav* at stepwells on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri every year since 2022. This year, the celebration was held at Mardi, a village located approximately 19 kilometres from Solapur, known for its rich cultural and architectural heritage.



Mardi is home to two main temples—the Yamai Devi Temple and the Shri Guru Nagnath Temple—as well as three historic stepwells: one associated with the Nagnath Temple, the second known as Kashi Tirth, and the third linked to the Yamai Temple. En route to Mardi lies the Banegaon Ganapati Temple, one of the Ashtavinayak shrines established by Shri Siddharameshwar Maharaj in the 12th century.



The heritage walks, guided by Shri Nitin Anvekar, commenced at the beautifully decorated Mahadev Temple within the Nagnath Temple precincts. The premises feature numerous ancient temple fragments that were reused in medieval constructions. Embedded within the temple walls are **वीरगळ** (hero stones) bearing Kannada inscriptions. Just outside the temple stands a unique sculpture of entwined **नाग**s beneath a tree, surrounded by smaller serpent figures. Adjacent to this is a stepwell, whose steps are formed using remnants of earlier temple structures.

Proceeding towards Kashi Tirth, participants observed scattered temples and stone edicts across the fields, along with a medieval Sati shrine. At Kashi Tirth, notable features include a Ganesh temple at the entrance, finely carved sculptures of Nandi and Shiva Lingas, and a Hanuman figure sculpted on an earlier stone slab.

The walk then continued to the Yamai Devi Temple, where participants were introduced to the site's layered history, local rituals, and significant findings such as Vishnu and Narasimha sculptures from the Chalukyan period, unearthed in recent years. The temple premises also houses several smaller sculptures and a stepwell near the entrance, distinguished by three access points and a Linga enshrined within a niche.

The Deepotsav was held at this stepwell. The local villagers had meticulously cleaned the premises in preparation for the event. As dusk fell, earthen lamps filled with oil and wicks were placed around the stepwell. The illumination transformed the space, casting an ethereal glow that accentuated the architectural beauty of the structure.

The event was graced by Zilla Parishad President Shri Indrajit Pawar and Chief Priest Shri Rangnath Gurav. Convener Prof. Narendra Katikar welcomed the gathering, while Co-Convener Smt. Shveta Kothavale briefly introduced INTACH and highlighted the significance of organizing Deepotsav at heritage water structures. Life Member Shri Nitin Anvekar emphasized the abundance of antiquities in and around Mardi and suggested the establishment of a local museum to preserve these invaluable artefacts for future generations.

Participants, including local residents, teachers, devotees, and heritage enthusiasts such as Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar, Shri Shrikant Anjutgikar, Prof. Bhimgonda Patil, Shri Achyut Katikar, Shri Atul Deshpande, and Dr. Talbhandare, attended in large numbers.

An added highlight of the evening was the ballet depicting the divine wedding of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, performed by villagers of all ages, showcasing vibrant community participation.

On the return journey, participants visited the Banegaon Ganapati Temple before heading back to Solapur, deeply impressed by the rich and layered heritage of Mardi village.



*At Nagnath temple – Solapur Chapter*



At Kashi tirth – Solapur Chapter



Deepotsav at Yamai Mandir step well – Solapur Chapter

## Transforming Sacred Waste into Fragrant Horizons: ‘Nirmalya Sugandh’ Workshop Inaugurated in Solapur

*“Repurposing floral offerings is the ultimate form of divine service” – Renowned Kirtankar Shubhangitai Buwa*

### A unique confluence of Culture, Environment, and Livelihood

**SOLAPUR:** In Indian tradition, *Nirmalya* – sacred floral offerings made to deities – holds deep spiritual significance. However, the customary practice of immersing these offerings in water bodies contributes to environmental degradation. Addressing this concern through a sustainable and livelihood-oriented approach, the ‘Nirmalya Sugandh’ workshop was inaugurated in Solapur with great enthusiasm.

This four-day training programme is a collaborative initiative of the INTACH Solapur Chapter, the HCCD Division of INTACH New Delhi, and the Rotary Club of Solapur. The workshop aims to transform sacred floral waste into value-added products such as handcrafted incense, thereby promoting eco-conscious entrepreneurship.

The inaugural ceremony was held at S.H.N. Prashala, managed by Shri Saraswati Shikshan Sanstha, under the leadership of District Governor Elect (DGE-RD 3132) Shri Jayeshbhai Patel. The event was graced by Chief Guests Smt. Shubhangitai Buwa, Founder of Pakhar Sankul and a renowned Kirtankar, and Prof. Rupali Dhamne, Dean of the MIT School of Design.

Other distinguished dignitaries included expert trainers from New Delhi, Shri Praveen Tiwari and Ms. Anushka Rawat, INTACH Solapur Coordinator Prof. Dr. Narendra Katikar, Co-Coordinator Ar. Shweta Kothawale, Rotary Club President Dr. Dhanshree Kelkar, Secretary Shri Dinesh Phophaliya, and Ar. Pushpanjali Katikar.

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### **Visionary Insights from Key Speakers**

#### **1. Towards Prosperity through Sacred Waste - Shri Jayeshbhai Patel**

In his presidential address, Shri Patel applauded the initiative, emphasizing that harnessing *Nirmalya* for eco-friendly entrepreneurship is both timely and essential. He highlighted how such initiatives not only protect the environment but also create new avenues of livelihood, especially for youth and community groups. He reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to supporting socially impactful and employment-driven projects.

#### **2. Recycling as a Form of Devotion - Shubhangitai Buwa**

Delivering the keynote address, Smt. Buwa offered a profound spiritual perspective. She observed that converting sacred floral offerings into incense, rather than immersing them in rivers, represents a higher form of devotion. She also announced plans to implement this initiative at the Shubhray Maharaj Math, thereby extending its impact to temple ecosystems and associated communities.

#### **3. Innovation and Design for Global Reach - Prof. Rupali Dhamne**

Prof. Dhamne emphasized the importance of integrating creativity and design thinking into traditional practices. She noted that with innovative packaging and product development, such handcrafted items could achieve global market appeal, transforming a local craft into an internationally viable enterprise.

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### **Workshop Philosophy: 'From Waste to Wealth'**

In his introductory remarks, Prof. Dr. Narendra Katikar elaborated on INTACH's guiding philosophy, stating that *culture, environment, and entrepreneurship* form a powerful trilogy. He highlighted that in a culturally vibrant city like Solapur, such initiatives provide meaningful engagement for devotees while opening new economic opportunities.

The workshop received an overwhelming response, with around 85 participants—including women and youth from across the district. The comprehensive four-day curriculum covers incense-making techniques, raw material processing, and marketing strategies, equipping participants with practical skills for sustainable livelihoods.

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### **Institutional Support and Organisation**

On this occasion, Smt. Revati Kulkarni, Vice President of Shri Saraswati Shikshan Sanstha, and Principal Smt. Nita Yermalkar extended their support and best wishes for the initiative.

The programme was ably moderated by Prof. Bhimgonda Patil, while Dr. Dhanshree Kelkar delivered the vote of thanks, expressing the vision of replicating this model across different parts of the city.

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The successful organization of the workshop was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee, including Shri Shashikant Patil, Shri Shubham Verma, Shri Aditya Bangar, Ms. Samruddha Bagale, Shri Amit Verma, Shri Shubham Kore, Shri Govardhan Chatla, Shri Achyut Katikar, Shri Pratyush Katikar, and Shri Basavaraj Savalgi.

The workshop will conclude on Saturday, December 20, with the distribution of certificates to all participants.

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### Key Highlights

- **Fully Sponsored Training:** Free participation for all trainees
- **Wide Participation:** Over 85 participants from across the district
- **Community Impact:** Ideal for temple management bodies and Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- **Eco-Entrepreneurship:** Promotes sustainable, green business practices rooted in tradition

### Manipur

#### *Panel Discussion on "Wetlands and Rivers for Water Security"*

A panel discussion titled "Wetlands and Rivers for Water Security" was convened on 24 February 2026 at Manipur University in Canchipur. The event was organized jointly by the INTACH Manipur Chapter and Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS), and was hosted by the university's Department of Earth Sciences.

The panel brought together a distinguished group of experts and officials. Among those in attendance was Dr RK Ranjan Singh, Mentor of the INTACH Manipur Chapter and former Minister of State for External Affairs and Higher Education, Government of India. Prof Huidrom Birkumar Singh, Chief Scientist at CSIR NEIST Manipur, also contributed his expertise. Academic representation from the host department included Prof Soibam Ibotombi Singh, Dr Yumkhaibam Rajesh, and Prof Maibam Bidyananda. Further panellists were Dr RK Chingkhei of DMU, Yumnam Jiten from CRAM, Dr Atom Sunil, Director of AIMS, Bashispatimayum Deben Sharma of the Inter-Faith Forum, and former NEFI consultant O. Somorendro. The discussion was moderated by Dr Homen Thangjam, Convener of the INTACH Manipur Chapter.

A clear consensus emerged from the deliberations: Manipur is currently experiencing severe water insecurity. It was widely agreed that human activities are the primary drivers of this scarcity, affecting both the availability and quality of water. Key contributing factors identified included reckless deforestation for agriculture and habitation, the illegal timber trade, and illicit poppy cultivation. Unregulated riverbed sand mining and rapid urbanisation were also cited as significant pressures. These anthropogenic impacts are further compounded by natural factors, notably the state's geomorphology, which limits water retention in both highland and valley areas, and the pervasive siltation of rivers and wetlands. The broader context of climate change was acknowledged as an overarching force exacerbating the entire crisis.

The intensive discussions culminated in a series of key resolutions and recommendations. It was affirmed that water, as the source of life, is indispensable to any society, and that wetlands and rivers are fundamentally central to achieving water security in Manipur. To address the crisis, participants called for a comprehensive scientific study of local rivers and wetlands to establish a database mapping their specific vulnerabilities and strengths. Future discussions, it was resolved, must adopt a more targeted approach, analysing individual wetlands, rivers, and their basins to pinpoint precise causes of water insecurity. Subsequent meetings should also focus on concrete mitigation strategies, including a re-examination of traditional practices such as dredging.

The panel further recommended an investigation into potential constitutional oversights and institutional discrepancies or overlapping jurisdictions that may hinder effective action. A review of existing environmental policies is considered necessary, particularly to clarify regulations on riverbed sand mining, deforestation, and poppy cultivation, and to ensure their strict enforcement by authorities. It was also agreed that event organisers must collaborate closely with government departments in all future discussions. Finally, the findings of the proposed scientific study should be formally submitted to the Government of Manipur as an official document offering policy recommendations.



*A panel discussion titled “Wetlands and Rivers for Water Security” at Manipur University – Manipal Chapter*

### **Participation in the North East Festival of Rice – Grains of Heritage**

Upon the gracious invitation of Padmashree Smt. Sentila T. Yanger, State Convener of the INTACH Nagaland Chapter, a five-member delegation from the INTACH Manipur Chapter participated in the inaugural North East Festival of Rice – Grains of Heritage. Organised by the INTACH Nagaland Chapter, the festival celebrated the rich cultural heritage and agrarian traditions associated with rice across North East India. The event



was held from 26 to 28 February 2026 at the Agri Expo site in Dimapur, Nagaland.

The Manipur delegation, led by State Convener Dr Homen Thangjam, departed from Imphal on the morning of 25 February 2026, travelling by road *via* the Imphal-Ukhrul, Ukhrul-Tadubi, Tadubi-Mao, and Mao-Kohima-Dimapur route.

At the festival, the INTACH Manipur stall showcased a selection of distinctive indigenous rice varieties and products from the state. Featured items included the renowned Manipuri Chak-hao, an aromatic black glutinous rice valued for its nutritional properties and cultural significance; Ayang Leima, a culturally important white glutinous rice dedicated to the Manipuri paddy Goddess; *Kaboks*, or traditional puffed rice cakes; and a rice-based vodka distilled in Andro, a Chakpa village in Imphal East district. On the second day of the festival, the team prepared and served Chak-hao kheer to approximately one hundred schoolchildren and teachers participating in a painting competition, an initiative that fostered engagement with younger audiences and demonstrated the culinary versatility of indigenous rice.

Beyond the exhibition, the delegation actively participated in the seminar sessions held throughout the three-day programme. These sessions addressed themes such as bridging traditional knowledge with innovative, climate-resilient technologies; nutritional enhancement through value addition; and the broader food-climate-market nexus in relation to the genetic diversity of indigenous rice. The chapter's participation underscored its commitment to conserving and promoting the region's cultural and agricultural heritage.



*Padmashree Smt. Sentila, INTACH Nagaland Convener, felicitating INTACH Manipur Convener Dr Homen Thangjam*



*Explaining how Kheer is prepared to the esteemed delegates led by Shri. Mhathung Yanthan, Hon'ble Advisor, Agriculture, Govt. of Nagaland – Manipur Chapter*

## Mizoram

### Lunglei

## ART & CULTURE MINISTER PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA INAUGURATES INTACH LUNGLEI CHAPTER

**November 27, 2025 (Thursday):** Pu C. Lalsawivunga, Hon'ble Minister for Art & Culture,



inaugurated the Lunglei Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), marking a significant step towards the preservation and promotion of Mizoram's rich cultural heritage.

INTACH, headquartered in Delhi, has an extensive network of over 200 chapters across India. The newly established Lunglei Chapter comprises 40 members dedicated to heritage conservation in the region.

### Office Bearers of the Lunglei Chapter:

- **Convener:** Rev. Dr. F. Sangvela
- **Co-Convener:** Pu K. Lalsanga, Ex-MLA
- **Secretary:** Mr. J.C. Vanlal Hmuaka
- **Treasurer:** Mr. Z.H. Ropuia, Ex-Minister

Mizoram is home to 82 recognized heritage sites, many of which hold immense historical and cultural significance. In Lunglei, prominent protected sites include Pu Buanga Bangla, Sap Upa Bangla, Saptui, the Medical Superintendent's Quarter, and the Governor's Bangla. The nearby town of Tlabung also hosts several important heritage sites that warrant further exploration and conservation efforts.

Other culturally significant locations such as Pipu Sulhnu in Vangchhe, Lianpui village, and Th. Lewin (Thangliana) Lungphun are also under preservation.

The Lunglei Chapter has outlined future initiatives, including visits to Rorehlova's Monument in Cherhlun and organizing awareness programmes in schools and colleges to foster greater appreciation and protection of cultural heritage among the younger generation.



*Inaugurated Lunglei Chapter – Lunglei Chapter*

## Odisha

### Balasore

## 1. Celebration of World Heritage Week 2025

The Chapter commemorated **World Heritage Week 2025** by organizing an essay competition on the theme “*The Local Treasure*”, focusing on the importance of preserving local heritage sites that hold significance within communities. The event was held at Siddhi Vinayak Public School, Balasore, on 24th November 2025.

More than fifty students enthusiastically participated in the competition, reflecting a growing awareness and interest in heritage conservation among the younger generation. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Sudhansu Panda, Principal of the School, in the presence of Shri Uday Ranjan Das, Convener; Ms. Archana Nandi, Additional Co-Convener; and Shri Satya Narayan Nanda, Member of the Chapter.



*Celebrated the World Heritage Week 2025 – Balasore Chapter*

## 2. OBITUARY

### **Dr. Prahallad Charan Mohanty (Life Member, INTACH Balasore Chapter)**

The INTACH Balasore Chapter deeply mourns the demise of Dr. Prahallad Charan Mohanty, Life Member of the Chapter, who passed away on 10th November 2025.



Late Dr. Mohanty retired as a Professor of Odia Literature from Fakir Mohan Autonomous College. A distinguished scholar and prolific writer, he made significant contributions to Odia literature through numerous articles and books focusing on the culture and heritage of Odisha.

An ardent heritage enthusiast, he undertook commendable efforts towards the preservation of the cultural heritage of his native village, Mangalpur. Owing to his vast knowledge and experience, he served as a valued advisor to the INTACH Balasore Chapter.

His passing is an irreparable loss to the heritage community. Members of the Chapter extend their heartfelt condolences and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

## Sonepur

### **1. INTACH Sonepur Chapter's General Council Meeting Held New Executive Committee Formed**

The General Council Meeting of the INTACH Sonepur Chapter was held on **1st March 2026** at the Mahanadi Sahitya Sansad Hall under the chairmanship of the Chapter Convener, Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu. On this occasion, a new Executive Committee of the Chapter was constituted.

The newly formed committee comprises:

- **Convener:** Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu
- **Co-Convener:** Mr. Banamali Panda
- **Members:** Dr. Rajendra Kumar Mishra (Retd. CDMO & Life Member), Prof. Dr. Sourav Ranjan Khamari, Mr. Debaki Nandan Mishra, and Mr. Siddhartha Agrawal

During the meeting, members reviewed the activities undertaken by the Chapter and outlined future plans to strengthen heritage conservation initiatives. Key decisions



included the regular organization of heritage walks and nature walks, formation of Heritage Clubs in schools and colleges, documentation and protection of endangered heritage, listing of temples in Sonepur – known as the *Second Temple Town of Odisha* – and conducting workshops.

Special emphasis was placed on engaging students in heritage conservation, and it was resolved to encourage their active participation by enrolling them as members.

The meeting was attended by several eminent personalities, including former Principal Dr. Santosh Kumar Padhi, historian Mr. Sudam Naik, Mr. Baladev Pradhan, Mr. Debasish Pradhan, Dr. Meenaketan Kumbhar, Mr. Kailash Chand, Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Ota, Mr. Banka Bihari Panda, Mr. Duryodhan Meher, Mr. Satyapriya Mahala, and Mr. Biswajit Mahapatra.

## 2. Special Meeting of the INTACH Sonepur Chapter



A special meeting of the INTACH Sonepur Chapter was held on **15th February 2026** at the local Circuit House. The meeting was presided over by the Convener, Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu.

Distinguished guests included Mr. Anil Dhir, Member of the INTACH Central Council, and noted historian Dr. Lalatendu Das Mahapatra. Key discussions focused on upcoming activities and heritage initiatives. Mr. Anil Dhir proposed organizing the renowned *Lankapodi Festival of*

Subarnapur in Bhubaneswar during the current year. The proposal was warmly welcomed by all members, who expressed keen interest in hosting the festival in the state capital with grandeur.

The meeting also resolved to expand membership by enrolling new members into the INTACH Subarnapur Chapter.

Among those present were Life Members Mr. Gadadhar Barik, Dr. Sourav Ranjan Khamari, Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Ota, and Mr. Debaki Nandan Mishra. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Co-Convener Mr. Banamali Panda.



*Special meeting of the Sonepur Chapter – Sonepur Chapter*

### **3. Seminar on “Terracotta of Subarnapur” at District Book Fair**

The INTACH Sonepur Chapter organized and sponsored the second evening and the first seminar of the **7th District-Level Annual Book and Literary Festival 2026** of Subarnapur on **15th February 2026**, in collaboration with Inkfest and the District Administration.

The seminar, titled *“Terracotta of Subarnapur: Cultural Heritage of Tradition and Artistic Creation,”* was chaired by Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu.

Mr. Anil Dhir, cultural researcher and guest speaker, highlighted that the terracotta art of Subarnapur enjoys recognition beyond India. He noted that artisans, through traditional hereditary skills and government-supported training, have expanded their craft from making utilitarian objects such as pots and pitchers to creating intricate idols and artistic works now displayed in hotels, museums, airports, and government institutions nationwide.

He emphasized that despite its uniqueness, Subarnapur’s terracotta heritage still requires greater promotion and institutional support.

Dr. Lalatendu Das Mahapatra, historian and former Assistant Director of the National Archives, described terracotta as a vital expression of Subarnapur’s riverine civilization. He stressed the importance of promoting its commercial development to sustain the tradition.

On this occasion, internationally acclaimed terracotta artist Mr. Mukunda Rana from Kuibahal village was felicitated by the District Collector, Dr. Nruparaj Sahu.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Banamali Panda and witnessed participation from a wide cross-section of society.



Seminar titled "Terracotta of Subarnapur" – Sonepur Chapter

#### 4. INTACH's Ashtashambhu Heritage Walk Celebrated with Enthusiasm

The **Ashtashambhu Heritage Walk**, organized by the INTACH Sonepur Chapter, was successfully conducted on **15th March 2025**, witnessing enthusiastic participation from heritage enthusiasts.

The walk commenced at the Pancharatha Temple



and was inaugurated by the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Narayan Nayak, who attended as Chief Guest. On this occasion, a booklet titled "*Ashtashambhu of Subarnapur*", authored by historian Mr. Sudam Naik and translated into English by Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu, was released.

Participants visited several prominent temples associated with the Ashtashambhu

tradition,

including:

Loknath Temple, Balunkeswar Temple (Rajaghat), Siddheshwar Temple (Gopalji Temple premises), Gokarneswar Temple (near Sonepur College), Paschim Somanath Temple (Kacheri Chowk), Rameshwar Temple (Triveni Sangam), and Subarnameru Temple on the banks of the Tel River.

However, participants expressed concern over the neglected condition of the Rudranath Temple, which could not be visited as it remains in a dilapidated state within a cinema hall premises. They urged the authorities to take immediate steps for its preservation.

Guided by retired Professor Dr. Santosh Kumar Padhi, participants engaged in the walk with devotional fervour, singing bhajans and kirtans. Historian Mr. Sudam Naik elaborated on the historical and cultural significance of the temples.

The event was organized under the supervision of Convener Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu. The concluding session featured a vote of thanks by Co-Convener Mr. Banamali Panda, with valuable support from Life Member Mr. Debaki Nandan Mishra.



*The Ashtashambhu Heritage Walk – Sonapur Chapter*

## Punjab

### 1. Participation in 6th Neo-International Conference at LPU

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, State Convener, INTACH Punjab, was invited as a keynote speaker at the **NICHE-IPM 2025 Conference** on “*Empowering India: Towards a Sustainable and Habitable India*”, hosted by Lovely Professional University (LPU).



The conference formed part of the **6th Neo-International Conference on Habitable Environments and International Professionals Meet**, a two-day intellectual conclave that focused on positioning sustainable habitat design as a cornerstone for achieving the vision of ‘*Viksit Bharat 2047*’.

*Bharat 2047*’.

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh delivered an insightful address on “*Cultural Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Environment*”, highlighting the role of heritage conservation in building environmentally sustainable and culturally resilient societies.

### 2. Lok Utsav, Gurdaspur

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh was invited as the **Chief Guest** at the *Lok Utsav* held in Gurdaspur in the first week of December 2025.

The vibrant cultural event witnessed participation from artists representing seven states, along with numerous schools from Gurdaspur district and NCC cadets. The festival celebrated the rich cultural diversity of India and provided a platform for young talent and traditional art forms.



Lok Utsav Gurdaspur – Punjab State Chapter

### 3. Asal Uttar: Punjab’s First Military Heritage War Memorial and Museum

On 30th September 2025, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon’ble Governor of Punjab, in the presence of Lt. Gen. Manoj Kumar Katiyar, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, GOC-in-C Western Command, dedicated the upgraded **Asal Uttar War Memorial and Museum** to the

nation – marking it as Punjab’s first military heritage site.

Located in the Khemkaran sector, the village of Asal Uttar holds immense historical significance as the site of a निर्णायक battle during the **1965 Indo-Pak War**, where Indian forces successfully halted a major Pakistani offensive.

This initiative, led by the Indian Army’s Golden



Arrow Division in collaboration with INTACH Punjab under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh (Retd.), represents a significant step towards preserving and interpreting India’s military history *in situ*. The project aims to create a curated heritage experience combining a memorial, museum, and battlefield interpretation.

The memorial also honours the legacy of Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh, whose strategic leadership was instrumental during the war.

Among the most celebrated acts of bravery commemorated here is that of **CQMH Abdul Hamid (Param Vir Chakra, Posthumous)** of 4 Grenadiers, who destroyed multiple enemy Patton tanks before attaining martyrdom. Contributions of units such as 2 MAHAR, 2 MADRAS, and 77 Field Engineers are also highlighted.

The museum further documents significant battles including:

- **Battle of Barki (1965)** – Noted for exceptional leadership by Lt. Col. Anant Singh of 4 Sikh
- **Battle of Sehjra (1971)** – A major strategic victory in the Western theatre

Beyond its military importance, Asal Uttar stands as a powerful reminder of the intersection between rural life and historic events, where collective memory continues to live within the local community.



*Punjab's First Military Heritage War Memorial and Museum – Punjab State Chapter*

#### **4. Visit to Police Academy, Phillaur**

The State Convener was invited to address senior trainees at the Police Academy, Phillaur, on the themes of **values, valour, and national commitment in the Armed Forces.**

Originally scheduled as a 45-minute lecture, the session extended to nearly four hours due to the enthusiastic engagement and interaction of the participants, making it an impactful and memorable experience.



*Visit to Police Academy Phillaur – Punjab State Chapter*

#### **5. Sikh Lens Sewa Award to INTACH Punjab**

INTACH Punjab was honoured with the **Sikh Lens Sewa Award** in recognition of its dedicated efforts towards preserving and promoting Punjab's cultural heritage.

The award acknowledges the organisation’s tireless advocacy, community engagement, and mobilization of volunteers in safeguarding both tangible and intangible heritage across the state.



*Sikh Lens Sewa Award – Punjab State Chapter*

## 6. Collaboration between Sikh Lens and INTACH Punjab

In a significant step towards heritage conservation, **Sikh Lens** and **INTACH Punjab** have joined hands to preserve Punjab’s rich and layered cultural legacy.

Punjab’s heritage encompasses both **tangible** elements—such as monuments, historic buildings, artefacts, and landscapes—and **intangible** traditions, including oral histories, music, rituals, and community practices. However, rapid urbanization, environmental challenges, and neglect pose serious threats to this legacy.

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh emphasized that heritage is a living repository of collective memory, essential for shaping identity and guiding future generations. The collaboration aims to strengthen conservation efforts through awareness, documentation, and community participation.

Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur, Founder of Sikh Lens, was presented with a set of INTACH publications. Noted filmmaker Mr. Ojaswi Sharma also expressed his commitment to digitally document Punjab’s heritage and announced plans to organize a Heritage Festival in collaboration with INTACH Punjab through Pinaka Media Works.





*Sikh Lens Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2026 – Punjab State Chapter*

## **Gurdaspur**

### **1. Commemoration of World War I Heroes at Sarwali, Batala**

A solemn **Remembrance and Tribute Ceremony** was organized at the World War I Memorial in Village Sarwali, near Batala, by Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhatti, Convener, INTACH Gurdaspur Chapter.

The ceremony honoured the brave soldiers of the village who laid down their lives during the First World War – **Havildar Kala Singh** of the 45 Rattray Sikhs (now 3 Sikh Battalion) on his 107th martyrdom anniversary, and **Sepoy Hazara Singh** on his 108th martyrdom anniversary. The event also marked the **107th Armistice Day**, with floral tributes and homage offered to the martyrs.

The Chief Guest, Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.), Convener, INTACH Punjab, paid homage and addressed the gathering, recalling the invaluable sacrifices of Indian soldiers during World War I. He emphasized that these brave hearts form an integral part of the nation's priceless heritage and must always be remembered with reverence.

A ceremonial guard of honor was presented by the **4 Sikh (Saragarhi) Battalion** under the command of Subedar Harpreet Singh, representing the Station Commander, Tibri Cantonment. The solemn occasion included the playing of the *Last Post* as a mark of respect.

In his address, Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh also urged the youth to stay away from social evils, embrace discipline, and contribute towards nation-building. He encouraged them to consider joining the Armed Forces and to actively participate in preserving Punjab's cultural and historical heritage.

Special guest **Kunwar Amritbir Singh**, popularly known as the "*Push-Up Man of India*", inspired the youth to adopt a healthy lifestyle, stay away from drugs, and pursue their goals with dedication.

Family members of the martyrs were honored during the ceremony. Several dignitaries, including educationists and community leaders, were present and paid their respects.



*Tribute ceremony of Bravehearts of Shri Havildar Kala Singh at Village Sarwali – Gurdaspur Chapter*

## **2. INTACH Efforts Halt Demolition of Dera Baba Nanak Heritage Railway Station**

In a significant achievement for heritage conservation, the proposed demolition of the historic **Dera Baba Nanak Railway Station** has been successfully halted due to the sustained efforts of INTACH.

INTACH Amritsar initially raised strong objections, highlighting the station's historical and cultural significance. Subsequently, the matter was taken up by Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.), Convener, INTACH Punjab, with higher authorities, emphasizing the urgent need to preserve this important heritage structure.

Following these efforts, the demolition was stopped—marking a major milestone in safeguarding Punjab's shared heritage.

Further steps were initiated with a joint site inspection conducted by Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhatti, Convener, INTACH Gurdaspur Chapter. The State Convener also held discussions with Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, DRM, Ferozepur Division, to explore the possibility of developing the site into a **Heritage Museum and a key tourism hub**.

The railway station holds immense historical, cultural, and emotional significance, and this development reflects the impact of collective advocacy and committed heritage conservation efforts.



*Baba Nanak Heritage Railway Station – Gurdaspur Chapter*

### 3. Launch of INTACH Gurdaspur Chapter

The INTACH Gurdaspur Chapter, the 12th Chapter in the region, was formally launched in October 2025.

- **Convener:** Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhatti
- **Co-Convener:** Mr. Harmanpreet Singh

The establishment of the Chapter marks an important step towards strengthening heritage conservation initiatives in the Gurdaspur region and engaging local communities in preserving their rich cultural legacy.



*Launching of Gurdaspur Chapter – Gurdaspur Chapter*

## Patiala

### 1. Seminar on ‘Importance of Heritage Preservation’

INTACH Patiala Chapter organized a seminar on the theme “**Importance of Heritage Preservation**” at the Punjabi University, Patiala campus on **29th November 2025**. The event witnessed active participation from teachers, students, and individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The seminar aimed to sensitize participants – especially the youth – about India’s rich cultural heritage and the urgent need for its protection and preservation.

Dr. Gobinder Singh Samrao, Professor (Retd.), Punjabi University, Patiala, inaugurated the seminar and emphasized the need for collective action to protect the environment from increasing pollution. He expressed concern over the failure of previous generations to effectively control environmental degradation and placed hope on the younger generation to work towards a sustainable and livable future.

Mr. Preet Mohinder Singh Sekhon, Senior Announcer (Retd.), All India Radio, Patiala, highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among organizations and government bodies to promote heritage conservation, noting that public awareness in this regard remains limited.

Mr. Satvir Singh, Principal, University School, cautioned against impending environmental challenges such as global warming and pollution, urging immediate preventive measures.

Concluding the seminar, Mr. Sarbjit Singh Virk, Advocate and Convener, INTACH Patiala Chapter, reiterated INTACH's commitment to promoting awareness about both tangible and intangible heritage. He stressed that preservation of language, culture, monuments, forests, and water resources is essential for a secure and sustainable future. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Jatinder Singh Sarao, Advocate and heritage activist. The programme was effectively compered by Ms. Amoljit Kaur, a teacher and heritage enthusiast.

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## 2. All India Poster Making and Writing Competition - "Tree of Life"

In response to the call by the **Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS)** division of INTACH, the Patiala Chapter organized the **All India Poster Making and Writing Competition** on **29th November 2025** under the theme "*Tree of Life*".

Prior to the competition, participants were briefed about the rules and informed that thousands of students from Classes VII to IX across India were participating in this national-level event. It was also shared that **100 regional winners and 10 national winners** would be selected based on merit for special recognition.

A total of **60 students** from eight schools participated in the competition, including:

- British Coed High School
- Shivalik Public School
- Veer Haqiqat Rai Senior Secondary School
- Indo-British School
- Senior Secondary Model School, Punjabi University Patiala
- Ryan International School
- Sri Aurobindo International School
- Kaintal School

The participants created vibrant and meaningful posters along with write-ups on the given theme, reflecting creativity as well as awareness of environmental and cultural values. The students displayed great enthusiasm and engagement throughout the event. The programme concluded with refreshments for all participants, marking a successful and enriching experience.



Seminar on 'Importance of Heritage Preservation' and Poster making Competition – Patiala Chapter

## Rajasthan

### Alwar

#### 1. Mandana Art Skills and Folk Handicrafts Competition

To preserve and promote the traditional **Mandana art**, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a *Mandana Art Skills and Folk Handicrafts Competition* on **14th November 2025** at Government Higher Secondary School, Nyana, Govindgarh.

Girls from Classes V to XII participated enthusiastically, creating intricate Mandana designs featuring geometric patterns, floral motifs, animals, birds, and traditional symbols such as the Swastika, using natural materials like ochre and chalk.

The second segment of the competition focused on **folk handicrafts**, where students creatively transformed discarded fabric into useful items such as mats, doormats, and plate covers – promoting sustainability alongside traditional skills.

A total of **67 students** participated, making the initiative a great success in fostering awareness about vanishing folk traditions.

The event was attended by the school Principal, Mr. Dharamveer Gera, along with teachers Ms. Lakshmi Goswami, Ms. Renu, Mr. Dayal Chand Verma, Mr. Sardar Singh Yadav, and others.

Winners including Monica, Nandani, Bhavana, Savjina, Rachna, Khushboo, Sanjana, Sonam, and Manjo were felicitated. Ms. Sunita Mittal, Convener, INTACH Alwar Chapter, encouraged students to continue preserving traditional arts and expressed gratitude to all participants and organizers.



"Mandana Art Skills and Folk Handicrafts Competition" – Alwar Chapter

## 2. Shloka Recitation Competition – “Learn Sanskrit, the Language of the Vedas and Puranas”

On **15th November 2025**, the INTACH Alwar Chapter organized a *Shloka Recitation Competition* at Government Sanskrit Higher Secondary School, Nazar Baghi, Alwar. Around **70 students** from Classes II to XII participated in both group and individual performances, reciting and writing Sanskrit shlokas with rhythm, expression, and devotion.

Ms. Sunita Mittal, Competition Coordinator and Convener, motivated the participants and emphasized the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural heritage.

The programme was attended by Principal Mr. Diwan Singh Rajawat, Programme In-charge Mr. Manoj Mishra, faculty members, and INTACH Alwar Chapter representatives Mr. Rajkumar and Mr. Lakhan Singh.



"Shloka Recitation Competition" – Alwar Chapter

## 3. World Heritage Week 2025 Celebrations – “Our Heritage, Our Pride”

The INTACH Alwar Chapter celebrated **World Heritage Week (19–25 November 2025)** with a series of awareness activities.

A **heritage tour** was organized for students of The Scottish School to introduce them to the rich cultural legacy of Alwar. During the visit to the *Maharaja Bhratruhari Panorama*, historian Mr. Niranjan Singh Rajput vividly narrated the life and legacy of Maharaja Bhratruhari through paintings and exhibits.

Students actively explored the museum and participated in a quiz conducted by Convener Ms. Sunita Mittal, who also highlighted the theme of World Heritage Week 2025 – focusing on protecting heritage from natural disasters and conflicts.

Prizes were awarded to enthusiastic participants, and students were encouraged to take responsibility for preserving cultural heritage for future generations.



"Our Heritage, Our Pride" – Alwar Chapter

#### 4. Poster Design and Essay Competition – “Life-Giving Trees”

In alignment with the initiative of the HECS Division, INTACH Headquarters, the Alwar Chapter organized the city round of a national-level *Poster Design and Essay Competition* on the theme “**Life-Giving Trees**” on **18th December 2025** at Shri Agarwal Mahasabha Auditorium.

A total of **110 students** from 10 schools across Alwar participated in the competition. Through their creative expressions, students depicted various trees of India, including the **Banyan (national tree)** and important species such as Khejri, Peepal, Amla, Neem, and Dhaunk, along with local varieties like Arjuna and palm trees, emphasizing their ecological and medicinal importance.

Wildlife expert Mr. Sanjeev Kargwal enriched the session by sharing insights on local flora, medicinal plants, and the wildlife ecosystems dependent on them.

The winners were:

- **1st Prize:** Ananya Gupta (Bal Bharti School, Arya Nagar)
- **2nd Prize:** Tanvi Patwal (Chinar Public School)
- **3rd Prize:** Harshika Sharma (Shri Agarwal Higher Secondary School)

All winners were felicitated with prizes by INTACH.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Sunita Mittal emphasized that such activities play a vital role in instilling environmental consciousness among children. She reiterated INTACH’s commitment to engaging the younger generation in preserving India’s natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

## Bhilwara

### INTACH Protests to Save Aravalli; Memorandum Submitted to the Hon'ble President

The INTACH Bhilwara Chapter organized a strong protest at **Harni Hill** to voice concern over recent government decisions affecting the **Aravalli mountain range**. The demonstration highlighted pressing issues such as unchecked mining activities, environmental degradation, and the urgent need for conservation of this ecologically sensitive region.



The demonstration highlighted pressing issues such as unchecked mining activities, environmental degradation, and the urgent need for conservation of this ecologically sensitive region.

On the occasion, a memorandum was submitted to the Hon'ble President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, urging

immediate intervention for the protection of the Aravalli.

Mr. Babulal Jaju, Convener, INTACH Bhilwara Chapter, emphasized that the Aravalli range is a vital ecological lifeline not only for Rajasthan but for the entire North India. He underscored its crucial role in **water conservation, climate regulation, biodiversity preservation, and safeguarding cultural heritage**. He warned that recent policy decisions could endanger the very existence of the Aravalli, leading to severe long-term consequences.

During the protest, participants carried placards and raised slogans such as “*Save the Aravalli, Save Life,*” “*End Greed, Protect the Aravalli,*” and “*The Aravalli is the Shield of Rajasthan.*” The demonstration aimed to draw the attention of authorities and the wider public to the urgency of conservation efforts.

Prominent members and environmentalists present included CA Dilip Goyal, Mr. Abbas Ali Bohra, Mr. Guman Singh Pipada, Mr. Rajkumar Buliya, Mr. Gopal Naraniwal, Mr. Vidyasagar Surana, Mr. Mukesh Ajmera, Mr. Harkalal Vishnoi, Mr. Bileshwar Dad, Mr. Om Soni, Mr. Prabhat Jain, and Mr. Anurag Lohiya, among others.

The memorandum called for:

- Granting the **Aravalli Mountain Range** the status of a *National Natural Heritage Site*
- Reviewing recent policies from environmental and heritage conservation perspectives
- Imposing strict regulations on mining activities
- Enforcing a complete ban on illegal mining
- Formulating and implementing a comprehensive long-term conservation strategy

Mr. Jaju further cautioned that failure to act promptly would have serious repercussions on **water security, climate stability, and biodiversity**. INTACH also appealed to citizens to recognize the importance of conserving the Aravalli and to actively participate in this collective effort.

## Bundi

## Workshop under Save Heritage Campaign – Sarvodaya Group College, Matunda, Bundi

The INTACH Bundi Chapter organized a workshop under the *Save Heritage Campaign* at **Sarvodaya Group College, Matunda, Bundi**, with active participation from faculty members and students.

Mr. Rajkumar Dadhich, Convener, emphasized the importance of recognizing the **Rajasthani language** in the Central List, highlighting its literary richness and cultural significance. He referred to the works of *Suryamal Mishran*, Charan literature, and traditional heroic narratives as invaluable components of Rajasthan’s heritage. He further underscored Bundi’s historic importance, citing its monuments, manuscripts, and the renowned **Bundi Chitrashala** as symbols of its rich cultural legacy. He stressed that both cultural and natural heritage must be preserved to prevent irreversible loss.

Senior INTACH Member Mr. Rajendra Bhardwaj spoke on Rajasthan’s celebrated painting traditions, noting that the **Bundi style of painting** is among the most distinguished art forms of the region. He emphasized that art, literature, language, and traditional attire are vital carriers of culture and must be safeguarded.

Mr. Mahendra Sharma Matunda, through folk songs, highlighted the need for grassroots efforts in conserving Bundi’s monuments and forest resources. He cautioned that several heritage structures are deteriorating due to neglect and called for immediate conservation measures.

Mr. Ashok Sharma stressed the importance of preserving both tangible and intangible heritage, advocating for proper documentation and conservation. A quiz competition was also organized, with prizes awarded to participants. Industrialist Mr. Aman Jindal addressed the gathering, while Dr. Pankaj Singh, Principal, expressed his gratitude to all participants and guests.

The programme concluded with the presentation of mementos by the INTACH Convener and Co-Convener, followed by a field visit to the **Matunda stepwell** and historic *chhatris* of the princely era.



*Workshop the Save Heritage Campaign – Bundi Chapter*

## Heritage Conservation Workshop – Arunima Nursing Institute, Bundi

The INTACH Bundi Chapter conducted another workshop on heritage conservation at **Arunima Nursing Institute, Bundi**, with enthusiastic participation from faculty members and nursing students.

Mr. Rajkumar Dadhich, Convener, highlighted Bundi's unique historical significance, drawing attention to its monuments, manuscripts, and the celebrated **Bundi Chitrashala**. He emphasized that heritage assets must be recognized and preserved, cautioning that neglect could lead to their permanent loss. He urged collective responsibility in safeguarding these resources.

Senior INTACH Member Mr. Nand Prakash Sharma Nanji spoke about Rajasthan's renowned painting traditions, particularly the **Bundi painting style**, and stressed the urgent need for its preservation. He noted that art, literature, language, and traditional attire are essential cultural carriers and must be protected from extinction.

Advocate Mr. Pankaj Dadhich highlighted the importance of community-level efforts in conserving Bundi's monuments and forest resources. He warned that many heritage structures are deteriorating due to lack of conservation and emphasized the need to protect both monuments and traditions.

Mr. Rajendra Bhardwaj, INTACH Convener, reiterated the importance of preserving both tangible and intangible heritage through systematic documentation and conservation efforts. INTACH members Mr. Anurag Sharma and Mr. Mahendra Sharma also addressed the gathering.

Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Principal of the institute, delivered the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the presentation of mementos by the INTACH Convener and Co-Convener in appreciation of the institution's support.



*Workshop on Heritage Conservation at Arunima Nursing Institute – Bundi Chapter*

## **Jhalawar**

### **1. Obituary: Mr. Ajay Kumar Jain**

Mr. Ajay Kumar Jain, Senior Advocate at the Rajasthan High Court and a Life Member of the INTACH Jhalawar Chapter (Membership No. L 2811), passed away suddenly in Jaipur on 19 January 2026.

Mr. Jain was an exceptional individual with a deep and abiding interest in the rich heritage of Jhalawar. His association with INTACH was marked by valuable guidance, insightful contributions, and unwavering support to the Chapter's activities.

In his memory, the INTACH Jhalawar Chapter organized a prayer meeting to pay tribute to his life and legacy. Convener Shri Rajpoot Sharma expressed heartfelt condolences and noted that while the Chapter had greatly benefited from Mr. Jain's wisdom and guidance, his untimely demise is an irreparable loss to the Jhalawar Chapter.



Mr. Jain's passing leaves a void that will be deeply felt by all who knew him. His contributions to heritage conservation and his association with INTACH will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

*Mr. Ajay Kumar Jain - Jhalawar Chapter*

2. The Mineral Department acted promptly by issuing a communication to the Soil Conservation Survey of India, which subsequently facilitated the Geological Survey of India in recognizing the site as a geo-heritage location. The site had already been included in INTACH's Geo-heritage List and is the only structure of its kind in Rajasthan. Earlier,



a signboard had also been installed at the site by the Mineral Department. The Chapter continues to remain in regular contact with senior officials to ensure that the site receives formal notification as a protected geo-heritage site.

The Chapter is also actively engaged in efforts to preserve the personal library of Pandit Girdhar Sharma Navratna, a distinguished poet and writer from the erstwhile Jhalawar State, recognizing its cultural and literary significance.

On 10 December 2025, Chapter members participated in a Poster Competition organized by the district administration at the World Heritage Site, Gagron Fort. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 5,000 students. Chapter members encouraged and guided the participants, fostering awareness about heritage conservation.

On 19 January 2026, Mr. Ajay Kumar Jain, a Life Member of the Chapter, passed away suddenly. A tribute meeting was organized in his memory, where members expressed deep condolences and observed that his untimely demise is an irreparable loss to the Chapter.

## **Jhunjhunu**

### **1. Formation and Initial Activities of INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter**

The INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter was established on 20 August 2025 and is thus a relatively new addition among INTACH Chapters.

The first meeting of the Chapter was held at Vivaana Museum Hotel, Nawalgarh, on 8 September 2025, with the participation of 22 members. The meeting focused on the preservation, conservation, and promotion of heritage in its broadest sense—encompassing not only monuments but also music, arts, crafts, and traditional cuisine.

On 15 September 2025, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan convened a meeting in Jaipur to discuss heritage-related issues. The INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter was represented by its Convener, Shri Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod.

## 2. Republic Day Honour: Recognition of Shri Atul Khanna

In a significant moment of recognition for heritage conservation in the Shekhawati region, Shri Atul Khanna – Governing Council Member, INTACH, and Co-Convener of the INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter – was honoured by the Government of Rajasthan during the Republic Day celebrations at Jhunjhunu.



The award was presented by District Collector Dr. Arun Garg in acknowledgment of Shri Khanna's sustained and meaningful contributions to heritage conservation, museum development, and tourism promotion in the region.

Shekhawati, renowned for its grand havelis, exquisite frescoes, and unique architectural character, represents one of India's richest cultural landscapes. Amid growing challenges posed by neglect and changing lifestyles, Shri Khanna's work has emerged as a committed effort to revive and sustain this legacy.

His conservation initiatives have contributed to the restoration and adaptive reuse of six historic havelis and a cenotaph across Mandawa, Nawalgarh, Mahansar, and Ramgarh. These efforts

have preserved architectural integrity, safeguarded mural traditions, and revitalized these sites as cultural landmarks.

A notable achievement is the establishment of the *Shekha Museum* in Nawalgarh, envisioned as a space celebrating Shekhawati's artistic and cultural heritage. The museum offers an immersive experience of the region's identity, presenting heritage as a living and evolving narrative.

Further strengthening these efforts, a new museum and cultural centre is currently under development in Ramgarh Shekhawati, envisioned as a hub for heritage interpretation, community engagement, and cultural programming.

This Republic Day recognition underscores the broader impact of heritage conservation – not only in preserving structures but also in sustaining cultural identity, supporting livelihoods, and fostering community pride.

## 3. Outreach, Awareness and Community Engagement Initiatives

The INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter has undertaken several initiatives to promote awareness and engagement in heritage conservation across the Shekhawati region.

Seminars on heritage conservation were successfully organised at Dundlod and Nawalgarh, with active participation from Chapter members, local citizens, NGOs, trusts, and other stakeholders.

Special emphasis was placed on involving school children, artisans, and tourist guides to ensure inclusive community participation. Distinguished members of the media, artists, guides, NGOs, and educational institutions were felicitated for their contributions to heritage awareness and conservation.

Interactive sessions were conducted to sensitise participants about the importance of safeguarding both tangible and intangible heritage. These were complemented by heritage walks and community lunches, fostering dialogue and collaboration.

A cultural evening titled *Sur Sandhya* was organised at Ramayan Chattri, featuring live performances of sitar, tabla, and violin, creating a deeper emotional connection with traditional arts.

Educational initiatives such as *Virasat Ki Pathshala* have also been conducted to engage school children and instil awareness, sensitivity, and responsibility towards heritage from an early age.

The organisation of these programmes involved significant logistical and cultural expenditures, amounting to approximately ₹1-1.5 lakh, which were managed at a personal level to ensure their successful execution.

The Chapter remains committed to INTACH's vision and seeks continued guidance and support from the central body to sustain and expand these meaningful initiatives.

#### **4. Inauguration of INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter**

The formal inauguration of the INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter on 7 January 2026 at Dundlod Fort marked a major milestone in the cultural landscape of the Shekhawati region.

The event commenced with the ceremonial arrival of the Dundlod Horse Cavalry, setting a regal tone that reflected the region's rich heritage.

The occasion was graced by distinguished dignitaries including Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, Chairman, INTACH; Dr. Arun Garg, District Collector, Jhunjhunu; and Shri Devendra Singh Chaudhary, Assistant Director, Rajasthan Tourism, along with heritage professionals and stakeholders.

In his address, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur emphasized that heritage conservation extends beyond preserving structures to safeguarding identity, craftsmanship, and collective memory. He assured continued support to the Chapter.

Convener Shri Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod highlighted the urgent need to preserve Shekhawati's iconic havelis and raised concerns regarding the deterioration of handwritten manuscripts, advocating for their digitization.

He also introduced a community-driven initiative inviting citizens to serve as "*Virasat Prahari*" (Heritage Guardians), encouraging public participation in monitoring and protecting heritage assets.

Shri Atul Khanna, Co-Convener, stressed the importance of engaging youth in heritage conservation and proposed expanding *Virasat Ki Pathshala* in collaboration with schools.

Dr. Arun Garg underscored Jhunjhunu's significance as a region with a high concentration of havelis, noting its importance for tourism and sustainable development.

The event also included the felicitation of artists, guides, hoteliers, and journalists for their contributions to heritage promotion.

A heritage walk, community lunch, and the cultural programme *Sur Sandhya* enriched the occasion, fostering a shared sense of cultural pride.

A significant highlight of the day was the inauguration of the *Shekha Museum* at Nawalgarh by the Chairman, INTACH, along with other dignitaries.

The inauguration of the INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter thus marked not just the beginning of an institutional presence, but the emergence of a collective movement—rooted in tradition, driven by community participation, and committed to preserving the timeless heritage of Shekhawati.



*The inauguration of the INTACH Jhunjhunu Chapter – Jhunjhunu Chapter*

## **Jodhpur**

### **1. State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025**

The State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 was successfully आयोजित in Rajasthan, bringing together regional winners from Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Bewar, Balotra, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Karauli, Sirohi, Jaipur, and Udaipur Chapters.

Kritika Jindal and Keshav Garg from the Jaipur Chapter (Cambridge Court World School) were declared the State Winners. Ishant Chaturvedi and Poorvi Chaturvedi from the Karauli Chapter (Lok Hitakari Senior Secondary School) secured the First Runners-up position, while Tamanna Singh and Anvi Agarwal from the Bewar Chapter (Bangar Public School) were declared Second Runners-up.

The competition was held at Chokelao Palace, Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur, and was conducted in four engaging rounds covering history, art, culture, and general knowledge of India and Rajasthan.

The Chief Guest, Mrs. Aditi Purohit, Deputy Commissioner, Jodhpur Development Authority, addressed the participants and advised students to limit their use of social media and focus more on educational and developmental activities for better psychological growth. She also highlighted the growing concern of mobile addiction among youth and its adverse effects, while congratulating all participants for their achievement in reaching the state level.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convener, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, who highlighted INTACH's contributions towards heritage conservation, environmental protection, and the preservation of India's rich cultural legacy.

Certificates and mementos were presented by Col. Ajay Singh Shekhawat, Administrative Officer, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, along with Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar and Co-Conveners Shri Bhagirath Vaishnav and Shri Pradeep Soni.

The quiz was conducted by Dr. Vimlesh Rathore. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Convener. The competition served as an enriching platform, offering valuable insights into India's history, literature, culture, and architecture to students, teachers, and parents alike.



*State-Level INTACH Heritage Quiz Competition 2025 – Jodhpur Chapter*

## **2. INTACH Heritage Week Exhibition – Jodhpur**

As part of INTACH Heritage Week (19-25 November), the INTACH Jodhpur Chapter organized an exhibition titled “Mahamandir Baoli Restoration and the Heritage of Jodhpur City” during the Kitabo Festival held on 21-22 November 2025.

The exhibition was hosted at Neerja Modi School, Shikargarh, Jodhpur, under the guidance of Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Convener, INTACH Jodhpur Chapter.

The exhibition showcased the restoration work of the historic Mahamandir Baoli (stepwell), along with other significant heritage elements of Jodhpur, including traditional jhalaras (stepwells), the historic walled city, and the iconic Clock Tower.

The exhibition received an overwhelming response from visitors. More than 3,000 students from Neerja Modi School and other institutions, along with festival attendees, visited the exhibition and appreciated its informative and engaging presentation. The initiative played a significant role in raising awareness about heritage conservation among the younger generation and the wider community.



*Exhibition titled “Mahamandir Baoli Restoration and the Heritage of Jodhpur City – Jodhpur Chapter*

## **Sawai Madhopur**

The INTACH Sawai Madhopur Chapter organized a heritage walk with the participation of approximately 120 students from various schools. The walk commenced from the Galta Temple, located in the historic old city of Sawai Madhopur.

During the walk, students visited nearly 13 prominent historical sites, gaining valuable insights into their cultural, historical, and architectural significance. To support awareness and documentation, the Chapter also distributed informative handbills on these heritage sites.

The initiative aimed to connect the younger generation with their city's rich heritage and instill a sense of responsibility towards its conservation. Experts accompanying the walk provided detailed briefings on local history, architectural styles, and cultural traditions. INTACH Chapter Convener Shri Padam Khatri emphasized that such activities not only enhance awareness among students but also inspire pride in their cultural heritage. He further noted that these initiatives contribute meaningfully to promoting tourism in Sawai Madhopur.

Shri Dilip Sharma of the School Education Council remarked that the students found the experience both engaging and educational. Notably, a group of British tourists also visited several of the sites during the walk, gaining insights into the region's archaeological and cultural heritage.

The heritage walk concluded with a community meal at Gopalji Temple. Convener Shri Hanuman Sharma extended a vote of thanks to all participants and supporters. Members of the Chapter, including Shri Gordhan Kumawat, Shri Mukut Bihari Gupta, Shri Mohan Lal Sharma, Shri Ramji Lal Meena, Shri Lekhraj Singh, Smt. Sangeeta Khatri, Smt. Chanchal Gupta, and Smt. Meera Agarwal, actively contributed to the successful organized of the event.



*Heritage Walk – Sawai Madhopur*

## **Nagaur**

### **1. Environmental Awareness through Folk Art at Ramdev Livestock Fair, Nagaur**

During the Ramdev Livestock Fair held on 22 January 2026 in Nagaur, a unique and creative initiative drew widespread attention towards environmental conservation. A local livestock rearer used a camel as a medium to spread awareness about protecting the Aravalli mountain range—one of India’s oldest and most ecologically significant landscapes.



Adorned with traditional Usta art, the camel bore powerful messages such as “Save Aravalli”, along with references to Amrita Devi, a symbol of sacrifice for environmental conservation, and Veer Tejaji, a revered folk hero of Rajasthan. Artistic depictions associated with these iconic figures beautifully connected cultural heritage with the cause of environmental protection.

This innovative effort not only highlighted the urgent need to conserve the Aravalli range but also showcased Rajasthan’s rich folk art traditions. The uniquely decorated camel became a major attraction at the fair, capturing the attention of tourists and visitors while effectively conveying a meaningful message about environmental responsibility.

## 2. Educational Heritage Visit by INTACH Heritage Club, Nagaur

On 24 January 2026, students of the INTACH Heritage Club at Danial Mayo High School undertook an educational visit to two significant heritage sites in Nagaur, Rajasthan—the Veer Amar Singh Rathore Cenotaph and the Amar Singh Panorama.



The visit was organized with the objective of sensitizing students to India’s rich cultural heritage, local history, and the importance of conservation. The cenotaph stands as a proud memorial to Veer Amar Singh Rathore, symbolizing bravery, sacrifice, and Rajput valour, while the Amar Singh Panorama presents a vivid account of his life and heroic deeds through visual exhibits and historical narratives.

During the visit, students closely observed the architectural features of the cenotaph and gained insights into its historical significance. At the panorama, they developed a deeper understanding of the socio-political context of the region and the contributions of local heroes in shaping Rajasthan’s legacy.

The visit proved to be an enriching and experiential learning opportunity, enabling students to connect classroom knowledge with lived history. Such initiatives by the INTACH Heritage Club play a vital role in fostering heritage awareness, patriotism, and a sense of responsibility among young learners towards preserving India's invaluable cultural assets.

## Udaipur

### 1. Educational Assembly & Nukkad Natak (10 November 2025)

Central Academy School, Sardarpura, in collaboration with the INTACH Heritage Club, organized an informative assembly on the Election Commission. Students actively participated and presented a *Nukkad Natak*, demonstrating their understanding of the electoral process and civic responsibilities.



NUKKAD NATAK – Udaipur Chapter

### 2. Educational & Historical Visit (14 November 2025)

Students of Central Academy School, Sardarpura undertook an educational visit to Eklingji Temple, Indrasarovar Lake, and Sahastra Bahu Temple.

- The visit provided valuable insights into:
- The spiritual and architectural significance of Eklingji Temple
- Ecological importance of lakes at Indrasarovar

Architectural richness and history of Sahastra Bahu Temple

The experience enhanced students' understanding of Mewar's heritage, culture, and environment.



Educational visit to Eklingji Temple, Indrasarovar Lake, and Sahastra Bahu Temple – Udaipur Chapter

### 3. Educational Visit to Doodh Talai Garden (17 November 2025)

Fine Arts students of Rockwoods High School visited Doodh Talai Garden during the Mewar Heritage Festival. The visit focused on spatial understanding, scaling, and architectural observation. Students also learned about the cultural relevance of the site in Udaipur's heritage landscape.



*Educational Visit to Doodh Talai Garden – Udaipur Chapter*

### 4. Poster Making & Slogan Writing Competition (21 November 2025)

A competition on "Mewar Heritage" was organized at Central Academy School with participation from over 250 students. The activity encouraged creativity while sensitizing students about the importance of preserving regional heritage.





Poster making & Slogan writing competition – Udaipur Chapter

### 5. Heritage Week Celebrations (22 November 2025)

A special assembly themed “Mewar Heritage” was आयोजित at Central Academy, Sardarpura.

Highlights included:

- Students in traditional attire
- Speeches and shlokas in Mewari
- Cultural presentations emphasizing heritage conservation



Celebrates Heritage Week – Udaipur Chapter

5. Central Academy, Sardarpura, in collaboration with INTACH Heritage Club, organized a solemn assembly to commemorate the Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Students paid their respects through prayers and hymns, reflecting on the Guru's teachings and legacy.

Quiz Competition: "Mewar Heritage"

A quiz competition on "Mewar Heritage" was organized, featuring teams from 6 to 8 classes. Students showcased their knowledge of Mewar's rich cultural heritage, history, and significance.

### Key Highlights

- Teams Participation\*: Students actively participated, demonstrating their understanding of Mewar's heritage.

INTACH Heritage Club\*: The club's involvement emphasized the importance of preserving local heritage.

The event successfully honored Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's martyrdom while promoting awareness about Mewar's heritage among students. The quiz competition fostered teamwork and knowledge-sharing, aligning with the academy's commitment to holistic education.



### Quiz Competition: "Mewar Heritage" – Udaipur Chapter

6. Awareness Rally for the Protection of the Aravalli Range – Vivekanand Kendriya Vidhalaya- Rishabdev - an awareness rally was organized on 24 December 2025 with the objective of spreading awareness among the public about the conservation of the Aravalli mountain range and the importance of environmental protection.

The main aim of the rally was to create awareness among students and the general public about the protection of the Aravalli range, maintaining environmental balance, and conserving natural resources. The rally was flagged off by the respected Principal of the school.

Students participated in the rally with great enthusiasm. They carried posters, banners, and placards related to environmental conservation and conveyed messages of public awareness. Through inspiring slogans such as "Save Aravalli," "Plant Trees – Save the Environment," and "Protect Water, Forests, and Land," a strong message of environmental conservation was delivered to society.

The awareness rally was successfully conducted and proved to be significant in creating positive awareness among the masses towards environmental protection. This initiative taken by the student members of the Heritage Club was commendable and reflected their commitment towards the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.



*Awareness Rally for the Protection of the Aravalli Range – Udaipur Chapter*

7. On 12 January 2026, the INTACH Heritage Club organized the celebration of Vivekananda Jayanti and National Youth Day at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Rishabhdev, in a joyful and inspiring atmosphere. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among students about the thoughts and ideals of Swami Vivekananda and to highlight the vital role of youth in nation-building.

On this occasion, students presented an impressive short play based on the life and messages of Swami Vivekananda, portraying his inspirational thoughts, self-confidence, spirit of service, and patriotism. This was followed by an awareness rally conducted within the school campus and nearby areas, during which students motivated the youth through slogans and messages promoting positive thinking, discipline, and social service. Students also presented captivating dance performances that vividly reflected the ideals of Swami Vivekananda. All the performances greatly impressed the audience.

At the conclusion of the programme, the school administration and teachers encouraged students to adopt Swami Vivekananda's teachings in their lives and to become responsible and aware citizens. The entire programme concluded successfully in a highly motivating and inspirational environment.



### *Celebration of Vivekananda Jayanti and National Youth Day – Udaipur Chapter*

8. Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir - Students of the INTACH Club, Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir actively participated in spot poster making and quiz competitions organized during the 12th Edition of the Udaipur Bird Festival on 16 January 2025 at Menar, Udaipur.

The competitions were based on the theme “Happy Birds and Green Earth”, aiming to create awareness about bird conservation, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability. The students enthusiastically expressed their ideas through creative posters highlighting the importance of protecting birds and preserving green ecosystems. The quiz competition tested their knowledge about bird species, habitats, wetlands, and environmental conservation.

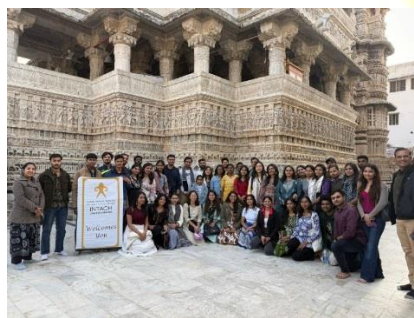
Participation in this prestigious festival provided students with an excellent learning opportunity beyond the classroom. It helped them develop environmental awareness, creativity and confidence.



*Poster making and quiz competitions – Udaipur Chapter*

9. 16 January 2025 at Menar, Udaipur - An interview with Dev Menaria (Udaipur) an actor and producer of film Bihu attack Movie which is released today on 16 January 2025 by President of INTACH Club Maharana Mewar Vidya Mandir, the movie Bihu Attack is deeply rooted in Indian culture, specifically the vibrant traditions of Assam

10. 21 Jan 2026 - Heritagae Walk for School of Planning Architecture, Delhi Students – 43 Students of PG Urban Planning from SPA Delhi, & 6 from Verve – The School of Design & Vastu Udaipur Came for Research, Study to Develop Master Plan. Integration Heritage into to Master Plan was one of the Feature. LM Manish Shrimali, Gaurav Singhvi & LM Priyanka Vaishnav were present. Students were taken to Jagdish Temple, Gangaur Ghat, Shiv Temple, of Old City, Nahuman Bridge, And other Ghats and different Lanes of Old City.



*Heritagae Walk for School of Planning Architecture – Udaipur Chapter*

11. 23 Jan 2026 – Basant Panchmi Celebration - Vasant Panchmi was celebrated in Seedling Modern Public school under the aegis of the INTACH Heritage Club with great enthusiasm and cultural spirit.

The celebration was organized during the morning assembly, in which around 200 students participated. The programme aimed to make students aware of the cultural and heritage significance of Vasant Panchmi, which marks the arrival of spring and is dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, art, and wisdom.

Students actively took part in various activities such as classical dance performances, poem narration, melodious songs, and informative talks highlighting the importance of the festival and its relevance in Indian culture. The performances reflected devotion, creativity, and respect for our rich heritage. The program successfully fulfilled the objective of the INTACH Club by promoting awareness about Indian traditions and encouraging student participation in cultural activities.



*Basant Panchmi Celebration – Udaipur Chapter*

12. On 23 January 2026, Basant Panchami was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Vivekananda Kendriya Vidyalaya, Rishabhdev under the aegis of the INTACH Heritage Club. The main objective of the programme was to inculcate respect and devotion among students towards Indian culture, traditions, and Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana in front of the portrait of Goddess Saraswati. This was followed by inspiring poems, graceful dance performances, and meaningful speeches presented by the students highlighting the significance of Basant Panchami. Through their performances, students beautifully conveyed the message of the spring season, knowledge, art, and culture. Teachers and students of the school participated enthusiastically in the programme. At the end, the school administration appreciated the efforts of all participating students and wished them a bright future. The programme proved to be successful in promoting cultural awareness and creative expression among the students.

13. 23 January 2026 - Basant Panchami " As spring blooms in nature, let learning and creativity bloom within you."

The auspicious celebration of Basant Panchami's started with these words of a blessings. The INTACH Heritage Club of Rockwoods High School celebrated Basant Panchami to promote awareness of India's cultural and intangible heritage. The programme began with a Saraswati Vandana, followed by brief student presentations on the cultural significance of the festival.

An interactive session was conducted to highlight Basant Panchami's connection with Indian traditions, art, music, and the arrival of spring. Students were sensitised to the importance of preserving cultural practices as part of heritage conservation.

The celebration reflected the objectives of the INTACH Heritage Club by combining festivity with heritage education. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

**14. Rockwoods School Hosts Grand INTACH Mewar Heritage Fair Udaipur.** A grand **INTACH Mewar Heritage Fair** was organized under the joint aegis of Rockwoods School and INTACH. Students brought Rajasthan's rich heritage and folk culture to life through engaging and vibrant performances. The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, INTACH Chairman Mr. Ashok Singh Thakur. Guests were welcomed with a traditional Mewari turban, scarf, and memento. School Director Dr. Deepak Sharma delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of preserving Mewar's cultural heritage. Mr. Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH Udaipur Chapter also lauded the students for their efforts. Following this, the Chief Guest, Mrs. Alka Sharma, Patron of the Institute, along with the jury, inaugurated the school's newsletter, "**Nidhidarpan.**"

The guests and judges toured all the installations displayed in the Heritage Garden.

The fair's main attractions included presentations highlighting Rajasthan's cultural, natural, and built heritage. Students from various schools showcased performances such as **Jal Sanjhi**, **Kalbelia**, **Gavari dance of the Bhil community**, **Phad and Pichwai storytelling**, **Tehar Taal**, **puppet shows**, **Kachhi Ghori**, **Ghoomar**, **Jal Dharohar**, and a drama based on the brave horse **Chetak**. These performances were met with widespread appreciation from the audience.

The program concluded with the presentation of awards to the winners and a vote of thanks to all collaborators for their support.



*INTACH Mewar Heritage Fair – Udaipur Chapter*

### 15. INTACH-MLSU Initiative: Centuries-Old Textile Embellishment Art Revived by Young Hands

Udaipur, November 18–20, 2025. Under the aegis of Heritage Week, the Department of Fashion Technology & Design at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, in collaboration with the INTACH Udaipur Chapter, organized a three-day **Textile Heritage Workshop**. The program aimed to promote the preservation of India's vanishing textile arts and embellishment techniques by connecting them with the younger generation.

Addressing the participants, Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH Udaipur Chapter stated that initiatives like Heritage Week not only help preserve traditional crafts but also breathe new life into local craft traditions.

A total of 25 participants took part in the workshop. Artist Sophia Jaipuri conducted practical sessions, providing hands-on training in age-old techniques such as Gota Patti, cutwork, and liquid embroidery.

During the theoretical sessions, Dr. Mamta Kavadia and Anu Jain highlighted the importance of textile heritage preservation, the challenges faced by artisans, and the relevance of traditional techniques in the modern market.

Department Head Dr. Dolly Mogra elaborated on methods for the safe storage, care, and preservation of antique textiles while maintaining their authenticity.

Over the three-day workshop, students created table runners, bags, kurtas, neckpieces, and other small textile items using traditional techniques. Through these creations, they learned how to blend ancient textile traditions with modern designs, applications, and livelihood opportunities, thereby contributing to the preservation of this rich heritage.

On the concluding day, Chhavi Vyas evaluated the participants' work and offered valuable guidance on contemporary presentation techniques. The workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates.

Throughout the event, special emphasis was placed on the urgent need to safeguard traditional textile and embellishment techniques that are gradually disappearing. It was highlighted that only the collective efforts of educational institutions and artisan communities can ensure the preservation of this invaluable heritage for future generations.

### **16. Endangered Craft Workshop – Faagnia (5 February 2026, Udaipur)**

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Udaipur Chapter,



successfully organized an Endangered Craft Workshop on *Tie & Dye (Faagnia)* on 5 February 2026 at Seedling Modern Public School, Udaipur. The initiative was aimed at promoting awareness about India's endangered art and craft traditions among school students.

The workshop was conducted under the guidance of Shri Gaurav Singhvi, Convener, INTACH Udaipur Region. A total of 13 reputed schools from Udaipur participated,

with five students from each institution, making it a vibrant inter-school heritage engagement.

The technical sessions were led by Ms. Annu Jain, Faculty, Department of Fashion Technology, Mohanlal Sukhadia University (MLSU), Udaipur. Students were introduced to traditional tie-and-dye techniques such as folding, twisting, tying, and dipping. The hands-on workshop enabled participants to understand the artistic, cultural, and technical aspects of indigenous textile practices while encouraging creativity, patience, and experimentation.

A highlight of the programme was a colourful ramp walk on the "Faagnia" theme, presented by the Seedlites, which added festive vibrancy and showcased the students' creations.

During the event, outstanding members of the Heritage Club, Seedling Modern Public School, were recognised for their contributions:



Nirvi Jain received the *Heritage Excellence Award* and was also honoured with the *Heritage Beacon Award* for the second time.

Adit Porwal was conferred the *Rising Heritage Star Award*.

Jiya Nebhnani received the *Pride of Heritage Club Award* for her dedication and active participation.

The workshop successfully fulfilled INTACH's objective of sensitising young

learners towards India's rich cultural heritage and the need to preserve endangered crafts.

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### **Introduction: Understanding Faagnia**

Faagnia (or Fagnia) is a traditional textile associated with the festive month of *Phagun* and the celebration of Holi. Typically worn as a sari, it is distinguished by intricate *Bandhani* (tie-and-dye) patterns, where portions of the fabric are resist-tied and dyed in vibrant shades of red while other sections remain white.



The striking contrast of red and white symbolises festivity, joy, and cultural vitality. The workshop introduced participants to both the cultural context and the technical processes involved in creating this traditional textile form.

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### **Materials and Techniques**

#### **Fabrics Used:**

Cotton voile

Georgette

Silk

Chiffon

#### **Tying Materials:**

Cotton threads

Grains (used as support for uniform tying, especially for beginners)

#### **Dyeing Materials:**

Fabric dyes (as per fabric type)

Polythene sheets (for resist areas)

Dye fixer

Water and salt



The primary technique explored was *Bandhani*, a traditional resist-dyeing method involving precise tying to create patterns.

## Process of Making Faagnia

### Fabric Preparation

The fabric was washed thoroughly to remove starch and impurities, then dried completely.

### Design Development

Patterns were drawn or traced, typically incorporating borders and central motifs.

### Bandhani Tying

The fabric was tied carefully along the design using cotton threads. Grains were used to assist beginners in achieving uniform knots.

### Dye Bath Preparation

Suitable dyes were prepared:

Direct dyes for cotton

Acid dyes for silk

A 1-2% dye concentration (of fabric weight) with a 1:2 ratio of pink to red was used.

### Dye Mixing

Dye was dissolved in warm water and then added to heated water, ensuring a smooth and even solution.

### Selective Dyeing

Portions to remain white were wrapped in polythene

Exposed sections were dyed

Fabric was immersed and stirred for approximately 2 minutes

### Fixing the Dye

Salt was added to the dye bath and the fabric was further processed for 2-3 minutes.

### Drying and Fixer Treatment

The fabric was dried and then treated with a dye fixer solution.

### Final Reveal

After drying, the ties were opened to reveal the final red-and-white patterned Faagnia textile.



## Learning Outcomes

The workshop provided participants with both conceptual understanding and practical experience. Key takeaways included:

Awareness of the cultural significance of Faagnia and its association with Holi

## Hands-on knowledge of Bandhani and resist dyeing techniques



Understanding material selection and dye compatibility

Skills in controlled dyeing and pattern creation

Appreciation for the precision, patience, and craftsmanship involved in traditional textiles

The final outputs reflected a balance of creativity and adherence to traditional aesthetics, enabling students to connect meaningfully with an age-old craft while developing artistic and technical skills.

## Tamil Nadu

### Salem

### Salem Cultural Fest 2026

The Salem Cultural Fest 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 25 January 2026, showcasing a vibrant blend of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural practices.



As part of the festivities, a traditional *Kolam Competition* and a *Flower Braiding Workshop* were organized, encouraging participants to engage with time-honoured customs. In addition, a variety of workshops on traditional art and craft forms were conducted, including Tanjore painting, floral crafts and decoration, pottery, pottery painting, and traditional Mehendi.

A unique highlight of the fest was the organisation of a traditional *Shandy* (local market), where children actively participated by setting up their own stalls. They sold home-grown vegetables and homemade traditional food

items, gaining hands-on experience while celebrating indigenous practices.

The event also featured a wide range of traditional games such as spinning top, marbles,



Ludo, Pallankuzhi, five stones, kite flying, pot breaking, and running with cycle tyres. These activities created an engaging and joyful atmosphere, allowing children to connect with traditional forms of play.

The festival witnessed an encouraging footfall, and children participated with great enthusiasm throughout the day. The overarching message of the event was the importance of preserving and promoting our cultural heritage.

Special emphasis was placed on sustainability and environmental responsibility. Children created cloth banners themselves to avoid the use of plastic. The event was conducted as a zero-waste initiative—no plastic was used, and no solid waste was generated. Even at food stalls, only eco-friendly leaf cups were used, which were later sent for composting.

This thoughtful approach reflected a strong commitment towards protecting not only cultural heritage but also natural heritage, making the Salem Cultural Fest 2026 a meaningful and impactful celebration.



Salem Cultural Fest 2026 – Salem Chapter

## Coimbatore

### LitTales 2026: Children’s Literary and Cultural Festival

**Date:** 19–20 January 2026

**Venue:** Vivekalaya’s Prakriya International School, Coimbatore

**Organisers:** INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, The Verandah Club, and Vivekalaya’s Prakriya International School

**Presided by:** Shri S. Jaganathan, Convener, INTACH Coimbatore Chapter

**Participation:** Over 2,000 students from 25 schools

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### Introduction & Objective

The third edition of *LitTales 2026*, India’s premier children’s literary and cultural festival, was successfully organised by the INTACH Coimbatore Chapter in collaboration with The Verandah Club and Vivekalaya’s Prakriya International School.



The central objective of this edition was to move beyond the conventional format of a literary festival and reimagine it as a dynamic platform for **Heritage Education**. By embedding India’s civilizational narratives into the festival framework, the event aimed to sensitise young minds to their *Itihasa*, oral traditions, and the architectural and cultural legacy of Coimbatore.

The campus was transformed into a vibrant “living museum of stories,” fostering cultural empathy and historical awareness among participants.

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## Heritage Immersion

The 2026 edition witnessed an unprecedented scale, with participation from over 2,000 students representing 25 institutions. Designed as an immersive “cultural carnival,” the festival encouraged students to actively engage with heritage rather than passively observe. Through interactive sessions and experiential learning modules, children explored India’s rich folklore, traditions, and ecological imagination.

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### Key Highlights

#### 1. Bharat Bodh Quiz

The *Bharat Bodh Quiz*, conducted by IndiYatra, marked a departure from conventional quiz formats by adopting a high-energy, collaborative approach. The quiz tested participants on Indian civilizational knowledge, including iconic personalities, historical milestones, and cultural geography. The engaging final rounds witnessed enthusiastic participation and served as an effective medium for heritage awareness.

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#### 2. ‘Snapshot’: Coimbatore’s Heritage Through Young Eyes

A signature initiative of the INTACH Chapter, the *‘Snapshot’ Photography Competition* encouraged students to document Coimbatore’s tangible heritage.

Notable themes captured included:

- The ancient temple architecture of Perur Temple and Marudhamalai
- The vibrant life of the Coimbatore Flower Market
- Colonial-era buildings and local street heritage

Winning entries were awarded, and a curated exhibition showcased these works, reinforcing the importance of conservation through youthful perspectives.

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#### 3. Heritage Capsules and Demonstrations

Specially curated **Heritage Capsules** served as experiential learning hubs:

- **Heritage Game Rooms:** Revival and practice of traditional Indian games
- **Heritage Movie Rooms:** Screenings of films on Indian history and mythology
- **Art & Demonstration Rooms:** Live showcases of traditional crafts and artistic techniques

These capsules provided hands-on exposure to India’s diverse cultural traditions.

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#### Performance Arts: The Oral Tradition

Recognising storytelling as a vital carrier of intangible heritage, the festival hosted parallel sessions across multiple arenas featuring traditional performance forms:

- **Villupaatu:** The classical “bow song” narrating epic tales
  - **Bommalattam:** Traditional puppetry bringing ancient stories to life
-

Performances by children of the Anaadi Foundation added depth and authenticity, seamlessly weaving narratives from India's cultural past.

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### Endangered Art and Craft Workshop

A dedicated workshop on endangered art forms highlighted the urgent need for preservation of traditional crafts. Under the guidance of Smt. Shakkeela Manoj, students were introduced to intricate art forms such as **Gond Art**.

The workshop emphasised:

- Use of natural materials
- Indigenous techniques
- Cultural narratives embedded in craft traditions

This hands-on experience enabled participants to appreciate the significance of safeguarding these practices for future generations.

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### National Poster Making Competition

The **INTACH National Poster Making Competition** invited students to creatively interpret the theme "*Natural Heritage*."

Participants explored diverse perspectives beyond monuments, resulting in visually compelling artworks that reflected both environmental awareness and cultural understanding. The competition underscored the role of creative expression in strengthening heritage education.

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### Conclusion

The successful execution of *LitTales 2026* was the result of seamless collaboration between the INTACH Coimbatore Chapter, The Verandah Club, and the academic leadership of Vivekalaya's Prakriya International School. From planning and logistics to programme execution and safety measures, every aspect was managed with precision.

Shri S. Jaganathan, along with senior members of INTACH, actively engaged with participants and observed the proceedings.

The festival concluded on a note of lasting impact, leaving participants with a sense of cultural enrichment and engagement. It reaffirmed the idea that heritage is not merely a subject of the past but a living tradition to be experienced and celebrated.

The organisers now look forward to the fourth edition, with the promise of deeper engagement with India's rich cultural and civilizational heritage.



*Children's Literary and Cultural Festival – Coimbatore Chapter*

## Nagercoil

### 1. Commemoration of the 50th National Tourism Day A Heritage Tour to Porunai Archaeological Museum on 23.1.2026 From Excavation to Exhibition

To Commemorate the 50th National Tourism Day which falls on 25th January, INTACH,



Nagercoil Chapter under the leadership of the Convener Mrs. Anitha Natarajan organized a one day trip to Porunai Archaeological Museum located at Rediarpatti in Tirunelveli District. It is built at an area of 13 acres with a built up area of 55,000 sq.ft at the budget of 56.36 crores and recently it was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri. M. K. Stalin.

Archaeological investigations at Porunai with scientific analysis of the materials unearthed have coached Tamil Nadu's rich and diverse heritage in a broader perspective, lending to new depth to the understanding of early Tamil history.

Carbon dating of artefacts received from the sites places them between 6th century BCE and the 1st century BCE.

The Porunai Museum showcases artefacts obtained from the excavation at Sivagalai,



Korkai and Adichanallur. These archaeological sites in the Porunai river valley (new Thamiraparani) contribute significantly to the region's cultural heritage, social life and historical evolution. The Museum features a 5 D Theatre and a 7 D boat simulators depicting ancient maritime trade, pearl harvesting giving us the goosebump moments. There are more than 33,000 artefacts highlighting early Tamil literacy and metallurgical practices. One more significance of the museum is that there are very many apt

couplets or lines from ancient Sangam positioned, showing the rich literary heritage.



*50<sup>th</sup> National Tourism Day A Heritage Tour to Porunai Archaeological Museum – Nagercoil Chapter*

It also displays underwater finds, including ship rock materials, lead ingots and Roman Pottery, pointing ancient trade limits with Rome, China and Southeast Asia. We could see aligned burnt – brick walls, covered drainage of terracotta pipes etc.



*Cross-section of the Excavation Site – Nagercoil Chapter*

We visited the excavation site at Adichanallur. There are hundreds of terracotta urns, where the cross section of the excavation sites are left open for us to understand how they buried the dead. They had buried the dead ones with grains in smaller pots, resembling or signifying their belief like Egyptians. This site visit complemented our museum tour, providing a deeper understanding of the region’s historical significance. Mrs. Anitha Natarajan, Convener, INTACH, It was a great opportunity for me as the Convener of the Chapter to have organized such an amazing trip to see and learn about our history and ancient archaeological heritage. It is a milestone achievement of the Tamil Nadu Government to have come up with this historic project and establish the findings scientifically.

It was a well participated heritage tour with 19 of our members which include Mr. Chenthee Natarajan, Mr. Abraham Lincoln, Mr. G. Nagendran, Mr. Faizal, Mr. Nagarajan, Mr. Edwin Gladson, Mr. Thiruthamildevanar, Mrs. Mary Devanar, Mr. Premdhas, Mr. Pasumal Shahul, Dr. U. Arunachalam, Dr. Shunmuga Kumar, Mrs. Latha Ramaswamy, Mrs. Lalith Laxmi, Mrs. Suba Raamanathan, Mrs. Sumana Suresh, Mrs. N. Neela Bai and a few guests, including researchers.

## 2. Heritage Manikka Mala at Thovalai on 31.1.2026

INTACH Nagercoil Chapter organised a visit with a group of members under the leadership of the Convener Mrs. Anitha Natarajan, to Thovalai to witness and experience the traditional Manikka Malai, a unique floral art form that has recently received a Geographical indication (GI) tag. Manikka Malai, meaning a garland of rubies, is a living heritage that has been passed down through six generations and remains vibrant.



The Thovalai Manikka Malai is a specialized, generational craft that represents a distinct cultural, historical, and artistic heritage. Its key heritage values include ancient traditional craft and artistry, cultural and temple significance and unique materials and techniques. We met Ms. Vanitha Sree, the sixth-generation artisan actively engaged in this traditional craft, and it was a privilege to learn about its history and technique. The technique, invented by her forefather, six generations ago, an artisan Palani Pandaram about 150 to 180 years ago, is now practiced by around 50 families, making it both a tangible and intangible art form. We also visited the Thovalai Flower Market.



The Thovalai Manikka Malai is a traditional floral garland from the village of Thovalai in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.



*Thovalai Manikka Malai - A traditional floral garland – Nagercoil Chapter*

It officially received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in April 2025.

**Key Characteristics Meaning:** The name translates to “Garland of Rubies”.

**Appearance and Technique:** Artisans use a unique folding and knitting technique that makes the flowers resemble precious gemstones or rubies.

**Materials:** It is handcrafted using red and white oleander (Nerium) flowers, roses, and green Nocchi (chaste tree) leaves. These are woven together using natural Chamba fiber, a long grass found near local waterbodies,

**Design:** Unlike typical tube-shaped and arranged in multiple rows (usually five, but up to twenty for special events). Their length can vary from 1 foot to over 24 feet.

**Historical & Cultural Significance Royal Origin:** The craft dates back over 150 years and was pioneered by Palani Pandaram. It gained prominence under the Travancore Kings, Specifically Maharaja Chithira Thirunal, who was so impressed by the ruby – like appearance that he gave the craft its name.

**Religious Use:** For approximately 146 years, these garlands have been an essential part of the annual 10- day festival and Makar Sankranti at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.



*Visit to Thovalai to witness and experience the traditional Manikka Malai – Nagercoil Chapter*

## Salem

### “Tree of Life” Poster Competition – Salem

The INTACH Salem Chapter organised a “Tree of Life” Poster Competition on 13 February 2026 at Sri Vidya Mandir HSS, Anandasharma, Salem. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from **110 students of Classes VII-IX representing 10 schools**. Dr. Nadanasabapathi, a noted orthopaedical surgeon, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and spoke on the cultural and ecological significance of trees. Miss Pranitha, a regional winner of the *Celebrating India Poster Competition* whose artwork featured in the INTACH Calendar 2026, attended as Guest of Honour and delivered an inspiring address to participants.

The event promoted environmental awareness alongside creative expression. In keeping with sustainable practices, the programme was conducted without plastic or non-biodegradable materials, using cloth banners and ensuring minimal waste generation.



*Tree of Life Poster Competition – Salem Chapter*

## Uttar Pradesh

### Ayodhya

Preserving Cultural Heritage through the ‘Kan-Kan Mein Ram’ Programme

**Ayodhya, 14 December 2025**

The 'Kan-Kan Mein Ram' programme was आयोजित at the J.B. Academy auditorium under the aegis of the INTACH Ayodhya Chapter, with the objective of reaffirming cultural values and promoting awareness about the preservation of India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.



The programme was graced by **Acharya Mithileshnandini Sharan Ji Maharaj** as the Chief Guest and Key Speaker. In his insightful address, he presented a profound exposition on *Ram*, *Ram-tattova* (the essence of Ram), and *Ramaniyata* (the beauty and grace associated

with Lord Ram). Elaborating on the concept of "Kan-Kan Mein Ram", he emphasized the omnipresence of Lord Ram in every particle of creation and encouraged the audience to internalize these values in their daily lives.

Welcoming the dignitaries, **Mrs. Manjula Jhunjhunwala**, Convener of the INTACH Ayodhya Chapter, highlighted INTACH's vision, objectives, and ongoing heritage



conservation initiatives, underscoring the organization's sustained efforts in safeguarding cultural and historical assets.

Students from J.B. Academy, Yash Vidya Mandir, Takshashila Academy, JB NTT, JBS, Udaya Public School, and Bhavdiya Public School enriched the programme with vibrant cultural performances, including bhajans, devotional songs, dance-dramas, *nautanki*, and speeches. Their engaging presentations reflected both creative expression and a deep connection with India's cultural ethos.

The programme was ably conducted by **Shiv Prasad Mishra**. It witnessed the enthusiastic participation of INTACH members, teachers, and students, making it a meaningful collective endeavor towards celebrating and preserving India's cultural heritage.



"Preserving Cultural Heritage through the 'Kan-Kan Mein Ram' Programme" - Ayodhya Chapter

## Gorakhpur

### 2nd Gorakhpur Flower Show Revives a Lost Cultural Tradition



#### Gorakhpur, 22 February 2026

The INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter successfully organised the 2nd Gorakhpur Flower Show on 22 February 2026, reviving a cherished cultural tradition of the city after a gap of nearly 35 years. The initiative brought together several partner organisations, including the Horticulture Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Rotary Club Gorakhpur, and the Gorakhpur Environment Action Group (GEAG).

The event was held at Hui Park (Government Garden) and featured over 30 stalls by flower enthusiasts and local participants. A notable highlight was a stall by a Self-Help



Group trained by INTACH in producing incense sticks (*agarbattis*) from sacred floral waste. This innovative initiative received widespread appreciation, with more than 700 packets sold during the event.

The exhibition showcased traditional fragrant flowers that are gradually being overshadowed by modern hybrid varieties. Indigenous rose varieties used in the preparation of *gulkand* were prominently displayed, drawing attention to their cultural and medicinal significance. Products made from water hyacinth (*jalkumbhi*), developed through collaboration with GEAG, also emerged as a key attraction, reflecting sustainable innovation.

Adding to the diversity, the Jail Department presented a stall featuring vegetables grown within prison premises. Displays of bonsai, cacti, and various floral products further enriched the exhibition. A flower-themed painting competition organised by the Rotary Club Gorakhpur encouraged creative participation among young artists.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including the Mayor, the Vice-Chancellor of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University, cabinet members, and eminent citizens. With a footfall exceeding 20,000 visitors, the flower show was widely appreciated as a significant step towards reviving Gorakhpur's cultural heritage and promoting environmental awareness.



*Gorakhpur flower show – Gorakhpur Chapter*

### INTACH Member Honoured with Gorakhpur Ratna Award

Architect **Ashish Srivastava**, Life Member of the INTACH Gorakhpur Chapter (Membership No. L/19205), was conferred the prestigious *Gorakhpur Ratna Award* by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, **Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji**, in recognition of his contributions to heritage conservation and sustainable development in the region.

An alumnus of the Government College of Architecture (1996), Mr. Srivastava established his professional practice in Gorakhpur and founded *ACORE Architectural Services*. Under his leadership, the firm has developed a diverse portfolio, including hospitality projects such as star-rated hotels, multiplexes, townships, residential complexes, and healthcare institutions.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Srivastava has consistently championed environmental sustainability and cultural heritage preservation. His work reflects a strong alignment with the principles of the INTACH Charter, emphasising responsible development and the sustainable use of natural resources.

In recognition of his exemplary contributions to both urban development and heritage conservation, he was honoured with the *Gorakhpur Ratna Award*. He is also an active member of the Uttar Pradesh Architects Association and continues to contribute meaningfully to the field of architecture and conservation.



*Architect Ashish Srivastava awarded GORAKHPUR RATNA AWARD by hon'ble U.P. Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji – Gorakhpur Chapter*

## Lakhimpur Kheri

INTACH Talk Highlights Historical Legacy of Lakhimpur Kheri

### Lakhimpur Kheri, January 2026

On the occasion of National Tourism Day, a talk was delivered on behalf of INTACH focusing on the historical role of the erstwhile rulers of Lakhimpur Kheri and their significant contributions to the district's heritage, culture, political evolution, and educational development over the centuries.

The seminar, titled '*Kheri Itihas Bodh*', was organised under the auspices of the Shree Gokarna Foundation in collaboration with Gola Tourism. The session provided valuable insights into the region's rich and diverse past, fostering a deeper understanding of its cultural legacy among attendees.

The event witnessed the support and presence of the district administration, along with members of the organising institutions. The initiative was widely appreciated for promoting heritage awareness and encouraging community engagement with local history.



*Seminar on 'Kheri Itihas Bodh' – Lakhimpuri Kheri Chapter*

INTACH Kheri Chapter Showcases Tharu Culture at Heritage Mela

### Singahi (Lakhimpur Kheri), 1 January 2026

The INTACH Kheri Chapter organised a cultural mela on 1 January 2026 at the historic Surath Bhawan Palace grounds in Singahi, celebrating the vibrant traditions of the Tharu tribal community.

The mela featured an engaging display of Tharu handicrafts and traditional cuisine, offering visitors an opportunity to experience the unique cultural expressions of the region. The event served as an important platform for promoting indigenous craftsmanship and supporting local artisans.

The programme was coordinated by Chapter Convener **Mr. Manuraj Singh** and Co-Convener **Mr. Vikram Bhalla**, whose efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the event. The mela was well received and contributed meaningfully to the promotion and preservation of local cultural heritage.



Organised a mela on 1st January, 2026 – Lakhimpuri Kheri Chapter

## Lucknow

Engaging Citizens in Sustainable Heritage Preservation

**Lucknow, 22 November 2025**

The INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow, in collaboration with the INTACH Lucknow Chapter, organised a discussion on “*Engaging Citizens in Sustainable Heritage Preservation*” on 22 November 2025 during World Heritage Week. The session brought together historians, archaeologists, conservationists, architects, educationists, and administrators to deliberate on a practical roadmap for strengthening citizen participation in heritage conservation.

The discussion was chaired by **Mr. A.K. Srivastava**, Former AGM, Indian Railways, and a noted authority on the history of Lucknow. Distinguished participants included **Dr. Roshan Taqui**, eminent historian; **Prof. Nishi Pandey**, Professor of Eminence, University of Lucknow; **Prof. Sabra Habib**, former Professor of French; **Dr. Anand Prakash Maheshwari**, former Director General, CRPF; **Mr. Narendra Singh Chauhan**, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister; **Mr. Masood Abdullah**, descendant of the Nawabs of Awadh; along with **Mr. Meraz Ahmed**, **Mr. Wali H. Rizvi**, and **Ms. Vertika Misra**.

The session was organised by **Mr. Dharmendra Misra**, Director, INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow, and **Dr. Neetu Agarwal**, Convener, INTACH Lucknow Chapter.

Speakers emphasised the need to cultivate a genuine sense of belonging, pride, and respect for heritage, while avoiding uncritical glorification. The importance of bridging the gap between institutions and citizens was strongly highlighted. Teachers, tourist guides, and educational institutions were identified as key intermediaries, with recommendations for structured training programmes, standardised guide-training modules, and enhanced communication skills.

The discussion also underscored the importance of collaboration with NGOs, ICCR, event managers, artists, influencers, and media to integrate heritage into city events and festivals. It was proposed that INTACH Lucknow act as a nodal platform, bringing together NGOs, guides, influencers, and government agencies, including MPs, MLAs, the education and tourism departments, district administration, and municipal bodies.

Special attention was drawn to lesser-known monuments, with suggestions to develop new heritage circuits, install informative plaques, and create concise heritage notes for institutional platforms, including a dedicated INTACH Lucknow Chapter website. Participants also highlighted the promotion of Lucknow's *tehzeeb* and *aadab* as vital elements of intangible heritage through heritage plays and site-based historical narratives.

Innovative ideas included skill-building initiatives for masons and conservators, engaging encroachers as custodians where feasible, and promoting student participation through internships aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), supported by certification mechanisms.

To ensure implementation, participants proposed the development of a structured action calendar for 2026, with defined milestones and monitoring mechanisms, marking a shift from dialogue to sustained action.

### **Prayagraj (Allahabad)**

INTACH Allahabad Chapter Holds Year-End Plenary Meeting

**Allahabad, 19 December 2025**

The INTACH Allahabad Chapter held its year-end plenary meeting on 19 December 2025 at the Army Officers' Mess, Allahabad Cantonment. The meeting was organised by **Col. Parag Bhargava**, Field Projects Coordinator, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from chapter members.

The session was addressed by **Dr. Jayant Krishna**, U.P. State Convener, who attended as the Chief Guest. The meeting was conducted by Chapter Convener **Mr. Shambhu Chopra**, while the Secretary, **Mr. Vaibhav Maini**, presented a comprehensive overview of the Chapter's activities during the year, along with updates on ongoing projects.

In his address, Dr. Krishna encouraged members to undertake impactful, large-scale heritage projects and emphasised the importance of working in close coordination with the district administration for the preservation and restoration of heritage sites. He highlighted the need to identify and prioritise areas where heritage is at risk and requires immediate attention.

Referring to initiatives undertaken by other chapters, he cited the example of the Hazratganj commercial area in Lucknow, originally developed during the colonial period and later revitalised with the involvement of the INTACH Lucknow Chapter. The project successfully retained its historic architectural character while upgrading infrastructure, demonstrating an effective model of heritage-sensitive urban development.

He commended the Allahabad Chapter for its consistent efforts and urged members to continue their dedicated work towards preserving cultural traditions and heritage in the coming year.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. Shambhu Chopra**, Convener, along with **Mr. Anupam Parihar**, Co-Convener.

### **Meerut**

Birth Anniversary of Sir Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Commemorated

**Meerut, 21 February 2026**

The INTACH Meerut Chapter, in collaboration with ABHAKAM, commemorated the birth anniversary of **Sir Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**, a pioneer of modern scientific



research in India, at the Anandam Ashram Auditorium, Shraddhapuri, Kankar Kheda, Meerut.

The programme commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony inaugurated by **Dr. R.K. Bhatnagar**, retired IAS officer, followed by a floral tribute to the portrait of the eminent scientist. **Mr. A.K. Johri**,

Provincial President, All India Kayastha Mahasabha, highlighted Dr. Bhatnagar's life and achievements, noting his foundational role in establishing India's scientific research infrastructure, including the creation of 12 national laboratories under CSIR. His enduring legacy continues through the prestigious award instituted in his name.

The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished members and participants, reflecting a collective tribute to one of India's foremost scientific visionaries.

### INTACH Meerut Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi Meerut, 30 January 2026

The INTACH Meerut Chapter paid homage to **Mahatma Gandhi** on his death anniversary at the Anandam Ashram Auditorium, Shraddhapuri, Meerut.

On this occasion, a symposium was organised to reflect upon Gandhiji's life, ideals, and contributions to India's freedom struggle. **Mr. Sheelvardhan**, Senior Member, INTACH, spoke on key aspects of Gandhiji's philosophy and enduring relevance. The programme was presided over by **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener.

The event served as a solemn reminder of Gandhiji's principles of truth, non-violence, and service to humanity.



*Paying Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his Death Anniversary- Meerut Chapter*

### "Save the Earth" Essay Competition and Symposium organised Meerut, 8 December 2025

The INTACH Meerut Chapter organised a symposium and prize distribution ceremony at R.G. Girls Inter College, Meerut, centred around the theme "Save the Earth." The



programme included an essay competition aimed at encouraging environmental awareness among students.

All participating students were awarded certificates, while winners of the first, second, third, and consolation prizes received certificates along with

mementoes.

During the event, **Mr. A.K. Johri**, Co-Convener, introduced INTACH and spoke on environmental conservation. **Mr. A.K. Gandhi**, Senior Member and historian, delivered a lecture on the importance of protecting the environment. **Lt. Col. A.D. Tyagi** emphasised the role of youth in environmental initiatives, while also motivating students towards national service.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mrs. Rajni Rani Shankhdhar**, Principal, who appreciated the efforts of INTACH in promoting environmental consciousness among students.

### Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrated with Enthusiasm Meerut, 12 January 2026

The INTACH Meerut Chapter, in association with the All India Kayastha Mahasabha, celebrated the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda** at Surajkund Park, Meerut, by garlanding his statue and organising a commemorative gathering.

On this occasion, **Mr. Anand Kumar Johri**, Co-Convener, highlighted Swami



Vivekananda's life and enduring legacy as one of India's greatest youth icons. He spoke about Vivekananda's message of strength, service, truth, and spiritual awakening, and his efforts in presenting Indian philosophy on the global stage, particularly through his historic address at Chicago.

A *Shanti Yagya* was also performed as a mark of reverence. The speakers noted Swami Vivekananda's association with Meerut, where he spent a significant period, making the city an important part of his journey before departing for the West.

The programme was attended by several members and citizens, making it a meaningful tribute to the great spiritual leader whose teachings continue to inspire generations.

*Celebrated the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Ji- Meerut Chapter*

## Varanasi

Heritage Week Celebrations – Varanasi Chapter

### Varanasi, 19–23 November 2025

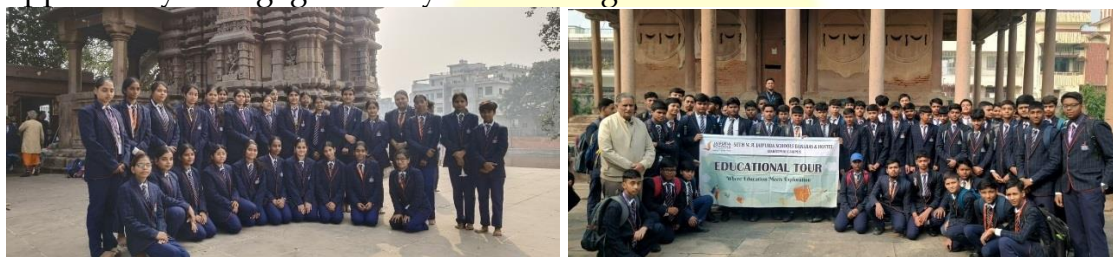
The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a series of engaging activities during World Heritage Week (19–23 November 2025), aimed at promoting awareness and appreciation of heritage among students and members.

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### Heritage Site Visits for Students

As part of the celebrations, heritage site visits were organised on 19 and 20 November for students of Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Babatpur (an INTACH Institutional Member). Students visited the historic Gurudham Temple and Kardmeshwar Temple in four groups over two days.

**Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, briefed the students at Gurudham Temple, while **Mr. Roshan** from the Uttar Pradesh State Archaeology Department provided insights at Kardmeshwar Temple. The visits offered students an opportunity to engage directly with the region’s rich architectural and cultural heritage.

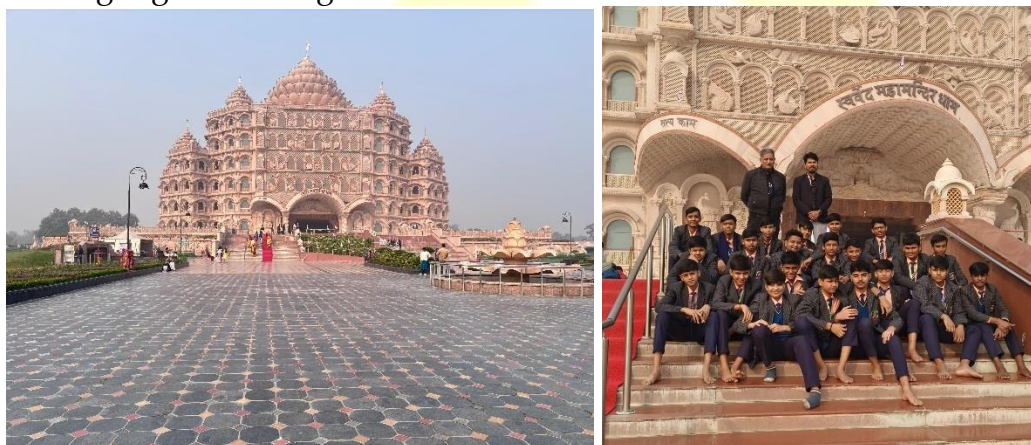


*Celebrated Heritage week – Varanasi Chapter*

### Educational Visit to Swar Ved Temple

The Chapter also organised a visit to the Swar Ved Temple, a prominent meditation and spiritual centre, for students of Sant Atulanand Residential Academy, Sholapur (an INTACH Institutional Member).

Students were given a guided tour of the परिसर and introduced to meditation practices. The visit was accompanied by **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, who also interacted with the students and highlighted the significance of the centre.



*Heritage Week Visits – Varanasi Chapter*

### Clay Pottery and Toy-Making Workshop

A hands-on workshop on clay pottery and clay toy-making was conducted at Little Flower House, Nagwa and Kakarmatta (INTACH Institutional Members). The workshop was led by traditional potter **Mr. Sanju Prajapati** and his son, providing students with practical exposure to traditional crafts.

The programme was coordinated by **Ms. Aditi Gulati**, INTACH Life Member and Deputy Director, LFH Group. **Mr. Ashok Kapoor** explained the importance of clay as a traditional and sustainable material, while **Mr. Nalin Gulati**, Co-Convener and Director, LFH Group, felicitated the artisans and delivered the vote of thanks.



*Clay Pottery and Clay Toys making Workshop at Little Flower house Nagwa and Kakarmatta – Varanasi Chapter*

### 4. Presentation on ‘Kashi ke Baarah Aditya’

A presentation and interactive session was organised for students of WH Smith Memorial School (INTACH Institutional Member) on the topic “*Kashi ke Baarah Aditya.*”

Utilising the school’s digital display system, the presentation reached approximately 1,000 students from Classes V to XII in their respective classrooms. **Mr. Ashok Kapoor** elaborated on the concept of the twelve Adityas and read excerpts from a recently published book on the subject, brought out by the Varanasi Chapter with support from the INTACH Publication Division, Delhi. The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer interaction.



*A presentation and interaction with students on World Heritage Week – Varanasi Chapter*

### 5. Heritage Walk for Members

A heritage walk was organised for INTACH members on 23 November, with 18 participants exploring sites such as Swar Ved Temple, Markandey Mahadev Temple, and the nearby Ganga-Gomti Sangam.

Participants were briefed by temple volunteers and introduced to *Vihangam Yog* meditation through a short guided session. The Swar Ved Temple, currently under construction for over a decade, is envisioned as one of the largest temples in the world upon completion. The visit provided members with insights into both tangible and intangible aspects of heritage.

Overall, the Heritage Week activities by the INTACH Varanasi Chapter effectively combined education, engagement, and experiential learning, fostering a deeper connection with heritage among students and members alike.



*Heritage walk on Swar Ved temple, Markandey Mahadev – Varanasi Chapter*

### Heritage Awareness Programme at Ashok Mission Society School Varanasi, November 2025

On the concluding day of Heritage Week, the Chapter organised a Heritage Awareness Programme at Ashok Mission Society School, Shivpur, an institution led by **Mr. Ashok Verma**, an active INTACH member.

The session was addressed by **Mr. Ashok Kapoor** (Convener), **Mr. Nirmal Joshi** (Additional Co-Convener), **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar** (Coordinator, Heritage Tourism Cell), and **Mr. Ashok Verma** (Life Member). Speakers highlighted various aspects of heritage conservation, cultural heritage education, and the importance of heritage tourism.

A presentation on "*Kashi ke Baarah Aditya*" was also shown, and copies of the Chapter's recent publication on the subject were shared. Students were encouraged to actively participate in INTACH's heritage initiatives. The programme was attended by approximately 250 students and concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Ashok Verma.

### Classical Music Recital at Peshwa Haveli Varanasi, 25 November 2025

Marking the culmination of Heritage Week, the INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a



classical flute recital at the historic Peshwa Haveli, a heritage property under INTACH's care. This was the first such programme at the venue in over a decade.

The recital featured **Dr. Shanish**, a noted flautist, accompanied by **Dr. Pankaj Rai** on tabla. The performance began with a classical *raag*, followed by a series

of devotional *bhajans*, enthraling the audience over a duration of approximately one and a half hours.

The programme was coordinated and conducted by **Dr. Ashish Jaiswal**, scholar and Dhrupad vocalist. The artists' honorarium was sponsored by Kala Prakash, Varanasi. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener.

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### Heritage Walk to Ahraura (Mirzapur Region) Varanasi/Mirzapur, 14 December 2025

As part of its Heritage Walk initiative, the INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised an exploration visit to the Ahraura region (approx. 45 km from Varanasi), focusing on its historical, cultural, and natural heritage.

The first stop was the Bhandari Devi Temple, located atop a hill and revered as a guardian



deity of the region. Nearby, participants visited Ashokan-era inscriptions at a protected site under the Archaeological Survey of India. **Mr. Ram Nihal Singh**, INTACH member and Government of India-approved tourist guide, provided detailed insights into these sites.

The group also visited the Ahraura Water Reservoir, a major irrigation structure, and an inscribed pillar protected by the Uttar Pradesh State Archaeology Department. Though inscriptions exist, its definitive

attribution to the Ashokan period remains under study.



Further visits included the Durga Temple, a prominent religious centre, and a unique farmhouse owned by **Mr. Rakesh Tandon**, located amidst rocky terrain yet rich in vegetation and floral diversity. The site is also associated with *Art of Living* activities and meditation sessions.

A special highlight was the interaction with **Prof. (Retd.) Jai Shanker Mishra**, a founding member of INTACH Varanasi and a renowned practitioner of Banaras traditional miniature painting. At the age of 92, he shared valuable insights into his artistic philosophy and works.

Simultaneously, another group visited the scenic Lakhania Falls and nearby rock painting sites, offering a glimpse into the region's natural and prehistoric heritage.

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These initiatives collectively reflect the Varanasi Chapter's commitment to promoting both tangible and intangible heritage through education, engagement, and experiential learning.

### **Exploring the Maratha Legacy in Varanasi Varanasi, December 2025**

**Mr. Jainendra Rai**, INTACH Life Member and Government of India-approved Senior Tourist Guide, led a group of research scholars, authors, and eminent artists from Maharashtra on a heritage exploration of sites associated with the Maratha legacy in Varanasi.

The visit aimed to trace the historical connections between Maharashtra and Varanasi, dating back nearly 400 years, when early Maharashtrian families settled in the city, particularly around areas such as Brahma Ghat. The group visited several important sites linked to Maratha patronage, including temples, historic buildings, and cultural centres such as the Peshwa Haveli at Rajghat.

Mr. Rai provided detailed insights into the contributions of the Peshwas and the Scindhias to the cultural and architectural landscape of Varanasi. At Peshwa Haveli, participants were introduced to its historical significance and legacy. The group expressed deep appreciation for the site and spent considerable time there, enriching the experience with performances of traditional songs and folk music from Maharashtra.

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### **'DHAROHAR' - Inter-School Cultural Fest Celebrates Heritage Varanasi, 19 December 2025**

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised its annual inter-school cultural festival under a new title, '*DHAROHAR*', on 19 December 2025. The event was held in collaboration with Sant Atulanand Residential Academy, Holapur (an INTACH Institutional Member), which hosted the programme.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 300 students



representing nine schools. A wide range of ten competitions were organised across multiple venues, including painting, Hindi poem recitation, Hindi and English speeches, essay writing (Hindi and English), group dance, group song, rangoli, and traditional dress. Each competition was evaluated by designated judges, ensuring a fair and

structured assessment process. The Principal of the host institution welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the programme.

**Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, addressed the gathering and highlighted the Chapter's initiatives in heritage awareness and conservation. The event successfully provided a vibrant platform for students to express their creativity while engaging with cultural traditions.

#### INTACH Varanasi Leads Heritage Walks at Mahindra Kabira Festival Varanasi, December 2025

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter was honoured to be invited by the organisers of the *Mahindra Kabira Festival* – renowned for curating the Jaipur Literature Festival – to guide and supervise the Heritage Walk programme for festival participants.

Three eminent Government of India-approved Tourist Guides and INTACH Life Members – **Mr. Devesh Agrawal**, **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar**, and **Mr. Jainendra Rai** – conducted the heritage walks. The programme was curated by **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter.

Approximately 200 participants, including distinguished guests such as the Ambassador of Switzerland to India and the Vice President of the Mahindra Group, took part in four sessions of the Panchganga Heritage Walk. The initiative showcased the historical and cultural richness of the area, reinforcing INTACH's role in promoting heritage tourism through expert-led interpretation.

#### Orientation Programme for 'Incredible India Tourist Facilitator' Varanasi, 24 December 2025

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter, with support from the INTACH Heritage Tourism Division, organised an Orientation Programme for *Incredible India Tourist Facilitators (IITF)* at the conference hall of India City Family Restaurant, Nadesar.

The first session, titled "*The Fundamentals of Becoming a Perfect Tourist Guide*," was led by **Mr. Devesh Agrawal**, Senior Storyteller and Tour Guide, who emphasised the importance of effective communication and in-depth knowledge of history and culture in shaping a tourist's experience.

The second session featured **Dr. Ajay Singh**, National Coordinator (TGFI), and **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar**, President, Tourist Guide Association (TGA), Varanasi. They provided practical insights into crowd management, safety, and discipline, highlighting their critical role in enhancing the image of tourist destinations.

The programme was conducted by **Mr. Jainendra Rai**, Government of India-approved Senior Tourist Guide, who also stressed the importance of such training initiatives in preparing facilitators to become professional guides. Organised under the leadership of **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, the programme witnessed active participation from members and aspiring guides, and concluded with a vote of thanks by the Convener.

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### INTACH Foundation Day Celebrated with Educational Engagement Varanasi, 27 January 2026

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter celebrated INTACH Foundation Day at Little Flower House Senior Secondary School, Kakarmatta (an INTACH Institutional Member), with a focus on the theme of preserving and conserving India's rich cultural heritage.



The programme commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting and floral tributes in the presence of **Mrs. Indu Gulati**, Principal; **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener; **Mr. Nirmal Joshi**, Additional Co-Convener; and **Ms. Aditi Gulati**, Deputy Director.

A key highlight of the event was a teachers' presentation competition based on the INTACH film "*Bhagoria: Rhythm of Nature.*" Seven schools from across the district participated, presenting creative interpretations through dance, poetry, talks, and visual presentations. The entries were evaluated by **Dr. Priya Tiwari** and **Dr. Mamta Maurya** (INTACH Members) on the basis of content accuracy and presentation.

In his address, **Mr. Ashok Kapoor** emphasised that a meaningful approach to conservation begins with a deep understanding of one's heritage. The Principal, in her concluding remarks, encouraged educators and students to recognise their shared responsibility as custodians of India's cultural legacy.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Nirmal Joshi**, while prizes for the winners were sponsored by **Ms. Aditi Gulati**.



*The INTACH Foundation Day programme – Varanasi Chapter*

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### Heritage Walk to Rajghat and Adi Keshav Temple Complex Varanasi, 25 January 2026

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a Heritage Walk on 25 January 2026, in which 16 members and their family members participated. The walk offered a unique confluence of heritage, religious, and spiritual experiences within a single precinct.

The visit commenced at the Rajghat Excavation Site, an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected area, regarded as one of the earliest settlement zones of Varanasi. **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar** briefed participants on the historical significance of the site and its role in the evolution of the city.

The group then visited *Lal Khan ka Rauza*, an 18th-century monument built by the King of Kashi for his minister and military commander, Lal Khan. This architecturally significant structure, located adjacent to the excavation site, is also protected by the ASI. The walk concluded at the Adi Keshav Temple Complex, one of the most sacred sites in Varanasi. The complex houses the ancient *Adi Keshav* (Vishnu) Temple and is associated with important elements of Kashi's sacred geography, including one of the 56 Vinayaks, one of the 12 Adityas, and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Kashi. The walk provided participants with a deeper understanding of the intertwined historical and spiritual heritage of the region.



*Heritage walks – Varanasi Chapter*

### **Tamil Edition of 'Kashi ke Baarah Aditya' Released Varanasi, 6 February 2026**

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter marked a significant milestone with the publication and release of the Tamil edition of its book "*Kashi ke Baarah Aditya*." Originally published in Hindi with partial support from the INTACH Publication Division, the Tamil translation was undertaken by **Mr. Venkatramanan**, who generously contributed his efforts without remuneration and personally supervised the proofreading process.

The printing of 500 copies was sponsored by a Chennai-based company, enabling the publication without additional financial support from INTACH.

The release function was held at the Conference Hall of the Divisional Commissioner's Office, Varanasi, with the Divisional Commissioner as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by members of the Kashi Tamil Sangam, representatives from the travel trade, and senior members of the INTACH Varanasi Chapter.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the cultural significance of Kashi and invited INTACH Varanasi to collaborate in promoting religious tourism. **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, welcomed the gathering and outlined the Chapter's initiatives.

The programme was conducted by **Mr. Jainendra Rai**, one of the authors, while **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar** provided insights into the book. **Mr. Venkatramanan** shared his motivation for translating the work to promote Kashi's heritage among Tamil-speaking audiences.

The Chief Guest formally released the publication in the presence of INTACH office bearers, authors, and members of the Tamil Sangam. As a gesture of appreciation, a coffee table book was presented to the Chief Guest, and INTACH publications on the Ganga were presented to Mr. Venkatramanan.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Jainendra Rai**, followed by refreshments.



*Published a book titled KASHI KE BAARAH ADITYA – Varanasi Chapter*

### **Heritage Tour to Ayodhya-Faizabad Ayodhya-Faizabad, January 2026**

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a two-day heritage tour to Ayodhya-Faizabad under the leadership of **Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, along with coordinators of the Heritage Walk Cell—**Mr. Anurag Chandra**, **Mr. Jainendra Rai**, and **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar**. The programme was supported by **Mrs. Jhunjhunwala**, Convener, INTACH Ayodhya Chapter.

The group travelled from Varanasi to Ayodhya by Vande Bharat Express, reaching the newly developed Ayodhya Dham Railway Station, noted for its modern infrastructure and passenger-friendly facilities. Upon arrival, participants visited the **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple**, where they observed its grand architecture, intricate sculptural detailing, and well-managed visitor arrangements.

The itinerary included visits to **Dashrath Mahal**, associated with the childhood of Lord Rama and his brothers, and **Kanak Bhavan**, traditionally believed to have been gifted to Goddess Sita. The group also visited **Hanuman Garhi**, an important temple situated at an elevated location.

On the second day, the focus shifted to the heritage monuments of Faizabad. Guided by local experts, participants explored historic precincts such as Dilli Darwaza and **Dilkusha Palace**, once associated with the Nawabi era. They also visited **Moti Mahal** (the Zanana complex), **Gulab Bari**, and **Bahu Begum ka Makbara**, noted for their refined Indo-Persian architectural style and historical significance.

The tour concluded with a visit to **Guptar Ghat** on the banks of the Sarayu River, traditionally associated with the *jal samadhi* of Lord Rama. At the nearby Chakradhari Temple, the group was welcomed and briefed on ongoing conservation efforts, including INTACH's proposed initiatives. The visit provided a comprehensive understanding of the layered cultural, religious, and historical heritage of the Ayodhya–Faizabad region.



*Heritage trip to Ayodhya – Varanasi Chapter*

### **'Rang Tarang' Musical Evening at Shivala Ghat**

Varanasi, 2026

A vibrant musical evening titled "Rang Tarang" was organised at Shivala Ghat, Varanasi, by Mumbai-based organisation POOL.in, which provides a platform for emerging artists and creative performers. The INTACH Varanasi Chapter supported the event as a local partner.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from young artists and a large audience, creating a dynamic cultural atmosphere along the ghats. Members of the INTACH Varanasi Chapter, including Mr. Ashok Kapoor (Convener) and Mr. Anil Keshari (Additional Co-Convener), were present on the occasion along with other members and guests.

During the event, representatives of POOL.in felicitated the Convener and Additional Co-Convener in recognition of their support and contributions. The initiative highlighted the importance of engaging youth in cultural expression and heritage spaces.

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### **Convener Honored with 'Viraasat-e-Kashi' Award**

Varanasi, 2026

Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, was felicitated by Saar Sansthan, a Varanasi-based non-profit organisation, during its annual function. He was conferred with the "Viraasat-e-Kashi" award in recognition of his significant contributions to heritage awareness and conservation, particularly in the domain of cultural heritage in Varanasi.

Saar Sansthan is known for its efforts in promoting heritage education among school students and fostering environmental awareness within the community. The honour reflects the growing impact of INTACH's initiatives in the region.

## Documentation Project on Rathayatra Mela Underway Varanasi, Ongoing (2026)

Dr. Mamta Maurya and Dr. Priya Tiwari, members of INTACH Varanasi and scholars of Museology, are currently engaged in a documentation project on the Rathayatra Mela, one of Varanasi's prominent Lakkha Melas. The project is being supported by the INTACH Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division, New Delhi.

The study involves extensive documentation, including archival research, scanning of historical records, collection of news reports, interviews with stakeholders, and photographic documentation. The project aims to create a comprehensive record of the festival's cultural significance and living traditions, with the final report scheduled for submission in July 2026.

## Heritage Walk to Jangambari Math and Associated Temples

Varanasi, 28 February 2026

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter organised a Heritage Walk to Jangambari Math and nearby historic temples on 28 February 2026. The walk offered participants a rich blend of religious, historical, and spiritual insights.

Jangambari Math, associated with the Veer Shaiv tradition and believed to have ancient origins, is a well-maintained complex that accommodates pilgrims from across the country. Participants visited multiple shrines within the Math and observed halls housing numerous miniature Shiv Lingas, installed over generations by devotees.

A special interaction was held with Swami Shivacharya, head of the Math, who shared insights into its history and the philosophical tenets of the Veer Shaiv Sampradaya.

The walk continued to Garundeshwar Mahadev Temple, an approximately 1000-year-old shrine located below ground level within a private residence, historically associated with meditation practices of revered spiritual figures. The final stop was Pracheen Durgabari, where participants had darshan of Goddess Durga and learned about the unique tradition of the idol not being immersed after Durga Puja.

The walk concluded with detailed briefings by Mr. Anil Keshari, Additional Co-Convener, and the presence of Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convener, who engaged with participants and enriched the experience through his insights.



*Heritage walk to Jangambari Math – Varanasi Chapter*

## Annual Meeting Followed by Cultural Evening

Varanasi, 15 March 2026

The INTACH Varanasi Chapter held its Annual Meeting on 15 March 2026, continuing its established tradition of combining the formal proceedings with a musical evening and high tea for members.

**Mr. Ashok Kapoor**, Convener, welcomed the gathering and presented a concise overview of the Chapter's activities, programmes, and projects undertaken during the past year. For the benefit of new members, he also elaborated on INTACH's organisational structure, including its Head Office, various divisions, and the network of chapters across the country.

In his address, the Convener highlighted that the Varanasi Chapter has consistently maintained its regular programmes while also initiating new projects and expanding its scope of work. He noted the successful publication of a book with partial support from the INTACH Publication Division, New Delhi, and its subsequent Tamil translation, which was published with external sponsorship.

Looking ahead, he informed members that three additional publications are currently in the pipeline, supported through local collaborations. The meeting concluded on a positive note, followed by a cultural musical evening and informal interaction over high tea, fostering camaraderie among members.

## Uttarakhand

Kotdwar

**Kotdwar Chapter Hosts Inaugural INTACH National Heritage Quiz - 2025**

Kotdwar, 23 August 2025

The newly constituted INTACH Kotdwar Chapter marked an inspiring beginning by organising the *INTACH National Heritage Quiz - 2025 (City Round)* at Hayde Heritage Academy on 23 August 2025. The programme was conducted under the aegis of the INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), New Delhi, with the aim of engaging school students in exploring India's rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 102 students, forming 51 teams representing 11 schools from the region, along with an audience of teachers, guests, and volunteers. The competition featured a vibrant mix of written and oral rounds, including direct questions, buzzer rounds, audio-visual segments, and rapid-fire sessions, fostering both knowledge and teamwork among participants.

The programme was hosted by **Mrs. Shambhavi Padukone-Rana**, Convener, and **Mr. N.K. Agarwal**, Co-Convener, INTACH Kotdwar Chapter. The Chief Guest, **Mr. Sohan Saini**, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Kotdwar, encouraged students to remain connected to their cultural roots and personally presented awards to the winners. The Guest of Honour, **Mr. Yogendra Prakash Gilra**, Chartered Engineer and heritage enthusiast, delivered a special address and curated a photo exhibition titled "*Kotdwar through the Lenses*," showcasing rare archival images of the city.

**Anjel Thapliyal** and **Kanishka Pokhriyal** from Hayde Heritage Academy emerged as winners, while **Akshika Rawat** and **Priyanshi Jakhmola** from Adarsh Vidya Niketan secured the runner-up position. All participants were awarded certificates and medals in recognition of their efforts.

In the absence of the winning team at the State Round held at RIMC, Dehradun, on 8 October 2025, the runner-up team from Adarsh Vidya Niketan represented Kotdwar and secured an impressive third place, bringing pride to the chapter.



*INTACH National Heritage Quiz – 2025 – Kotdwar Chapter*

### **Celebrating Nature and Culture: Heritage and Nature Walks by Kotdwar Chapter Kotdwar, 2025**

The INTACH Kotdwar Chapter has initiated a series of thoughtfully curated nature and heritage walks, offering participants immersive experiences into the region’s rich landscapes and cultural narratives. These walks, organised under the leadership of **Ms. Shambhavi Padukone-Rana**, Convener, along with INTACH members **Ms. Vrinda Bajaj** and **Mr. Manu Shah** (Camp Advait, Dugadda), have encouraged community engagement with the natural and historical heritage of Uttarakhand.



Among the notable initiatives was the **Hanumangarhi Forest Trail**, which provided participants with panoramic views of the majestic Chaukhamba peak, creating a memorable blend of natural beauty and exploration. The **Saneh Forest Trail** offered scenic vistas overlooking the confluence of the Kohlu and Khoh rivers,

highlighting the ecological richness of the region.

In celebration of *National Rivers Day*, the Chapter organised a special bird-watching session along the riverbanks at Saneh, drawing attention to the importance of river ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.



The Chapter also conducted an evocative **Abandoned Village Walk** through the forests of Bor Gaon in Dugadda, where participants reflected on shifting settlement patterns and local histories. Another highlight was the exploration of the historic **Old Cart Road**, traversing Lansdowne, Dhurra, and Fatehpur – routes that once played a vital role in regional connectivity.



Through these initiatives, the Kotdwar Chapter has successfully created platforms for experiential learning, fostering a deeper appreciation of Uttarakhand's natural splendour and layered heritage, while reinforcing INTACH's commitment to conservation and community engagement.



*National River Day Bird Watching – Kotdwar Chapter*



*Saneh Forest Trails – Kotdwar Chapter*

## **Pauri Garhwal**

### **Heritage and Environmental Awareness Initiative**

**Pauri Garhwal District, Uttarakhand | January 2026**

A series of programmes focusing on heritage conservation and environmental awareness were organised across the Pauri Garhwal district and the Sundernagar area in January 2026. The initiative aimed to foster greater sensitivity towards cultural heritage among local communities – particularly children – while also addressing the environmental challenges arising from increasing tourism in the region.

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### **Programme Highlights**

#### **Heritage Tour (15 January 2026)**

A heritage walk was conducted along the traditional route from Naun Village to the Kali Temple, offering participants an opportunity to engage with the region's living heritage. The activity emphasised the historical and cultural significance of local sites while encouraging community-led conservation efforts.

#### **Heritage Awareness Programme (20 January 2026)**

Held at Sundernagar School, this programme focused on sensitising students to the importance of heritage preservation. Activities included interactive sessions, storytelling, student-led poster presentations, and discussions on local traditions, fostering cultural awareness at the grassroots level.

#### **Republic Day Lecture on Environmental Conservation (26 January 2026)**

An awareness lecture was organised at the Gram Panchayat Office on the theme "*Environmental Conservation and the Impact of Tourism.*" The session was delivered by **Mr. S.P. Kumar**, Teacher, Inter College, Khatli Lalitpur.

The lecture highlighted:

- The environmental challenges posed by unregulated tourism
  - The importance of eco-friendly and sustainable tourism practices
  - The role of local communities in safeguarding natural resources
  - The need for awareness at both school and panchayat levels
- 

### **Impact and Outcomes**

The initiative led to a noticeable increase in awareness regarding both heritage conservation and environmental responsibility among participants. It encouraged children and youth to develop a deeper connection with their cultural roots, while also creating a platform for meaningful dialogue between schools, panchayats, and the wider community.

Importantly, the programme underscored the interrelationship between cultural preservation and environmental sustainability, promoting a holistic approach to development in the region.

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### **Conclusion**

This initiative demonstrated that the preservation of heritage and the protection of the environment are interconnected goals that require collective effort.

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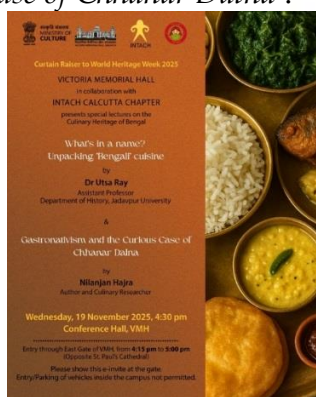
By engaging educational institutions, local governance bodies, and community members, the programme set a strong foundation for sustainable and culturally informed development in the region.

## West Bengal Kolkata

### SPECIAL LECTURES AT VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL:

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

INTACH collaborated with Victoria Memorial Hall to present special lectures on Bengal's Culinary Heritage. INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener Mr. G.M. Kapur gave the inaugural speech for the event. Dr. Utsa Ray, Assistant professor from the Department of History, Jadavpur, presented 'What's in a name? Unpacking Bengali cuisine' while Nilanjan Hajra, Culinary Researcher, presented a lecture on 'Gastronativism and the Curious Case of Chhanar Dalna'.



Poster for the event- Kolkata Chapter



Mr. G.M. Kapur, Convener – INTACH Calcutta chapter, giving the inaugural speech - Kolkata Chapter



Dr. Utsa Ray presenting her lecture - Kolkata Chapter



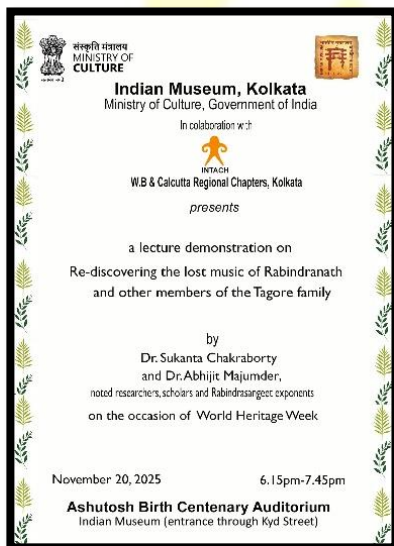
Nilanjan Hajra, Culinary Researcher, presenting his lecture - Kolkata Chapter



*Nilanjan Hajra, Culinary Researcher, presenting his lecture - Kolkata Chapter*  
**LECTURE DEMONSTRATION AT INDIAN MUSEUM, KOLKATA:**

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, Indian Museum along with the West Bengal and Calcutta Chapters of INTACH, presented a lecture demonstration on *Re-discovering the lost music of Rabindranath and other members of the Tagore Family* on the occasion of World Heritage Week. The lecture was presented by Dr. Sukanta Chakraborty and Dr. Abhijit Majumder, who are noted researchers and Rabindrasangeet exponents.



*Poster for the event - Kolkata Chapter*



*Dr. Sukanta Chakraborty and Dr. Abhijit Majumder performing during their lecture - Kolkata Chapter*



*Audience enthralled by the Rabindrasangeet performance - Kolkata Chapter*  
**INTACH WORLD HERITAGE WEEK DINNER AT AMAR KHAMAR:**

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025

On 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025, INTACH members assembled to experience traditional food practices and culinary history at Amar Khamar. "Amar Khamar" is a social enterprise that blends the concept of "heritage" with "food." It aims to preserve culinary cultures, traditional and regional food practices, indigenous ingredients and forgotten recipes. The organization champions a return to natural and seasonal farming practices, helping to maintain the diversity of food crops, which is a crucial aspect of cultural heritage.



*INTACH members at Amar Khamar - Kolkata Chapter*



*Authentic Bengali spread at Amar Khamar - Kolkata Chapter*

**UNVEILING OF THE BLUE PLAQUE AT THE ELGIN, FAIRLAWN KOLKATA**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2025

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2025, INTACH presented The Elgin Fairlawn, Sudder Street, Kolkata, with a Blue Plaque for Heritage Hospitality. The hotel has a rich and extensive legacy of welcoming guests since 1783. The unveiling of the plaque was graced by Mr. G.M. Kapur, Convener, INTACH Calcutta Chapter, Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, Co-Convener, INTACH Calcutta Chapter and several members of the INTACH Calcutta Chapter.

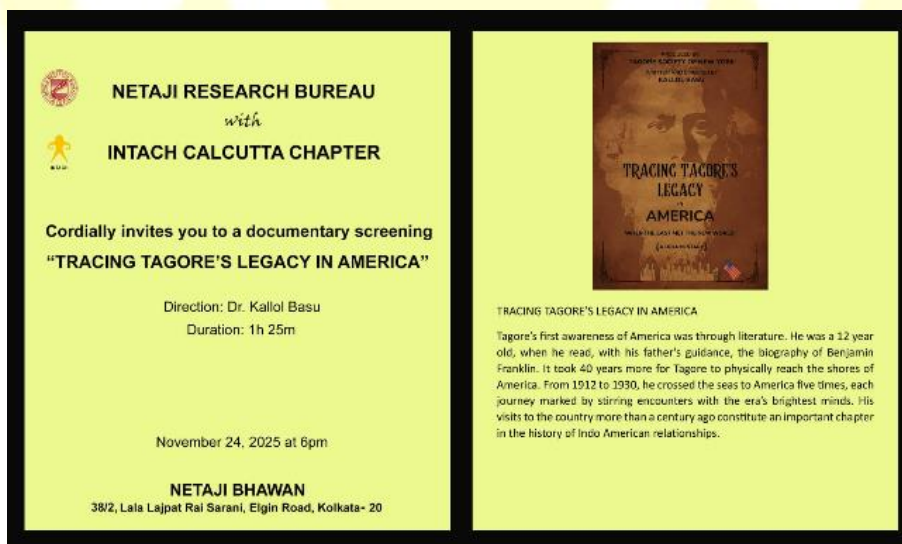


*INTACH Members at the unveiling of the Blue Plaque at Elgin Fairlawn - Kolkata Chapter*

**DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AT NETAJI BHAWAN**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

The Netaji Research Bureau, in collaboration with the INTACH Calcutta Chapter, organised a documentary screening of “TRACING TAGORE’S LEGACY IN AMERICA” directed by Kallol Basu. The documentary showcased Rabindranath Tagore’s experiences and encounters with various people on his travels to America.



*Poster of the documentary screening at Netaji Bhawan - Kolkata Chapter*



*Screening of the documentary - Kolkata Chapter*



*Concluding speech by G.M. Kapur, Convener, INTACH Calcutta -- Kolkata Chapter*



*Proceedings of the programme - Kolkata Chapter*



*Address by Director of Netaji Bhawan - Kolkata Chapter*

**TALK ON IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION OF INTANGIBLE HERITAGE**

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

To cap off World Heritage Week 2025, INTACH organised a talk on the “Importance of Conservation of Intangible Heritage – Some Examples from Bastar, Kerala and Karnataka”. Presented by Dr. Prosenjit Dasgupta, the talk dealt with the intangible culture and heritage of tribes from all over the country and their transformation due to various factors.



*Dr. Prosenjit Dasgupta delivering his talk at Bingsha Shatabdi - Kolkata Chapter*



*Post-talk discussion on intangible heritage and its preservation - Kolkata Chapter*

### **TARUN MITRA MEMORIAL LECTURE (TMML)**

**Kolkata, 9 January 2026**

The Tarun Mitra Memorial Lecture (TMML) was held on 9 January 2026 at Jadunath Bhavan, Kolkata, under the co-chairmanship of **Prof. G. Forbes** and **Prof. R. Chaudhuri**. The lecture continues to serve as an important platform for scholarly engagement with themes related to art, history, and cultural heritage.

The distinguished speaker for the evening was **Prof. Jinah Kim**, George P. Bickford Professor of Indian and South Asian Art and Professor of South Asian Studies at Harvard University.

Delivering a lecture titled “*From Vision to Matter: Color and Artisanal Intelligence in South Asian Painting*,” Prof. Kim explored the profound role of color as an essential component of sacred visual knowledge within Indic religious traditions. She examined how color functions not only as a visual element but also as a medium of meditative and spiritual experience.

Drawing on examples such as the representation of the Buddhist goddess Tārā—traditionally envisioned as green—Prof. Kim raised critical questions about the interpretation and material realization of color in artistic practice. She reflected on how intangible, visionary experiences are translated into physical form through artistic intervention and artisanal knowledge.

The lecture further highlighted insights from the *Mapping Color in History Project*, an interdisciplinary initiative combining art history, materials science, and conservation studies. Through this project, Prof. Kim presented recent findings on pigments and colorants used in South Asian painting, demonstrating how scientific analysis can enrich our understanding of the material history of art.

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#### About the Speaker

**Prof. Jinah Kim** is a leading scholar in the field of South Asian art history. A graduate of Seoul National University, she completed her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. She has received numerous prestigious fellowships and grants from institutions such as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Getty Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Ford Foundation, and the American Institute of Indian Studies.

At Harvard University, she has played a key role in advancing the arts programme at the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute since 2018. Her research spans a wide range of themes, including text-image relationships, art and politics, gender and patronage, and the materiality of sacred objects, particularly in the context of Buddhist manuscripts and painting traditions.

Her notable publications include *Receptacle of the Sacred: Illustrated Manuscripts and the Buddhist Book Cult in South Asia* (2013) and *Garland of Visions: Color, Tantra, and a Material History of Indian Painting* (2021). Her ongoing research continues to explore the intersections of material culture, visuality, and religious practice.

#### **CHAIRMAN SHRI ASHOK SINGH'S VISIT TO INTACH CALCUTTA CHAPTER**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

On 11th December 2025, INTACH Chairman Shri Ashok Singh Thakur visited INTACH Calcutta Chapter. He interacted with INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener Mr. G. M. Kapur, Senior Conservator Subash Chandra Baral and other staff. In the afternoon Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, accompanied by INTACH West Bengal & Kolkata Conveners, visited the Mangrove Plantation at the AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Kolkata.



*Shri Ashok Singh at INTACH ICI Kolkata – Kolkata Chapter*



*Shri Ashok Singh with Kolkata Chapter Convener G.M. Kapur at AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden – Kolkata Chapter*

### **INTACH CHAPTER MEETING AT CHAPEL ROAD, HASTINGS**

Date: 03<sup>rd</sup> January, 2026

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2026, INTACH Calcutta Chapter held a meeting at the INTACH Rooftop on Chapel Road, Hastings. Convener Mr. G.M. Kapur reviewed the overall activities of the Chapter and achievements of members. Architect Anjan Mitra spoke about his experience of restoration of the iconic New Market clock tower. Filmmaker Sujata Sett spoke about her documentary 'Enlightened Soul: The Three Names of Umadevi' that was selected for screening at the 31<sup>st</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival 2025.



*INTACH Calcutta Chapter meeting in progress at Chapel Road, Hastings – Kolkata Chapter*

### **8. TREE OF LIFE: INTACH POSTER MAKING AND ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

INTACH Poster Making and Essay Writing Competition 2026 was organised by INTACH Calcutta Regional Chapter at J.D. Birla Institute, Rowland Row, Kolkata on Friday, 9th January, 2026. Fourteen students from two schools of Kolkata participated. Participating schools included Shri Shikshayatan School and Birla High School for Boys. The theme for the competition was 'Tree of Life', where students were to create a poster and write a 200-word essay on local indigenous plants. The programme was graced by Dr. Tapobrata Ray, Principal of J.D. Birla Institute and Dr. Samita Gupta, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Textiles of J.D. Birla Institute.



*Students working on their posters during the competition – Kolkata Chapter*



*Students working on their posters during the competition – Kolkata Chapter*



*Students posing with their posters – Kolkata Chapter*



*Dr. Tapobrata Ray, Principal, and Dr. Samita Gupta, HoD Department of Textiles, at the competition – Kolkata Chapter*



*Poster for the Tree of Life competition – Kolkata Chapter*

## **AN EXPERIENTIAL VISIT TO EAST KOLKATA WETLAND: THE KOLKATA'S GREEN LUNGS**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, INTACH organised an East Kolkata Wetlands Walk. The East Kolkata Wetlands are also known as the Green Lungs of Kolkata. This visit was organised to commemorate World Wetlands Day, which is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February every year. The itinerary of the visit included Chowbaga, Dhapa, Bamanghata Pumping Station, Lal Kuthi and Khayeadaha Panchayat.

AN EXPERIENTIAL  
VISIT TO



# EAST KOLKATA WETLAND

## THE KOLKATA'S GREEN LUNGS

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. MEET AT SCIENCE CITY.
2. EXPLORE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EKW
3. THREATS ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION
4. AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

10.30AM : ASSEMBLY POINT  
( SCIENCE CITY

NEAR SUBWAY TOWARDS RUBY.

10.40 : 1ST POINT - CHOWBAGA.

2ND POINT - DHAPA ( SOLID WASTE

DUMPING GROUND)

11.15 AM - BAMANGHATA PUMPING

STATION & LAL KUTHI

11.45 - KHAYADAHA PANCHAYAT VISIT.

12.30 PM : BACK TO SCIENCE CITY



TO COMMEMORATE WORLD WETLAND DAY

Poster of the Kolkata Green Lungs event



INTACH members on the East Kolkata Wetlands Walk – Kolkata Chapter



*Stills from the walk – Kolkata Chapter*



*Group photograph of INTACH members – Kolkata Chapter*

### **INTACH Automobile Recognition Award at The Vintage & Classic Car & Bike Show 2026**

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

On 15<sup>th</sup> February, the INTACH Calcutta Chapter presented the INTACH Heritage Automobile Recognition Award to select classic vehicles at The Vintage & Classic Car & Bike Show 2026, jointly organised by The Alipore Museum and the Classic Drivers Club. The awards were presented by the INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener, Mr GM Kapur, to the owners and custodians of vintage vehicles.



*Stills from The Vintage & Classic Car & Bike Show 2026*



*INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener Mr GM Kapur addressing the attendees and conferring the INTACH Heritage Automobile Recognition – Kolkata Chapter*



*The INTACH Heritage Automobile Recognition Awards – Kolkata Chapter*

**Felicitations of INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener by Sovabazar Seni Sangeet Sabha and Artist Nectar Council of Culture**

Date: 22-02-2026

On 22nd February 2026, INTACH West Bengal and Calcutta Chapter Convener Mr. G.M. Kapur was felicitated with the prestigious Seni Samman for his contribution towards the conservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of Bengal. The award was part of 'Nayab: An Afternoon with Dhruvad', organised by Sovabazar Seni Sangeet Sabha and Artist Nectar Council of Culture and held at Pathuria Ghata Rajbari.



*INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener GM Kapur receiving the Seni Samman – Kolkata Chapter*

**Visit to Charnock Lohia Hospital**

Date: 07-03-2026

INTACH Calcutta Chapter Convener Mr. G.M. Kapur visited the recently inaugurated Charnock Lohia Hospital on Rabindra Sarani along with other INTACH members on 7th March 2026. Mr. Prashant Sharma, Managing Director of Charnock Hospitals, took the visiting members – Ms. Aditi Chatterjee, Mrs. Manjari Kaul, Mr. Kamal Banerjee, Ar. Sutapa Joti and Ms. Smita Mehta – on a tour around the heritage hospital.



*INTACH Calcutta Convener and members at Charnock Lohia Hospital – Kolkata Chapter*



*Mr. Prashant Sharma, Managing Director of Charnock Hospitals giving a tour of the facilities – Kolkata Chapter*



*INTACH members partaking in refreshments after the tour – Kolkata Chapter*

## **Murshidabad**

### **Poster Drawing Competition on 'Tree in Life'**

**Murshidabad, 16 January 2026**

The INTACH Murshidabad Chapter organised a Poster Drawing Competition on 16 January 2026 at the historic Darbar Hall of the Cossimbazar Palace (popularly known as Chhoto Rajbari). The programme was conducted with support from the INTACH Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), New Delhi.

A total of 54 students from nine schools across the district participated in the competition, reflecting enthusiastic engagement from the region's young learners. The participating institutions included Sargachhi Ramkrishna Mission High School, Hatinagar Sarada Vidyapith, Krishnath College School (Berhampore), Saundi High School, Haripur J.R. High School, Khargram High School, Gokarna N.G. Girls' High School, Gokarna P.M. High School, and Dopukuriya High School.

The theme, *"Tree in Life,"* encouraged students to explore the ecological and cultural significance of indigenous trees and shrubs. Participants were required to depict a native species, highlighting its distinctive features – such as leaves, bark, flowers, or fruits – and illustrating the interconnected life forms it supports, including birds, animals, and insects.

In addition to the artwork, each participant prepared a short write-up of approximately 200 words based on their poster and developed a slogan reflecting the importance of trees and their ecosystems. While drawing sheets were provided by the organisers, students brought their own art materials, demonstrating both preparedness and enthusiasm.

The competition witnessed a high standard of artistic expression, with several entries reflecting creativity, awareness, and strong observational skills. As the final evaluation will be conducted by HECS, INTACH Headquarters, New Delhi, all participants were awarded certificates of participation by the Chapter.

The event successfully fostered environmental awareness among students while encouraging creative engagement with themes of ecology and heritage.



*Poster Drawing Competition - Murshidabad Chapter*

### **Erstwhile Kasimbazar River and Port: A Walk through History Murshidabad, 23 November 2025**

The INTACH Murshidabad Chapter undertook a significant field survey on 23 November 2025 to rediscover the forgotten historical and geographical legacy of the erstwhile Kasimbazar River Port. The initiative brought together 14 distinguished members and experts for an in-depth exploration of the region's past, focusing on the evolution of the Bhagirathi River and its impact on the rise and decline of Kasimbazar as a major trading hub during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The survey was led by **Shri Balaknath Bhattacharya**, Convener, INTACH Murshidabad Chapter, and included eminent scholars and specialists such as **Dr. Suryendu De**, **Dr.**



**Jaydev Biswas**, **Dr. Sujata Banerjee** (Dean, Murshidabad University), **Dr. Soma Mukherjee** (Principal, Panchthupi College), and **Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty** (Professor, Bardhaman University), along with other dedicated members of the Chapter.

Commencing from Berhampore, the team set out to examine the historical trajectory of Kasimbazar Port—once a flourishing centre of trade—and to analyse the geomorphological changes that contributed to its eventual decline. A key focus of the

study was the identification of the entry and exit points of the Bhagirathi River as it altered its course over time, creating distinctive horseshoe-shaped landforms in the region.



Through field observations, study of the riverbed, and analysis of the surrounding landscape, participants gained valuable insights into the complex interplay between natural processes and human history. The exercise not only deepened their understanding of the region's heritage but also fostered a strong emotional and intellectual connection with its past.

The initiative marked an important milestone for the Murshidabad Chapter, reflecting the commitment, curiosity, and

collaborative spirit of its members. The Chapter has resolved to undertake further detailed research on heritage, architectural, and environmental aspects of the region, with the aim of contributing to its comprehensive documentation and conservation.

The significance of the survey was also recognised in the public domain, with reports published in leading newspapers such as *Anandabazar Patrika* and the weekly journal *Nagarik Kontho*.



## **Santiniketan**

### **Workshops and Educational Initiatives by Santiniketan Chapter**

The INTACH Santiniketan Chapter organised a series of engaging educational and cultural initiatives aimed at promoting creativity, environmental awareness, and heritage appreciation among students and members.

A two-day workshop on *Macramé Art* was conducted at Binuria Girls' School by **Ms. Ipsa Banerjee**, introducing students to this traditional craft form and encouraging hands-on creative expression. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to learn intricate knotting techniques while understanding the cultural relevance of such art practices.

At Goalpara Tanayendra High School, the Chapter organised the first phase of the “*Tree for Life*” contest, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students. The programme successfully sensitised young learners to the importance of trees and their role in sustaining ecological balance.

On the occasion of the Chapter's annual gathering, the annual magazine “*Paribesh*” was formally released by **Mr. Rajeeb Mukherjee**. The event featured active participation from members, who presented songs, poetry, and original write-ups, creating a vibrant platform for cultural expression and intellectual exchange.

Through these initiatives, the Santiniketan Chapter continues to foster a meaningful connection between heritage, environment, and community engagement.



*Two day Workshop on Macrame art at Binuria Girls School – Santiniketan Chapter*

# Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS)

## Activities

### **TEACHER WORKSHOP FOR HERITAGE AWARENESS AND HERITAGE CLUBS VIJAYAWADA**

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 22 Teachers, 11 Schools**

HECS, INTACH in collaboration with INTACH Vijayawada Chapter, conducted a two-day Teacher Training Workshop at Nalanda Vidyaniketan to strengthen heritage awareness among school teachers. Mr. Sai Papineni, Convenor, INTACH Vijayawada Chapter, welcomed participants and introduced distinguished guests including Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Jasti Chelameswara, Shri Narasimha Rao (Retd. IAS), Ms. Purnima Datt (Principal Director, HECS), and Ms. Vaishnavi (Programme Coordinator). Justice Chelameswara spoke on the importance of heritage clubs and storytelling in teaching local history, citing examples from Andhra Pradesh's past. Shri Narasimha Rao highlighted intangible heritage, oral traditions, and folk storytelling like Harikatha. Teachers engaged in discussions on classroom challenges and creative methods to make history engaging. Ms. Purnima Datt, along with Ms. Vaishnavi, led interactive sessions on heritage education methodology, experiential learning, and classroom activities. Teachers shared local heritage examples such as the Krishna River, Undavalli Caves, and regional festivals. Day 2 focused on INTACH's mandate, Fundamental Duties, and participatory learning. Ms. Vaishnavi introduced HECS resources. A heritage walk to Mogalrajapuram caves offered hands-on exposure. Group presentations covered natural, built, material, and living heritage, including crafts like Kondapalli toys, Kalamkari, and Kuchipudi dance. The workshop concluded with a felicitation ceremony and vote of thanks by Ms. Prasuna Balantrapu, Co-Convenor, INTACH Vijayawada Chapter.

### **THANJAVUR**

**28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 35 Teachers, 22 Schools**

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), in association with INTACH Thanjavur Chapter, organised a two-day Teachers' Training Workshop at Sangeetha Mahal, Thanjavur Palace.

Mr. K. Swaminathan, Co-Convenor, welcomed participants and highlighted INTACH's role in heritage preservation. Chief Guest Mr. E. Madhavan, District Education Officer, commended INTACH's conservation efforts and the initiative to train teachers. Sessions on Thanjavur's local heritage were led by historian Mr. N. Selvaraj (Historian) and Mr. S. Muthu Kumar, followed by a screening of the INTACH film. Mr. Abhishek Das, Senior Programme Manager, HECS, introduced the fundamentals of heritage and its integration into classrooms through interactive activities, including role-play and object study. Ms. Christina Shangne, Sr. Programme Coordinator, explained HECS's publications, projects, and the importance of heritage clubs. The second day began with a heritage walk to the Thanjavur Palace Museum, including visits to the bronze Nataraja gallery and photo

exhibits. It was also attended by Mr. B. Senthil, Dist. Education Officer, (Private Schools). Teachers then presented on Natural Heritage (Kaveri Delta), Built Heritage (Brihadeshwara Temple), Material Heritage (Tanjore paintings), and Living Heritage (Pongal). The concluding session, attended by Mr. S. Babaji Rajah Bhonsle, Thanjavur Convenor, and Mrs. V. Baby, Chief Educational Officer, Thanjavur encouraged teachers to be heritage patrons. Certificates were distributed, marking the successful close of the workshop.

## **COLLEGE HERITAGE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP**

### **VARANASI**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 80 Students, 9 Teachers**

A College Heritage Volunteer Training Workshop was held at Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi, organised by the Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), INTACH, in collaboration with the INTACH Varanasi Chapter. Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convenor INTACH Varanasi Chapter, along with Chapter Members Mr. Nirmal Joshi and Mr. Anil Kesari, and Prof. Alka Singh, Principal of Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat also joined the session.

The programme began with a welcome address by Principal Prof. Alka Singh and Mr. Ashok Kapoor, Convenor, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, followed by a film on INTACH's 40-year journey. Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, spoke on India's heritage, encouraging students to see it as part of everyday life. Along with Ms. Christina Shangne, Senior Programme Coordinator, she guided students on heritage volunteering and campus action plans. Sessions included talks by Mr. Akhilesh Kumar and Mr. Jaiendra Raoseni, government-approved tourist guides and authors of 'Kashike Baarah Aditya', spoke on Kashike Dwadash Aditya temples, highlighting their architectural and mythological significance, and a presentation by Smt. Sucharita Gupta, a senior semi-classical vocalist from Banaras, on the Banaras Gharana's evolution, enriched with live renditions. The workshop concluded with group activities where students shared innovative heritage ideas and activities, followed by a group photograph to mark a day of cultural enrichment and inspiration.

### **SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY**

**13<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**

The workshop opened with Principal Director Ms. Purnima Datt (HECS Division) introducing the College Heritage Volunteer Programme, highlighting INTACH's nationwide efforts in conservation and documentation. She emphasized the meaningful role of volunteers in awareness, research, and community participation. Students shared personal reflections on heritage, citing examples from traditional languages like Dogri and Khasi to practices such as Carnatic music. Mr. Abhishek Das then offered an engaging overview of India's heritage - tangible, intangible, and natural- tracing its

journey from the Harappan Civilization to medieval monuments. A short film on INTACH concluded the session. Ms. Vaishnavi then introduced heritage volunteerism, encouraging students to use tools like volunteer resource kits and the Parampara e-newsletter, and to initiate projects such as, talks, debates, and creative events during Heritage Week. Students later visited the Conservation Lab, observing restoration projects and interacting with conservators. They also met INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, who urged them to take active roles in conservation. The workshop concluded with a heritage walk at Lodhi Garden, leaving participants inspired to contribute to safeguarding India's cultural legacy.

## **DELHI**

### **20<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 63 Students, 12 Colleges**

HECS, INTACH organised a College Heritage Volunteer Workshop for Delhi University students at INTACH headquarters. The programme began with the screening of INTACH film, followed by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, introducing the concept of heritage - natural, built, material, and living. Students then visited INTACH's Conservation Lab to see restoration work in action. Mr. Ajay Kumar, Director Projects, INTACH Delhi Chapter, spoke on challenges in conserving Delhi's cultural heritage. The talk focused on India's layered architectural heritage and the role of INTACH in its protection. Historian Dr. Narayani Gupta highlighted community participation and intangible heritage of Delhi. Prof. A.G.K. Menon discussed the INTACH Charter, stressing that conservation and development can coexist. Mr. Ratish Nanda, conservation architect and former Projects Director and CEO of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in India, briefly shared insights from his conservation work in Nizamuddin and Sunder Nursery, emphasising the role of craftsmen and natural heritage. Later, Mr. Happy Srivastava and Mr. Aniruddha from the ICH Division, INTACH screened "KanKan Mein Ram," documentary showcasing diverse cultural expressions of Lord Rama and his story across different regions of the country. The HECS team introduced the College Heritage Volunteer Programme, explaining how students could engage in heritage activities within their institutions. In the interactive group discussions, students presented innovative ideas on heritage preservation. This was followed by the felicitation ceremony where the students were presented with certificates and publications by the Chairman and the Member Secretary.

## **SPECIALISED ACTIVITY**

### **RISE AF- Heritage Event**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Alliance Française de Delhi, in collaboration with INTACH, hosted a special heritage event. The session began with an introduction by Ms. Shailja from RISE AF, followed by a presentation on India's Heritage Arts by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director of HECS who also spoke what heritage is and the work done by INTACH. Participants then

experienced a guided heritage walk through Lodhi Garden, led by Mr. Abhishek Das, Senior Programme Manager, and Ms. Vaishnavi, Programme Coordinator

### **Qissago Workshop**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

HECS, INTACH hosted Qissago- a storytelling workshop for 23 Delhi schools, with 115 students participating across two sessions. The programme began with a short film on INTACH, followed by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director, HECS, introducing the concept of heritage and its protection. As part of Heritage Week, the GajaLok theme highlighted the cultural role of elephants in India. Mr. IrshadKhubiled the sessions with interactive games and a lively Qissago segment. Using storytelling props, he explained Kathavachan, Qissagoi, and Qissavachak traditions, and engaged students through techniques like tukkalagana. His creative enactment on "Technology" sparked discussion on Virasat vs. Technology, contrasting traditional games such as GulliDanda and Pitthu with mobile gaming. Students recalled old rhymes, adding nostalgia and cultural memory. He also explored "HathiMohalla," weaving in idioms, tongue twisters, and stories about elephants. INTACH Chairman, Shri Ashok Singh Thakur, attended the second session, welcoming students and emphasising the importance of preserving India's cultural heritage. The workshop concluded with enthusiastic participation, group photographs, and a spirited cry of "Qisse, Kahaniyan!"

### **6<sup>th</sup> INTACH Crafts' Utsav 2026**

**28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**

Students from Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, and Army Public School, Shankar Vihar visited INTACH on the first day of the INTACH Crafts' Utsav 2026. They witnessed live demonstrations of crafts such as paper making and molela clay work, and engaged in meaningful interactions with the craftspeople. On the second day, students from the Mann School, Green Fields School, and the Modern School, Barakhambavisited the INTACH Crafts' Utsav. They interacted with artisans, learning not only about the intricacies of their craft but also about the importance of preserving India's rich tradition of handicrafts.

### **Heritage Walk to Lodhi Garden**

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

The British School, New Delhi participated in a heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens, organised by HECS INTACH. 82 students and 8 teachers took part in the walk, led by Mr. Abhishek, Ms. Vaishnavi, Ms. AarushiRana and, Mr. Deepanshu.

### **Heritage Walk and Visit to INTACH Conservation Lab**

**20<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

A heritage walk at Lodhi Gardens was conducted by HECS team for 30 students and 2 teachers from Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi. After the walk they

visited INTACH, where Mr. Ravindra Singh, Member-Secretary INTACH and Mrs. Purnima Datt, Director, HECS INTACH addressed the students. The students also visited the Conservation Lab where they observed the process of artifacts being conserved and interacted with the conservators.

### **St. Mary's School- Visit to Exhibition**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026**

HECS invited the students of St. Mary's school, Safdarjung Enclave to visit 'The Romance of Old Maps: Tracing Lost Landscapes' exhibition organised by the Natural Heritage division, INTACH. This was an exhibition of old maps of Delhi and beyond from the INTACH archives.

### **Heritage Walk to Mehrauli Archaeological Park**

**11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

HECS organized an educational heritage walk to Mehrauli Archaeological Park for 134 students and 5 teachers from Convent of Jesus and Mary School, Delhi. During the visit, students explored several significant monuments within the park.

## **ENDANGERED LIVING HERITAGE- ARTS AND CRAFT AWARENESS WORKSHOPS IN COLLABORATION WITH RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Highlights</b>
<b>Rajkot</b> Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Tapasvi International School, Rajkot	150+ Students The Block Printing workshop, conducted by Dr. Vandita Bhatt introduced participants to traditional Block Printing techniques. The Appliqué workshop, led by Ms. Ishita Trivedi, focused on technique of layering and stitching fabric pieces.
<b>Nashik</b> Dec 20, 2025 Udoji Maharaj Museum of Heritage Education, Nashik	35 Students from 5 Schools Well known sculptors Mr. Shreyas Garge and Mr. Mayur More conducted the Bohada Mask- making workshop. Students were given a brief history of the craft and a hands on experience.
<b>Coimbatore</b> Jan 19 and 20, 2026 Vivekalaya's Prakriya International School, Coimbatore	2,000+ Students from 25 Schools The workshop was conducted by Smt. Shakkeela Manoj. Students were introduced to various indigenous arts and crafts and learned about the natural materials, indigenous techniques, and the cultural stories. The event was part of one of the largest children's literature and cultural festival -LitTales.
<b>Assam</b>	96 Students from 8 Schools

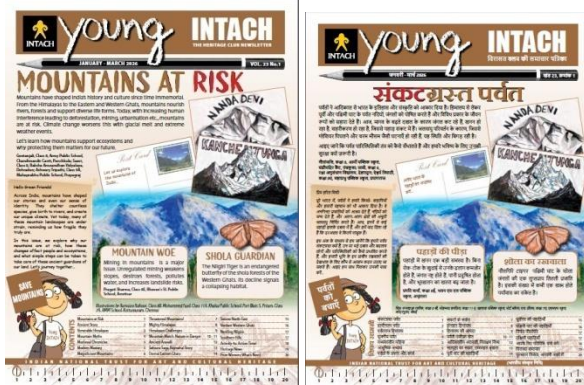
Jan 19, 2026 Royal Global University, Guwahati	Students were guided to make 3D model of the Traditional Dwelling Houses of the Communities in North East India. Dr. Hari Prasad Agarwal, spoke in detail on indigenous construction methods, materials used, climatic responsiveness, and sustainability aspects of vernacular houses.
<b>Udaipur</b> Feb 5, 2026 Seedling Modern Public School, Udaipur	65 students from 13 schools The session on Faaguniawas led by Ms. Annu Jain. Students were introduced to traditional tie-and-dye techniques such as folding, twisting, dipping, and tying, enabling them to understand the artistic and cultural significance of indigenous textile practices.
<b>Jammu</b> Feb 16, 2026 International Delhi Public School Ghoumanhasan Jammu	60 students from 10 schools The one day workshop aimed at imparting knowledge about Block Printing of Jammu made at Samba commonly known as sheetswallashehar (city) means Block Printing sheets town of Jammu.

## PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

### YOUNG INTACH NEWSLETTERS

#### Mountains At Risk (January to March 2026) in English and Hindi

This newsletter explores the different kinds mountains, its history, myth, cultures and traditions associated with it. The newsletter gives an insight into the problems faced by the mountains today with increasing human interference leading to deforestation, mining, urbanisation etc., mountains are at risk. With the use of text, illustrations, activities, and interactive games, the newsletter aims to bring these aspects of our mountains to the forefront, and help with their conservation.



#### India's Market Mosaic (April to June) in English (ONGOING)

This newsletter explores the rich diversity of India's markets from ancient to contemporary times. Rooted in history and cultural exchange, the issue explores how India's markets evolved over time and how they continue to shape livelihoods and

everyday experiences. Through engaging text, vivid illustrations, creative activities, and interactive games, the newsletter highlights the unique aspects of some markets that showcase how markets have developed over centuries..



### Assamese Translation of Moloya Braids a River Journey

The Book is a an Assamese translation of the Story cum Colouring Book which follows the journey of Moloya, her mother and her cousin through the state of Assam along the Brahmaputra. Through her journey she discovers the rich cultural and natural heritage of Assam.



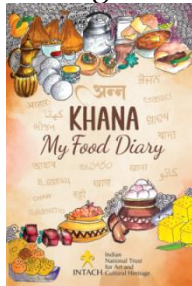
### HECS Desk Calendar 2026

HECS organised a national poster-making and essay-writing competition titled CELEBRATING INDIA, involving around 90 INTACH Chapters and Young INTACH Heritage Clubs. The student artwork featured in the calendar was created for this competition and highlights some of India's festivals capturing the rich diversity.



### Reprint of Khana My Food Diary

This is a vibrant and informative diary with interesting facts, colourful images, and engaging activities. Covering food, festivals, as well as cultures, it is a must for all interested in the culinary heritage of India! The diary has an open-ended planner, thus making it useful through the years.



## ONGOING

- Story cum Colouring Book on Mizoram
- Young INTACH Regional Language Translation 2024-25 in 3 languages

### Young INTACH Website

The young INTACH webpage ([www.youngintach.org](http://www.youngintach.org)) is updated with more educational resource material. These included worksheets on GI Tag- Crafts, Textiles, Agriculture, 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 December 2025- March 2026

Month	Challenges
December	Hills in Peril- Mountain Day
	I care for Heritage- New Year's Resolution Challenge
January	Republic Day Challenge
February	World Mother Language Day Challenge
	National Science Day Challenge
March	My Language, My Joy: International Day of Happiness
	World Poetry Day

## FILMIT INDIA

This year (2025-2026), FILMIT India marked its 18<sup>th</sup> year. As part of the project, FILMIT India Workshops were held and planned across various FILMIT cities.

Chapter	Attendance, Content Highlights and Support
Delhi - NCR 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC, New Delhi	154 students and 34 teachers from 34 schools  The event was organised in collaboration with India International Centre, New Delhi and was attended by <b>notable guests, including educator and vocalist Ms. Bidisha Roy, author and Heritage Conservationist Ms. Amita Baig, Odissi Dancer Ms. Junahi Rattan, Director of India International Centre (IIC) Mr. K. N. Sivastava IAS and INTACH Member Secretary Mr. Ravindra Singh IAS (Retd.).</b>
Chandigarh & Ambala	55 participants (students and teachers) from 16 schools (12 from Chandigarh and 4 from Ambala)

5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Saupin's School, Chandigarh	The Chief Guest was Mr. Atul Sharma (Music Composer) and Guests of Honour was Ms. Nagina Bains (Faculty Professor, Thappar University). Col. R.D. Singh (Convenor Ambala Chapter), and Principal Ms. Surita Sharma were also present.
Kolkata 5 February 2026 Apeejay School, Park Street	58 students representing 15 schools The Chief Guest of the festival was filmmaker Mr. Nilav Bose.
Amritsar & Punjab 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Spring Dale Public School, Amritsar	60 students and 16 teachers from 15 Schools of - Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Beas, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, The Chief Guest was Mr. Mahabir Bhullar, renowned Bollywood actor and NSD alumnus, with Mr. Rajinder Singh, actor, director and founder of Dastak Theatre, as Guest of Honour.
Jaipur 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 The Palace School	72 students and 15 teachers from 14 Schools The event was attended by distinguished guests including Mr. Sandeep Sethi and Mr. Adhiraj, who addressed the students and appreciated the heritage filmmaking initiative.
Ahmedabad 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Shreyas Foundation	59 students, 10 teachers from 10 schools The Chief Guest was filmmaker Mr. Arnav Kumar, who attended along with the Principal of Shreyas Foundation.
Vadodara 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Navrachana International School	74 students and 13 teachers from 12 schools The Chief Guest was Mr. Chetan Dhanani, an award-winning actor and director known for the film Reva. The two principals of the Navrachana International School IB and the CBSE section, INTACH Vadodara Convenor, Mr. Sanjeev Joshi, Ms Tarisha Gaurav Desai, Co-convenor were also present.
Mumbai 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 I.E.S. College of Architecture, Mumbai	52 students from 10 schools The Chief Guest was Mr. Hemant Chaturvedi, a noted cinematographer with over 30 years of experience in the film industry.
Chennai 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 KSN Sr. Sec. School, Thiruvanniyur	64 students and 14 teachers from 12 schools The Chief Guest was Mr. Ramanakumar, lawyer, CA, award-winning photographer, and head of Friends of Heritage Sites (FoHS) Pallava Chapter.
Kochi 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Kerala Museum	50 participants (42 students and 8 teachers) from 8 schools The programme was led by Mr. Biley Menon, Co-Convenor, INTACH Kochi Chapter, who guided students on filmmaking techniques.
Varanasi & Ayodhya 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	110 student, 25 teachers from 22 schools across Varanasi and Ayodhya

<b>SantAtulanand Residential Academy (SARA), Shivpur</b>	The Chief Guest of Honour was Mr. Rati Shankar Tripathi, Chairman of BharatenduNatak Academy and noted theatre artist and film actor.
<b>Goa 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Don Bosco Senior Secondary School</b>	54 students and 12 teachers from 10 schools The Chief Guest was Dr. Isabel S.R. Vas, noted Goan author and theatre director.
<b>Hyderabad FILMIT Festival is planned for April</b>	

## NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

### TREE OF LIFE-ALL INDIA POSTER-MAKING AND ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Chapter	Venue and Attendance	Content Highlights and support
<b>Mahasamund 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	S. S. M. H. M. School 07 schools/63 students	The programme was graced by the presence of Mr. Arvind Mishra, State Convenor of Chattisgarh, as the Chief Guest. Mr. DaulalChandrakar, Convenor Mahasamund chapter, presided over the programme. Mr. Sunil Baghel, an environmental activist from Raipur also marked his presence for the programme. They all encouraged students to plant more trees.
<b>Bilaspur 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Deokinandan Girls Higher Secondary School 11 schools/ 82 students	The programme was hosted from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Dr. ArchanaTamboli graced the occasion as the guest speaker and addressed the students. After the programme, refreshments were provided to all the participating students and teachers.
<b>Saraipali 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	St. Vincent Pallotti H. S. School 25 schools/ 120 students	The Chief Guest for the programme was Mr. Sankarshan Patel, retd. Lecturer and nature lover and Chief Speaker was Mr. KanshiramChoudhary, ex BEO Saraipali. The event gave students an opportunity to learn and understand the glorious history and heritage of trees and plants and encouraged them to work towards their conservation. Subject experts also delivered meaningful addresses, inspiring students and the community to take positive steps towards conservation.
<b>Raipur 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	S. A. G. S. S. U. Higher Secondary School 60 students	The programme was inaugurated by INTACH Chattisgarh State Convenor Mr. Arvind Mishra and Mr. RamakantJha, Principal of AtmanandShaheedSmarak Govt. Higher Med. School. Dr. R. K. Tiwari highlighted the

		importance of the 'Tree of Life' - the theme of the poster-making and essay writing competition.
<b>Balasore</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Balasore Arts & Crafts College, 'Kalakshetra' 09 schools/ 53 students	The event was held from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The event was inaugurated by Shri UdayRanjan Das, Convener, Balasore Chapter. During the break after the painting competition was over, Shri Ch. Swapan Kumar Mohapatra, Environmentalist and an Agriculture Entrepreneur addressed the student on the role of trees in human survival, its role in the life of the animal world and in safeguarding the environment
<b>Nawada</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Bright Minds' School	In his welcome session Mr. Bachchan Kumar Pandey, Convenor of Nawada Chapter, talked about the importance of natural heritage and heritage of Bihar. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Subodh Kumar, ex-manager of Punjab National Bank.
<b>Barmer</b>	Sh. NarsinghAgrasen Jain Vidyapeeth 20 schools/ 200 schools	The event was inaugurated by Dr. Narendra Parikh, Secretary- Vardhman Educational Institution; Dr. NiveditaPathak, Principal of the school, Mr. RamprasadKumawat and Mr. ShyamSundar Sharma, respectively Convenor and Co-convenor of the Barmer Chapter.
<b>Bhilwara</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, RajendraMarg 07 schools/ 84students	The programmewas organised from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on 15.01.2026. The students made their posters in one and a half hours and wrote the essay about it in the remaining half hour. After this, the programme was concluded with refreshment distribution.
<b>Dhar</b>	VikramGyanMandir Hall 05 schools/ 65 students	The competition was organised by INTACH with the aim of preserving and keeping our traditions alive through the participation of children. INTACH member Dr. SadhnaChauhan congratulated and encouraged the students. New lifetime members-Mr. AtulKalbhanwar, Reena Thakur, Deepak Gaikwad, and RamkishorPandey also addressed the students.
<b>Morena</b> <b>06<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Amar Shahid P. RamprasadBismil Archaeological Museum 06 schools/ 80 students	The programme was organised from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Archaeological Museum. The students, accompanied by their teachers, were encouraged by the guests to work towards a greener future.

<p><b>Gwalior</b> 12<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> February</p>	<p>Several locations 05schools/190 students</p>	<p>On this occasion of the competition, Chapter Convener Mr.Vikas Singh addressed the gathering and lauded the initiative as a meaningful effort by HECS to build environmental consciousness among youth. He emphasized that trees are not merely part of the environment but are living heritage. He noted that trees provide oxygen, shade, food, medicine, and shelter, and are deeply interwoven with culture, traditions, and history.</p>
<p><b>Jamnagar</b> 30<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>Heritage Summair Sports Club 07 schools/ 70 participants</p>	<p>The Chief Guest for the programme was Mr. Jaipal Singh Jadeja. He is a keen birder for the last 45 years. The Convenor of Jamnagar Air Comd. Surendra Singh Tyagihosted the programme. The competition started at 11 AM, curated by Ms. Yashi Kumar Jadeja, Secretary, INTACH Jamnagar.</p>
<p><b>Ahmedabad</b> 24<sup>th</sup> January</p>	<p>Shreyas Foundation 9 schools/109 students</p>	<p>The initiative aimed to sensitise young learners towards indigenous trees and shrubs found in their region and to help them understand the ecological and cultural importance of these species. At the onset of program, the students were taken on a tour of the beautiful campus of Shreyas full of trees, plants, shrubs, and birds. Students were encouraged to observe, and creatively represent one indigenous tree or shrub through an illustrated poster and a write up. The competition was held near an old Banyan Tree in the most natural environment to inspire children.</p>
<p><b>Porbandar</b> 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026</p>	<p>KB TAJAWALA English Medium School 10 schools/68 students</p>	<p>Mr. AshokNandania, a Deputy Engineer at Sama- Jamnagar was invited as the Guest Speaker. He is an environmentalist, a yoga Instructor and is actively involved in tree plantation and nature related awareness drives. This year the chapter selected a school run on a heritage premise with a courtyard for the students to work on the art. The event was kicked off with the guest speaker's address to the participants. Interesting facts and information were exchanged such as the nativity of various plant/trees /shrubs, the important roles they play and why it is necessary to be aware about our surrounding environment.</p>

<b>Rajkot</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Genius English Medium School 10 schools/180 students	The programme was conducted in association with the Self Finance School Management Association. Through thoughtful essays and creative visual interpretations, participants highlighted the enduring relationship between nature and everyday life. A special takeaway for all participating students was an informative poster-cum-wall hanger introducing tree species suitable for open grounds, gardens, balconies, kitchens, and terraces.
<b>Yamunanagar</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Dyal Singh Public School 11 schools/ 98 students	"Tree of Life painting competition was organised by Yamunanagar Chapter in Dyal Singh Public School, Buria Road, Jagadhri in the skating rink of the school. Maj (retd) R S Bhatti, former Convenor of the chapter alongwith ErVaibhavGarg, Convenor and ShGurvinder Singh "Tony", Co-convenor were present during the competition. MrsHarjeetKaur, Co-ordinator from Dyal Singh Public School gave a brief introductory talk before ErVaibhavGarg explained the rules and regulations for the painting competition.
<b>Ambala</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> December	G. M. N. Public School 20 schools/ 112 students	Dr. Deshbandhu, a renowned educationist and social worker, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Brigadier M.S. Tomar of Poona Horse (retd.) was the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by over 25 teachers. The programme concluded with refreshments for students and teachers, who left the venue inspired and delighted.
<b>Hisar</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> February	The Anantya School 08 schools/ 67 students	Chief guests Ms. Kavita and Ms. Kashni Tayal addressed the students and highlighted the importance of trees and their vital role in sustaining our environment. Her interaction added significant value to the programme and inspired the participants.
<b>Patiala</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> November	8 schools/60 students	60 students from eight schools namely British Coed High School, Shivalik Public School, Veer Haqiqat Rai Senior Secondary School, Indo-British School, Senior Secondary Model School Punjabi University Patiala, Ryan International School, Sri Aurobindo International School and Kaintal School Participated in the competition. The participants made attractive and meaningful

		posters and write-ups on the subject at the spot. The programme concluded with the refreshment to all participants.
<b>Faridkot 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Dasmesh Public School 10 schools/ 85 students	Prof. Baltej Singh Brar, Convener of Faridkot Chapter inaugurated the programme. Life members Mr. Maninder Singh Dhillon, Mr. Shaminder Singh Dhillon, Mr. Ashok Chawla, Mr. Pawan Mittal, Mr. Rakesh Ashoka, Mr. Insaf Singh, Mr. Pawan Kumar Dhuria, Principal Apoorav Devgan, Ms. Menakshi Sharma, Mr. Ankush Ashoka, Mrs. Ravneet Kaur Brar In-charge of Activities and coordinator were all present for the competition. Principal Mr. Devgan and all other Principals gave their blessings to the participants.
<b>Malerkotla 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Alfalah Public School and Oasis Public School 7 schools/90 students	Intach Malerkotla chapter organised poster and essay writing competition on the theme Tree of Life in two different schools. This competition finalized in Oasis Public Senior Secondary School Malerkotla and Alfalah Public Senior Secondary School at Malerkotla. Seven schools participated in this event with great enthusiasm. 90 participants enlightened the day.
<b>Jalandhar 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Apeejay School 7 schools/85 students	INTACH Jalandhar Chapter conducted poster competition on 28 Jan at Apeejay School Mahavir Nagar, Jalandhar wherein total 85 students took part from schools namely. POLICE DAV, APS CANTT, KV1 Cantt, Innocent School GM Town, Innocent school Loharan, Innocent School Kapurthala Road and Apeejay Mahavir Nagar.
<b>Bathinda 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Guru Nanak Public School 7 schools/ 85 students	Intach Bathinda chapter held poster making competition on 4th February at the Guru Nanak public school. Guru Nanak Public School, Delhi Public School, Silver Oaks School, Dasmesh School, Police Public School, Guru Nanak Public School Patel Nagar and Summerhill school participated.
<b>Ferozepur 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	DCM International School and DC Model Sr. Sec. School 2 schools/168 students	The competition served as an effective platform to enhance research aptitude, critical thinking, and expressive skills among students. The event was conducted in a well-organized and disciplined manner, with clear guidelines provided to students regarding the

		<p>theme, format, and evaluation criteria. Overall, the competition was a resounding success and left a lasting impact on the young minds, encouraging them to respect nature and contribute positively towards environmental conservation.</p>
<p><b>Amritsar</b> 11<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>Bhai Vir Singh Niwas Asthan 07 schools/ 120 students</p>	<p>Mr. Gagandeep Singh Virk, Convener of INTACH Amritsar Chapter, enlightened the students about the historical legacy of the Niwas. Renowned historian Surinder Kochhar spoke on Amritsar's glorious heritage and emphasized truthful historical understanding, especially regarding Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Students of Riarki Public School paid tribute through soulful renditions of Bhai Vir Singh Ji's poetry. Every participant was felicitated, and each received a book as a token of inspiration – reinforcing the bond between heritage, literature, and the environment.</p>
<p><b>Hoshiarpur</b> 12<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>Guru Gobind Singh Public School 12 schools/ 172 students</p>	<p>Participating students beautifully highlighted trees like Neem, Banyan, and Gulmohar, and shared meaningful write-ups on medicinal herbs such as Tulsi and Mint, emphasizing their healing properties and eco-friendly importance. The guests present there appreciated all participants and staff for inspiring a greener and healthier future.</p>
<p><b>Kapurthala</b> 27<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>Bawa Lalwani School 5 schools/52 students</p>	<p>The Poster Competition "Tree of Life" for school students was organized on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026, in which 52 students from Bawa Lalwani Public School, Kapurthala, M.G.N. Public School, Kapurthala, and three other schools of Kapurthala participated enthusiastically. The students showcased their creativity by drawing pictures of various trees, flowers, leaves, and elements of their local environment that had made a lasting impression on them. They not only demonstrated their artistic skills but also expressed their thoughts effectively through meaningful slogans and brief write-ups accompanying their artwork.</p>
<p><b>Tarn Taran</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> March</p>	<p>7 schools/75 students</p>	<p>It was conducted with 75 students from 7 schools</p>

<b>Srinagar</b> <b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Soura 8 schools	At the beginning of the event, Convener INTACH Kashmir Chapter, Mr. Altaf Hussain interacted with participants to give an understanding about the event. The primary objective of the competition was to foster environmental and cultural awareness among young minds, encouraging them to explore, appreciate, and connect with Kashmir's rich natural heritage. Participants created posters depicting indigenous trees and their deep interdependence with human life and survival.
<b>Jammu</b> <b>03<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Sainik School, Nagrota 06 schools/ 70 students	The programme was graced by the presence of several members of INTACH J&K Chapter, including Mr. Salim Baig, Convenor, J&K INTACH Chapter and other distinguished conservationists and retired officials who guided and interacted with the students. The programme also saw participation from 20 cadets of Sainik School, Nagrota.
<b>Kolkata</b> <b>09<sup>th</sup> January</b>	J.D. Birla Institute, Rowland Row 02 schools/ 14 students	The programme was graced by Dr. Tapobrata Ray, Principal of J.D. Birla Institute and Dr. Samita Gupta, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Textiles of J.D. Birla Institute, along with the members of INTACH Kolkata Chapter. All of them encouraged students.
<b>Hooghly</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Chandernagore Banga Bidyalaya 10 schools/ 27 students	Hooghly Chapter organized the Poster Making Competition at Hooghly District Level on the topic - 'Tree of Life', held on Sunday 18 January 2026, at Chandernagore Banga Bidyalaya. 27 students of class 7-9 from 10 schools participated and 10 teachers also attended the event from those schools in Hooghly.
<b>Murshidabad</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Darbar Hall, Cossimbazar Palace 09 schools/ 54 students	The programme was conducted by INTACH Murshidabad and sponsored by HECS. The Chief Guests addressed the gathering of students. Some really good posters were drawn by the students. After the programme, participation certificates were given to all the students.
<b>Ayodhya</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	J. B. Academy 14 schools/ 140 students	The programme's expert speaker, Prof. Vikrama Prasad Pandey, former Professor and Dean of the College of Horticulture and Forestry,

		NarendraDev University of Agriculture and Technology, emphasized that trees have been an inseparable part of human civilization since ancient times, and life without them is unimaginable. Members of INTACH Ayodhya, Heritage Club members, and teachers from various schools were present on the occasion.
<b>Mahoba</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Gyansthali Public School and SaraswatiBalikaVidya Mandir 100 students	The competition was held at Gyansthali Public School and SaraswatiBalikaVidyaMandir Inter College. Mr.ShivkumarGoswami, Principal, SaraswatiBalikaMandir was invited as the Chief Guest. INTACH Mahoba Convenor Mr.PramodPaliwal along with chapter members were present for the event.
<b>Nashik</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	UdojiMaharaj Museum of Heritage Education 16 schools/ 150 students	The programme started with an inspiring talk by environmentalist Mr. AmitTillu. He enlightened the students about the environment. indigenous trees and biodiversity. All the students were taken around the museum and served snacks at the end of the programme.
<b>Nagpur</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Smt. ManoramabaiMundle College of Architecture (SMMCA) 600 students	The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Manoj Jain, Co-Convenor, INTACH Nagpur Chapter, as the Chief Guest. The program was conducted under the expert guidance of Dr. MadhuraRathod, Convenor of INTACH Nagpur Chapter, and Associate Professor at SMMCA, Nagpur. The competition concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where outstanding artworks were recognized and rewarded.
<b>Solapur</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	AnnappaKadadi High School 17 schools/ 176 students	Dr. R. D Gore, Professor, Department of Botany,Walchand College of Arts and Science, Solapur was invited as subject expert. Dr. Gore addressed the students about the unique flora and fauna Solapur grasslands. Dr. Gore also showed some unique tree species found in the district. Founder Convener Dr. SeemantiniChaphalkar was present. Co-Conveners Ar. PushpanjaliKatikar and Ar. ShvetaKothavale, ShrutiChaphalkar, AnujaDustkar, ShubhamVerma and AmitYadav helped organize and conduct the event.
<b>Wai</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	KalpataruMangalKaryalay, Wai 6 schools/ 49 students	The competition was held among the 6 Schools in Wai. There were 49 Students Participated in the Competition. Thus the National Painting

		Competition organized by INTACH concluded in a successful manner. The purpose of the Programme was imbibed into the minds of children and was achieved.
<b>Pune</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Delhi Public School, Pune VikhePatil Memorial School, Lohegaon, Pune 188 students	INTACH Pune hosted the HECS Tree of Life Painting competition in the month of February across a few schools in Pune and one in Baramati as well. The students came out with interesting artworks pertaining to the theme alongside thoughtful write-ups explaining their themes. Art teachers and Principals of the schools actively supported the competition. INTACH Pune Chapter Co Convenor JuiTawade and EC Member MadhurBarve acted as hosts for the same on behalf of the Chapter.
<b>Kotdwar</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Gabbar Singh Camp, Kotdwar 20 schools/103 students	The event was organised in collaboration with the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre. Naturalist Vrinda Bajaj interacted with students. Students were taken through a guided tour of the GRRC vermi-compost unit and nursery and were given saplings to plant and nurture, reinforcing the environmental message.
<b>Dehradun</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>		INTACH Dehradun Chapter organised the poster-making competition titled “Tree of Life” in collaboration with HECS and children’s section of the Doon Library and Research Centre. Students from several schools participated enthusiastically expressing creativity and awareness for our environment. The event also witnessed a tree talk and walk by DrSasBiswas of Eco Sanskriti. Ms. Anjali Bharthari (Co-Convenor) and Ms. Bharti Jain (Convenor) and other Intach members and volunteers were also present.
<b>Kangra</b> <b>06<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Govt. High School, Sidhbari 09 schools/ 79 students	Mr. L. N. Aggarwal, Convenor INTACH Kangra Chapter, highlighted the vital role of herbs and trees in sustaining life on earth. Dharamshala SDM Mr. Mohit Rattan appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students who creatively depicted the significance of nature through their posters.
<b>Bijapur</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Dr P G Halakatti Research Centre Vijaypur	Participating students reported at 9:30 AM for the programme. Ar.VithalTanksali, Senior architect and Ex HOD of local Engineering

	14 schools/ 126 students	college, inaugurated the function. While addressing students. Mr. Tanksalialso appreciated the work done by INTACH. After the poster-making, the programme was concluded with refreshments for students and teachers.
<b>Dharwad 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	KLE School 94 students	The event began with invocation song and lighting of the lamp. Principal of KLE School welcomed the participants, convener explained about the competition, surprise event was two students from KLE School Avani and Sparsha spoke about INTACH and importance of establishing INTACH heritage clubs in schools. Seven members from INTACH Dharwad Chapter graced the event.
<b>Delhi 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	INTACH Headquarters 47 schools/ 140 students	The programme began with a warm welcome by Ms. Purnima Datt, Principal Director of the HECS Division at INTACH, who introduced the initiative and highlighted its significance in fostering heritage awareness among young minds. The Chief Guest Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division, INTACH introduced students to the cultural, scientific, and environmental importance of trees. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Verhaen Khanna, Founder of New Delhi Nature Society. He shared his decade-long work in protecting trees, urging children to build a personal bond with nature. Once the event started, students eagerly got to work, showing impressive creativity and focus. They created bright, meaningful posters revolving around the heritage of trees and their protection.
<b>Port Blair 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Various venues 5 schools	The tree of life poster and essay competition was held on the 21 <sup>st</sup> of January. 5 schools participated and this time. Participation was received from as far as GSSS Maanpur, which is the farthest school on the South Andaman Island. Convenor, Samhita Acharya spoke about the endemic flora of Andaman and Nicobar, especially the Padauk tree which has high medicinal value.
<b>Mizoram, Aizawl 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Govt. Mizo High School 15 schools/ 73 students	The programme was chaired by Shri Lalram Thanga. Chief Guest of the event was Smt. Angela Zothanpuui, Director of School

		Education, Government of Mizoram. Prof JV Hluna, Co-Convener, INTACH, Mizoram Chapter was the Guest of Honour. A noted Mizo historian, the professor spoke about the importance of preserving the rich cultural and environmental heritage of Mizoram, which are being discovered now. SmtLalhmingMawi (aka Amawii)i, renowned artist and Chairman of Novelty Art Gallery, Mizoram talked about basic art technique for the young participants. The Chief Guest urged the students to diligently follow and nurture what nature has given to us and to try to understand the connection between nature, heritage and life itself. The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Ngurbiaka, Life Member (INTACH) and retired Director, Art & Culture, Mizoram.
<b>Nagaland, Dimapur</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> February	6 schools/33 students	Mr. Anil Dhir, Convener, Bhubaneswar Chapter was invited as the Guest Speaker as he was in Dimapur participating in the Festival of Rice. After the competition The students were then introduced to the rich culinary traditions of India's north east region and were served refreshments of steamed rice cakes in chocolate, jiggery and coconut flavours prepared by the team of Meghalaya Chapter. They were also treated to the famous black rice kheer from the INTACH Manipur food stall. Overall, the competition concluded successfully.
<b>Sikkim, Gangtok</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> Mile, BaradSadan Hall, Sikkim University 11 schools/81 students	The event started with a special lecture on 'The Living Heritage: Sacred Trees of Sikkim' delivered by Dr. Karma DikiBhutia from Horticulture Department, Sikkim University. Dr. Charisma K. Lepcha, convener of INTACH Sikkim thanked the Education department, Government of Sikkim and participating schools, students, volunteers and Sikkim University for facilitating the smooth conduct of the programme.
<b>Kochi</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Kerala Museum 7 Schools/13 Students	INTACH Cochin Chapter in collaboration with INTACH HECS& Kerala Museum conducted the INTACH Tree of Life Poster making competition at Kerala Museum. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation by students and was a

		success in raising awareness about a greener future.
<b>Calicut</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Sri GujratiVidhyalaya, Kozhikode 12 schools/86 students	The event began with a welcome by former Chapter ConvenorMrs. ArchanaKamath, followed by an introduction to the competition and its rules by Chapter ConvenorPrakashManhapra. The special speaker, Mrs. VimalaJayaraj, Principal of the host institution, addressed the students on the theme and highlighted the importance of heritage. The programme was supported by INTACH members, and refreshments were provided to all participants.
<b>Kasaragod</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> February,</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup>February, and</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, KodakkadKelappaji Memorial School and Govt. Gandhi Smaraka.U.P.School, Kakkara.  142 Students	The INTACH Poster Making Competition Kasaragod Chapter was conducted in three phases. The first phase was held at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya with 35 students, inaugurated by Mr. Rajith Shankar and coordinated by Mrs. Rajitha and Mr. Sureshan. The second phase took place at KodakkadKelappaji Memorial School with 63 students, coordinated by Mrs. Rajitha and Mrs. Sajina, and the third phase was held at Govt. Gandhi Smaraka U.P. School, Kakkara with 44 students. In total, 142 students participated in the competition.
<b>Thrissur</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Vivekodayam Boys Higher Secondary School 7 schools/29 Students	The INTACHThrissur Chapter successfully organized a Poster making Competition centered on the theme of "Tree Of Life". The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and inspired them to express their thoughts and concerns on environmental protection. The event was attended by MrVinod Kumar M.M,Convenor, INTACH Thrissur, Ms. Athira, Ms. Krishna and other volunteers.
<b>Thanjavur</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Little Scholars Matric Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur 15 schools/285 students	The Thanjavur chapter and HECS successfully hosted the Tree of Life Competition for 285. Sri Madhavan(D.E.O) was invited as the Keynote speaker, He highlighted the importance and value of Heritage Education. Supported by Rtn. Dr. A.V.Natanasigamani and Mr. K. Swaminathan, the event concluded with award distribution.

<b>Chennai</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Sri SankaraVidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai 15 schools/98 Students	The event began with an introduction to INTACH by Mr. Diwakar, Co-Convenor, INTACH Chennai Chapter. Followed by an engaging talk by Gayathree Krishna on trees found around Chennai. Participants were then given two and a half hours to create a poster along with a 300-word write-up on the theme “Tree of Life”. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by senior INTACH member SushilaNatraj, thanking the guest speaker and the school for hosting the programme.
<b>Salem</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Sri VidyaMandir HSS, Anandasharma, Salem 10 schools/110 students	The programme was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Nadanasabapathi, M.S., a noted orthopaedician from Salem. Miss Pranitha, a Class 10 student of Holy Angels Public School and regional winner of the Celebrating India Poster Competition, attended as Guest of Honour. Dr. Nadanasabapathi also addressed the students. The event followed eco-friendly practices.
<b>Mahbubnagar</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	73 schools/419 students	The INTACH Mahbubnagar Chapter organized a heritage awareness poster and write-up competition for government school students (Classes VII-IX) across all 17 mandals of the district on 2026., and all were awarded participation certificates along with mandal-level cash prizes for winners. The entries were judged by art teachers arranged by the DEO’s office.
<b>Warangal</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	4 schools/57 students	Warangal Chapter conducted the Tree of Life Poster Making Competition on 26 <sup>th</sup> February. Students displayed exceptional enthusiasm while making the drawings and writing about the importance of trees.
<b>Kadapa</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Kotireddy Rama Subbamma Women’s College, Kadapa ZillaParishad Girls School, Punganur  17 schools/207 Students	The Competition organized by INTACH Kadapa Chapter witnessed enthusiastic participation from students expressing their ideas on nature, environmental awareness, and cultural values through their artwork based on the theme “Tree of life”. The event successfully promoted Heritage awareness and artistic talent among young minds.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### **1. Polishing the Rough Diamond: Kalbadevi in Flux**

The iconic textile precinct of Mumbai's Kalbadevi is keen to redefine itself as a prime jewelry hub, forcing a clash between heritage, crumbling infrastructure, and an inevitable high-stakes makeover

**By Savitha Suri & Tinaz Nooshian**

It's a chaotic Tuesday morning at Kalbadevi, Mumbai's oldest business district. Half of Kalbadevi Road, a narrow, arterial stretch starting at Pydhonie at the north end and ending at Dhobi Talao in the south is cordoned off for concretization. A mathadi or head-loader pulling a haathgaadi precariously ferrying bales of fabric takes a sharp turn from Hutatma Babu Genu Road; his heaving companion giving the handcart a push as he hollers at pedestrians to give way.

It's a moment whose symbolism is lost on the frenzied passersby.

It's here that nationalists picketed shops, organising bonfires of British-made cloth when Mahatma Gandhi gave the call for self-reliance, and the Indian National Congress stepped up support for indigenous industries in the aftermath of the Swadeshi movement. Swadeshi grew into the core economic pillar of Gandhi's Civil Disobedience, focusing on the nation-wide boycott of British goods, especially textiles, to cripple the colonial economy.

On a fateful day in December 1930, Babu Genu, a textile mill worker and other pro-Swadeshi campaigners blocked trucks laden with foreign-made products exiting one of the lanes. The police charged at the group as Babu Genu dramatically lay down in the path of the police. It's said that the British sergeant yanked the driver out, jumped in and drove on, crushing the young nationalist.

Inside Swadeshi Market next door, set up in the early 1900s by Bhatia textile baron and member of the Bombay Legislative Council, Morarji Gokuldas, this story is well known. The owners and tenants of this ground-level textile market located in a mixed-use, five-story building have seen generations conduct business in locally-produced cloth from raised platform cubicles abutting both sides of nine gullies, each named after a nationalist – Gandhi, Subhash, Jawahar – and two after Krishna and Radha alluding to the Halai Bhatia community's ties with the Pushtimargi sect of Vaishnavism. Here, there are no doors, no privacy. Sitting cheek-by-jowl are spacious cubicles lined with swan-white cotton mattresses on which traders settle down cross-legged. The 'gaadi' system is their pride, and to invite a customer to sit alongside and view their wares, is an honour. Mangaldas Market located 400 meters away houses 720 yardage and garment shops thronging with retail customers out to grab a bargain on goods coming in from Surat, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

The third, big daddy Mulji Jetha Market built in 1871, sits at the mouth of Zaveri Bazaar and is Asia's largest textile center under one roof, famed for its credit-based trading system. The cornerstone of the historic textile trade in Kalbadevi, this trust-based wholesale arrangement allowed cloth merchants to supply goods to retailers on a 30-90-day credit cycle. Retailers receiving goods in bulk, paid up after selling, allowing for high-

volume, long-standing business relationships. Infinitely quieter than Mangaldas, Mulji Jetha houses close to one thousand shops spread across a labyrinthine layout with 16 exits and 24 intersecting gullies – Govind Chowk, Gopalak Gully, Madhav Gully – all pointing to the faith of its founder Thakar Mulji Jetha or Seth Mooljee Jaitha as his family prefers to call him. The Pushtimargi Vaishnav family hailing from Kutch in Saurashtra lived on Vithal Wadi Road, a stone's throw from both their textile business and the Dwarkadhish Mandir that Jaitha's son Soonderdas built in 1875. The black crystal idol of Lord Dwarkanath, Thakurji or Shri Krishna sits in a grand haveli structure where the 'King of Dwarka' lives in pomp surrounded by chandeliers, murals and kinkhwab upholstery like a thakur or high ranked noble. The Haveli architecture style native to Gujarat and Rajasthan characterised by structural woodwork and ornate carvings is on bold exhibition at this recently-restored temple, while the Corinthian columns featuring celestial maidens define the patron's social aspiration and links to the colonial economy. Temples like this one in the old precincts of Kalbadevi, Bhuleshwar and Thakurdwar built by Gujarat's Halai Bhatias and Kapol Baniyas were community epicentres and a shared space where the migrants found home-away-from-home.

This way of life, however, is fast fading, with residential units disappearing to house commercial-only establishments.

"Business is as good as over because the residents have gradually moved out to suburban Mumbai," says Prakash Vichare, who has run a newspaper stall for 34 years at the vantage corner of Kalbadevi Road and Zaveri Bazaar, bang outside the Cotton Exchange building. Built in 1938 in Art Deco-style, this was the headquarters of the world's earliest and largest facility for forward cotton trading, revolutionising the industry by allowing merchants and spinners to 'hedge' against price fluctuations. India's supremacy in raw cotton trading rivalling Liverpool and New York inspired the likes of Cowasjee Nanbhoy Davar to set up spinning and ginning mills in Bombay, kicking off a golden era in the 19th and early 20th centuries that earned Bombay the title of 'Manchester of the East'. Opposition from the Lancashire mill owners was offset by support from the British manufacturers of textile machinery. By 1870, Bombay was home to 13 mills; we had 70 by 1895 and 83 by 1915. It was this mushrooming of cotton mills that led to the creation and proliferation of large wholesale and semi-wholesale markets to support the trade, especially in the old business quarter.

Today, the Cotton Exchange building has been repurposed into "Jewel World" – a potent symbol of the area's new economic dominance in bullion, its stunning bas reliefs depicting the farm-to-foreign-shores journey of cotton hidden behind an extra-large LED screen.

This shift reflects Mumbai's broader de industrialization, specifically its decline as a textile powerhouse over the past four decades. Consequently, the sprawling, high-ceilinged textile markets, once innovatively designed for ventilation and light, now struggle with obsolete infrastructure. A peeling notice pasted at the entrance of Swadeshi Market by the Mumbai Building Repair and Reconstruction Board (MHADA) dated March 26, 2024, urges tenants to co-operate with the authorities and allow repairs of columns, beams, the roof and staircase and common toilet portions. A standoff between conflicting factions means that some are pushing for rebuilding or 'redevelopment' while

others are pointing to a nexus between politicians, the incumbent committee and statutory state-level agency for housing, demanding transparency.



Rajasthan Entreprises' Abhay Parmar estimates that it will be three years before anything moves at Swadeshi Market. "Bahut saari parties involved hain [There are too many stakeholders to allow for rapid change] ," he says between calls to his supplier to check if 10,000 metres of Lachka fabric can be made available in 10 colours for a trader from Surat who plans to fashion these into ladies' garments for the upcoming Ramzan season. Why is a Muslim trader from the 'Textile City of India' shopping for fabric at an over-century-old bazaar? "Traders from across India come to Bombay for quality fabrics. Surat sells cheap. But the quality of material and dyeing available in Bombay is unrivalled," Parmar claims.

"That Kalbadevi's textile business is dying is a false narrative," argues Gitesh Bhai Unadkat, a senior trader at Swadeshi Market, whose father

migrated from Jamnagar to live in a shared-rental at Gol Deval. Moving his way up from ferrying bolts of fabric to setting up Hind Vastralay across two units in Shami Gully of Swadeshi Market, he specialised in cotton-printed sarees. "What Kalbadevi's textile markets need is an urgent infrastructure upgrade. We have been petitioning successive governments for a paid parking lot that will allow buyers, both wholesalers and retail customers, to drive down from various parts of the city and outside Mumbai, to shop and do business. They haven't managed to give us even this. The roads are narrow, the footpaths are rutted and encroached by hawkers," he says, exasperated. "South Mumbai's astronomical real estate value is a powerful deterrent for this upgrade. What I would not agree to is translocating the market to a planned, fancy suburb despite all the amenities on offer. How do you uproot and replant an entire ecosystem?"

Unadkat is referring to the pragmatism of functioning out of a long-established trade hub that the Kalbadevi-Bhuleshwar-Zaveri Bazaar combine is — a beehive of markets spanning textile, yarn, electricals, chemicals, jewellery, wood and ceramics, copper and pharmaceuticals.

"Kem chho?" Unadkat asks Hansa Ben Chauhan as she approaches his shop, cutting through a pile of 'gaadi' or mattress covers that she has been sorting for laundering. "I have played in the lap of her father-in-law," Unadkat shares, making evident the commercial and emotional ties that an ancient trade has fostered. He draws attention to subsidiary employment opportunities that a traditional market set-up spawns: the scissor seller, the launderer, the mathadi from Bihar, the Tamilian sweeper-caretaker. Three generations of the Chauhans have arrived at Swadeshi Market each day to pick up used mattress sleeves for washing at Mahalaxmi's open-air laundry. If the market 'moves' into a modernised high-rise, will the gaadi system endure?

Seravanna from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu has lived in the gullies of the market for 30 years, sweeping and clearing waste by day, caretaking at night. “I came here as a child, and started at Rs 10 a day. My wife and I now make Rs 500 to Rs 900 daily. I can’t go back to the village; I don’t know farming. This is home, but I’m still a nomad.” One of approximately 600 Tamilians living and working on the fringes of Kalbadevi, Seravanna says redevelopment is a long way off, but when it comes, he will weigh his options. “If we are not needed here, we go to the next market. There will always be work for us. Not everyone wants to sweep.”

Suresh Thakur, 65, agrees. Change is inevitable, and the mathadis must move wherever livelihood opportunities spring up. Belonging to a family that hails from Madhya Pradesh, Thakur was born in Kalbadevi. A key figure in Unit 295 of the Maharashtra Mathadi & General Kamgar Union, he works out of a poky room on the ground floor of Govind Wadi past a gold smelting unit run by kaarigars from Sangli, Maharashtra, and a busy pav bhaji stall that Thakur himself runs. After the passing of Maratha leader Annasaheb Patil who long championed the rights of mathadis to education and welfare, leading to the establishment of the Maharashtra Mathadi, Hamal, and Other Manual Workers Act, 1969, Thakur claims healthcare support for the workers has stopped. “Earlier, initiating change was about giving to the people; giving them housing, healthcare, legal rights. It’s now about taking away from them.”

The demographic evolution is apparent with a once mercantile landscape dominated by the Gujarati, Kutchi, and Parsi communities now seeing the dominance of Marwaris, and migrants from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Bengali artisans are prized in Zaveri Bazaar’s gold karkhanas, often taking up rented accommodation in buildings close by. Street stalls selling Maachh-Bhaat (Bengali fish curry-rice), including the one once run by newspaper vendor Prakash Vichare, were many until the pandemic made them unsustainable. But, you know the tide is turning when you see new establishments serenade the probashi. Three-year-old Shyamsundar Bengal Sweets is housed inside Kansara Chawl, which is also debating redevelopment. A residential building with ground-floor shops selling copper items, aluminium and stainless steel cookware as part of the historic Tambakanta market, Kansara Chawl sees the sweets store successfully capitalise on the changing demographic. Multiple branches now sell Khirkodom, Talsas Sondesh, Kalojam and Lobongo Lotika among a sea of mishti.

What’s on the menu tells the story of changing migration patterns. Sev Khamani and Kutchi Dabeli stalls are fewer and confined to the Gujarati-dominated gold market. Aloo Puri and Chana Ghugni stations across map the influx of pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to Mumbadevi Mandir, indicating a shifting socio-cultural footprint. Eateries serving Maharshtrian fare, there are none. The Pathare Prabhus and Palshikar Brahmins who once resided around Popatwadi are long gone. Desai Bhaishankar Gaurishankar, a multi-generational dairy and sweets shop run by Anil and Yash Desai from Gujarat’s Bhavnagar, dates back to the 1920s when Desai’s grandfather sold milk from a canister outside the Cotton Exchange. Their business long powered by Marathi halwais in the kitchen at the rear caters to the Bengali customer (garam Rosogullas) and North Indian visitor with variety of pedas and namkeen.

The Zoroastrians of India or the Parsis, who played a critical role in the rise of Bombay as a textile and industrial hub and worked and lived around the periphery of Kalbadevi-Bhuleshwar-Dhobi Talao, are now a handful in number. Interestingly, Kalbadevi Road had a string of famed photography portraiture studios, mostly run by the Parsis. The earliest firms were those of Ardeshir Cursetji, A Framji, D Nusserwanji and S Hormusji. Kalbadevi's only surviving studio, Indian Art Studio on the corner of Popatwadi, dates back to 1917 and is run by the Chaddha family which has roots in Bhatinda.

Ayurvedic medicines is the other fast disappearing business. The Kalbadevi-Pydhonie Road once housed a large number of Ayurvedic and Unani dawakhana or clinics. Competition from modern medicine and the recent questioning of Ayurveda's position as a medical science has whittled down the trade to barely a handful of stores that are patronised by core traditionalists. Bharat M Shah heads Manilal Lallubhai & Co., exporters and importers of Indian and foreign botanical drugs, extracts, Ayurvedic and Unani raw drugs, essential oils and oil seeds. Belonging to a Jain family from Saurashtra, Bharat Bhai's father Manilal Lallubhai Shah expanded the Ayurvedic pharmacy business in the city. The store near Nar Narayan Mandir is 55 years-old although the business is more than a century old. Bharat Bhai admits that 'dhandho' is far slower than it was, inspiring his son Viren Shah to diversify into spices while the wholesale business office has moved from nearby Masjid Bunder to suburban Vashi in Navi Mumbai. Despite the corporatisation of the herbal products, he maintains confidence in the value of generational knowledge against corporate competition. But he will say in a moment of vulnerability if you hang around long enough to chat with him over kadak cha (strong tea), "Pehle jhevi majhaa nathi [the charm and high of doing business is gone]. Earlier, even on Diwali day when we'd be busy with Chopda Pujan, customers would crowd the shop and pester us for buys." His neighbour, retail garment trader Sandeep Jain is more vocal about the crushing blow to business by the astronomical Goods & Services Tax (GST). Operating the "zero-staff" Poonam Design Studio established by his grandfather, he articulates a narrative of decline, citing reduced footfall, competition from e-commerce, and a lack of policy support. "Look at the roads! This area is a mess."

But, it wasn't always like this.

Kalbadevi's urban morphology reveals that it was based on a foundational order. Its layout was deliberately planned, with lanes historically dedicated to specific trades, ethnicities and communities. Gujarati immigration into Mumbai saw a wave in the 17th century with the East India Company inviting trading communities to invest, work and live in Bombay. Traders from mainland Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch settled in and around Kalbadevi, Princess Street, C.P. Tank, Bhuleshwar and Zaveri Bazaar. Various sub-castes including the Halai Bhatias from around Jamnagar and Kutchi Bhatias from Kutch made their mark in the trade of grains, cotton, textiles and metals. The significance of the Bhatias as merchants predates colonial rule and makes them possibly the earliest Indian diaspora found in Central Asia. According to American historian Scott Levi, their trade and moneylending networks "... extended across Central Asia, and eventually beyond the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa to the Caribbean Islands in the west, and to Southeast Asia and China in the east".

Each sub-group set up their own wadis or baugs – residential enclaves built around temples that functioned as proto-gated communities, providing holistic accommodation for the migrant workforce, traders and farm hands that powered the markets. This planned environment fostered a distinct socio-cultural ecosystem. The Halai Bhatia Mahajan Wadi, Kapol Mahajan Wadi, Ram Baug, Morar Baug, all followed an architectural prototype: a courtyard surrounded by residential rooms fronted by a verandah, common community spaces like a marriage hall, and an ornamental gateway. Kaiwan Mehta, theorist and critic in the fields of visual culture, architecture and city studies, says that the Renaissance gateway “marked the prosperity of an ethnic community in the nineteenth-century city of competing trade ventures and migrant communities...”

Historical accounts confirm the presence of leisure and entertainment quarters too, such as the evocatively named Bhang Wadi which housed one of the city’s earliest theatres for drama set up by Tribhuvandas Mangaldas Nathubhai in 1905, hosting Parsi-Gujarati theatre and later performances in Marathi. It’s possible that this wadi situated in 2nd Kolbhat Lane off Kalbadevi Road got its name from the opium trade that was carried out in the complex. It downed shutters in 1970 while the historic Edward Theatre down the road, which began as a playhouse in 1884 and transitioned to cinema in 1932 after the arrival of India’s first talkie Alam Ara, refused to succumb to real estate pressures. Its managers, the Billimoria & Bharucha Group continued to screen films here right until March 2020 when they finally closed doors in the face of the pandemic.

While some of the residential units inside the surviving wadis and baugs have gradually turned into offices and warehouses, the community marriage halls situated in the otlas or verandahs lie vacant.

Ramesh Pandey who mans the Nar Narayan Mandir office inside Zaver Baug, says, “Wadi ki importance kam ho gayi hai. We used to take wedding and religious ceremony bookings six months in advance. Now, they prefer open grounds and hotels. Gujarati residents are moving out. It’s now mostly the Jains and Marwaris who occupy the units.” Like his ancestors from Ayodhya, Pandey has lived in the complex centred around the 126-year-old temple held up by 20 grand pillars; the women of his home arriving here each morning to do seva, threading Hibiscus flowers into garlands for the idol of Arjuna (Nar) and Krishna (Narayan). Constructed by philanthropist Manmohandas Kahanadas for the princely sum of Rs 1,00,000, the Nar Narayan Mandir challenged discriminatory practices when with the support of educationist-reformer Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, members of the lower castes were allowed to worship for the first time. Today, the temple is managed by the Sethna family under the Sheth Kahandas Narandas Charities Trust which generates funds from the wadi’s rentals and the occasional donation. The kabootar khana nestled within the courtyard that’s also home to an old Kadamba tree receives a steady stream of visitors. “Agar wadi redevelopment mein gayi toh yeh maahaul nahin bachega. Sabko Qutub Minar mein rehna hai,” Pandey scoffs. Amidst this change, poignant vignettes of continuity persist. Ajay Gupta from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, represents a third generation selling chana, occupying the same spot as his migrant grandfather at the temple’s kabootar khana.

A couple of units on the first floor of Zaver Baug now carry signboards that announce the presence of jewellers. The impending spillover of jewellery businesses from the adjacent Zaveri Bazaar onto Kalbadevi Road is seen as an inevitable force of economic succession. Thousands of gold refining and polishing bhattis or furnaces manned by Maharashtrians and Bengalis function in the Kalbadevi-Bhuleshwar-Zaveri Bazaar combine spewing hazardous sulphuric and hydrochloric acid fumes. Bullion offices have spread outside of the traditional gold market, now occupying entire buildings along the main road.

Chamber Bhavan at Kalbadevi Road is owned and occupied by Silver Emporium Pvt. Ltd. run by Rahul Mehta. Originally agriculturists from the Marwari Jain community, the family diversified into the silver trade in the 1980s when Mehta's father moved to Mumbai. The original shop at Zaveri Bazaar was traded for this larger one in 2009, and a business that was once restricted to wholesale trading turned into one of handmade manufacturing when a workshop was set up in Jaipur with 40 artisans producing religious artefacts, idols and customised home decor items. Running training modules since 2003 for members of kaarigar families who had abandoned the art for lack of regular income has seen the return of young artisans to the generational trade.

Despite the congested neighbourhood and proliferation of opulent branded jewellery showrooms across metros, Mehta argues that Zaveri Bazaar is still the heart of India's jewellery industry. "The kaarigars are here, the karkhanas are here, as are the polishing and smelting units. The jewellers have to also be here. It's a high-risk business and the margins are too slim to separate artisan from seller. The amount of trade that unfolds in a 2 km radius here produces enough GST for the government representatives to pump some of the money back into infrastructure, clearing food hawkers and giving them a dedicated khau galli, and providing connectivity. The government has long supported the textile industry. We haven't seen the same backing for the jewellery MSMeS," Mehta says. The traders have been taking initiative into their own hands, organising The Zaveri Bazar Gems & Jewellery Festival last October featuring over 20 decorated gates, unique lane lighting, a pedestrian-only carpeted shopping experience, and a 2-kg gold bumper draw. It was all to drive sales during Diwali and put up a united face.

A poster hanging outside Dwarkadhish Mandir announces the National Silver Premier League, a cricket tournament scheduled for February 2026 in Mumbai exclusively for the silver merchants across India.

We ask Mehta, with redevelopment staring the neighbourhood in the face, what of its ancient temples and Jain deraasars? "Everything can move, not the temples. Change will unfold around them," he predicts.

Kalbadevi, the local deity alluding to Goddess Kali who gives the area its name, will be pleased to hear this. She has moved residence often enough. Differing accounts speak of the temple's various locations. Some state that the original shrine was in Mahim, later moved to somewhere around Azad Maidan, and finally built in Kalbadevi some 300 years ago by eminent citizen and devout Maharashtrian Brahmin Raghunath Krishna Joshi whose descendants continue to officiate as trustees on the temple's board.



The closure of Mumbai's last functional mill in 2025 passed with little public remark, a tacit acknowledgment that the city has long outgrown its industrial identity. Kalbadevi now embodies this historical pivot. Its crumbling edifices and bustling lanes archive a receding heritage — a heritage that encompassed not only commerce but also the social spaces like Bhang Wadi that defined its communal life. Redevelopment promises an uncertain future for traditional businesses. The collective narrative woven from its mathadis and porters, old-time merchants, resilient shopkeepers, and new entrepreneurs is ultimately one of urban palimpsest. The precinct stands at a threshold, where the imperative to archive a layered past contends with the inexorable forces of economic change and spatial reconfiguration, leaving its community to navigate a complex transition between memory and modernity.



Dwarkadhesh Mandir facade and interiors:

The ornately carved Haveli-style Dwarkadhish Mandir on Kalbadevi Road built by textile baron Seth Mooljee Jaitha's son Soonderdas was a hub of religious and communal activity for the neighborhood's Halai Bhatia migrants



**Hand cart:**

The humble haathgaadi is still the most popular mode of transporting textile bolts and bales across Kalbadevi's narrow alleys and right into the wholesale markets



**“Between the Bolts: Inside the Labyrinthine Lanes of Swadeshi Market”**

A narrow gully winds through Mumbai's historic Swadeshi Market, where textile merchants have traded for generations — flanked by stacked fabrics, weathered wooden shutters, and the faded signboards of family-run shops , the passage tells a story of commerce unchanged by time.

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## **2. HANDING OVER, THINKING AHEAD BY A R U N N A R A Y A N State Co Convener, Kerala State.**

A few weeks ago, a newer, younger team took over the leadership of the INTACH chapter in Palakkad that I helped found. This transition should have happened years ago, but on that later.

Over eight years back, when we began we were a small group of enthusiasts with limited experience. We've since grown into a small but visible presence in our district's cultural life, learning a great deal along the way. I'd like to share reflections from that journey; practical thoughts on our work that may resonate and spark conversations on how we can improve as we move forward.

### **1. Volunteering has changed, but there's good news**

The selfless idealism of the independence era seems to have largely faded away. Even in this state, which has a tradition of social involvement, we sense a clear shift toward individualism. People still join public organizations like INTACH; but less for broad appeals to the greater good, and more to connect, learn, and make a mark. Recognizing, this change helps us frame the right message when recruiting members, and guides the kinds of activities that keep them engaged once they join.

### **2. Two INTACHs in every chapter**

An INTACH chapter often contains two distinct groups. The larger circle joins for fellowship, learning, and culture. They are interested in concerts, heritage tours, or workshops. The other, much smaller group is more mission-focused and inclined toward on-ground work, taking on research, listing, and field tasks. While not rigid divisions, understanding these categories helps us manage expectations and plan activities better. Both categories are important, but in different ways.

### **3. Staying inspired, avoiding exhaustion**

INTACH's chapters are its frontline, driven almost entirely by volunteers. Yet most of us are unable to work full-time and have no training in conservation. We manage quizzes, talks, and walks, but struggle with larger, skill-intensive projects. Since chapters can practically not hire staff, we must become better at separating the desirable from the doable, choosing the few actions that matter the most. Our chapter learnt the need for this discipline the hard way, bouncing between ambitious projects that drained us and small ones that barely moved the needle.

### **4. The Future isn't listening to lectures**

If heritage conservation is about the future, winning the attention of young people must be central to our work. In a globalized world of migrations, AI and many uncertainties, young people yearn for a sharper understanding of who they are. As an organization capable of inspiring them about their own places, we can infuse pride and ownership by addressing their curiosity in imaginative and intelligent ways. In our early attempts in Palakkad, we often sounded preachy.

But when we began using humour, gaming, graphic narratives, and music, the responses were rewarding. This remains the space where we feel most hopeful.

## **5. Logging into the 21st century**

In 2016, we were among the first INTACH groups to use Instagram for outreach. Later we began using digital tools for project management and meetings, which helped us do more with limited resources. Nationwide, however, our organization has been slower to adopt technology, sometimes out of consideration for senior members. While this caution is understandable, it can also slow us down and limit our effectiveness. It is encouraging to see that a website upgrade is underway, hopefully with an e-store for INTACH books and craft products. We also look forward to other long-awaited conveniences such as online banking for chapters and e-signup for new members.

## **6. The impossible Convener**

Chapter conveners are expected to be self-motivated, well-informed, widely-connected, financially secure, and strong managers. Admirable as this sounds, few people can have all these qualities and still be available for us. Many younger members with potential find the role daunting, and are reluctant to step up. In our chapter, finding a new team took three years and many attempts. If the convener's role were defined more with a view to encourage new candidates; if term-based transitions were made the norm; and robust hand-holding processes were put in place, more good people would grow into confident leaders, helping chapters benefit from the energy of periodic renewal.

## **7. INTACH's sometimes-forgotten chapter**

The more rooted we are locally, the more authentic our causes. Yet, given many decisions are made in state capitals, addressing local issues often requires sustained work at that level. State chapters can shape policies, connect with experts, and unlock funding opportunities. In a handful of states, strong leaders are showing the way. Their approaches could guide efforts to activate this important opportunity everywhere.

## **6. Reducing room for rancour**

Finally, I worry that a lowering in civility has crept into some corners of our community. Flattery, factionalism, and self-promotion weaken trust. Some of our most thoughtful members, who joined us because we presented ourselves as a mature organization, have expressed discomfort, and in some cases, stepped back. We owe it to our cause to uphold a culture of respect and fairness, even amid differences. While enlightened self-regulation remains the best guarantee, a simple, clearly-communicated code-of-conduct, which every member agrees to, could help set the right tone, including in our many WhatsApp groups.

For all my observations on what we can change, I remain a firm believer in INTACH's unique stature as an independent, knowledge-driven, volunteer-led platform that gives ordinary citizens like me a meaningful way to participate in efforts to conserve the heritage of our places and make a difference.

As the Palakkad chapter begins a new phase, and as we step into a new year, I feel genuinely optimistic about what lies ahead.

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### 3. The remaining Aravalli is the last refuge for endangered tree and wildlife species.

Aravalli is a precious treasure of nature.

The Aravalli mountain range, a priceless natural treasure, is today facing one of the toughest battles for its survival. It is not merely a chain of hills, but the ecological backbone of biodiversity across northwestern India, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi. The remaining stretches of the Aravalli now serve as the last refuge for countless plant and animal species already on the brink of extinction. If these fragile remnants are destroyed, many species could be lost forever.

The current situation is alarming. According to warnings from the Rajasthan Biodiversity Board, as many as 63 plant species and 39 wildlife species in the state are facing serious threats. These include 13 mammals, 19 bird species, and 5 species of reptiles and amphibians. This crisis has not emerged overnight; it is the result of years of severe



neglect, illegal mining, deforestation, and increasing human interference.

The Aravalli hills and forests serve as a natural habitat for many rare and vulnerable species of wildlife. The state bird, the Great Indian Bustard, once a symbol of Rajasthan, is now regarded as one of the world's most critically

endangered birds. Similarly, vultures often referred to as nature's cleaners, have nearly vanished from the skies. Species such as the four-horned antelope, desert fox, pangolin, gharial, along with several amphibian species, are among the first to be affected as the Aravalli ecosystem continues to degrade.

The condition of flora is equally concerning. Many medicinal and native plant species found in the Aravalli region once crucial for binding soil, retaining moisture, and providing food and shelter to wildlife are now rapidly disappearing. Deforestation has a direct and devastating impact on wildlife, depriving them of food sources, nesting areas, and safe habitats.

The greatest threat to the Aravalli range is the nexus of collusion, covert operations, illegal practices, and unregulated mining. The relentless demand for stone, minerals, and rare earth elements is driving the indiscriminate destruction of these ancient hills. This not only weakens the structural integrity of the mountain range but also leads to the fragmentation of forests. When forests are fragmented, natural wildlife movement corridors are disrupted, and their populations rapidly decline.

Rajasthan may have three national parks, 25 wildlife sanctuaries, and 10 conservation reserves, yet the reality is that the Aravalli region outside these protected areas remains the most vulnerable. Grasslands, forests, grazing lands, lakes, and agricultural landscapes are also vital reservoirs of biodiversity, but they are being steadily degraded

in the name of development. The state is home to approximately 2,500 plant species, over 450 bird species, 67 mammals, 58 reptiles, and 40 amphibians—many of which are directly dependent on the Aravalli ecosystem for their survival.

Increasing human pressure on the Aravalli region poses a serious threat to its biodiversity. Rapid population growth, encroachment, road construction, tourism activities, and the overexploitation of natural resources are disturbing the ecological balance. As a result, temperatures are rising, water levels are declining, and forests are shrinking—further endangering species that are already vulnerable.



It is time to move beyond the mindset of viewing the Aravalli solely as a source of minerals. Urgent measures are needed, including a strict ban on illegal mining, comprehensive protection of ecologically sensitive areas, restoration of pasture and forest lands, and strengthening the capacity and authority of the Forest Department and the Biodiversity Board. Equally important is the active involvement of local communities in conservation efforts. Public awareness must also be enhanced, as meaningful conservation cannot succeed without widespread understanding of the ecological significance of the Aravalli region.

Ultimately, the remaining stretches of the Aravalli are the last refuge for many endangered plant and wildlife species. If this support system is lost, future generations will be left to see these species only in books and photographs. Conserving the Aravalli is not merely about protecting nature, it is about safeguarding human existence itself. Recognizing this reality, urgent and concrete steps must be taken now.

- Environmentalist Babulal Jaju, Bhilwara

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## 4. Faganía: The Sacred Holi Saree of Mewar – A Living Textile Tradition

Gaurav Singhvi

Convener, INTACH Udaipur Regional Chapter, Scientific Vastu Consultant & Interior Architecture Designer

India's textile heritage is not merely a history of fabrics and techniques; it is a cultural



archive of rituals, seasons, and lived traditions. Among such rare and deeply symbolic textiles is the **Faganía saree**—a ritual garment of the **Mewar region of Rajasthan**, worn exclusively during the festival of **Holi**. Unlike commercially popular Bandhani or Leheriya textiles, Faganía occupies a unique position as a **seasonal, ceremonial, and culturally restricted attire**, embodying the intangible heritage of Mewar.

### Etymology and Cultural Context

The term *Faganía* derives from *Phalgun* (फाल्गुन), the Hindu lunar month that heralds spring and culminates in the celebration of Holi. In Mewar, Holi is not merely a festival of colour and revelry but a **sacred transition from austerity to celebration**, deeply associated with devotion, renewal, and feminine grace. The Faganía saree is intrinsically linked to this transition and is worn as an expression of ritual purity and auspiciousness.

### Colour Symbolism and Visual Identity



The Faganía saree is defined by its **strict colour discipline**, a rarity in Indian textile traditions:

- **White Base Fabric:**

White symbolizes *shuddhata* (purity), spiritual preparedness, and restraint. In the context of Holi, it represents the calm, devotional core beneath the festivity.

- **Red Tie-Dye Work:**

Executed in shades of red, the motifs signify *shakti*, fertility, marital auspiciousness, and celebration. Red, in Mewar's cultural vocabulary, is the colour of life force and continuity. Traditionally, **no other colours are permitted**. This limited palette distinguishes Faganía from other Bandhani textiles of Rajasthan and Gujarat, which are often multicoloured and

decorative in nature.

### Technique and Craftsmanship

Faganía sarees are produced using the **Bandhani (tie-and-dye) resist technique**, one of the oldest textile traditions of western India. The process involves:

- Hand-tying thousands of minute knots using cotton thread
- Dyeing the fabric in red, often using natural or vegetable-based dyes
- Unfolding the knots to reveal delicate patterns against the white ground

The motifs typically include **fine dots (boondi or bindi bandhej)**, subtle diagonal flows, or wave-like arrangements reminiscent of Leheriya, though far more restrained. The pallav and borders often carry a slightly denser concentration of motifs, maintaining visual balance without ornamentation.

### Fabric and Seasonal Suitability

Traditionally, Faganian sarees are crafted in **fine handloom cotton or mulmul**, making them lightweight and breathable – ideal for the mild spring climate of Phalgun. In rare cases, silk-cotton blends were woven for royal households or temple rituals, though cotton remained the preferred medium for everyday ceremonial use.



### Ritual Use and Social Identity

The Faganian saree is worn primarily by **married women of Mewar**, particularly during:

- Holi puja and temple visits
- Family and community gatherings during Holi
- A woman's first Holi after marriage, marking her formal inclusion into the household's ritual life

Unmarried girls traditionally wear lehriya or odhnis, while Faganian functions as a **marker of marital status, maturity, and cultural responsibility**. In many families, these sarees are preserved as heirlooms and passed down through generations.

### Distinction from Commercial Bandhani

While often misidentified today as a "white Bandhani saree," authentic Faganian differs significantly:



- It is **season-specific**, not festive wear for multiple occasions
- It is **region-specific**, limited to Mewar
- It is **ritualistic rather than decorative**
- Its colour scheme is **non-negotiable**, governed by tradition

These attributes firmly place Faganian within the domain of **intangible cultural heritage**, rather than fashion or craft alone.

### Present Status and Challenges

Today, authentic Faganian sarees are **rapidly disappearing** due to:

- Decline of traditional Bandhani artisans
- Replacement by screen-printed or synthetic imitations
- Loss of intergenerational knowledge
- Reduced ritual observance among younger generations

Many surviving examples exist only as **family heirlooms**, often undocumented and at risk of neglect or improper storage. As a result, authentic Fagania sarees are now found primarily in old Mewar households or through custom commissions with heritage artisans. The erosion of this tradition signals a broader threat to ritual-based textiles across India.

### Need for Documentation and Conservation

Fagania represents a **convergence of textile craft, ritual practice, and women's cultural identity**. Its preservation requires:

- Field documentation with artisan families
- Oral history recording from elder women
- Museum-level textile conservation
- Inclusion in heritage education programmes
- Encouragement of authentic revival under ethical craft practices

### Conclusion

The Fagania saree is more than a garment—it is a **seasonal ritual, a feminine cultural code, and a living expression of Mewar's intangible heritage**. Preserving Fagania requires not only safeguarding its technique but also documenting its **context, symbolism, and social meaning**. Institutions such as INTACH play a vital role in ensuring that such traditions are not reduced to museum artefacts but continue to live through informed practice and cultural awareness.

In recognizing Fagania, we reaffirm the importance of India's regional textile traditions as carriers of memory, identity, and values—woven not just in fabric, but in the cultural consciousness of its people.

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